

**HIGH LEVEL SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT RISK ASSESSMENT**  
**- SPECIALIST SCOPING REPORT INPUTS:**

**Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process for the Proposed Development of a Solar PV Energy Facilities (Mayogi Solar PV 1 and PV 2) and associated infrastructure, south of Kirkwood in the Eastern Cape**

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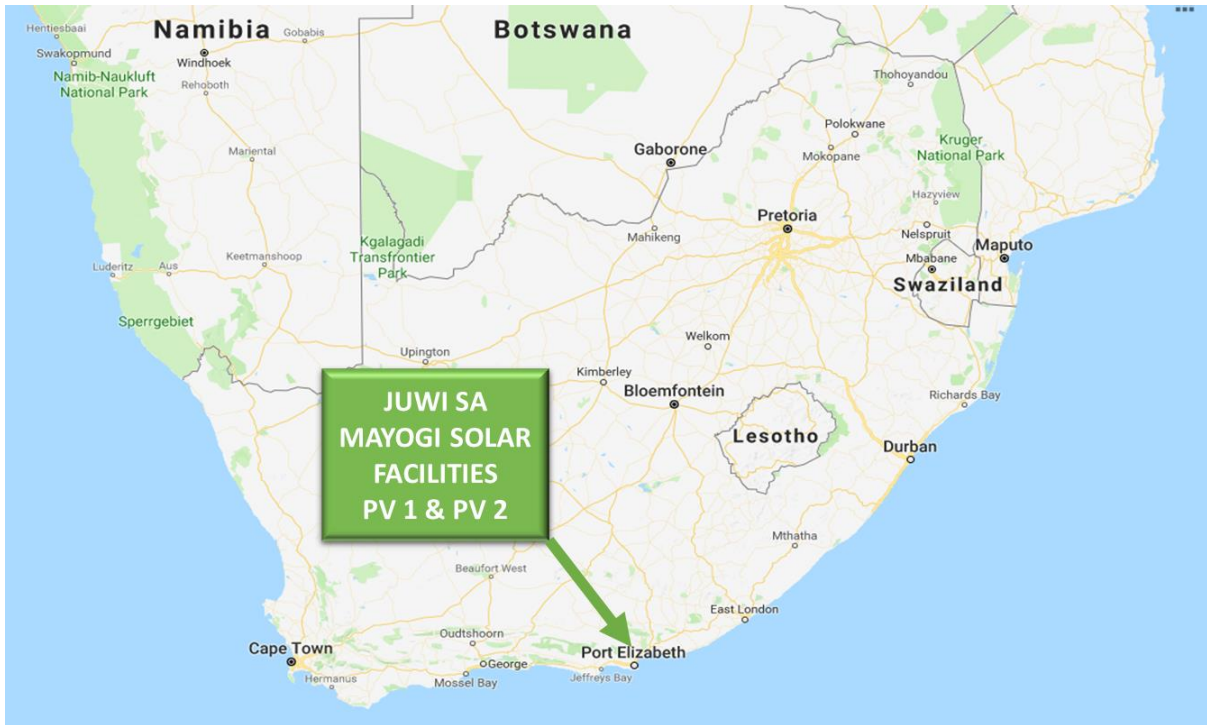
Table 2: Risk Matrix

## List of Abbreviations

BA	Basic Assessment
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
EMPR	Environmental Management Program
GPS	Geographic Positioning System
MWac	Mega Watt (alternating current)
PV	Photovoltaic
RA	Risk Assessment
SHE	Safety Health and Environment
S&EIA	Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment

## HIGH LEVEL SAFETY AND HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT

This report serves as the High-Level Safety and Health Risk Assessment for the Battery Energy Storage Facility that was prepared as part of the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) for the proposed development of an 160MW Solar PV Energy Facility (Mayogi Solar PV 1 & PV 2) and associated infrastructure, south of Kirkwood, in the Sundays River Local Municipality, in the Sarah Baartman District Municipality within the Eastern Cape Province.



