

APPENDIX C7
COMMENTS RECEIVED

Basic Assessment Report

Comments included as per the
Comments & Responses Report

ORGANS OF STATE

Savannah Public Process

From: Mpumela Ntombiyamayirha(PLZ) <MpumelaN@dws.gov.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 November 2021 10:36
To: Savannah Public Process
Subject: FW: SOLARIS FIELDS & SUN GARDEN SOLAR PVs: Notification of availability of Basic Assessment Reports for review and comments

Good day Nicole,

Please comments below from the Department of Water and Sanitation.

Kind regards

Ntombiyamayirha Mpumela (Ms)

Water Use Authorisation

Mzimvubu-Tsitsikamma Proto CMA

140 Govan Mbeki Avenue (Corner Upper Hill and Winston Ntshona street)

6th Floor, Starport Building, Gqeberha, 6000

Private Bag X6041, Gqeberha, 6000

T: +27 (0) 41 501 0714 **C:** +27 (0) 82 658 3970 **F:** +27 (0) 86 600 1125 **E:** mpumelan@dws.gov.za



From: Dweni Ncamile (PLZ)

Sent: Tuesday, 23 November 2021 10:34

To: Mpumela Ntombiyamayirha(PLZ) <MpumelaN@dws.gov.za>

Subject: RE: SOLARIS FIELDS & SUN GARDEN SOLAR PVs: Notification of availability of Basic Assessment Reports for review and comments

Good morning Ntombi,

Resource Protection Unit acknowledges the receipt of Basic Assessment Report (BAR) for the aforementioned project from the Water Use Authorization and Licensing unit, dated 12 November 2021. The BAR has been evaluation for Section 21 (c) & (i) water uses in terms of the National Water Act 36 of 1998 (NWA).

This Unit does not have any objections to the proposed development. However, the following must be noted:

1. Section 21(c) & (i) water uses regulates activities that occurs within the 1:100 year flood line or the delineated riparian habitat; whichever is the greatest and those within 500m from the boundary of a wetland. In the absence of the floodline study, the Act regulate any activities within the distance of 100m from the edge of a watercourse.
2. Development of any infrastructure within the regulated areas of watercourses constitutes a water use and requires water use authorisation in terms of the NWA.

3. For the infrastructure that will be developed within the regulated area, an application for water use authorisation must be submitted and authorisation be granted before undertaking the activities

Kind regards,
Ncamile Dweni – Pr.Sci.Nat.

Department of Water and Sanitation (Gqeberha Office)
140 Govan Mbeki Avenue
Starport Building
7th Floor
Tel: 041 5010729
Cell: 082 953 2313
Fax: 0415864210
Postal address: Private Bag X6041
Gqeberha
6000

From: Mpumela Ntombiyamayirha(PLZ)
Sent: Monday, 22 November 2021 12:40
To: Dweni Ncamile (PLZ)
Subject: FW: SOLARIS FIELDS & SUN GARDEN SOLAR PVs: Notification of availability of Basic Assessment Reports for review and comments

Good day Mr Dweni,

For comments.

Kind regards
Ntombi.

From: Savannah Environmental Public Process [<mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com>]
Sent: Friday, 12 November 2021 17:59
To: Mpumela Ntombiyamayirha(PLZ) <MpumelaN@dws.gov.za>
Subject: SOLARIS FIELDS & SUN GARDEN SOLAR PVs: Notification of availability of Basic Assessment Reports for review and comments

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOLARIS FIELDS SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) AND SUN GARDEN SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE BETWEEN SOMERSET EAST AND MAKHANDA, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE
(DFFE Ref. Nos.: To be Issued)**

Dear Interested and Affected Parties,

The development of two (2) separate Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facilities and associated infrastructure are being proposed for power generation purposes and these project sites are located within the Blue Crane Route Local Municipality, Sarah Baartman District Municipality, Eastern Cape Province.

Notification of the commencement of the Basic Assessment (BA) processes was distributed in November 2020. The notification letter was accompanied by the Background Information Document (BID) which

provided information regarding the larger renewable energy cluster of which these two proposed solar PVs form part, and the BA and public participation processes to be followed. The BID is available on our online stakeholder engagement platform at the links provided below where the public documents for these two (2) solar PV projects are available.

The attached notification letter serves to inform you of the availability of the Basic Assessment (BA) Reports for your review and comment and invite you to attend any one of the two (2) online Public Participation Process Meetings. Details regarding these Public Participation Process Meetings are included in the attached notification letter.

We kindly request that you share this information with family members, colleagues or any other party whom you believe would have an interest in these applications.

In terms of the Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, 2013 (Act No.4 of 2013), we request that no contact details be provided to Savannah Environmental but rather that those interested and/or affected parties (I&APs) contact our Public Participation Office directly.

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

Kind regards,

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t: 011 656 3237
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Nicolene Venter
Public Process

e: publicprocess@savannahsa.com
c: +27 (0) 60 978 8396

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

Savannah Public Process

From: Chumisa Tsolekile-Njingana (SR) <NjinganaC@nra.co.za>
Sent: Monday, 06 December 2021 09:17
To: Savannah Public Process
Subject: RE: SOLARIS FIELDS & SUN GARDEN SOLAR PVs: Notification of availability of Basic Assessment Reports for review and comments

Importance: High

Good day Nicolene

Hope all is well.

The South African National Roads Agency (SOC) Limited (SANRAL), Act 7 of 1998: Proposed development of Solaris Fields and Sun Garden Solar PV facilities and associated infrastructure in the Eastern Cape

SANRAL has the following comments, with regards to the proposed development of Solaris Fields and Sun Garden Solar PV facilities and associated infrastructure in the Eastern Cape:

- No installation of any infrastructure inside the National Road Reserve.
- The solars must be erected at least 200 metres from the Nation Road Reserve boundary depending on the height of the solars, if this requirement cannot be met, then a good motivation has to be submitted to SANRAL as to why the solars should be erected closer.
- All other buildings / structures should be erected at least 60 metres from the National Road Reserve boundary and / or 500 metres from any intersection.
- If access is required from the National Road, an approval from SANRAL is required, otherwise access can be obtained from the nearest existing road.
- A formal application together with the plans of the proposed wind farm must be submitted to SANRAL for consideration.
- Construction of all work may only commence after written approval has been obtained from SANRAL.

Have a blessed day.

Keep safe and kind regards
Chumisa

Chumisa Tsolekile-Njingana (SR)
ENGINEERING

20 Shoreward Drive, Baywest, Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape, 6025, South Africa
D: 041 398 3251 | M:



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From: Savannah Environmental Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>

Sent: Friday, 12 November 2021 17:59

To: Chumisa Tsolekile-Njingana (SR) <NjinganaC@nra.co.za>

Subject: SOLARIS FIELDS & SUN GARDEN SOLAR PVs: Notification of availability of Basic Assessment Reports for review and comments

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOLARIS FIELDS SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) AND SUN GARDEN SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE BETWEEN SOMERSET EAST AND MAKHANDA, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE
(DFFE Ref. Nos.: To be Issued)**

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

Kind regards,

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



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, 0002 Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: + 27 86 625 1042

DFFE Reference: Solaris Fields PV Facility

Enquiries: Ms M Rabothata

Telephone: (012) 399 9174 **E-mail:** MRabothata@environment.gov.za

Ms Nicolene Venter
Savannah Environmental
P.O. Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
2157

Telephone Number: (+ 27) 11 656 3237
Email Address: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

PER E-MAIL

Dear Ms. Venter

COMMENTS ON DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED SOLARIS FIELDS PV FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation reviewed and evaluated the aforementioned draft report.

Based on the information provided in the report, the site falls within the Cookhouse Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ) and within the Eastern Corridor of the Strategic Transmission Corridors. The project development area is located outside of any protected area and outside of any Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) as defined in the Provincial Conservation Plan. The site is located within an extensive Ecological Support Area (ESA). No sensitivities were identified from a bat and avifaunal perspective. The drainage feature which occurs along the south-eastern boundary of the PV area would be vulnerable to impact, however, the layout proposed ensures that all aquatic sensitivities identified through the Basic Assessment process are avoided and recommended buffer areas will be considered. There impacts likely to be associated with the development of the Solaris Fields PV Facility will be reduced to a low significance after the implementation of mitigation measures.

Notwithstanding the above, the following recommendations must be considered in the final report:

- Preconstruction walk-through of the approved development footprint must be conducted to ensure that sensitive habitats and species are avoided where possible.
- Alien Invasive Plant Species Management and Rehabilitation Plans must be developed to mitigate on habitat degradation due to erosion and alien plant invasion and submitted as part of the final report.
- Sensitive habitats in close proximity to the development footprint must be avoided or demarcated as No-Go area (i.e. Wetlands and Seeps).



COMMENTS ON DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED SOLARIS FIELDS PV FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

- Appropriate buffer stipulated by relevant specialists must be established around medium sensitive habitats (i.e. Wetlands).

The final report must comply with all the requirements as outlined in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) guideline for renewable energy projects and the Best Practice Guideline for Birds & Solar Energy for assessing and monitoring the impact of solar energy facilities on birds in Southern Africa.

In conclusion please note that all Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of **Mr Seoka Lekota**.

Yours faithfully



Mr. Seoka Lekota
Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment
Date: 13/12/2021



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, · PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2456

Enquiries: Mr Lunga Dlova

Telephone: 012 399 9376 **E-mail:** LDlova@dfpe.gov.za

Ms Jo-Anne Thomas
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PO Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
2191

Telephone Number : 011 656 3237/3251
Cellphone Number : 082 775 5628
Email Address : joanne@savannahsa.com

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Thomas

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMERCIAL SOLAR PV FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON A SITE LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 36KM SOUTH-EAST OF SOMERSET EAST AND 28KM SOUTH-WEST OF COOKHOUSE WITHIN THE BLUE CRANE ROUTE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND THE SARAH BAARTMAN DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE (SOLARIS FIELDS PV FACILITY).

The draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated November 2021 and received by this Department on 12 November 2021, refers.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the final BAR:

Public Participation Process

1. Comments must be obtained from this Department's Biodiversity Conservation Directorate at the following contact details: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za.
2. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
3. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft BAR from registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and organs of state, as listed in your I&APs Database, and others that have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the final BAR.
4. Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are submitted to the Department with the final BAR.
5. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final BAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
6. All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft BAR from I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final BAR, including comments from this Department, and must be incorporated into a Comments and Response Report (CRR).

MEL

7. The CRR report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in **Annexure 1** of this comments letter.
8. Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.
9. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to an I&AP’s comments.

Please also ensure that the final BAR includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required and the date on which the activity will be concluded as per Appendix 1(3)(1)(q) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 19(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that: “Where basic assessment must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 90 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority -

(a) a basic assessment report, inclusive of specialist reports, an EMPr, and where applicable a closure plan, which have been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority.”

Should there be significant changes or new information that has been added to the BAR or EMPr which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process, you are required to comply with Regulation 19(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states: “the applicant must, within 90 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority – (b) a notification in writing that the basic assessment report, inclusive of specialist reports an EMPr, and where applicable, a closure plan, will be submitted within 140 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the basic assessment report or EMPr or, where applicable, a closure plan, which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in subregulation (1)(a) and that the revised reports or, EMPr or, where applicable, a closure plan will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days”.

