

Appendix C9
Public Participation Plan



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
IN TERMS OF THE DIRECTIONS REGARDING MEASURES TO ADDRESS, PREVENT AND COMBAT THE
SPREAD OF COVID-19 RELATING TO NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PERMITS AND
LICENCES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A 132kV POWER LINE FROM THE AUTHORISED ORKNEY SOLAR
FARM SUBSTATION TO THE EXISTING VAAL REEFS TEN SUBSTATION , NORTH WEST PROVINCE
Application yet to be submitted

May 2022

Introduction:

The restrictions implemented by the Government through various mechanisms to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, particularly in terms of numbers of people at gatherings, has placed some limitations on the of public consultation process as part of the Basic Assessment processes. Considering these limitations, the following consultation process has been designed and will be implemented, on approval by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), to cater for the conducting of the public participation process which includes Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), the competent authority, directly impacted landowners/occupiers, adjacent landowners/occupiers, relevant Organs of State departments, Municipalities, ward councillors and other key stakeholders.

The Public Participation Plan is submitted as per the requirements of the DFFE. According to Section (2)(4)(f) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), the participation of all I&APs must be promoted and all potential I&APs must be informed early and in an informative and proactive way regarding applications that may affect their lives or livelihood in order to give effect to the above sections, and that it is essential to ensure that there is adequate and appropriate opportunity for public participation in decisions that may affect the environment.

Savannah Environmental as the independent assessment practitioners have adopted this plan to in compliance with the regulations. The submission of this and approval does not negate our responsibilities to comply with the requirements for public participation in terms of Regulations 39,40,41,42,43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

Project Details:

Genesis Eco-Energy Developments (Pty) Ltd is proposing the construction and operation of grid connection infrastructure consisting of a 132kV power line between authorised Orkney Solar Farm Substation (DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/954) and the existing Vaal Reefs Ten Substation, situated at the Tau Lekoa Mine

Applicant	Genesis Eco-Energy Developments (Pty) Ltd
Project	The Proposed Establishment of a 132kV Power Line from the Authorised Orkney Solar Farm Substation to the existing Vaal Reefs Ten Substation, North West Province
Proposed Infrastructures	» 132kV power line (within 300m wide corridor)

<p>Affected Properties</p>	<p>Service tracks (up to 4m wide) where no existing roads are available</p> <p>Remaining Extent of the Farm Wolvenhuis 114HP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Portion 8 of the Farm Wolvenhuis 114HP » Portion 9 of the Farm Wolvenhuis 114HP » Portion 20 of the Farm Wolvenhuis 114HP » Portion 21 of the Farm Wolvenhuis 114HP » Portion 22 of the Farm Wolvenhuis 114HP <p>Remaining Extent of the Farm Goedenoege 433IP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Portion 12 of the Farm Goedenoege 433IP » Portion 24 of the Farm Goedenoege 433IP » Portion 27 of the Farm Goedenoege 433IP » Portion 31 of the Farm Goedenoege 433IP » Portion 33 of the Farm Goedenoege 433IP » Portion 47 of the Farm Goedenoege 433IP » Portion 64 of the Farm Goedenoege 433IP » Portion 81 of the Farm Goedenoege 433IP
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Public Participation Plan:

The public participation (PP) process will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Regulations 39 to 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, (GNR 326). The aim of the public participation process is primarily to ensure that:

- » Information containing all relevant facts in respect of the proposed project is made available to potential stakeholders and I&APs.
- » Participation by I&APs is facilitated in such a manner that all potential stakeholders and I&APs are provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed project.
- » Comments received from potential stakeholders and I&APs are recorded and incorporated into the EIA process.