**Figure 1: Map showing the location of the proposed Mayogi Solar Energy Facilities PV 1 & PV2**

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1. Scope, Purpose and Objectives of this Specialist Input to the Scoping Report

To provide a scoping report for the full high-level safety and health risk assessment that will be conducted as part of the EIA for the battery energy storage systems (BESS) proposed as part of the Mayogi Solar Energy Facilities (SEFs) PV 1 & PV 2.

#### 1.2. Details of Specialist

This specialist assessment has been undertaken by Debra Mitchell of ISHECON cc. Debra Mitchell is a registered Professional Engineer with the Engineering Council of Southern Africa (ECSA), with Registration Number 72291 in the field of Chemical Engineering. A curriculum vitae is included in Appendix A of this specialist input report.

In addition, a signed specialist statement of independence is included in Appendix B of this specialist input report.

### **1.3. Terms of Reference**

The Terms of Reference for the desktop assessment that will be completed during the EIA Phase of the project include:

- A description of the region and local features;
- A study of the battery technologies to be used;
- Identification of sensitive receptors in the area;
- Assessing (identifying and rating) the potential impacts on the health and safety of employees, contractors and public persons;
- Identification of relevant legislation and legal requirements; and
- Providing recommendations on possible preventative and mitigation measures for inclusion in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

The BESS Risk Assessment will serve as a technical report, and Appendix 6 (Specialist Study Requirements) of the EIA Regulations will thus not be applicable.

## **2. Approach and Methodology**

The following approach will be used:

The Project Developer will provide technical information, EIA information for the facility and the proposed BESS, and GPS coordinates to locate the site on Google maps etc.

The Health and Safety specialist will then complete the following:

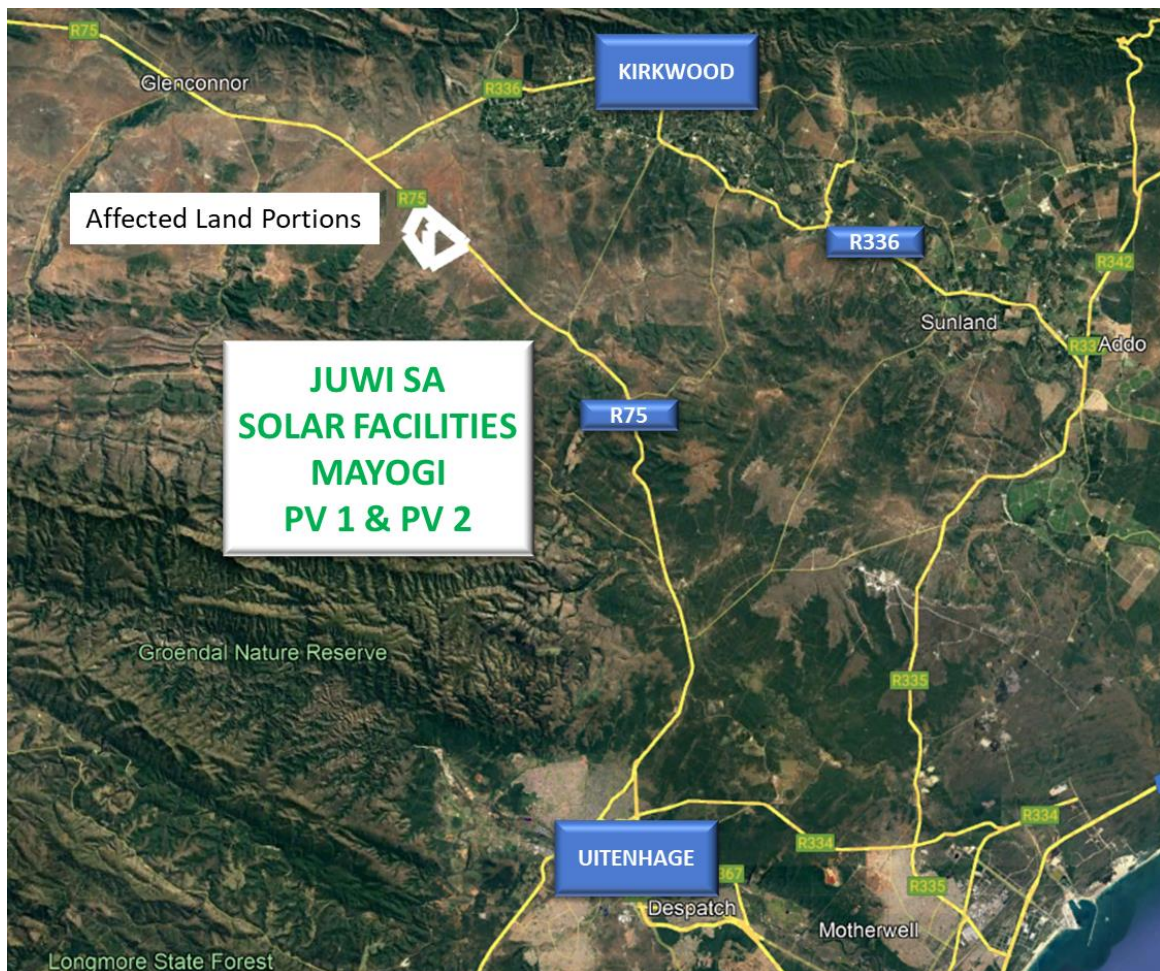
- Gather all relevant Safety Health and Environmental (SHE) information e.g.
  - ~ locations, surroundings, topography, types of activities surrounding the sites, vulnerable receptors (this will be based on Google Earth and information provided from other specialist reports);
  - ~ material listings (details of the types of batteries – only lithium-ion and redox flow will be considered), inventories (battery sizes and numbers), design drawings (possible layouts), process conditions (the client will be expected to provide this design information);
  - ~ maps, weather data; and
  - ~ key operating instructions and emergency procedures (if available from the client).
- Using the checklist in section 2.1 below and a guideline, identify potential SHE hazardous events associated with the installation, during construction, operation and eventual decommissioning phases.
- Using a suitable risk assessment matrix (see section 2.1 below) dimension each of the hazardous events in terms of potential consequences and likelihood.
- From this determine the raw risk and determine which items may need further attention.
- Suggest risk reduction measures (mitigation) that should typically be applied, e.g. National Standards, best practices, and monitoring requirements. Preventative measures will be to reduce