Should you fail to meet any of the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 19 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, your application will lapse.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Signed by: Ms. Masina Litsoane

Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Infrastructure Projects

Date: 13/12/2021.

CC:	Hylton Cecil Newcombe	Solaris Fields PV (Pty) Ltd	Email: hylton@windrelic.net
	Dayalan Govender	Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT)	Email: Dayalan.govender@dedea.gov.za
	Moppo Mene	Makana Local Municipality	Email: mmene@makana.gov.za

INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

ANDRÉ VAN DER SPUY ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS
O ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT O CONSERVATION PLANNING O



CK 2000/028111/23

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Savannah Environmental
P.O. Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

Attention: Ms. J. Thomas

By e-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com; joanne@savannahsa.com

22 September 2021

Dear Ms. Thomas,

FIVE ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS COMPRISING FOUR (4) WIND ENERGY FACILITY APPLICATIONS AND ONE (1) APPLICATION FOR A MAIN TRANSMISSION STATION AND TWO 400KV POWERLINES ALL CONSTITUTING A PART OF WIND RELIC (PTY) LTD'S OVERALL COOKHOUSE REDZ3 RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT SITUATED BETWEEN SOMERSET EAST AND MAKHANDA, EASTERN CAPE (DFFE REF. NO.: TO BE ISSUED):

- (I) RECORD OF OBJECTION TO, AND ASSOCIATED COMMENT ON, CURRENT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS, AND**
 - (II) REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION; EXTENSION TO UNREASONABLE COMMENT PERIOD; AND, A MEETING WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER AND SPECIALISTS.**
1. The email notification of 3/9/2021 from Savannah Environmental refers.
 2. It is important to understand the overall (undivulged) context of the Wind Relic (Pty) Ltd. project and its development process to which the five (5) subject environmental applications relate and which are:
 - (i) Hamlett Wind Farm (of up to 333MW and up to 37 turbines; authorization applied for by Hamlet (Pty) Ltd).
 - (ii) Ripponn Wind Farm (of up to 324MW and up to 36 turbines; authorization applied for by Ripponn (Pty) Ltd).
 - (iii) Redding Wind Farm (of up to 576MW and up to 64 turbines; authorization applied for by Redding (Pty) Ltd).

- (iv) Aeolus Wind Farm (of up to 297MW and up to 33 turbines; authorization applied for by Aeolus (Pty) Ltd).
 - (v) A Transmission Substation and two 400kV powerlines (authorization applied for by Wind Relic (Pty) Ltd).
3. The four Directors of the company Wind Relic (Pty) Ltd are the same 4 individuals who are also the Directors of the 4 different wind energy facility applicants listed above. They are also the same 4 directors of the Fronteer and Wind Garden Wind Farms which are also have being promoted by Wind Relic (Pty) Ltd. They are also the same 4 Directors the two solar farms (Solaris Fields and Sun Garden Solar farms) which are being prepared for environmental application shortly. In essence, all of the mentioned 8 different renewable energy projects within the Cookhouse Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ) are under the same directorship as that of the parent company, Wind Relic (Pty) Ltd. The 8 projects, along with the associated massive substation and powerline projects, are therefore merely all components of one massive renewable energy project within the Cookhouse REDZ in which *"splitting the whole project site into smaller projects as advised by Environmental Affairs"*¹ has been implemented according to strategic planning objectives and in order to facilitate passage of, and no doubt also reduce overall risk to, the massive Wind Relic project. The extent of the Wind Relic project, Director, Mr. Hylton Newcombe, has described as *"(providing) the geographic footprint to build one of the largest independent energy assets in the world."*² It is clear that the sole purpose of the Wind Relic venture is a commercial one in which it is expected that the different sub-projects components (and resultant commitments by them to the local affected environment and affected communities) will be ultimately be commercially traded by the four Directors for profit once the required authorisations are to hand, and as is the common course of such business in the renewable energy industry. The fact that Wind Relic had already advised, in a letter dated 23/2/2020, and in a show of confidence, its contracted landowners (being themselves beneficiaries of its *"creation of profitable partnerships"* with *"Eastern Cape Landowners"*) that it had made efforts to procure turbines already in *"December 2019"* casts serious doubt on the associated environmental applications being independently managed, and administrated by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE), towards the required outcome of a fair decision which is free of undue government influence (the influential involvement of the DFFE during the early 2020 planning by Wind Relic having been noted). Unconditional statements³ of confidence to their partnered landowners made after having previously engaged with the Blue Crane Route Municipality⁴, DFFE, Eskom and other government and business stakeholders, *"(t)his concept of co-operative engagement shapes the very essence of our strategy"* and *"(w)e are deeply committed to the promises we have made to all our partners (and stakeholders) in achieving this positive outcome"*, give sound reason for non-contracted and negatively affected Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to doubt the authenticity of the current Basic Assessment environmental applications. It is

¹ WhatsApp message from Hylton Newcombe of the "Wind Relic Team" , 25/5/2020.

² Letter from Wind Relic (signed by Mr. Hylton Newcombe) dated 23/2/2020.

³ Letter from Wind Relic (signed by Mr. Hylton Newcombe) dated 23/2/2020.

⁴ Blue Crane Route Municipality Presentation to Council dated 29/11/2018.

therefore quite clear that the current environmental applications and legislated public participation process are merely the culmination of a long-orchestrated planning and engagement process (with selected stakeholders whose support is deemed to be crucial to the success of the Wind Relic project) which has been “set up” to achieve the conditions necessary for the Competent Authority to issue pre-determined decisions of approval – irrespective of what information and views the intentionally limited (evidently with endorsement of the Competent Authority) and exclusive public participation process may yield.

4. This incremental developmental approach being undertaken by Wind Relic and its Directors of the associated companies, under advice of the DFFE, is not endorsed under the National Environmental Management Act, 2014, as amended (NEMA). This is because, apart from its business objectives, it is also designed to compartmentalize and minimize the actual (unacceptable) and extensive negative environmental impacts that the total Wind Relic proposed activity will obviously have on the receiving environment (including the declining Endangered Cape Vulture population) and to enable the different development parcels to be recorded and submitted separately and at different times to the Competent Authority thereby hiding the real total environmental impact of the Wind Relic development. The correct approach, under the guiding principles of integrated environmental management in Section 2 of NEMA which are necessary in order to achieve development which is environmentally sustainable, is for the Wind Relic entire project to be applied for as a whole and to be administered likewise.
5. The five (5) wind farm environmental applications which are the subject of the current single public participation process are (some) components of the “Western Cluster” of Wind Relic’s overall renewable energy project. Approximately 35 kilometers further east, located north-east of Grahamstown, occurs the “Eastern Cluster” part of Wind Relic’s renewable energy project and which consists of 2 wind farm⁵ applications (at present) and for which the final Basic Assessment Reports were submitted to the DFFE last month. However, this still does not describe the full extent of Wind Relic’s massive renewable energy project as there remain additional planned renewable energy facility components by Wind Relic, such as the Solaris Fields and Sun Garden Solar Farms which will also require dedicated environmental applications to be submitted to the DFFE after due public participation. The strategically compartmentalized approach employed by Wind Relic in order to achieve their Cookhouse REDZ renewable energy project ambition, which Wind Relic has stated will be the biggest renewable energy project on the continent, thus becomes clear.
6. It is also important to consider that this development is being squeezed within a the undeveloped remaining (unsuitable) area of the Cookhouse REDZ, which REDZ already saturated beyond its sustainable threshold⁶ by existing and approved wind farms, and which

⁵ Fronteer and Wind Garden Wind Energy Facilities for which environmental authorisation has been applied for.

⁶ There should be no wind farms or powerline-related developments within the entire Cookhouse REDZ based solely upon the significant presence of the Endangered Cape Vulture. International studies that have

was from the start significantly environmentally unsuitable for any form of renewable energy development (given that it is the confirmed habitat of Endangered Cape Vulture and many other endangered plant and animal species)⁷. It thus becomes obvious that the Wind Relic development within the Cookhouse REDZ will result in massive pollution of the sensitive environmental environment and will unquestionably amount to unsustainable environmentally unsustainable development. The proposed wind farm development will be damaging beyond meaningful mitigation and simplified justifications (of, for instance, the superseding “need” for renewable energy or the “fight” against climate change). Being located with confirmed vulture habitat it will undoubtedly be the greatest addition yet to the ongoing cumulative killing of Endangered Cape Vultures in the area – an impact that should rightly see prosecutions of the offending existing wind farms being undertaken and the same wind farms being removed entirely from the area. Flawed as this and some other REDZs are (being but the creation of overriding political and business ambitions) it was never intended that the entire Cookhouse REDZ should be developed from boundary to boundary and it is a gross misunderstanding to interpret a REDZ as a zone in which renewable energy is “encouraged” or in which environmental authorisations are a rightful expectation of proponents. After all, the Cookhouse REDZ falls within a critically important Albany Centre of Botanical Biodiversity and Endemism (the “Albany Hotspot”).

7. The public participation process is a critically important aspect of the environmental application process as it is the means by which the proposed activity is amended in order to respond to local (affected) community needs and wishes. It is therefore as equally (or more) important as the applicant’s interests and the specialist studies in the application process and the proposed activity itself is required to respond and be amended in order for to achieve “*the integration of social, economic and environmental factors...*”⁸ necessary to arrive at the “*best practical environmental option*”⁹ and which will then constitute sustainable development. It is not sufficient for the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) and specialists to respond to I&APs concerns in mere words (dismissals) put down in a Comments and Responses Report which is then appended to the Basic Assessment Report. This principle is seen under *inter alia* NEMA Section 2(4)(a)(viii) in which “*...negative impacts on the environment and people’s environmental rights be anticipated and prevented, and where they cannot be altogether prevented, are minimized and remedied.*” In other words, no potential impact can be left unattended to and the course of action by the EAP to deal with potential impacts is clearly given with the final option of action being that such impacts be “*minimized and remedied*”. The current public participation process being conducted by Ms. Venter fails to meet these requirements, and is in essence an expediated

long dictated that wind farm development near vulture habitat must be avoided at all costs. Likewise the presence of existing wildlife and ecotourism enterprises should direct all such developments away from the region and even the Cookhouse REDZ itself should rightly not exist.

⁷ The operating Cookhouse & Amakhala wind farms continue to kill endangered Cape Vultures still after many years without effective intervention of the DFFE or the industry and adjacent, newly-constructed Golden Valley Wind Farms do/ will do likewise. A concerted effort by the wind industry, DFFE and other wind farm-friendly conservation organisations (e.g. Birdlife South Africa) is underway to suppress outside knowledge of these killings.

⁸ NEMA, Preamble

⁹ NEMA Section 2(4)(b)

box-ticking exercise, with the result that the proposed developments are nothing more than the applicants' and other proponents interests being imposed upon the local affected (non-contracted majority) community members.

