

From the desk of Gabriele Wood
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South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)
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8000

Tel: 021-462-4502
Email: mgalimberti@sahra.org.za

Dear Ms. Mariagrazia Galimberti

**PROPOSED PPC SLURRY SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, NORTH WEST PROVINCE
(DEA REF: 14/12/16/3/3/3/1/997)**

NOTIFICATION OF BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

PPC Limited is proposing to establish a 10 MW photovoltaic solar energy facility as well as associated infrastructure on a site located in the Mahikeng Local Municipality approximately 20 km east of Mahikeng, North West Province. The following farms within the PPC mining area are being investigated for the siting of the PV facility:

- » Portion 8 of the Farm Rietvallei 102,
- » Portion 3 of the Farm Slurry 96,
- » Portion 2, 3 and 4 of the Farm Behadeplaats 93, and
- » Portion 4 of the Farm Bultfontein 92.

The proposed PV facility will have an export capacity of up to 10 MW and will be known as the **PPC Slurry Solar Energy Facility**. The proposed project will be developed in two phases. The first phase will have an export capacity of 1 MW whereas the second phase will be up to 9 MW. The energy generated from this solar energy facility is intended to be utilised by the Slurry Cement Factory as a means of reducing total carbon emissions, diversifying electricity supply to the factory, and reducing cost risk. Based on a pre-feasibility analysis undertaken by PPC Limited, four technically feasible areas have been identified as alternative sites for consideration and evaluation through a Basic Assessment Process.

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COMPANY REGISTRATION NO.: 2006/000127/07
VAT REGISTRATION NO.: 4780226736

By undertaking a technical feasibility study which considered favourable climatic conditions (solar renewable energy facilities are directly reliant on average solar radiation values for a particular area), accessibility to and capacity of the electricity grid, accessibility of the study site, as well as local site topography, the four alternative sites are considered by the project proponent to be technically feasible for the establishment of the solar energy facility.

The 10 MW PV Solar plant is proposed to accommodate the following infrastructure:

- » Arrays of photovoltaic (PV) panels
- » Mounting structures to support the PV panels.
- » A new on-site substation to evacuate the power from the facility into the proposed power line
- » A new overhead power line to evacuate the power to an existing 66kV substation on the PPC site.
- » Internal access roads and fencing.
- » Workshop area for maintenance, storage, and offices.
- » Cabling between project components, to be laid underground where practical.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In terms of sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No 107 of 1998), as read with the EIA Regulations of GN R543 – R546, a Basic Assessment process is required to be undertaken for the project. PPC Limited requires authorisation from the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) (in consultation with the North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT)) for the undertaking of the proposed project.

In order to obtain authorisation, comprehensive, independent environmental studies must be undertaken in accordance with the EIA Regulations. This project has been registered with the National DEA under application reference number **14/12/16/3/3/1/997**.

PPC Limited has appointed **Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**, as the independent environmental consultant, to undertake the required Basic Assessment process and assess all the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project, and propose appropriate mitigation and management measures in an Environmental Management Programme (EMP). As part of these environmental studies, I&APs will be actively involved through the public involvement process also being undertaken by Savannah Environmental. The public participation process, which forms part of the overall Basic Assessment

process, will also be undertaken by Savannah Environmental. The department and/or the organisation which you represent have been identified as a commenting authority for the proposed project. **In this regard, please can you provide us with 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 Basic Assessment Process.

Please find herewith the **Background Information Document (BID)** for the solar energy facility project. Please could you kindly confirm that you would like to be registered as and Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) on the project's database. Please could you kindly complete the attached Stakeholder Reply Form and send it to the undersigned via fax, post or email.

Please could you submit your formal comments by sending written correspondence in this regard. All comments received will be incorporated in the Basic Assessment Reports which will be submitted to the DEA. Comments can be made as written submission of fax, post or email.

AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

In accordance with the EIA Regulations, a Draft Basic Assessment Report will be available for public review and comment by I&APs and stakeholders. You will be informed of the 30-day public review period which will occur in September 2013. Comments can be made as written submission via fax, post or email.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information and/or clarification regarding the proposed project. 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

(not signed, sent via email)