the likelihood and mitigative measures to reduce the consequences. These measures will be incorporated into the EMPr.

- Calculate, and document, the residual risks.
- Determine if any of the risks require further non-standard risk reduction measures, e.g. suggested separation distances from vulnerable receptors.
- For the proposed installations compile all the information, analysis, assessments and conclusions as detailed above into a technical risk assessment report.
- Provide electronic responses and report updates for relevant issues raised.

## 2.1. Information Sources

Study of the area to determine sensitive receptors will be based on satellite images available on Google earth. The satellite image below show the area of study (i.e. the full extent of the affected farm properties outlined in white).



**Figure 2: Satellite Image of the general area showing the affected farm portions facilities (white shape PV 1 & PV 2). The BESS will likely be located close to the edge of the PV area.**

The following list of generic SHE issues will be considered for each phase of the project:

**TABLE 1 – SHE Checklist**

NO	RISKS
	<b>HEALTH RISKS</b>
H1	Chronic Chemical or Biological Toxic Exposure
H2	Noise
H3	Environmental
H4	Psychological
H5	Ergonomics
	<b>SAFETY RISKS</b>
S1	Fire
S2	Explosion
S3	Acute Chemical or Biological Toxic Exposure
S4	Acute physical Impact or violent release of energy
S5	Generation impact
	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS</b>
E1	Emissions
E2	Pollution
E3	Waste of resources
	<b>GENERAL RISKS</b>
G1	Aesthetics
G2	Financial
G3	Security
G4	Emergencies
G5	Legal compliance

The following Risk Matrix will be used:

**TABLE 2 – RISK MATRIX**

Factor	Score	Description
a) The magnitude of impact on safety health and environment, quantified on a scale from 0-5, where a score is assigned.	0	small and will have no effect on the environment
	1	minor and will not result in an impact on processes
	2	low and will cause a slight impact on processes
	3	moderate and will result in processes continuing but in a modified way
	4	high (processes are altered to the extent that they temporarily cease)
	5	very high and results in complete destruction of patterns and permanent cessation of processes
b) The physical extent	1	the impact will be limited to the site
	2	the impact will be limited to the local area
	3	the impact will be limited to the region
	4	the impact will be national
	5	the impact will be international

Factor	Score	Description
c) The duration, wherein it is indicated whether the lifetime of the impact will be	1	of a very short duration (0 to 1 years)
	2	of a short duration (2 to 5 years)
	3	medium term (5–15 years)
	4	long term (> 15 years)
	5	permanent
d) Reversibility: An impact is either reversible or irreversible. How long before impacts on receptors cease to be evident.	1	The impact is immediately reversible.
	3	The impact is reversible within 2 years after the cause or stress is removed.
	5	The activity will lead to an impact that is in all practical terms permanent.
e) The probability of occurrence, which describes the likelihood of the impact actually occurring.	1	very improbable (probably will not happen).
	2	improbable (some possibility, but low likelihood).
	3	probable (distinct possibility).
	4	highly probable (most likely).
	5	definite (impact will occur regardless of any prevention measures).

The final assessment of the risk, i.e., the significance, of a particular impact is determined through combination of the characteristics described above (refer formula below):

$$\text{Risk Significance} = (\text{Extent} + \text{Duration} + \text{Reversibility} + \text{Magnitude}) \times \text{Probability}$$

The risk (significance) can then be assessed as low, medium or high as follows:

OVERALL SCORE	SIGNIFICANCE RATING (NEGATIVE)	SIGNIFICANCE RATING (POSITIVE)	DESCRIPTION
4-15	Very Low	Very Low	Where the impact is negligible
16-30	Low	Low	Where this impact would not have a direct influence on the decision to develop in the area
31-60	Moderate	Moderate	Where the impact could influence the decision to develop in the area unless it is effectively mitigated
61-80	High	High	Where the impact must have an influence on the decision process to develop in the area
81-100	Very High	Very High	Where the impact would indicate a potential fatal flaw

It must be reiterated that this SHE Risk Assessment is technical in nature and does not need to comply with the EIA Regulations. The above risk assessment methodology is therefore not a requirement of the EIA Regulations.

## **2.2. Assumptions, Knowledge Gaps and Limitations**

The following assumptions and limitations apply:

- No specific site visit will be undertaken. The level of detail required for assessment of SHE impacts of the BESS SHE RA does not necessitate a detailed inspection of the exact area.
- Only lithium-ion and redox flow type batteries will be considered. For redox flow BESS, vanadium is assumed for now, but alternative chemistry may be considered.
- As they have been more widely used there is more information readily available in the literature on lithium type batteries as opposed to redox flow batteries.
- Redox flow battery systems can be containerized but can also be utility scale facilities with electrolyte in tanks within a large building, i.e. not containerised.
- Lithium BESS facilities are assumed to be containerized.

## **3. Description of Project Aspects relevant to BESS SHE RA**

The following aspects are relevant to the High-Level BESS SHE Risk Assessment:

- Lithium ion BESS:
  - the proximity to occupied residences;
  - the layout to prevent domino effects of fires/explosions between facilities;
  - suitable emergency response during all phases of the project; and
  - suitable end of life plan to be in place.
- Redox flow BESS (assume vanadium for now but may be alternative chemistry):
  - proximity to water courses;
  - suitable secondary spill containment for large tanks of electrolyte;
  - suitable emergency response during all phases of the project; and
  - suitable end of life plan to be in place.

## **4. Study Area Definition**

The Study Area is defined as the area covered by the land parcels where all the proposed project will be located (i.e. the full extent of the affected farm properties). The Scoping Buildable Area is the where the actual development will be located, i.e. the footprint containing the solar PV panels and associated infrastructure. The full extent of these properties has been assessed in this study in order to identify sensitivities and no-go areas. At the commencement of this Scoping and EIA Process, the Original Scoping Buildable Areas were identified by the Project Developer following the completion of high-level environmental screening based on the Screening Tool. As part of this Scoping Phase, the Original Scoping Buildable Areas and study area have been assessed and considered in this report.

Following the identification of sensitivities during the Scoping Phase, the Project Developer has taken such sensitivities into account and formulated the Revised Scoping Buildable Areas. The Revised Scoping Buildable Areas will be used to inform the design of the layout and will be further assessed



during the EIA Phase. This report is focused on the Revised Scoping Buildable Areas as provided and the proposed locations of the substation facilities.

## **5. Baseline Environmental Description**

Within the proposed development area near the substations, the Project Applicant has proposed BESS installations near the substations. The BESS may be either solid state lithium-ion batteries or redox flow type battery systems (assumed to be vanadium for now but may be alternative chemistry).

## **6. Issues, Risks and Impacts**

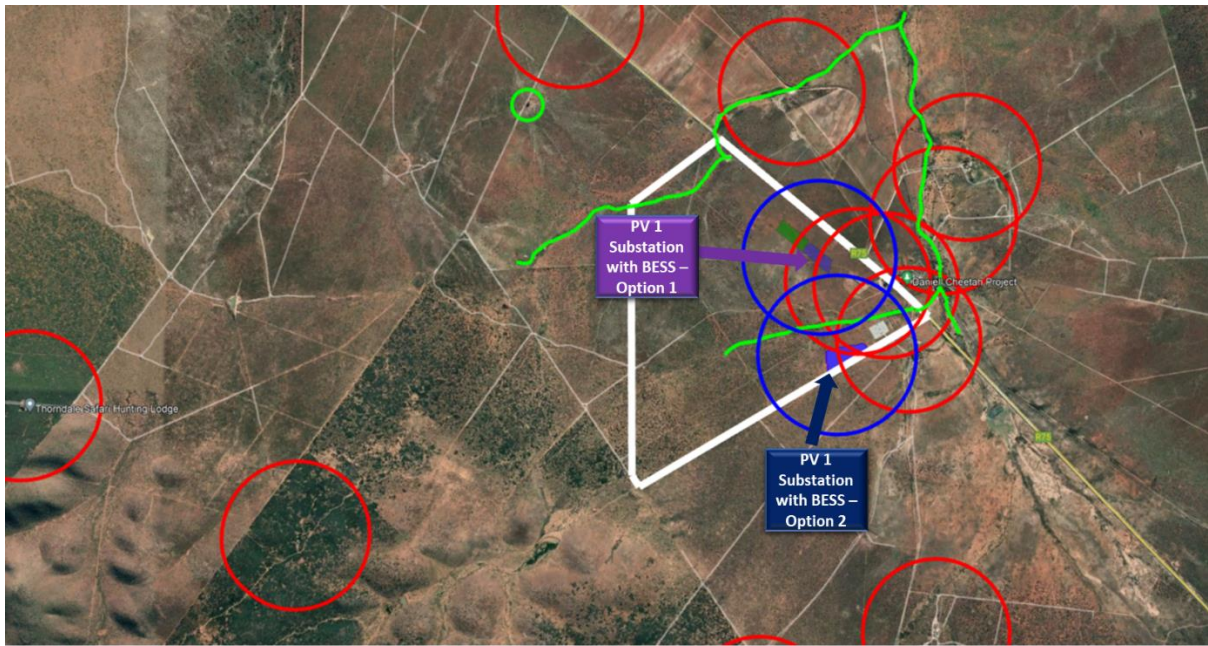
The following issues are of consideration:

- Lithium ion BESS:
  - noxious smoke; and
  - fires/explosions.
  
- Redox flow BESS (assumed vanadium for now but may be alternative chemistry):
  - suitable secondary spill containment for the large volume of electrolyte.
  
- General:
  - agricultural area – only commercial locations of interest.
  - location of farmsteads and watering holes.

Ideally, due to the possibility of noxious smoke from fires, lithium BESS should be located over 500m from residential areas, in this case isolated farm facilities/houses or guest lodges that are occupied. If this is not possible, it is noted that the risks are low and advice on mitigative measures should be provided to the farm occupants, e.g. shelter in place indoors.