8. The 5 referenced environmental applications and associated projects directly negatively impact upon the interests of the clients of AVDS Environmental Consultants. It is therefore important that these existing and current negative impacts be assessed specific to such interests and that the impact findings be recorded fairly and honestly in the submitted applications and Basic Assessment Reports by properly independent EAP and specialists, as required by NEMA. Most importantly, it will be necessary that the development proposal itself responds meaningfully to the concerns and objections of I&APs as opposed to mere worded responses in the reports. Proper mitigation of the costs/ negative impacts of the applicants' actions on non-participating community members (i.e. those who do not stand to gain financial or other benefit but instead incur only losses) need to be specifically identified and included and this will only be possible via an accessible and all-inclusive public participation process. Failure to do so will preclude the Competent Authority from arriving at a decision on each separate application which is rational and justifiable. The same requirements and associated rights of representation apply to every other affected party, including those that constitute so-called "occupiers"¹⁰.

9. However, in order to obtain and record properly the required representations of I&AP interests it will be necessary to conduct a public participation process that is fully compliant with the NEMA¹¹ and PAJA¹² and that is inclusive of all the sectors of the affected local communities (which are scattered but extensive). Unfortunately the exclusive and abbreviated public participation process currently underway for the subject 5 environmental applications is variously non-compliant and wholly inadequate for the reasons described (some of the specific failings of the public participation process are outlined below). It therefore requires fundamental redesign and expansion, followed by implementation that is inclusive, accessible and relevant to all sectors of the affected community (including so-called "occupiers").

10. The public participation process methodology that has been launched is of a highly sophisticated and technical nature and is reliant purely upon electronic gadgetry and remote connectivity and an ability to confidently understand and operate such technology by participants. It is being orchestrated remotely from the desk of Ms. Venter who is located in Johannesburg and who sits approximately 1000km away from the projects' areas and the many affected local communities. Therefore, unless an I&AP is very highly literate and educated; possessed of the most modern and sophisticated computer technology; within an area having remote communication capability; and able to understand and operate such technology, then they will be

¹⁰ The term "occupiers" is used to describe that element of society described by use of the term in the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations 41(2)(b)(i) & (ii).

¹¹ NEMA EIA Reg PPP

¹² PAJA

entirely excluded from this public participation process. In fact they will not even have received the emailed notification of 3/9/2021. Such technology then requires access to constant electrical power and electronic communication connectivity. Anyone who is familiar with the remote and rural area in which these projects are located (like the writer is) will know that the characteristics, requirements and conditions described here are foreign to most of the affected local inhabitants (being mainly “occupiers”) through circumstances and often choice.

11. Furthermore, before one is even able to access the reports via the website link that ultimately (presumably) links through to the Savannah Consultants public documents website where the report links are available it is necessary to first undertake some sort of electronic registration process first and which requires a password and some form of electronic authentication – a most complicated and user-unfriendly process of which the implications are unknown¹³. As an alternative Ms. Venter has undertaken to provide some other electronic website link functions by which the reports could be provided (presumably again some sort of electronic verification process is required for access) but these would no doubt require many hours/days of work by the I&AP to simply download all the material for the 5 applications and would also require considerable and reliable internet capacity. This would be impossible to achieve (and then study) on a mobile phone and would only be achievable with the most modern computer. While the author is reasonably competent with computer technology (as adjudged by the form and delivery by email of this correspondence) it is admitted that he has neither the ability nor knowledge, nor the requisite modern electronic facilities, nor the considerable (non-productive time) required, to attempt to engage with such highly technical electronic processes merely to obtain copies of the information for review purposes which NEMA requires to be freely and easily available to I&APs. As confirmed to Ms. Venter earlier this year, the author’s (relatively modern) computer laptop is unable to operate the electronic platforms necessary to participate in the remote, virtual form public meetings (“Zoom” meetings and such like) that are the only form of “live” consultation offered by Ms. Venter in the notification. No publicly available hard copies of the information are provided with the Covid 19 situation being used once again as a convenient excuse, and as has now become entrenched standard practice for environmental applications under administration of the DFFE.

12. Turning now to the allotted short 45-day period within which comment is permitted by Ms. Venter and which is evidently condoned by the DFFE by means of the approved public participation process plan¹⁴ to which Ms. Venter refers as justification for the current public participation process. This contrary to the requirements of NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2014, as amended)¹⁵ which requires that “*a reasonable opportunity to comment on the application*” be provided. A total of

¹³ For instance, would electronic verification automatically be deemed to constitute I&AP registration?

¹⁴ The public participation plan approved by the DFFE, like the Basic Assessment reports, has not been viewed.

¹⁵ NEMA EIA Regulations 41(6)(a)

no less than five environmental applications and associated documentation (all being of relevance to us) undoubtedly constitutes a voluminous body of information and will require thorough consideration and probably consultation with other parties prior to the finalization of a properly informed and substantiated comment and/ or objection. The extremely limited 45-day comment period does not allow for these onerous but important tasks to be undertaken and completed in time to meet the deadline. The preposterousness of providing just a 45-day comment period for review of (and reasonable comment on) five (5) environmental application Basic Assessment reports dealing with a huge and complicated, multicomponent project which extends over a massive geographical range will be obvious to any independent practitioner, as it must be to the Competent Authority too. The limitations of accessibility already described simply compound the level of unreasonable consideration.

13. Over and above the projects-specific challenges outlined above, with which persons wishing to review the information are shouldered, is the added burden of their everyday normal work and domestic obligations. But that is not yet the limit of priority demands placed upon I&APs generally since, in most cases, the domestic burden on ordinary citizens is now considerably more increased by the consequences of the Covid19 pandemic. It is thus of grave concern to note the flippant regard given by the EAP, Ms. Venter, and apparently the DFFE where no allowance is made to I&APs in recognition of these additional challenges. Yet, on the other hand, the excessive latitude granted to consultant “team” by themselves in order to leverage every opportunity to diminish the public participation process on the same basis (i.e. the Covid 19 situation), even to the extent that the legislated rights of I&APs are knowingly violated in the process, is grossly unethical (evidently facilitated and justified under the DFFE’s approved public participation plan to which Ms. Venter defers as justification).

14. The current public participation process is an elitist and exclusive one which appears designed to minimize unfavourable comment and objection which could damage the progress of the applicants’ and Wind Relic (Pty) Ltd.’s interests. Through its calculated management of multiple environmental applications data¹⁶ simultaneously via a procedurally-condensed single public participation process it clearly seeks to overwhelm affected I&APs (those few that happen to become aware of it) with the sheer number (5) and volume of the Wind Relic promoted environmental applications and documentation. When considered together with the proponent’s other “Eastern Cluster” renewable energy environmental applications the mass of applications and documentation creates the unreasonable circumstances within which no I&AP affected by all of these Wind Relic applications is able to react or respond properly and with due consideration, if at all. This is undoubtedly an intended circumstance and outcome created by the EAP and Ms. Venter, and the applicant, and possibly the DFFE too (given our knowledge that considerable planning effort was put into the

¹⁶ The extent of the information remains unknown to the author and clients but, based on experience with similar renewable energy applications, we anticipate a huge record.

design and of the launch of this multiply-application project by Mr. Newcombe¹⁷ and “Environmental Affairs”).

15. Given the highly exclusive character of the public participation process it is necessary to note that it is estimated (by the writer) that perhaps 90+% of the inhabitants within the “receiving environment” of the Wind Relic (Pty) Ltd projects are so-called “occupiers” NEMA¹⁸ of properties and locations. Their status and rights under law are equal to that of any other citizen of South Africa. Their socio-economic reality on the ground is however drastically different to most others being a sector of society which tends to be of the most marginalized in South African Society. In our experience “occupiers” are as much the victims of their rural circumstances (poor level of education and rural remoteness) as they are the sustained abuse of rights by political (government) and business interests of the urban elite who seek to exploit opportunity in the rural environment. The growing renewable energy industry, and the opportunistic financial institutions in South Africa, are prime culprits in such rural exploitation and the current Wind Relic applications stand as solid testimony to this. It is the duty of the environmental consultant to ensure that the rights of “occupiers” are strongly protected and fully availed and that individuals are properly engaged with during the public participation process in a respectful manner and at an appropriate level. Based on our current knowledge, Ms. Venter has failed to ensure the rights of I&APs (as she also has with the Wind Relic “Eastern Cluster” renewable energy applications).
16. The DFFE-approved public participation plan (not yet viewed by the author) but as referred to in the notification letter is used by Ms. Venter to justify the current public participation process. Reliance upon the DFFE-approved plan is unfounded as its short-comings cannot substitute, or in any way minimize, the requirements of the NEMA and the EIA Regulations which govern such matters. Based solely on the requirement for I&APs to be provided with a “*reasonable opportunity to comment*” the law has already been violated (and it thus appears that the approved public participation plan is non-compliant).
17. In light of the above-described limitations and deprivations imposed under the current public participation process the following matters are tabled for your attention:
 - I. It is impossible, for reasons explained, for AVDS Environmental Consultants to participate in the virtual meetings and obtain reviewable copies of the information pertaining to the 5 environmental applications under the current public participation process.

¹⁷ Whatsapp communication from “Wind Relic Team” dated 25/5/2020.

¹⁸ The term “occupiers” is used to describe that element of society described by use of the term in the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations 41(2)(b)(i) & (ii).

II. Notwithstanding the limitation already imposed and described above, it is impossible for AVDS Environmental Consultants to obtain, properly review and consider, and prepare substantiated comments on, the information for the 5 applications within the allotted 45 day comment period which is too short and thus unreasonable.

III. All considered, objection is hereby recorded against the current public participation process. It will be necessary for the current public participation process to be entirely redesigned (and expanded), and then implemented, in order for it to meet the requirements of NEMA and the NEMA EIA Regulations for a proper public consultation process in which the rights of all potential I&APs are protected and promoted. Since Wind Relic has chosen to split its massive project into many separate sub-projects and associated environmental applications it will be appropriate to also split the existing public participation process into reasonable separate processes, or perhaps a longer (more “reasonable”) one, so that the relevant information can be considered and processed by the potential I&APs and local communities. Sufficient time will need to be allowed for to such ends and a more accessible (non-electronic option must be provided). A plan of the envisaged public participation process, with attached timeframe should be presented to I&APs for approval. The country’s recent move on 13 September 2021 to Level 2 under the Disaster Management Act for dealing with the consequences of the current Covid-19 pandemic should be embraced since it creates considerable scope for such changes to be implemented and especially the ability to meet with community members and other I&APs on a face-to-face basis (not that such measures were ever ruled out under the previous emergency status). The public engagement process for these applications must be in line with the recent relaxation to Level 2 alert status. Proper written notification¹⁹ must be sent to all potential I&APs and the I&APs listed for previous environmental applications²⁰ for which properties common to the those proposed for the Wind Relic development should be included in the list of potential I&APs for the current projects.

IV. Under a new redesigned and legally-complaint public participation process it will be necessary for Ms. Venter to notify, directly in writing or by some other legally-complaint means, all “potential” I&APs as well as all “occupiers” and landowners of (i) properties subject to the proposed development, and (ii) properties adjacent to subject properties. The current public participation process is fundamentally non-complaint with NEMA on this basis.

V. In consequence of the above, and notwithstanding the advice proffered elsewhere, it is requested that the comment period be extended to 13 November 2021 and which would be a justifiable move in the direction of what would amount to the strict NEMA

¹⁹ Or alternative methods as specified under Section 47D of NEMA.

²⁰ Savannah Environmental will already be in possession of same having been the appointed environmental consultants in many of the previous applications referred to (such as the various different Spitskop Wind Energy Facilities and environmental applications).

EIA Regulations requirement for a “reasonable opportunity” to be provided to I&APs (including this one) to comment on the five Basic Assessment Reports and their associated specialist study reports. It will however be necessary to thereafter provide a further comment period (at the least) in order for I&APs to review the consequences of their comments and to ascertain how their established interests and knowledge of local matters have been fairly and independently included by Ms. Venter on a basis that is equal to her management of the opportunistic and outside interests of the applicant(s). Please also be hereby advised that the author will be out of office for a 10 day period during the current comment period on account of a prior commitment and therefore the 45-day review period, which was launched without warning or notice, is effectively a 35 day one.

VI. Furthermore, for the reason mentioned, you are kindly requested to provide the author with two full copies of all of the information submitted for (all) the Wind Relic applications in an easily and generally accessible electronic format (such as on a CD) and/ or to provide hard copies of same. Please note that the request is not restricted to just the current reports pertaining to the 5 environmental applications but would include, for instance, the minutes of meetings held between members of Savannah Environmental and/ or the Applicant(s)/ Wind Relic and/ or the DFFE since 2018. All correspondence related to the Wind Relic project should be included. Amongst other matters, this will enable the procedural correctness of the applications to be ascertained and for the cumulative impact of the Wind Relic projects to be considered. Once the information is received it will be possible to commence the intended review, subject to other standing commitments and obligations. Please ensure that the documents are received at least 3 weeks prior to the requested meeting (see below) in order that we can properly prepare ourselves for that meeting.

VII. A meeting is requested with you to communicate our clients concerns directly and to demonstrate the clients long-established interests, and which stand to be damaged by the applicant(s) proposed activities, and therefore deserve proper and fair consideration in the decision-making processes which will be informed by the Basic Assessment Reports. The meeting should be minuted and should occur at our clients property and it will be important that the visual impact specialist and social impact specialist also please attend. Subject to existing commitments we would need at least 3 weeks notice to plan for the meeting. Please confirm your/ Ms. Venter's in principle agreement to meet with us and that we should proceed with the necessary further arrangements for the meeting once a mutually suitable date for the meeting has been agreed upon.

18. It is recorded that the above matters and requests are consistent with Ms. Venter's stated invitation to address to her any matters of clarification and requests for additional information, per her statement in the letter of notification dated 3/9/2021: *“Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information and/ or clarification regarding the projects. Our team welcomes your participation and look*

forward to your involvement throughout this process." It must be noted that the author has not been able to review the information pertaining to the current applications, for reasons already stated, and thus reserves the right to amend the advice given herein and elsewhere.

19. Under the circumstances and for the reasons described in this objection, as matters stand the Competent Authority will be unable to make a fair and justifiable decision on the applications that accords with the principles and requirements of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act No. 3 of 2000. Therefore, and in the interests of all parties, we look forward to being empowered to participate in a redesigned and legally compliant public participation process(es) alongside other potential I&APs. It is therefore necessary to ensure that a proper and inclusive public participation process is undertaken so as to ensure that the interests of non-contracted I&APs, are properly and honestly reflected in the findings and recommendations of the reports – and most importantly too in the physical design of the proposed massive industrial activity (should it be approved).

Please acknowledge receipt of this correspondence.

Sincerely



Andre van der Spuy

CC

1. The "Competent Authority"
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment
Attention: Mr. Sabelo Malaza
By e-mail: smalaza@environment.gov.za

Savannah Public Process

From: Andre van der Spuy <avdspuy@iafrica.com>
Sent: Monday, 13 December 2021 14:17
To: Savannah Public Process
Cc: 'Sabelo Malaza'; Jo-Anne Thomas; shireenf@pprotect.org
Subject: RE: SOLARIS FIELDS & SUN GARDEN SOLAR PVs: Notification of availability of Basic Assessment Reports for review and comments

Dear Ms. Venter

We refer to the public participation notification 12/11/2021 as it relates to inter alia the 2 Wind Relic solar farm applications:

The notification of letter (as was attached to below) advised that comments of IAPs on the subject projects proposals can be submitted until 13 November 2021.

AVDS Environmental Consultants represents the same parties as those represented in the other Wind relic "Western Cluster" wind farm and substation (5) applications which are a part of , and inseparable from, these 2 solar farm projects with which they evidently would share critical infrastructure and property at the very least. It therefore makes sense for our clients to deliver their comments (directly to the EAP as they desire to do) on these solar farm projects at the same time that they deliver their desired comments on the other 5 Wind Relic wind farms applications.

We have been unable to review the necessary documentation due to the overwhelming work load generated by the multitude of renewable energy developments that have recently been put out for review and the manner and timing in which this has been done. The approach taken in running combined and/ or consecutive applications and public participation processes has been the subject of much complaint by other IAPs too but these have fallen on deaf ears and the approach continues to be applied at the expense of I&AP's rights, including our clients. The approach is calculated to overwhelm I&APs and thereby limit their abilities to review and comment on the technically complicated and voluminous applications and which are in fact illegal insofar as the applications are all part of a single development (as attested to by pre-application correspondence referred to between the applicant umbrella company and the Department). It is naturally impossible; for any person to be able to thoroughly review these applications and consult with clients within the allotted timeframes while simultaneously dealing with other normal work and domestic requirements . All of the Wind Relic applications public participation processes are guilty of not having provided the required reasonable opportunity for I&APs to comment on them and which applications include, at this stage:

1. Aeolus Wind Farm
2. Ripponn Wind Farm
3. Redding Wind Farm
4. Hamlett Wind Farm
5. Substation and 2 powerlines
6. Solaris Fields Solar Farm
7. Sun Garden Solar Farm
8. Wind Garden Wind Farm
9. Fronteer Wind Farm

It is noted that reference is made to another substation application that will be made in due course.

We also have not yet had opportunity to review the November 2021 Verreux Eagles Guidelines by Birdlife SA (and which, as the most up to date information and according to ethical scientific practice, will naturally have to be applied to all the Wind Relic applications which have not been approved).

At this time we still await the opportunity for our clients to meet with you (face to face) at their properties/ place of abode so as to directly deliver their comments to the EAP in regard to the "Western Cluster" wind farm applications and at which opportunity their comments on the 2 solar farm applications can also conveniently be directly delivered to the EAP. However, given the lengthy delays incurred by the EAP's (J. Thomas) stubborn refusal to meet our clients (so as to resolve all their concerns per the DFFE PPP Guideline advice) to date, and now the holiday period, plus the recent Covid 19 elevated risk, the requested face to face meetings will now have to be held over until sometime next year.

In the meantime please kindly provide us with copies of all the information pertaining to the solar farm applications in hard copy and CD format. Notwithstanding the available review period provided under letter of 17/112020 an extension of the timeframe within which to comment is requested in order to allow for the face to face site meetings with our clients to occur at a suitable time next year.

Sincerely

Andre van der Spuy
AVDS Environmental Consultants

From: Savannah Environmental Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>

Sent: Friday, 12 November 2021 17:58

To: Andre Van der Spuy <avdspuy@iafrica.com>

Subject: SOLARIS FIELDS & SUN GARDEN SOLAR PVs: Notification of availability of Basic Assessment Reports for review and comments

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOLARIS FIELDS SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) AND SUN GARDEN SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE BETWEEN SOMERSET EAST AND MAKHANDA, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE
(DFFE Ref. Nos.: To be Issued)**

Dear Interested and Affected Parties,

The development of two (2) separate Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facilities and associated infrastructure are being proposed for power generation purposes and these project sites are located within the Blue Crane Route Local Municipality, Sarah Baartman District Municipality, Eastern Cape Province.

Notification of the commencement of the Basic Assessment (BA) processes was distributed in November 2020. The notification letter was accompanied by the Background Information Document (BID) which provided information regarding the larger renewable energy cluster of which these two proposed solar PVs form part, and the BA and public participation processes to be followed. The BID is available on our online stakeholder engagement platform at the links provided below where the public documents for these two (2) solar PV projects are available.

The attached notification letter serves to inform you of the availability of the Basic Assessment (BA) Reports for your review and comment and invite you to attend any one of the two (2) online Public Participation Process Meetings. Details regarding these Public Participation Process Meetings are included in the attached notification letter.

We kindly request that you share this information with family members, colleagues or any other party whom you believe would have an interest in these applications.

In terms of the Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, 2013 (Act No.4 of 2013), we request that no contact details be provided to Savannah Environmental but rather that those interested and/or affected parties (I&APs) contact our Public Participation Office directly.

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

Kind regards,

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t: 011 656 3237
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Nicolene Venter
Public Process

e: publicprocess@savannahsa.com
c: +27 (0) 60 978 8396

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

14 October 2021

PO Box 148,
Sunning Hill,
2157

Letter sent via email: publicprocess@savannahsa.com.

CC: dayalan.govender@dedea.gov.za & andries.struwig@dedea.gov.za

Dear Savannah Environmental,

Development of Renewable Energy Facility's between Somerset East and Makhanda, Eastern Cape.

When looking at the overall footprint of the proposed Renewable Energy projects within the Cookhouse Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ), including the Eastern Strategic Transmission Corridor, projects have been broken up individually and separated into the Eastern and Western Cluster projects between Somerset East and Makhanda. In total 8 projects are proposed for Environmental Authorisation and are made up as follows:

Eastern Cluster:

- Wind Garden Wind Farm
- Fronteer Wind Farm

Western Cluster:

- Hamlet Wind Farm
- Ripponn Wind Farm
- Redding Wind Farm
- Aeoulus Wind Farm
- Solar Fields Solar Energy Facility
- Sun Garden Solar Energy Facility
- Including a 400kV Main Transmission Substation and two 400kV Power Lines

These projects have been broken up into 8 individual Environmental Authorisation applications which are being evaluated and assessed independently and clustered into three Public Participation Processes for comment by I&AP's. Each project application is being analysed with the use of a Basic Assessments Report for Environmental Authorisation. The analyses on the impacts for each project

will purely be associated with each project and these individual impacts will be independently managed in order for approval of Environmental Authorisation.

The 8 projects, along with their associated substations and powerline projects, are therefore merely all components of one massive renewable energy project within the Cookhouse REDZ. Due to the size of the overall project footprint, the individual analyses of each project will predict a reduced overall risk, compared to the quantitative and cumulative impacts of the entire project when analysed as a whole.

Independent specialists should analyse not just the individual impacts of each project but the cumulative impact, indirect impact, and ecological sensitivity for the entire renewable energy project and the vast footprint thereof. Especially as the Cookhouse REDZ falls within the critically important Albany Centre of Botanical Biodiversity and Endemism, also known as the “Albany Hotspot.” A study cannot be completed purely on the specialist concluding results for that project and therefore state that the results show that the development "will not result in unacceptable environmental impacts", without taking the cumulative effects and ecological sensitivity into consideration. Vital parts of the ecosystem may be lost which in turn could lead to the collapse of an ecosystem within that area.

