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**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**  
Care of Jo-Anne Thomas

Per email: Joanne@savannahsa.com

Dear Jo-Anne

## **ADDENDUM**

### ***Part 2 Amendment Process for the Lichtenburg 2 Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility North West Province***

#### **1. Background**

This letter serves as an addendum to the Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) report for the Proposed Lichtenburg 2 PV Solar Energy Facility, North West Province (January 2019), undertaken by Lourens du Plessis (t/a LOGIS).

#### **2. Project Description and Purpose of the Amendment Process**

The authorised ABO Wind Lichtenburg 2 PV solar energy facility ('the project') is located 10km north of Lichtenburg and 7.5km south of Bakerville in the North West Province. The project is located within Ward 16 of the Ditsobotla Local Municipality and the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality in the North West Province. The development footprint of the solar energy facility is located on Portion 23 of Farm Houthaalboomen No. 31 and Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of Farm Zamenkomst No. 4. It is within these properties that Lichtenburg 2 will be constructed and operated.

The following infrastructure was authorised for the project by DFFE, as fully assessed within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process:

- Photovoltaic modules with a net generation (contracted) capacity of 100MW;
- On-site 88/132kV substation;
- Mounting structures (fixed tilt/static, single-axis or double-axis tracking systems) for the PV arrays and related foundations;
- DC/AC Inverters, LV/MV power transformers and internal electrical reticulation (underground cabling);
- A new 88/132kV overhead power line from the on-site substation to the Mmabatho / Watershed DS 1 88kV Power Line;
- Access and internal road network;
- Temporary laydown area;
- Auxiliary buildings (gate-house and security, control centre, office, two warehouses, canteen & visitors centre, rainwater tanks, etc.);
- Perimeter fencing; and

- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), with a capacity of up to 500MW/500MWh, an extent of no more than 5ha, and a maximum height of 3.5m<sup>1</sup>.

The amendment being applied for through this process relates to the following:

1. a change in the capacity of the step-up/on-site substation from 88/132kV to 33/132kV;
2. an extension to the authorised Loop-in/Loop-out (LILO) grid connection corridor, within an assessed area to allow Lichtenburg 2 PV to connect to the collector substation complex on Lichtenburg 3 PVs authorized property/footprint; and
3. a substitution of the wording in the EA, '*a new 132kV overhead power line from the on-site substation to the Mmabatho/Watershed DS 1 88kV power line*', with, '*a new 132kV power line from Lichtenburg 2 PV's step-up/on-site substation to the proposed collector substation complex on Lichtenburg 3 PV*'.

Considering the above, it should be noted that the 132kV power line to be constructed from the step-up/on-site substation will terminate at the switching station/collector substation proposed on the authorised footprint for Lichtenburg 3 PV. This switching station/collector substation will be the point where all electricity from Lichtenburg 2 PV and other projects<sup>2</sup> is collected and is evacuated via a 132kV power line to the Eskom Watershed Substation. Thus, only one 132kV power line will be built from this collector substation complex terminating at the Eskom Watershed Substation.

### 3. Conclusion and Recommendations

The reviewer has assessed the proposed amendment and has drawn the following conclusion:

The proposed amendment is **not expected to significantly alter** the influence of the project infrastructure on *areas of higher viewer incidence* (observers travelling along the roads within the region) or *potential sensitive visual receptors* (residents of homesteads in close proximity to the PV facility).

The proposed amendment is consequently **not expected to significantly influence** the anticipated visual impact, as stated in the original VIA report (i.e. the visual impact is expected to occur regardless of the amendment). This statement relates specifically to the assessment of the visual impact within a 1km radius of the project structures (potentially **high** significance), but also generally applies to potentially **moderate** to **low** visual impacts at distances of up to 3km from the structures.

In consideration of the proposed amendment, there is no (zero) change to the significance rating compared with the original Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) VIA report and no additional visual impacts are envisaged. In addition to this, no new mitigation measures are required.

The proposed amendment is expected to have a neutral effect from a visual impact perspective i.e. no advantages or disadvantages are expected.

It is suggested that the proposed amendment be supported, subject to the conditions and recommendations as stipulated in the original EA, and according to the Environmental

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<sup>1</sup> This infrastructure was authorised by the DFFE (Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1091/AM2) through a Part 2 amendment process undertaken in March 2020 for the addition of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to the EA for the proposed project.

<sup>2</sup> Lichtenburg 1 PV and Lichtenburg 3 PV

Management Programme (EMPr) and suggested mitigation measures, as provided in the original VIA report.

Feel free to contact me at any time, should you have any queries.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. du P.' with a flourish at the end.

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**Lourens du Plessis (PrGISc)**