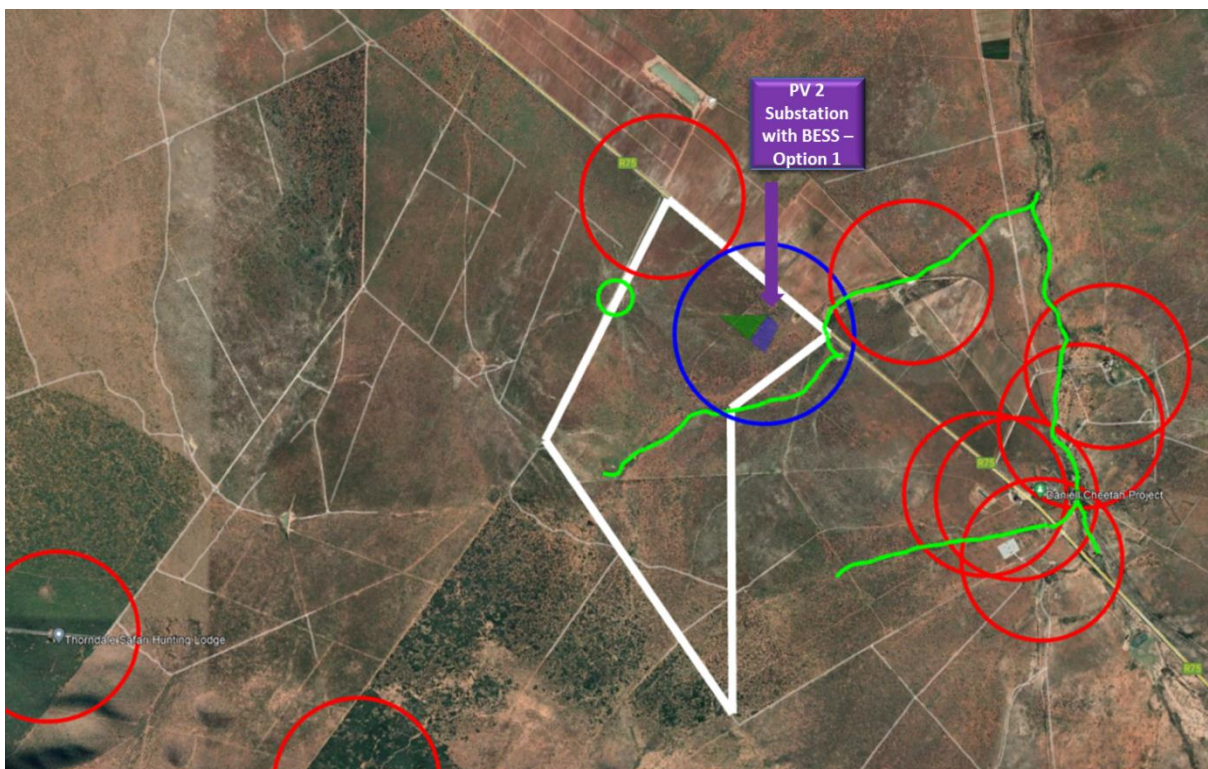
For PV 1 the currently proposed two alternative locations for the substation/BESS are shown on the map Figure 3a below. Based on the current separation distances (see red and blue circles), there may need to be a layout that ensures the BESS for PV 1 (both Options) is at the end of the allocated area furthest from farms etc. located to the east and south east.

The currently proposed two alternative locations for the PV 2 substation/BESS are shown on the map Figure 3b below. Based on the current separation distances (see red and blue circles showing 500m distances), for PV 2 there should not be any issues with BESS facilities being too close to farmsteads.



○ 500m buffer around BESS 
 ○ Occupied Locations 
 △ Water Bodies

**Figure 31: Satellite Image of the area showing the location of isolated farmsteads in relation to the proposed infrastructure for PV 1**



○ 500m buffer around BESS 
 ○ Occupied Locations 
 △ Water Bodies

**Figure 3b: Satellite Image of the area showing the location of isolated farmsteads in relation to the proposed infrastructure for PV 2**

Due to the fact that South Africa is not a water rich country, supplies of water such as drinking water boreholes, as well as other surface water features, should be protected from possible chemical contamination. Should redox flow batteries (such as vanadium) be the chosen technology, it is suggested that the facilities be located a suitable distance away from water courses/sources. Refer to the Aquatic Biodiversity and Geohydrology specialist studies for specific details of separation distances. Ideally the BESS should be placed at least 50 m away from known boreholes and waterpoints, and 100 m away from major surface water features, such as major rivers and wetlands.

## **7. Scoping Level – Impact Assessment**

The BESS SHE RA is not expected to raise any unacceptably high-risk issues, i.e. the BESS facility of either technology type are not likely to be a No-Go option.

The safety and health risks associated with redox flow batteries (e.g. vanadium) will likely be lower than for the lithium-ion battery type for both employees and members of the public outside the facility. Lithium batteries pose a higher fire and explosion risk as well as the possibility of generating noxious smoke under these circumstances.

The environmental risks of surface aquatic features and groundwater contamination with the redox flow type batteries will likely be higher than for solid state batteries, due to the presence of liquids.

## **8. Statement of the Revised Scoping Buildable Areas**

As indicated above, following the identification of sensitivities during the Scoping Phase, the Project Developer has considered such sensitivities and formulated the Revised Scoping Buildable Areas, which will be further assessed during the EIA Phase. The Revised Scoping Buildable Areas are considered suitable from an SHE perspective, as the sensitivities identified above have been taken into consideration.

## **9. Legislative and Permit Requirements**

The BESS must be designed, operated, maintained and decommissioned according to the requirements of Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1993. Neither the of the BESS installations is likely to be classified as a Major Hazard Installation.

## Appendices

### Appendix A - Specialist Expertise

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#### CONSULTANT CURRICULUM VITAE

**NAME :** DEBRA MITCHELL

**EDUCATION :**

BSc Chemical Engineering (Cape Town) 1985

BA Psychology, Economics (UNISA) 1995

MSc Process Safety & Loss Prevention (U. Sheffield UK) 2004

(Distinction)

**AFFILIATIONS :**

Professional Engineer

Member of SA Institute of Chemical Engineering

ISHECONcc is an Approved Inspection Authority for Major Hazard Installations and for Explosives

SANAS ISO 17020 Technical Auditor

Chairman of SABS TC292 Sub-committee for compilation of

SANS1461- MHI RA Standard



**WORK EXPERIENCE:**

1999 - 2021 Formed Ishecon c.c. with two partners as a management-buy-out of the SHE Consulting Group of AECI Engineering.

1997 - 1999 AECI Engineering Pty (Ltd), Modderfontein. Senior Process Safety Engineer. Risk assessments and Hazard Studies for AECI projects. Also involved in development of safety and risk related training programs.

1996 - 1997 Sasol Synthetic Fuels, Secunda, Senior Environmental Engineer, responsible for initiation of projects and statutory reports.

1991 - 1996 Sastech, Secunda, Lead Process Engineer, Steam and Water Utilities Department, responsible for a team of process engineers compiling process engineering designs and feasibility studies. Seconded to Foster Wheeler UK for 6 months.

1987 - 1991 SAPPI, Ngodwana, Technical Superintendent, responsible for management of a team on an applied research and development effluent recovery pilot plant.

1986 - 1987 Atomic Energy Corporation, Engineer-in-training, process engineering design.

## PROCESS SAFETY EXPERIENCE :

1997/2021 *Quantitative Major Hazard Installation Risk Assessments  
(Initial assessment and updates as required over the years)*

### Gauteng:

Holfontein Hazardous Landfill site, Akulu Marchon Sulphonation, Nissan LPG, SAB Rosslyn and Chamdor, Protea Chemicals Wadeville, African Explosives Modderfontein Complex, Sappi Enstra peroxide, Rosslyn Township Development, Crest Midrand, Revlon Isando, Plaaskem, AECI Chloorkop, NECSA.

### Natal:

Umgeni water treatment plants, Blendcor, Clairwood Logistics Park, Crematorium gas supply, Crest Chemicals Jacobs, Durban Metro LPG; All chlorine installations at swimming pools and sewage plants throughout the Durban area. Ezimbodekweni Township formalisation, Illovo Sugar Merebank, Assmang Cato Works, Shu Powders, Metalichem, Plascon, Unitrans, Transnet Port operations, Back of Port–new harbour, FFS PMB. Umbogintwini Industrial complex: Chemical Initiatives, Experse, Ineos Acrylics, Dulux Paints, Alliance Peroxide, Resinkem, Improchem, Marshalling Yard, Effluent treatment and sea disposal, Bio-products Lysine plant, review composite integrated site risk assessment.

### Freestate and Others:

Midland Industrial Complex: Chlorine production, Polyethylene production (old and new plants), Cyanide plant, Peroxide plant, Chlorine derivatives, bulk chlorine road transport, Integrated composite site risk assessment, Omnia Sasolburg complex. Omnia ammonia depots (5). New Hydrogen Peroxide Installation, De Beers Micro Diamond HF facility, Shell fuel depot Kimberly, BHP Billiton LPG Steelpoort.

### Cape:

BESS and fuel turbine power generation plant, Fine Chemicals Corporation, Aspen Pharmacare, Protea Chemicals, Kohler Versapac Paarl, Kynoch Milnerton, Johnson Controls PE, Protea Chemicals, Vissershoeke hazardous landfill, Crest new chlorine and sulphur dioxide packaging facility, Shell fuel depot Mossel Bay, AECI Coatings, AFROX PE, Gas Turbines and various expansions at PetroSA Mossel Bay, NCP Atlantis.

### **Integrated Safety, Health and Environmental Risk Assessments**

2021 Various (10) Battery Storage facilities in the Northern and Western Cape.

2001 Tzaneen Municipality; all municipal operations (e.g. roads, parks etc).

2001 Dulux Paints; all operations at Alrode Site and at Umbogintwini Site.

2000/2003 Somerset West Industrial Site, Kynoch Gypsum Pipeline

2005/6 Illovo Sugar Merebank Bund Study, Enviroserv Shongweni

2010 - 19 AEL various explosives manufacturing facilities in South Africa and the region.

### **Hazard and Operability Studies (HAZOP)**

2000/2014 SASOL/NATREF Cleans Fuels II, VCM Upgrade, TNP Ex, Skeletal Isom Plant

2005 / 2014 Fine Chemicals Corporation Cape Town – API Expansion. CISA; effluent treatment, chrome concentrator, Vanadium Recovery

1997/2019 African Explosives; nitrates, bulk emulsion and detonators etc

2000/2019 Rand Water and Biwater – chlorination, ammonia, poly, lime, RO facilities

Other hazops for ERWAT, Industrial Urethanes; Mhlume Sugar, Zinchem, Kynoch Feeds, AEL, ammonia plants, Element 6 HF plant, Omnia HEF, GSK Nairobi and Lagos etc.

### **Emergency Response Studies**

2006 SA Mint Company in Midrand Emergency Plan Evaluation

2006 A1 Grand Prix for 2007 Emergency Plan Evaluation

2015 Atlantis Leather Crusting

**Explosives Risk Assessments**

2008/2019 AEL – Emulsion Manufacturing Plants in RSA, Tanzania, Zambia & DRC (6 plants)  
2009/2010 AEL - Detonator/shock tube assembly plants Indonesia, UK and South America  
2015 SteinMuller Explosive Welding, Wits Explosive Piling

**Hazardous Area Classification Studies**

2012 Aspen Pharmacare Olifantsfontein  
2011 AEL – Ammonia Plant  
2019 Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation - Distillery

**Auditing**

2018 Ferro Dispersions, NCS Resins and FCR Process Safety Management Audits  
2019 Puregas Alrode Process Safety Management Audit  
2017/2019 ISO 17020 Technical auditing for MHI AIAs at Sasol, AFROX, BIRA, ERM