The degree of ecological connectivity between systems within the development landscape matrix should be analysed to determine the sensitivity scale for the entire development area. The results hereof should be taken into consideration especially for decision making.

In order to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of the ecosystem, fauna & flora communities, and the status of endemic, rare, or threatened species within the development footprint, analyses at different times of the year (across seasons/years) should be done. Highlighting the impact on fauna as they are not a static part of the environment and move freely is specifically important. Special consideration and analyses should focus on threatened species inhabiting the desired development area.

Integrated environmental management is required as per Section 2(b) and 23 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, No. 107, 1998) for a development such as this. It is therefore further suggested that a Strategic Environmental Analysis (SEA) is carried out for the entire development footprint including the 8 projects and their associated substations and powerline projects. The SEA can address the cumulative impacts and assist in the integration of the concept of sustainability into strategic decision-making through the identification and determination of limits of acceptable change and sustainability targets for a particular area, which will ensure environmental sustainability.

As per section 2(4)(a)(viii) of NEMA, no potential impact can be left unattended to, with the final option of action being that such impacts be 'minimised and remedied.' Taking this statement into consideration, along with understanding the cumulative impacts of the total development from the SEA, an understanding of the cumulative impact significance will be obtained, which will allow for actions to be taken to minimise and remedy the potential impacts.

Even though the need for renewable energy in South Africa is recognised, understood, and supported, one should abstain from saturating an environments' sustainable threshold regarding renewable energy. There should be a balance between the need for the development, the destruction (both present and future) caused by such developments, and the conservation and preservation of the environment and biodiversity within that desired area.

Kind Regards



BRENT MCNAMARA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

13 December 2021

PO Box 148,
Sunning Hill,
2157

Letter sent via email: publicprocess@savannahsa.com.

Dear Savannah Environmental,

Development of Solar Fields and Garden Energy Facility's between Somerset East and Makhanda, Eastern Cape.

After perusing the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) for the Solar Fields and Solar Garden Energy Facility between Somerset East and Makhanda. The analyses on the impacts for each project was clearly outlined in each BAR. These individual impacts must be independently managed in order for approval of Environmental Authorisation and the assurance of no further impact of the surrounding environment.

The independent specialist's studies outcome and recommendations should be precisely followed and adhered to. Especially as the Cookhouse REDZ falls within the critically important Albany Centre of Botanical Biodiversity and Endemism, also known as the "Albany Hotspot." If recommendations are not adhered to vital parts of the ecosystem may be lost which in turn could lead to the collapse of an ecosystem within that area.

The overall significant impact from the cumulative assessment should be taken into consideration as the development unfolds, as the majority of the impact is classified as "medium significance." Results from the Environmental Sensitivity Analysis should too be taken into consideration along with the proposed mitigation procedures and solutions.

The sensitive environmental features such as, the drainage feature which occurs on the south-eastern boundary of the PV area, should be avoided and the recommended buffer areas should be strictly adhered to.

Even though the need for renewable energy in South Africa is recognised, understood, and supported, one should abstain from saturating an environments' sustainable threshold regarding renewable energy. There should be a balance between the need for the development, the destruction (both present and future) caused by such developments, and the conservation and preservation of the

environment and biodiversity within that desired area. Mitigation measures should be strictly adhered to, to avoid any further potential damage, keeping the environments best interests as top priority.

Kind Regards



BRENT MCNAMARA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Commencement of Basic Assessment Process

Comments included as per the
Comments & Responses Report

ORGANS OF STATE

Savannah Public Process

From: John Geeringh
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 7:53 AM
To: Savannah Public Process
Subject: RE: DEVELOPMENT OF A CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES: Notification of commencement of Basic Assessment and Public Participation Processes
Attachments: Eskom requirements for work in or near Eskom servitudes.doc; Renewable Energy Generation Plant Setbacks to Eskom Infrastructure Rev2 - signed.pdf

Please find attached Eskom general requirements for works at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes. Please also find attached the Eskom setbacks guideline the applicant needs to consider during planning of the layouts and positioning of infrastructure.

Kind regards

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat)(EAPASA)
Senior Consultant Environmental Management
Land and Rights
Eskom Transmission Division
Megawatt Park, D1Y42, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton.

From: Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
Sent: Friday, 22 January 2021 15:39
To: John Geeringh
Cc: nicolene@savannahsa.com; ronald@savannahsa.com; Nicolene Venter <nicolene@savannahsa.com>
Subject: DEVELOPMENT OF A CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES: Notification of commencement of Basic Assessment and Public Participation Processes

DEVELOPMENT OF A CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES BETWEEN SOMERSET EAST AND MAKHANDA, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

Dear John,

A cluster of renewable energy facilities is proposed to be developed on various project sites located between Somerset East and Makhandla within the Cookhouse Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ), as well as the Eastern Strategic Transmission Corridor. The cluster consists of nine (9) projects which includes six (6) wind farms, two (2) solar energy facilities and one (1) Main Transmission Substation (MTS). A suitable project site for each development has been identified by the project development companies and the entire extent of the projects is located within the Sarah Baartman District Municipality. The western section is located within the Blue Crane Route Local Municipality and the eastern section within the Makana Local Municipality.

Please find attached the Background Information Document which provides additional information

regarding the application for the six (6) wind energy facilities, the two (2) solar energy facilities and the 400MW Main Transmission Substation.

The .KMZs for the development sites and grid connection are not yet available and as soon as these become available, we will forward it to you.

Please accept my apologies for omitting you from the projects' databases at this early stage of the project.

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

Kind regards,



t: 011 656 3237
f: 086 684 0547

Nicolene Venter
Public Process

e: publicprocess@savannahsa.com
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[SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant on Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015](#)

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN


Eskom requirements for work in or near Eskom servitudes.

1. Eskom's rights and services must be acknowledged and respected at all times.
2. Eskom shall at all times retain unobstructed access to and egress from its servitudes.
3. Eskom's consent does not relieve the developer from obtaining the necessary statutory, land owner or municipal approvals.
4. Any cost incurred by Eskom as a result of non-compliance to any relevant environmental legislation will be charged to the developer.
5. If Eskom has to incur any expenditure in order to comply with statutory clearances or other regulations as a result of the developer's activities or because of the presence of his equipment or installation within the servitude restriction area, the developer shall pay such costs to Eskom on demand.
6. The use of explosives of any type within 500 metres of Eskom's services shall only occur with Eskom's previous written permission. If such permission is granted the developer must give at least fourteen working days prior notice of the commencement of blasting. This allows time for arrangements to be made for supervision and/or precautionary instructions to be issued in terms of the blasting process. It is advisable to make application separately in this regard.
7. Changes in ground level may not infringe statutory ground to conductor clearances or statutory visibility clearances. After any changes in ground level, the surface shall be rehabilitated and stabilised so as to prevent erosion. The measures taken shall be to Eskom's satisfaction.
8. Eskom shall not be liable for the death of or injury to any person or for the loss of or damage to any property whether as a result of the encroachment or of the use of the servitude area by the developer, his/her agent, contractors, employees, successors in title, and assignees. The developer indemnifies Eskom against loss, claims or damages including claims pertaining to consequential damages by third parties and whether as a result of damage to or interruption of or interference with Eskom's services or apparatus or otherwise. Eskom will not be held responsible for damage to the developer's equipment.
9. No mechanical equipment, including mechanical excavators or high lifting machinery, shall be used in the vicinity of Eskom's apparatus and/or services, without prior written permission having been granted by Eskom. If such permission is granted the developer must give at least seven working days' notice prior to the commencement of work. This allows time for arrangements to be made for supervision and/or precautionary instructions to be issued by the relevant Eskom Manager

Note: Where and electrical outage is required, at least fourteen work days are required to arrange it.

10. Eskom's rights and duties in the servitude shall be accepted as having prior right at all times and shall not be obstructed or interfered with.
11. Under no circumstances shall rubble, earth or other material be dumped within the servitude restriction area. The developer shall maintain the area concerned to Eskom's satisfaction. The developer shall be liable to Eskom for the cost of any remedial action which has to be carried out by Eskom.
12. The clearances between Eskom's live electrical equipment and the proposed construction work shall be observed as stipulated by *Regulation 15 of the Electrical Machinery Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993)*.
13. Equipment shall be regarded electrically live and therefore dangerous at all times.
14. In spite of the restrictions stipulated by Regulation 15 of the Electrical Machinery Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993), as an additional safety precaution, Eskom will not approve the erection of houses, or structures occupied or frequented by human beings, under the power lines or within the servitude restriction area.
15. Eskom may stipulate any additional requirements to highlight any possible exposure to Customers or Public to coming into contact or be exposed to any dangers of Eskom plant.
16. It is required of the developer to familiarise himself with all safety hazards related to Electrical plant.
17. Any third party servitudes encroaching on Eskom servitudes shall be registered against Eskom's title deed at the developer's own cost. If such a servitude is brought into being, its existence should be endorsed on the Eskom servitude deed concerned, while the third party's servitude deed must also include the rights of the affected Eskom servitude.

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat)(EAPASA)
Senior Consultant Environmental Management
Eskom Transmission Division: Land & Rights
Megawatt Park, D1Y42, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton.
P O Box 1091, Johannesburg, 2000.
Tel: 011 516 7233
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Fax: 086 661 4064
E-mail: john.geeringh@eskom.co.za

	<p style="text-align: center;">SCOT</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Technology</p>
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Title: **Renewable Energy Generation Plant Setbacks to Eskom Infrastructure** Unique Identifier: **240-65559775**

Alternative Reference Number: **N/A**

Area of Applicability: **Power Line Engineering**



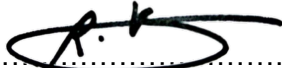
Documentation Type: **Guideline**

Revision: **2**

Total Pages: **9**

Next Review Date: **N/A**

Disclosure Classification: **CONTROLLED DISCLOSURE**

Compiled by	Approved by	Authorised by
		
<p>J W Chetty Mechanical Engineer</p>	<p>B Ntshuntsha Chief Engineer (Lines)</p>	<p>R A Vajeth Snr Manager (Lines) and SCOT/SC/ Chairperson</p>
<p>Date: 15 / 09 / 2020</p>	<p>Date: 30/10/2020</p>	<p>Date: 30/10/2020</p>

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In recent decades, the use of wind turbines, concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants have been on the increase as it serves as an abundant source of energy. This document specifies proposed setbacks for wind turbines and the reasons for these setbacks from infrastructure as well as setbacks for concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants. Setbacks for wind turbines employed in other countries were compared and a general setback to be used by Eskom was suggested for use with wind turbines and other renewable energy generation plants.

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1. INTRODUCTION

During the last few decades, a large amount of wind turbines have been installed in wind farms to accommodate for the large demand of energy and depleting fossil fuels. Wind is one of the most abundant sources of renewable energy. Wind turbines harness the energy of this renewable resource for integration in electricity networks. The extraction of wind energy is its primary function and thus the aerodynamics of the wind turbine is important. There are many different types of wind turbines which will all exhibit different wind flow characteristics. The most common wind turbine used commercially is the Horizontal Axis Wind Turbine. Wind flow characteristics of this turbine are important to analyse as it may have an effect on surrounding infrastructure.

Wind turbines also cause large turbulence downwind that may affect existing infrastructure. Debris or parts of the turbine blade, in the case of a failure, may be tossed behind the turbine and may lead to damage of infrastructure in the wake path.

This document outlines the minimum distances that need to be introduced between a wind turbine and Eskom infrastructure to ensure that debris and / or turbulence would not negatively impact on the infrastructure and future expansion of infrastructure (lines and substation) as per the long term planning scenario.

Safety distances of wind turbines from other structures as implemented by other countries were also considered and the reasons for their selection were noted. All renewable energy developments are approved by The Department of Environmental Affairs, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) in terms of NEMA. The DEFF is aware of the setbacks guideline, however they cannot use it in terms of decision making since the setbacks document has no legal standing in SA and it would be outside of their mandate who have been advised to follow the guidelines herein.

Concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants setbacks away from substations were also to be considered to prevent restricting possible power line access routes to the substation and possible expansion of substations.

2. SUPPORTING CLAUSES

2.1 SCOPE

This document provides guidance on the safe distance that a wind turbine should be located from any Eskom power line or substation. Although it is not based on any legislative requirement, it is deemed important that Eskom's infrastructure and future network expansion planning is not impeded. The document specifies proposed setback distances for transmission lines (220 kV to 765 kV), distribution lines

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(66 kV to 132 kV) and all Eskom substations. Proposed setbacks for concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants are also specified away from substations.

2.1.1 Purpose

Setbacks for wind turbines and power lines / substations are required for various reasons. These include possible catastrophic failure of the turbine blade that may release fragments and which may be thrown onto nearby power lines that may result in damage with associated unplanned outages. Turbulence behind the turbine may affect helicopter flight during routine Eskom live line maintenance and inspections that may lead to safety risk of the aircraft / personnel. Concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants setback away from substations were required to prevent substations from being boxed in by these renewable generation plants limiting line route access to the substations and possible future substation expansion.

2.1.2 Applicability

This document is applicable to the siting of all new and existing wind turbines, concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants near power lines and substations and in line of site between Eskom telecommunication infrastructure, including future Eskom renewable energy development.

2.2 NORMATIVE/INFORMATIVE REFERENCES

2.2.1 Normative

1. <http://www.envir.ee/orb.aw/class=file/action=preview/id=1170403/Hiiumaa+turbulence+impact+EMD.pdf>.
2. <http://www.energy.ca.gov/2005publications/CEC-500-2005-184/CEC-500-2005-184.PDF>
3. <http://www.adamscountywind.com/Revised%20Site/Windmills/Adams%20County%20Ordinance/Adams%20County%20Wind%20Ord.htm>
4. http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=PA11R&RE=1&EE=1
5. <http://www.wind-watch.org/documents/european-setbacks-minimum-distance-between-wind-turbines-and-habitations/>
6. <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/017/11017.1-i.html>
7. http://www.caw.ca/assets/pdf/Turbine_Safety_Report.pdf
8. Rogers J, Slegers N, Costello M. (2011) A method for defining wind turbine setback standards. Wind energy 10.1002/we.468

2.2.2 Informative

None

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2.3 DEFINITIONS

Definition	Description
Setback	The minimum distance between a wind turbine and boundary line/dwelling/road/infrastructure/servitude etc.
Flicker	Effect caused when rotating wind turbine blades periodically cast shadows
Tip Height	The total height of the wind turbine ie. Hub height plus half rotor diameter (see Figure1)

2.3.1 Disclosure Classification

Controlled disclosure: controlled disclosure to external parties (either enforced by law, or discretionary).

2.4 ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
None	

2.5 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All parties involved in the positioning wind turbines, concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants near power lines/substations should endeavour to follow the setbacks outlined in this guideline.

2.6 PROCESS FOR MONITORING

Agreement by Eskom in writing on any encroachment of the setbacks distance should be requested via the Grid Access Unit. Eskom should ensure that every application for renewable energy (RE) developments are informed about the existence of the setbacks document early in the RE planning process to ensure maximum effect. This includes Eskom RE development.

2.7 RELATED/SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

3. DOCUMENT CONTENT

3.1 INTERNATIONAL SETBACK COMPARISON

Wind Turbine setbacks employed by various countries were considered. It was found that setbacks were determined for various reasons that include noise, flicker, turbine blade failure and wind effects as well as

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future network expansion planning. The distances (setbacks) varied based on these factors and were influenced by the type of infrastructure

Wind turbine setbacks varied for roads, power lines, dwellings, buildings and property and it was noted that the largest setbacks were employed for reasons of noise and flicker related issues [1-7]. Very few countries specified setbacks for power lines.

The literature survey [1-7], yielded information about studies and experiments were conducted to determine the distance that a broken fragment from a wind turbine might be thrown. Even though of low probability of hitting a power line [5.0×10^{-5} ^[8]], the distances recorded were significant [750m ^[8]]

Wind turbines may also cause changes in wind patterns with turbulent effects behind the hub. These factors influence the wind turbine setbacks specified in this document.

Setbacks were thus introduced to prevent any damage to Eskom infrastructure and impedance to operation and future network expansion planning.

Renewable energy plant can also limit access into substations for power lines of all voltages. A setback distance should therefore be employed to prevent substations from being boxed in by these generation plants and preventing future network expansion. These setback distances are specified in this document.

3.2 ESKOM RECOMMENDED SETBACKS

Any renewable energy applicant should engage with Eskom to determine if their plant layout or positioning of turbines, CSP or PV infrastructure would encroach on the proposed setbacks provided for in this guideline and to ensure that their planning and Eskom's future expansion planning is taken into account. Eskom must inform all renewable energy developers, including Eskom RE, of the existence of the setbacks guideline early in the development process. Should there be an encroachment, a formal request should be sent to and accepted by Eskom in writing if any of the below mentioned setback distances are infringed upon:

- Eskom requests a setback distance of 3 times the tip height of the wind turbine from the edge of the closest Eskom servitude (including vacant servitudes) for transmission lines (220kV to 765kV) and Substations.
- Eskom requests a setback distance of 1 times the tip height of the wind turbine from the edge of the closest Eskom servitude (including vacant servitudes) for distribution lines (66 kV to 132 kV) and Substations.

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- A written request should be sent to Eskom via the Grid Access Unit regarding any proposed wind turbine, concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic activity within a 5 km radius of a substation for Eskom to comment on.
- Where concentrated solar plants, photovoltaic structures, battery storage systems (BESS) and other renewable generation plants fall within a 2 km radius of the closest point of a transmission or distribution substation (66kV to 765kV), a written agreement with Eskom is recommended during the planning phase of such plant or structures to ensure Eskom's future planning is not impeded.
- Applicants should not position any wind turbine in the line of site between and two Eskom Radio Telecommunication masts. It should be proven that Eskom radio telecommunication systems (mainly microwave systems) will not be affected in any way by wind turbines due to the criticality of this infrastructure in terms of network operation. Eskom Telecommunications should be engaged on this matter.
- If the position or size of any turbine changes and subsequently infringes on any of the above stated setbacks, a request for relaxation must be sent through to Eskom as per the point mentioned above.

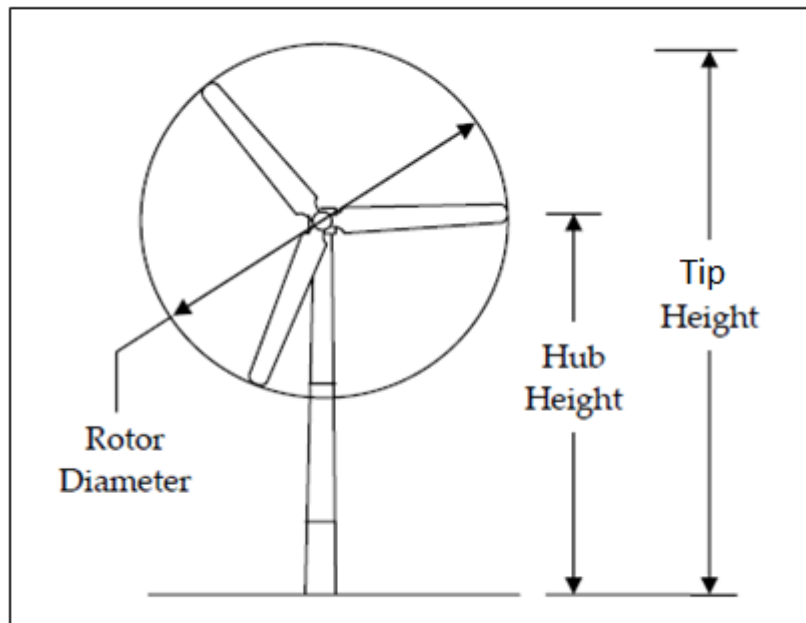


Figure 1: Horizontal Axis Wind Turbine [2]

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4. AUTHORISATION

This document has been seen and accepted by:

Name & Surname	Designation
V Naidoo	Chief Engineer
Dr P Pretorius	Electrical Specialist
J Geeringh	Snr Consultant Environ Mngt
B Haridass	Snr Consultant Engineer
B Ntshunsha	Chief Engineer
R Vajeth	Snr Manager (Lines)
D A Tunncliff	Snr Manager L&R (Acting)
B Branfield	Snr Consultant Engineer

5. REVISIONS

Date	Rev.	Compiler	Remarks
November 2013	0	J W Chetty	First Publication - No renewable energy generation plant setback specification in existence.
October 2018	1	JW Chetty	Modification to sub-section 3.2 to provide more clarity for application procedure.
June 2020	2	JW Chetty	Content within the guideline was re-worded to explain the benefits of mutual agreements between the applicants and ESKOM rather than the application being a legal obligation.

6. DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The following people were involved in the development of this document:

Jonathan Chetty (Mechanical Engineer)

Vivendhra Naidoo (Chief Engineer)

Dr Pieter Pretorius (Electrical Specialist)

John Geeringh (Snr Consultant Environ Mngt)

Bharat Haridass (Snr Consultant Engineer)

Riaz Vajeth (Snr Manager (Lines))

Bruce Ntshunsha (Chief Engineer)

David Tunncliff (Snr Manager L&R Acting)

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From: Mpati Makoa (HO)
Sent: 18 November 2020 08:09 AM
To: Chumisa Njingana (SR)
Cc: Nenekazi Songxaba (SR)
Subject: FW: DEVELOPMENT OF A CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES: Notification of commencement of Basic Assessment and Public Participation Processes

Good morning ladies

Please see attached for your information and attention.

Kind regards
Mpati

From: Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 5:03 PM
To: Mpati Makoa (HO)
Subject: DEVELOPMENT OF A CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES: Notification of commencement of Basic Assessment and Public Participation Processes

DEVELOPMENT OF A CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES BETWEEN SOMERSET EAST AND MAKHANDA, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

Dear Interested and Affected Parties,

A cluster of renewable energy facilities is proposed to be developed on various project sites located between Somerset East and Makhanda within the Cookhouse Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ), as well as the Eastern Strategic Transmission Corridor. The cluster consists of nine (9) projects which includes six (6) wind farms, two (2) solar energy facilities and one (1) Main Transmission Substation (MTS). A suitable project site for each development has been identified by the project development companies and the entire

extent of the projects is located within the Sarah Baartman District Municipality. The western section is located within the Blue Crane Route Local Municipality and the eastern section within the Makana Local Municipality.

Please find attached the Background Information Document which provides additional information regarding the application for the six (6) wind energy facilities, the two (2) solar energy facilities and the 400MW Main Transmission Substation.

We kindly request you to complete the attached stakeholder registration and comment form to formally register on the project databases and indicate in which of the nine (9) projects (or all) your interest lies.

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

Kind regards,

[Unsubscribe this type of email](#)



t: 011 656 3237
f: 086 684 0547

Nicolene Venter
Public Process

e: publicprocess@savannahsa.com
c: +27 (0) 60 978 8396

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

INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

Savannah Public Process

From: Savannah Public Process
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 1:59 PM
To:
Subject: RE: public participation notice.

Dear Sir,

This e-mail serves to confirm our telephone discussion a few minutes ago in which I requested your name and surname to register you on the projects' databases and to inform you of the availability of the Basic Assessment Reports.

You informed us that there is no need to obtain your information and that the matter can be considered attended to.

Kind regards,



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Nicolene Venter
Public Process

e: Publicprocess@savannahsa.com
c: +27 (0)60 978 8396

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

From
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 11:29 AM
To: Savannah Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
Subject: public participation notice.

I suggest that your half page advert in The Herald today is possibly not legal. The headline refers to an area between Somerset East and a town that I believe no longer exists. Perhaps you should consult your lawyers on the matter to ascertain the correctness of the issue.

Sent from my Galaxy

Savannah Public Process

From: Savannah Public Process
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 1:13 PM
To: stevonh@easpe.co.za
Cc: Ronald Baloyi
Subject: RE: Registration as an IAP for Development of a Cluster of Renewable Energies Between Somerset East and Makhandha, Eastern Cape
Attachments: EASPE-HOBSON Stevon (2020.11.18).pdf; SE2602-WindRelic RegCommForm-FINAL.pdf

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery
	stevonh@easpe.co.za	
	Ronald Baloyi	Delivered: 11/18/2020 1:13 PM

Dear Stevon,

Please receive herewith confirmation that you are registered as an interested and affected party on the above-projects databases as requested.

Would you please be so kind and complete the attached registration form by indicating in which project (or all projects) you would like to register for.

Kind regards,

From: Stevonh@easpe.co.za <stevonh@easpe.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 8:44 AM
To: Savannah Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
Subject: Registration as an IAP for Development of a Cluster of Renewable Energies Between Somerset East and Makhandha, Eastern Cape

Good Morning Nicolene

I trust this finds you well.

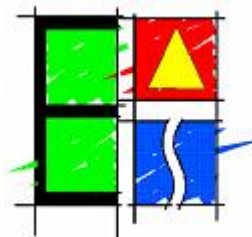
I would like to register as an Interested and Affected Party for the Development of a Cluster of Renewable Energies Between Somerset East and Makhandha, Eastern Cape Project.

As an Eastern Cape resident I have a keen interest in the development of the province and these projects could bring much needed development and jobs to the region.

Regards,

Stevon Hobson
Engineering Advice & Services (Pty) Ltd

Tel : 041 581 2421
Cell : 072 447 8257
Fax : 086 683 9899
Web : www.easpe.co.za



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Savannah Public Process

From: Savannah Public Process
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 1:06 PM
To:
Cc: Tsheko Ratsheko; Ronald Baloyi
Subject: Interest in renewable energy projects: Confirmation of Registration
Attachments: ARMINCO-BRITCHFORD Grahame (2020.11.18).pdf; SE2602-WindRelic RegCommForm-FINAL.pdf

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery
	Tsheko Ratsheko	
	Ronald Baloyi	Delivered: 11/18/2020 1:06 PM

Dear Grahame,

Please receive herewith confirmation that you are registered as an interested and affected party on the above-projects databases as requested.

Would you please be so kind and complete the attached registration form by indicating in which project (or all projects) you would like to register for.

Kind regards,

From: grahame@armincopiping.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 9:31 AM
To: Savannah Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
Cc: Tsheko Ratsheko
Subject: Interest in renewable energy projects

Good day

I would like to register on this platform in order to participate in public commentary and to gain more information on renewable energy projects.

My company is a specialist piping fabricator and constructor and we, as a team, would like to engage in more renewable energy projects as opportunities present themselves. Our interests lie in wind, Solar and gas to power projects.

Many thanks

Warmest Regards

Grahame Britchford

 **arminco**
ARMINCO PIPING PROJECTS
Project Managers; Fabricators and Constructors
A Level 2 B-BBEE Contributor

Savannah Public Process

From: Savannah Public Process
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2020 3:33 AM
To: Taylor Shaun
Cc: Nicolene Venter; Ronald Baloyi; savannahenvironmentalsa@gmail.com; Nicolene Venter
Subject: RE: DEVELOPMENT OF A CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES: Notification of commencement of Basic Assessment and Public Participation Processes
Attachments: SE2602 Wind Relic BID (Eng).pdf; SE2602-WindRelic RegCommForm-FINAL.pdf

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery
	Taylor Shaun	
	Nicolene Venter	Delivered: 11/26/2020 3:33 AM
	Ronald Baloyi	Delivered: 11/26/2020 3:33 AM
	savannahenvironmentalsa@gmail.com	
	Nicolene Venter	

Dear Shaun,

The applicants are:

Project Name	Hamlett Wind Farm	Ripponn Wind Farm	Redding Wind Farm	Aeolus Wind Farm	Wind Garden Wind Farm	Fronteer Wind Farm	REDZ 3 Power Corridor 400MTS	Solaris Fields Solar Energy Facility	Sun Garden Solar Energy Facility
Applicant	Hamlett (Pty) Ltd	Ripponn (Pty) Ltd	Redding Wind (Pty) Ltd	Aeolus (Pty) Ltd	Wind Garden (Pty) Ltd	Fronteer (Pty) Ltd	Wind Relic (Pty) Ltd	Solaris Fields (Pty) Ltd	Sun Garden (Pty) Ltd

Please find attached the Background Information Document which will provide enel with additional information regarding the proposed developments.

It will be appreciated if you can please complete the attached registration form by indicating in which (or all) of the projects your interest lies.

Kind regards,

From: Taylor Shaur
Sent: Saturday, November 21, 2020 1:52 PM
To: Savannah Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
Cc: Nicolene Venter <nicolene@savannahsa.com>; Ronald Baloyi <Ronald@savannahsa.com>; savannahenvironmentalsa@gmail.com; Nicolene Venter <nicolene@savannahsa.com>
Subject: RE: DEVELOPMENT OF A CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES: Notification of commencement of Basic Assessment and Public Participation Processes

Thank you Nicolene

Could you please provide details about who the applicant is?

Regards

Shaun Taylor
Pr. Nat. Sci (Reg No: 118409)
Environment, Archaeology & Biodiversity
South Africa



102 Rivonia Road, Sandton
2196, Johannesburg

From: Public Process [<mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, 18 November 2020 01:50

To: Taylor Shaun Taylor Shaun

Cc: nicolene@savannahsa.com; ronald@savannahsa.com; savannahenvironmentalsa@gmail.com; Nicolene Venter <nicolene@savannahsa.com>

Subject: DEVELOPMENT OF A CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES: Notification of commencement of Basic Assessment and Public Participation Processes

**DEVELOPMENT OF A CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES BETWEEN SOMERSET EAST AND MAKHANDA,
EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

Dear Shaun,

A cluster of renewable energy facilities is proposed to be developed on various project sites located between Somerset East and Makhanda within the Cookhouse Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ), as well as the Eastern Strategic Transmission Corridor. The cluster consists of nine (9) projects which includes six (6) wind farms, two (2) solar energy facilities and one (1) Main Transmission Substation (MTS). A suitable project site for each development has been identified by the project development companies and the entire extent of the projects is located within the Sarah Baartman District Municipality. The western section is located within the Blue Crane Route Local Municipality and the eastern section within the Makana Local Municipality.

As per your telephone request to our colleague, Gideon Raath, yesterday afternoon to be registered on the above-mentioned projects, please find attached the Background Information Document which provides additional information regarding the application for the six (6) wind energy facilities, the two (2) solar energy facilities and the 400MW Main Transmission Substation.

We kindly request you to complete the attached stakeholder registration and comment form to formally register on the project databases and indicate in which of the nine (9) projects (or all) your interest lies.

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

Kind regards,



t: 011 656 3237
f: 086 684 0547

Nicolene Venter
Public Process

e: publicprocess@savannahsa.com
c: +27 (0) 60 978 8396

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

Savannah Public Process

From: Savannah Public Process
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 4:10 AM
To: Sam Ralston
Cc: Nicolene Venter; Ronald Baloyi
Subject: DEVELOPMENT OF A CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES: Confirmation of Registration
Attachments: SE2602 Wind Relic, Solar & Grid Notification I&APs-FINAL.pdf; SE2602 Wind Relic BID (Eng).pdf; SE2602-WindRelic RegCommForm-FINAL.pdf

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery
	Sam Ralston	
	Nicolene Venter	Delivered: 12/1/2020 4:10 AM
	Ronald Baloyi	Delivered: 12/1/2020 4:10 AM

Dear Samantha,

All well here in Gauteng!

Yes, I can confirm that BirdLife SA is an I&AP on the cluster of project's database.

However, I notice that our BID and notification of commencement of the Basic Assessment processes was not sent as part of the 'campaign' sent on the 17th of November 2020.

Attached for BirdLife's attention and information is the BID, including the registration and comment form although we always register BirdLife as a key stakeholder on renewable energy projects.

Samantha, thank you for checking on BirdLife's inclusion on the projects' databases.

The enquiry regarding the Cape Vulture Guidelines Guidelines is forwarded to the EAP for confirmation.

Kind regards,

From: Sam Ralston
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 2:20 PM
To: Savannah Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
Subject: Re: DEVELOPMENT OF A CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES: Notification of commencement of Basic Assessment and Public Participation Processes

Dear Nicole

I hope you are well? I presume that BirdLife South Africa is a I&AP for these projects and that our Cape Vulture Guidelines are being applied, but just double-checking?

Thanks
Sam

Samantha Ralston-Paton
Birds and Renewable Energy Project Manager

<http://www.birdlife.org.za>



BirdLife South Africa's Birds and Renewable Energy Project is sponsored by Investec Corporate and Institutional Banking

Sponsored by



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From: Public Process [<mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com>]

Sent: 17 November 2020 05:05 PM

To: Andre Van der Spuy

Subject: DEVELOPMENT OF A CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES: Notification of commencement of Basic Assessment and Public Participation Processes

**DEVELOPMENT OF A CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES
BETWEEN SOMERSET EAST AND MAKHANDA, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

Dear Interested and Affected Parties,

A cluster of renewable energy facilities is proposed to be developed on various project sites located between Somerset East and Makhanda within the Cookhouse Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ), as well as the Eastern Strategic Transmission Corridor. The cluster consists of nine (9) projects which includes six (6) wind farms, two (2) solar energy facilities and one (1) Main Transmission Substation (MTS). A suitable project site for each development has been identified by the project development companies and the entire extent of the projects is located within the SarahBaartman District Municipality. The western section is located within the Blue Crane Route Local Municipality and the eastern section within the Makana Local Municipality.