The traditional means and opportunities available for the undertaking of public participation are still covered and implemented as part of this plan considering current regulations to limit risks associated with COVID-19. A COVID-19 protocol has been appended as **Appendix A**. Alternative means of undertaking consultation have been designed and will be implemented by Savannah Environmental to ensure that I&APs are afforded sufficient opportunity to raise comments on the project through an interactive web-based platform readily available and accessible to any person illustrating interest in the project and enables the public participation process to be undertaken in line with Regulations 41 to 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

The use of online tools enables stakeholders and I&APs to explore the project-specific content in their own time and allows them to participate in a meaningful way in the consultation process. The online platform allows for project information to be shared and made available. Access to the project documentation via the Savannah Environmental website will be unrestricted to all I&APs. I&APs wanting to access the project information via this portal will be required to register and will receive a unique code (via an automated system) to access the report of interest. This step and the online portal support the EAP in maintaining a complete and accurate record and database of all parties who have interest in the project (and who choose to access the report via the online portal), in line with the requirements of the Regulations.

The online stakeholder engagement platform considers the limitations applied by the Government Regulations prohibiting the gathering of people, as well as limitations which certain I&APs may have in terms of access to computers and internet as well as access to public spaces which are not open for operation or which have restricted access.

The benefits of the online stakeholder engagement platform include:

- Ability to create a dedicated project-specific online platform to enable easy access to project-related information.
- Ability to reach a wider audience, allowing more widespread consultation for major infrastructure projects.
- Allowing stakeholders and I&APs the opportunity to engage on a project without leaving their office or home.
- Enabling stakeholders and I&APs to register their interest in a project (for inclusion on the project database), and automatically gaining access to comprehensive project documentation.
- Enabling the EAP to maintain a complete database of I&APs through maintaining a record of persons accessing the online stakeholder consultation platform.
- Enabling the EAP and stakeholders/I&APs to meet virtually.
- Provides a resilient solution to the public consultation process.

Where I&APs do not have the applicable facilities (i.e., access to internet, mobile phones, or computers), provision has been made to include these I&APs in the consultation process by:

- Consulting with the Ward Councillor and, the ward committee members to ensure broader inclusion.
- Consulting with community representatives, formalised community structures and local community forum members to ensure broader inclusion.
- Inviting direct consultation with the Public Participation team to ensure broader inclusion and support by assisting with the submission of comments.
- Use of the 'Please call me' alert of the dedicated cellphone number to allow a call-back at zero expense to the I&AP.
- Hard copy documentation may be made available to local public facilities, but will only be provided where appropriate sanitary conditions can be maintained.

The schematic illustration overleaf provides an overview of the tools that are available to I&APs and stakeholders to access project information and interact with the public participation team to obtain project information and resolve any queries that may arise, and to meet the requirements for public participation.

<p>i. Stakeholder identification and register of I&APs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register as an I&AP on the online platform, via completion of a form and provision of contact information, by responding to an advert, or sending a 'please call me' which will be responded to • State interest in the project • Receive all project related information via email or other appropriate means.
<p>ii. Notifications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisements, site notices, radio live reads and written notifications provide information and details on where to access project information. • Notification regarding the EIA process and availability of project reports for public review to be sent via email, post or SMS notification.
<p>iii. Public Involvement and consultation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of project information will be via the Savannah website which is accessible and user friendly. • An opportunity for I&APs and stakeholders to request virtual meetings with the project team. • Where limited connectivity is encountered, in-person meeting/s will be arranged with strict COVID protocols followed.
<p>iv. Comment on the EIA reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of the project reports via the online platform for a 30-day comment period. • Where applicable, other electronic platforms (WeTransfer or DropBox), and upon written request CD, USB and/or hard copies will be made available. • Submission of comments facilitated through email, WhatsApp/SMS, direct on-site engagement (where necessary) and where required via post to the PP team. • Comments recorded and responded to, as part of the process.
<p>v. Identification and recording of comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments and Responses Report, including all comments received throughout the process to be included in the reporting.

The PP plan, as set out in the table below, has been drafted for the above-mentioned project to ensure compliance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations and that reasonable opportunity is provided to I&APs and that all administrative actions are reasonable. Proof of all notifications will be included in the public participation process report with supporting appendix's included in the Scoping and EIA Reports.

