

14 January 2013

Dear Organs of State

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS
PROPOSED NAAUW POORT SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY ON A SITE NEAR NOUPOORT,
NORTEHRN CAPE
(DEA REF NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/355)**

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Naauw Poort Solar Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd proposes to establish a commercial solar electricity generating facility to generate up to **75 MW** of electricity, on the remaining extent of Portion 1 of the Farm Naauw Poort approximately 10 km south of Noupoort in the Northern Cape Province.

The facility will comprise photovoltaic (PV) panels and the following associated infrastructure:

- » Arrays of photovoltaic (PV) panels either static or tracking, up to 4m in height.
- » Mounting structure to be either rammed steel piles or piles with pre-manufactured concrete footings to support the PV panels.
- » Cabling (1-2m deep) between the project components, to be lain underground where practical.
- » Invertors (transformers) between the arrays.
- » A new on-site substation (200m x 200m in extent) to evacuate the power from the facility into the Eskom grid via the Newgate/Ludlow 132 kV power line which traverses the site.
- » The substation is proposed to be connected to a loop-in loop-out power line to the existing Newgate/Ludlow 132 kV power line. The power line will be up to 200m in length with a servitude of approximately 36m.
- » Internal access roads (up to 5m wide) and fencing (up to 3m in height).
- » Workshop area (200m X 200m) for maintenance, storage, and offices (two locational alternatives are considered and assessed in this EIA).
- » During construction (temporary infrastructure) such as a laydown area will also be required. The temporary construction laydown area will occupy an area of approximately 280 ha.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations published in terms of Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998), Naauw Poort Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd requires authorisation from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) (in consultation with the Provincial Department: Northern

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Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (DENC)) for the undertaking of the proposed project.

In order to obtain authorisation for this project, comprehensive, independent environmental studies must be undertaken in accordance with the EIA Regulations (GN543) and Listing Notices GN 543-546. The Naauw Poort Solar Energy Facility project has been registered with National DEA under Application Reference number **14/12/16/3/3/2/355**.

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT AVAILABE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

A Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the proposed Naauw Poort Solar Energy Facility has been prepared by Savannah Environmental and is available for public review. The review period is from **14 January 2013 to 12 February 2013**. Please find herewith a copy of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for your perusal. The report can also be viewed on our website www.savannahSA.com. Please could you kindly submit your formal comments by sending written correspondence in this regard? All comments received will be submitted in the EIA report which will be submitted to the DEA. Comments can be made as written submission via fax, post or e-mail.

In terms of the NEMA Amendment Act a **40-day review period** will be allowed for **commenting authorities / organs of state** to submit their comments on the draft Scoping Report to the Department of Environmental Affairs. Please could you kindly provide the name and contact details of the relevant contact person at your department who we would liaise with regarding this project.

By registering on the project database, you will receive all information relating to the project and will be provided with an opportunity to provide comment and input into the EIA process.

Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process.

Kind Regards



MRS GABRIELE WOOD
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT
SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL