

**APPENDIX E5**  
**STAKEHOLDER CORRESPONDENCE**



02 September 2022

Dear Stakeholder and Interested and Affected Party,

**HARMONY CENTRAL PLANT SOLAR PV FACILITY, VIRGINIA, FREE STATE PROVINCE  
(DESTEA Reference No.: To be Issued)**

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**NOTIFICATION OF BASIC ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS  
and  
NOTIFICATION OF BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT AND AVAILABILITY FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT**

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Harmony Gold Mining Company (Pty) Ltd is looking to supplement its energy supply by implementing Photovoltaic (PV) generation, aiding their transition to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly energy mix.

The development of a solar photovoltaic (PV) facility with a generating capacity of 14MW is proposed between the Harmony Gold Saaiplaas Plant operations and the Harmony Central Plant operations, approximately ~6km north east of the town of Virginia and ~11km south east of the town of Welkom within the Matjhabeng Local Municipality and within the Lejweleputswa District Municipality, Free State Province. The PV facility is located on Portion 12 of the Farm Saaiplaas 771, owned by the Mine, and Portion 1 of the Farm Rustgevonden 564, owned by Lozitone (Pty) Ltd (A subsidiary of Harmony Gold Mining Company). The solar PV development will be known as Harmony Central Plant Solar PV Facility.

The nature and extent of the solar PV facility is explored in more detail in this Background Information Document (BID). A Basic Assessment (BA) process is being undertaken to obtain Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the development of the PV facility and associated infrastructure. The public participation process provides the public with an opportunity to comment on the project.

The infrastructure associated with the 14MW solar PV facility will include:

- » PV modules and mounting structures.
- » Inverters and transformers a SCADA room, and maintenance room.
- » Cabling between the project components, to be laid underground where practical.
- » Access roads, internal roads and fencing around the development area.
- » Temporary and permanent laydown areas.
- » Grid connection infrastructure including an on-site facility substation and a switching substation to be connected to the existing Harmony North Substation via a 2km overhead power line (located in the southern corner of the site).

The site is accessible via the R73, which is south of the proposed site.

Additional technical information regarding this Solar PV facility is available in the Background Information Document attached to this notification letter.

## **BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

In accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, published in terms of Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), the applicant requires Environmental Authorisation (EA) from the Department of Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental (DESTEA), as the Competent Authority. In terms of Section 24(5) of the NEMA, EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended), Listing Notice 1 (GNR 327) and Listing Notice 3 (GNR 324), the application for EA for the Harmony Central Plant Solar PV Energy Facility is subject to the completion of a Basic Assessment (BA) process. The application for EA is required to be supported by comprehensive, independent environmental studies undertaken in accordance with Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, and where relevant, in line with the gazetted protocols.

A BA is an effective planning and decision-making tool. It allows for potential environmental consequences resulting from a proposed activity to be identified and appropriately managed during the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of development. It also provides an opportunity for the project applicant to be forewarned of potential environmental issues, allows for the resolution of issue(s) identified and reported on as part of the BA processes, and provides dialogue with key stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs).

Savannah Environmental has been appointed as the independent environmental consultant responsible for managing the application for EA, undertaking the supporting BA process required to identify and assess potential environmental impacts associated with the project, as well as propose appropriate mitigation and management measures to be contained within the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). I&APs will be actively involved in the EIA process through the public participation process.

You and/or the Department/Organization/Company, which you represent, have been identified as a stakeholder for the proposed project as described above. The nature and extent of the solar PV are explored in more detail in the BID which is attached to this letter and is also available for download from the Savannah Environmental website <https://savannahsa.com/public-documents/energy-generation/>.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS**

The public participation (PP) process is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Regulations 39 to 44 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (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 application is made available to I&APs for review;
- » I&AP (Interested and Affected Party) participation is facilitated in such a manner that they are provided with reasonable opportunity to comment on the project;
- » adequate review periods are provided for I&APs to comment on the findings of the BA Report; and

- » comments received from potential stakeholders and I&APs are recorded and incorporated into the BA process.

Savannah Environmental have established an online stakeholder engagement platform, where you are invited to register your interest in the project, and view project documentation. Please visit our website (link provided above).

Where I&APs do not have the applicable facilities or access to internet, alternative means for consultation and to facilitate comment on the projects will be made through the Ward Councillor and/or Ward Committee Members. I&APs are also able to make contact via the "Please call me" functionality available on our public participation mobile phone (060 978 8396).

### **BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT**

The Basic Assessment Report for Harmony Central Plant Solar PV facility is available for review and comment from **02 September August 2022 to 03 October 2022**. The report is available for download from the Savannah Environmental website (link provided above).

In terms of Regulation 3(1) of the NEMA EIA regulations, the report will be available on 02 September 2022, with 03 September 2022 being the first day of the 30-day review and comment period. The due date for written comment is 03 October 2022.

Please submit your written comments on the Scoping Report via one of the following means:

- E-mail: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)
- Post: PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157xxx
- Fax: 086 684 0547
- Telephone: 011 656 3237
- Mobile: 060 978 8396 (including "please call me")

All comments should be addressed to Nicolene Venter at Savannah Environmental.

All comments received during the 30-day review and comment period will be recorded and included in the Final Basic Assessment Report for submission to the Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTE) in line with Regulation 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended (GNR 326).

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information and/or clarification regarding the project. Our team welcomes your participation and look forward to your involvement throughout this process.

Kind regards



**Nicolene Venter**

Public Participation and Social Consultant

Email: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

**Attached:** Background Information Document  
Registration and Comment Form

## Nicolene Venter

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**From:** Savannah Environmental Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, 02 September 2022 14:30  
**To:** Sifiso Mkhize  
**Cc:** Nicolene Venter  
**Subject:** SE3270: HARMONY CENTRAL PLANT SOLAR PV - Notification of Basic Assessment (BA) Process and Availability of BA Report for review and comment  
**Attachments:** SE3270-Harmony\_Central\_PVs\_Notification\_(BID&BAR)-FINAL.pdf; SE3270-Harmony\_Central\_Plant\_BID-FINAL.pdf; SE3270-Harmony\_Central\_PVs\_RegComm\_Form-FINAL.pdf

**HARMONY CENTRAL PLANT SOLAR PV FACILITY, VIRGINIA, FREE STATE PROVINCE  
(DESTEA Reference No.: To be Issued)**

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Please find attached for your perusal the following documents:

- Background Information Document; and
- Notification of availability of the Basic Assessment Report.

The Basic Assessment Report is available for downloading from our website [click here](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional information and/or clarification regarding these projects.

Our team welcomes your participation and look forward to your involvement throughout the Basic Assessment Process.

Kind regards,

[Unsubscribe this type of email](#)



**Nicolene Venter**

Public Process

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f: 086 684 0547

e: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

c: +27 (0) 60 978 8396

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

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# SE3270: HARMONY CENTRAL PLANT SOLAR PV - Notification of Basic Assessment (BA) Process and Availability of BA Report for review and comment (POE)

Date: Friday,  
02 September  
2022  
Time: 14:28

Company	Last Name	First Name	
	Barnard	John	
	Chobokoane	Sello	
	Coetzee	Adam	
African Farmers Association of South Africa	Mahlati	Vuyo	
Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS)	Masilela	Simphiwe	
Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS)	Morobane	Johanna	
bbentropie (pty) ltd	Nell	Chris	
Birdlife South Africa	Lewis	Melissa	
BirdLife South Africa	Ralston-Paton	Samantha	
Birdlife South Africa	Smit-Robinson	Hanneline	
Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries	Collett	Anneliza	
Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development	Info		
Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development	Land Claims		
Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development	Queries		
Department of Energy	Babuseng	Enid	
Department of Energy	Qase	Nomawethu	
Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries	Essop	Muhammad	
Department of Environmental Affairs	Nkosi	Nyiko	
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	Buthlezi	Thoko	
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	EIA Admin		
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	Grimett	Fiona	
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	Kershaw	Pamela	
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	Langa	Zama	
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	Lekota	Seoka	
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	Mahlangu	Julliet Mahlangu	
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	Maradwa	Ephron	
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	Mogorosi	Matlodi	
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	Smit	Danie	
Department of Mineral Resources and Energy	Masipa	Pheladi	
Department of Public Enterprises	Nkadimeng	Donald	
Department of Roads and Transport	Kgare	T	
Department of Rural Development and Land Reform	Du Toit	Mangalane	
Department of Science and Technology	Kgampe	Mere	
Department of Water Affairs	Starkey	A	
Department of Water and Sanitation	Cloete	Shaun	
Department of Water and Sanitation	Mkhize	Sifiso	
Department of Water and Sanitation	Ntili	Tseliso	
Department of Water and Sanitation: Free State Province	Khumalo	Zodwa	
Department of Water and Sanitation: Free State Province	Kumalo	Zodwa	
Department of Water and Sanitation: Free State Province	Lenong	Pule	
Department of Water and Sanitation: Free State Province	Letloenyane	Maureen	
Department of Water and Sanitation: Free State Province	Letloenyane	Maureen	
Department of Water and Sanitation: Free State Province	Maseloane	Kereemang	

Department of Water and Sanitation: Free State Province	Musekene	Nkhumeleni	
Department of Water and Sanitation: Free State Province	Nel	George	
Department of Water and Sanitation: Free State Province	Ntili	Tseliso	
Department of Water and Sanitation: Free State Province	Siganunu	Dovhani	
DESTEA (Free State)	Khosana	Grace	
Endangered Wildlife Trust	Gibbons	Bradley	
Endangered Wildlife Trust	Hoogstad	Constant	
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd	Dominick	Nolan	
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd	Geeringh	John	
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd	Harding	Debbie	
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd	Khanye	Nondwe	
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd	Motsis	Lungi	
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd	Muller	Lianne	
Harmony Gold Mining Co Ltd / Lozitone Pty Ltd	Steenkamp	Peter	
Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited	Botha	Louis	
Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited	Magadla	Khaya	
Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited	Mgotywa	Sebelo	
Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited	Mofokeng	Kefilwe	
Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited	Mofokeng	Kefilwe	
Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited	Nel	Henk	
Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited	Nieuwoudt	Melani	
Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited	Ratshefola	Duduzile	
Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited	Ratshefola	Duduzile	
Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited	Wesolowski	Cassie	
Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited	Wilson	Thomas	
Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA)	Ruplal	Praneel	
Lejweleputswa District Municipality	Jonas	Archie	
Lejweleputswa District Municipality	Kirsten	Dewald	
Lejweleputswa District Municipality	Makheta		
Lejweleputswa District Municipality	Mthombeni	Moss	
Matjhabeng Local Municipality	Tindleni	Zingisa	
Matjhabeng Local Municipality	Lepheana	Mothusi	
Matjhabeng Local Municipality	Molupe	Rathipe Traiverse	
Matjhabeng Local Municipality	Riet	Ivan	
Matjhabeng Local Municipality	Speelman	Nkosinjane	
Matjhabeng Local Municipality	Stofile	Bekhumzi	
Matjhabeng Local Municipality	Tindleni	Zingisa	
Matjhabeng Local Municipality	Tlali	Selloane	
Matjhabeng Ratepayers Association	TBO		
National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)	Buys	Pieter	
National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)	Gxasheka	Andile	
National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)	Hlebela	Charles	
National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)	Hore	Tamai	
National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)	Khumalo	Siphiwe	
National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)	Mahlangu	Poppie	
National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)	Nzimande	Phindile	
National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)	Suza	Mmoni	
National Government: Dept of Water Affairs	Ngele	Nobubele	
National Khoisan Council	Le Fleur	Cecil	
SAHRA	Higgitt	Natasha	
SAHRA	Ngcatsha	Sityhilelo	
SANRAL	Abrahams	Nicole	
SANRAL	Botha	Victoria	
SANRAL	van Aardt	Fanie- Andrew	
South African Astronomical Observatory	Sefako	Ramotholo	
South African Astronomical Observatory	Whitelock	Patricia	
South African Astronomical Observatory	Williams	Ted	
South African Civil Aviation Authority	Stroh	Lizelle	



South African Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)	Maja	Pappie	
South African Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)	Thabethe	Themba	
South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)	Hine	Phillip	
South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Head Office Cape Town	Sibayi	Dumisani	
South African National Defense Force	Kenny	JR	
South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)	Mathane	Selaelo	
South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)	Sithole	Busang	
South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)	South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)		
South African Weather Services	Jardine	Rydall	
South African Weather Services	Magogotya	Zamikhaya	
South African Weather Services	Mofokeng	Puseletso	
South African Weather Services	Ngoepe	Webster	
Sustainable Futures ZA	Johnston	Shawn	
Transnet SA SOC Limited	Transnet SA SOC Limited		
WESSA	Erasmus	Suzanne	
WESSA	Petha	Lemson	
WESSA: National	Griffiths	Morgan	
Totals:			

# SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL WEBSITE

Proof of upload to be included in Final Scoping Report