The PP plan is submitted to the DFFE for discussion and agreement before the PP process is undertaken for the proposed project.

Public Participation Plan: Discussion of approach and methodology to meet the requirements of the Regulations, applicable to all above mentioned applications for environmental authorisation (combined where possible).

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
<p>Regulation 40(1), Regulation 40(3) & Regulation 43 – provide all potential or registered interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, access to project related information, access to the Basic Assessment Reports which will be made available for a period of at least 30 days to submit comments on draft reports prior to submission of final reports for decision-making.</p>	<p><u>Notification of Basic Assessment processes to be distributed using the following means:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisement in local media • E-mail • Dedicated project page on the Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform. This platform is accessible and user friendly. • Post (where email or other means are not possible). This form of notification cannot be excluded considering that some parties may wish to use it. • Site notices placed on site as well as process notices placed at other relevant public locations. <p><u>Notification of availability of reports and period for review using the following means:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspaper advert in a local newspaper (i.e Klerksdorp Midweek) , including details of where the report can be accessed and details of the Savannah Environmental website. • Direct notification to registered I&APs: Notification letter (to be sent via email, fax and/or post, as may be most applicable) to affected and surrounding landowners and occupiers, and registered I&APs. • Direct notification to registered I&APs: SMS and/ or WhatsApp notifications where possible and available. • Indirect notification to registered I&APs: Where direct notification is restricted, notifications to communities via one of the following will be implemented: Ward Councillor, ward committee members, identified and confirmed community representatives, and local community forum members. It is critical to note that all avenues to exhaust direct notifications will be exercised (i.e., including forming part of any local communication groups WhatsApp and Telegram groups). <p><u>Availability of reports for review:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports available on the Savannah Environmental website for download. Upon registering their interest, I&APs will be able to download the respective project documentation. • Electronic copies can be made available to parties via a secure Dropbox link (or other means) that will be emailed upon request for the documentation. • CDs to be posted, if requested.






Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard copy project documentation and reports to be available only where appropriate sanitary conditions can be maintained. • Report will be submitted to the DFFE using the DFFE online portal. • Report will be submitted to Organs of State and commenting authorities via an agreed electronic platform (such as on CD, or via a secure Dropbox link or WeTransfer, etc.). <p><u>Submission of comments to PP team:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written comments can be submitted via email, WhatsApp/SMS, fax or post, whichever is most applicable. • Any comments provided telephonically or via instant message will be transcribed and recorded as formal comments. <p><u>Opportunity and means of consultation where applicable facilities are not available to I&APs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisement in local media. • Post (where email or other means are not possible). • Placement of site notice on all affected properties. • Consultation and communication through one of the following, where available: the ward councillor, ward committee members and confirmed community representatives and local community forum members. These forums would be suitable for notifications to occupiers, where access to these parties is not available through other means (such as direct consultation). • SMS or WhatsApp notification. • CDs or USBs to be posted, if requested (and where a computer is available). • Hard copy report only where sanitary conditions can be maintained.
<p>Regulation 40(2) - Provide access to all project information that has the potential to influence any decision regarding the application, unless protected by law, and must include consultation with Competent Authority, Organs of State & registered I&APs.</p> <p>Regulation 41 (6) – Relevant information available and accessible</p>	<p>Provision of project information and consultation via various means including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephonic consultation. • Email correspondence. • Correspondence sent via post (where email or other means are not possible) • SMS and/or WhatsApp. • The Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform will include the following:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A means for I&APs to register on the project database and provide details of their interest in the project. ○ Project maps (as applicable). ○ Presentation of findings of the EIA process for each project.

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual focus group meetings using an appropriate platform agreeable to all parties (such as Zoom, Skype or Teams). The meetings will be recorded, and the attendees' details captured in an attendance register. • Where limited connectivity is encountered, in-person meeting/s will be arranged with strict COVID protocols followed. This includes having an understanding of the venue where the meeting is to be held and the number of attendees to ensure sanitary conditions can be maintained. • Communities will be consulted via one of the following, where available: the relevant Ward Councillor, ward committee members, community representative or local community forum members, as determined and confirmed during the consultation process. Through consultation these forums would be suitable for notifications to occupiers, where access to these parties is not available through other means (such as direct consultation). <p><u>Opportunity and means of consultation where applicable facilities are not available to I&APs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephonic consultation. • Post (where email or other means are not possible) • SMS and/or WhatsApp. • Consultation and communication through one of the following, where available: face-to-face meetings or workshops (in an appropriate local language where required) the ward councillor, ward committee members and confirmed community representatives and local community forum members.
Regulation 41(2)(a) – Site notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site notices will be placed at affected properties by the EAP, landowner or specialist, depending on specific travel restrictions applicable at the time. • Size and content will be in accordance with Regulation 41(3) & 41(4).
Regulation 41(2)(b) – Written notification to affected and neighbouring landowners and occupiers; municipality; ward councillors; Organs of State & other parties required by the CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification letter to be sent via email, fax, or post. <p><u>Opportunity and means of consultation where applicable facilities are not available to I&APs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Post (where email or other means are not possible) » SMS or WhatsApp notification.
Regulation 42 – Project database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affected and surrounding landowner and occupiers to be identified through a Deeds Search, networking and referral. Where occupiers are present on a property, the affected landowner will be requested to assist in providing the relevant details for inclusion in the process. • I&APs to be identified through a process of networking and referral, obtaining information from Savannah Environmental and Eskom's existing stakeholder databases, liaison with potentially affected parties in the greater surrounding area and a registration process involving response to adverts.

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organs of State, key stakeholders and affected and surrounding landowners will be identified and registered on the project database. • Other stakeholders will be required to formally register their interest in the project through either directly contacting the Savannah Environmental Public Participation team via email or fax or use of the Savannah Environmental website. • To access the Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform, I&APs will be required to provide their details such that they are automatically registered on the project database. • The register of I&APs will contain the names of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ all persons who requested to be registered on the database through the use of the Savannah Environmental website, or in writing and disclosed their interest in the project; ○ all Organs of State which hold jurisdiction in respect of the activity to which the application relates; and ○ all persons who submitted written comments or attended virtual meeting/s and viewed virtual presentations on the Savannah Environmental website during the public participation process. • The information captured on the project database will contain the names, organisation and contact details, as required. It must be noted that personal details will not be shared in public documentation in accordance with the requirements of the POPI Act. • Separate database will be compiled for each project.
<p>Regulation 44 – Comments to be recorded</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written comments can also be submitted via email, WhatsApp/SMS, fax or post, which ever is most applicable. • Any comments provided telephonically or via instant message will be transcribed and recorded as formal comments. • All comments received throughout the BA processes will be acknowledged and captured in the comments and responses report (C&RR) with a relevant response. Separate C&RRs will be prepared or each project. • The C&RR and all comments received will be included in the final report submitted to the CA. <p><u>Opportunity and means of consultation where applicable facilities are not available to I&APs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I&APs without the applicable electronic facilities to access the Savannah Environmental website will be provided with the opportunity to submit their comments and communicate with the public participation team via SMS, WhatsApp or by sending a Please-call-me notification. These comments will be transcribed and recorded as formal comments • Written comments via post or fax (where email or other means are not possible).

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment submission telephonically and instant messaging (SMS and/or WhatsApp). • Sending a Please-call-me notification to the Public Participation team so that contact can be made at any point of the project cycle.
<p>Regulation 4(2) – Notification of decision on application</p>	<p><u>Notification of Environmental Authorisation (EA) using the following means:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification letter with details as outlined in EA issued will be sent via email, fax, or post whichever is most applicable. • Notifications that the IEA and WML has been issued and where to download and/or obtain a copy to communities via one of the following, where available: Ward Councillor and his/her ward committee members and identified and confirmed community representatives. These channels will be closely facilitated where no direct notification is possible. • SMS or WhatsApp notification. <p><u>Opportunity and means of consultation where applicable facilities are not available to I&APs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post (where email or other means are not possible) • Communication via one of the following, where available: the ward councillor, ward committee members and confirmed community representatives and local community forum members. • SMS and/or WhatsApp.

APPENDIX A
COVID-19 Protocol

	<p>Avoid large gatherings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Meetings will comply with the latest government restrictions regarding gatherings » Participants will be confirmed by invitation only and will be required to register their attendance prior to the meeting
	<p>Wearing of cloth face-masks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Mandatory wearing of face masks by all participants incl. consultants and applicant in line with latest government regulations » Where required the applicant will provide face masks for participants who do not have » Both Consultants and Community members have the right to refuse to participate if someone is refusing to wear a mask
	<p>Maintenance of Social distancing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Consultants and Community members will be seated according to the latest government restrictions for any community and/or Focus Group Meetings » Where meetings are held inside, adequate ventilation will be ensured
	<p>Hand washing and sanitising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Hand sanitisers will be provided at the entrance of the venue for all meetings
	<p>Regular cleaning of shared surfaces and equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The venue hire used will sanitise and clean chairs and tables in the venue prior to commencement of the meeting » Should there be a break during the meeting, the tables and chairs will be sanitised before the next session » There will be a designated rubbish bin in the meeting venue to collect all waste generated. All waste will be handled and treated as sanitary waste

Nondumiso Bulunga

From: Ansoné Esterhuizen
Sent: Monday, 09 May 2022 11:41
To: Nondumiso Bulunga
Subject: FW: 2022-05-0002
Attachments: Appendix 2 - Locality Map.pdf; Appendix 3 - DFFE Screening Tool.pdf; Appendix 4 - OHL PP Plan Orkney.pdf; Pre Application OHL Orkney .pdf; 2022-05-0002 DB Output.pdf

Importance: High

From: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2022 12:31 PM
To: Samkelisiwe Dlamini <SDLAMINI@dffe.gov.za>
Cc: Masina Litsoane <MLITSOANE@dffe.gov.za>; Ansoné Esterhuizen <Ansone@savannahsa.com>
Subject: 2022-05-0002
Importance: High

Dear Samkelisiwe.

Please note that you have been allocated an application:

Type of Application: Pre-Application Meeting Request;
Reference Number: 2022-05-0002;
Date Received: 03/05/2022;
Action Required: Decide on meeting request.

Kindly let Ephron know which date the meeting is to be held, if it will be set.

EIA Applications
Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Please note that this email is for the receipt and processing of online applications only, and is not monitored for responses. All queries must be directed to EIAAdmin@dffe.gov.za.

You are advised that this mailbox has a 48 hour response time.

Please note that this mailbox has a 5mb mail limit. No zip files are to be attached in any email.

From: Ansoné Esterhuizen <Ansone@savannahsa.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 04 May 2022 14:41
To: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@dffe.gov.za>
Cc: Kristen Shaw <Kristen@savannahsa.com>

Subject: Pre Application request and approval of PP plan for the Orkney powerline BA Application

Importance: High

Good Afternoon

Please receive an application for a pre-application request for the following proposed developments:

1. a new Application for Environmental Authorisations (EA) for The Proposed Establishment of a 132kV Power Line from the Authorised Orkney Solar Farm Substation to the existing Vaal Reefs Ten Substation, North West Province –_to present to the Department the proposed public project, before the submission of the application for environmental authorisation.

Please be aware that we do not require a pre-application meeting, however, and according the May update to the legislation, no longer request the approval of our PP plan.

Your feedback on the above will be most appreciated. Let me know if you have any queries, I will be glad to assist

Kind regards,

Regards,

savannah
environmental

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SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant on Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015

Processing of personal Information / POPIA compliance

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