Please find attached the Background Information Document which provides additional information regarding the application for the six (6) wind energy facilities, the two (2) solar energy facilities and the 400MW Main Transmission Substation.

We kindly request you to complete the attached stakeholder registration and comment form to formally register on the project databases and indicate in which of the nine (9) projects (or all) your interest lies.

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

Kind regards,

[Unsubscribe this type of email](#)

<image001.jpg>

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



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<SE2602_Wind_Relic_BID_(Afr).Final.pdf><SE2602-WindRelic_RegCommForm-FINAL.pdf><SE2602_Wind_Relic_BID_(Eng)_Final.pdf><SE2602_Wind_Relic,_Solar_&_Grid_Notification_I&APs-FINAL.pdf>

2 December 2020

Me Nicolene Venter
Savannah International
publicprocess@savannahsa.com

Dear Me Venter

**Basic Assessment Process
Development of a cluster of renewable energy facilities between Somerset East and
Makhanda
November 2020**

We have received information (two documents) from a farmer about the envisaged projects referred to above.

Alien invader cacti, predominantly the spiny *Opuntia ficus-indica* and *O. engelmannii* have infested to various degrees the Eastern Cape Province.

Our Company, *Spiny Cactus Pear Processing (Pty) Ltd* has been involved in preparing the construction sites for the erection of a wind turbine project near Bedford. We were specifically engaged to clear the invader alien spiny cacti from the access roads and platforms stands for the contractors to erect the wind turbine towers and auxiliary facilities.

Considerable competency and expertise have been developed in harvesting and processing alien spiny invader plants as livestock feed.

Attached please find a document providing some background in this regard.

We assume our expertise will be required to implement the envisaged projects.

Please advise how and with whom we can engage to participate.

Yours sincerely



Name: HO de Waal
Director: Spiny Cactus Pear Processing (Pty) Ltd



Savannah Public Process

From: Savannah Public Process
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2020 11:18 AM
To: Gwen Theron
Cc: Michael van Staden; Ronald Baloyi
Subject: Proposed Wind Farm Developments in the Eastern Cape:
Attachments: LEAP Environment-THERON Dr Gwen (2020.12.15).pdf; SE2602-WindRelic RegCommForm-FINAL.pdf; VAN STADEN Michael (2020.12.15).pdf; WRSA-YORK Richard (2020.12.15).pdf; KWANDWE-SHOLTO-DOUGLAS Angus.pdf; HEYNEKE G (2020.12.15).pdf; TALIS HOLDINGS-MOGASHOA Tebogo (2020.12.15).pdf; ENGELBRECHT Colin (2020.12.15).pdf; JURGENS Thinus (2020.12.15).pdf

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery
	Gwen Theron	
	Michael van Staden	
	Ronald Baloyi	Delivered: 12/17/2020 11:18 AM

Dear Dr Theron,

Thank you for your e-mail below requesting registration of yourself and other stakeholders on the proposed project's database.

Attached for your perusal is the proof of the registrations (yourself and the other I&APs listed in your e-mail below). Please note that Mr Angus Sholto-Douglas is already a registered I&AP.

To register on the project's database we need a name and surname please – would you kindly provide the information as this e-mail address has not yet been captured on the project's database.

At this stage it is envisaged that the BARs will be made available for review and comment in the new year. As registered I&APs, all will be notified of the availability of the BARs for your review and comments.

Dr Theron, it is required that yourself and those I&APs that have been registered as per your e-mail below, complete the attached registration and comment form to ensure that the relevant parties are registered to the applicable projects.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional information at this stage.

Kind regards,

From: Gwen Theron
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:32 AM
To: Savannah Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
Cc: Michael van Staden
Subject: FW: Proposed Wind Farm Developments in the Eastern Cape

Dear Nicolene,

Please register me and the persons listed below as interested and Affected parties for this application.

1. Michael van Staden
VAN STADEN & BOOYSEN INC.

4 IBIS PLACE, MEYERSDAL EXT 21.

Our website: www.vsbattorneys.co.za

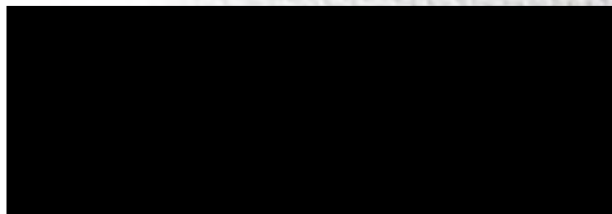
2. Richard York

The President-WRSA-Mr Gerhard Heynecke
Deputy President-WRSA-Mr Colin Engelbrecht
Director-High Level Affairs-Mr Tebogo Mogashoa
CEO-WRSA-Mr Richard York
EC Provincial Chair-Mr Thinus Jurgens

Richard York - Chief Executive Officer



*"Governed by nature,
driven by passion,
focussed on results"*



3. **ANGUS SHOLTO-DOUGLAS**
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Web: www.kwandwe.com

KWANDWE

Heatherton Towers, Kwandwe Private Game Reserve, Fort Brown District, Eastern Cape, 6140, South Africa

Also

Tebogo Mogashoa'

Colin Engelbrecht'

Thinus Jurgens'

Please acknowledge the request

I will also appreciate it if you can give me a schedule or time frame for the submission of comments to the process.
Much appreciated.

Dr. Gwen Theron



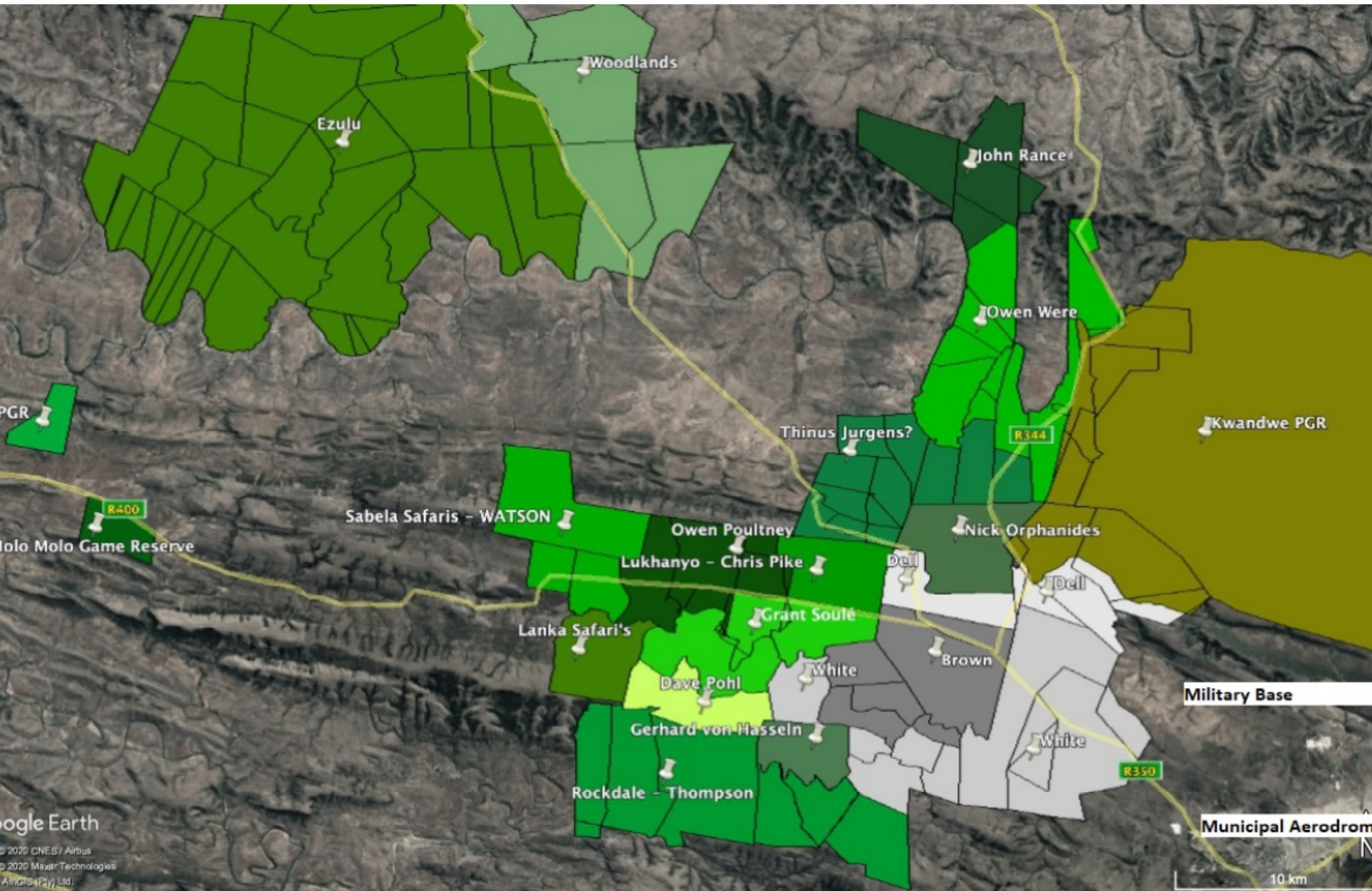
LEAP

Dr. Gwen Theron • PrLArch No 97082

Landscape Architect • Environmental Planner

Imbrilinx cc 2010/089810/23





Savannah Public Process

From: Savannah Public Process
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 8:25 AM
To: Chad Comley
Subject: Eastern Cape Development of a Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities

Hi Chad,

In response to your e-mails dated 16 & 17 February 2021, please be informed that queries / requests relating to company information and/or matters do not fall within the ambit of the Basic Assessment processes being undertaken for the Eastern Cape Renewable Energy Facility Clusters.

The information requested can be obtained from the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC).

Please do not hesitate to submit any further comments that you may have relating to the environmental studies being undertaken for these proposed developments.

Kind regards,



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Nicolene Venter

Public Participation & Social
Consultant

e: nicolene@savannahsa.com
c: +27 (0) 83 377 9112

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

From: Savannah Public Process
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 7:23 AM
To: Chad Comley
Subject: RE: Se2602 development of a cluster of renewable energy facilities

Hi Chad,

Please receive herewith acknowledgement of your e-mail below.

Your request for information has been forwarded to the project team for a response.

Kind regards,



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Nicolene Venter
Public Process

e: Publicprocess@savannahsa.com
c: +27 (0)60 978 8396

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

From: Chad Comley
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 12:21 PM
To: Savannah Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
Subject: Se2602 development of a cluster of renewable energy facilities

Hi Nicolene

This is to confirm Wind Relic and Dimsum partnership
From yesterday question

Pls could you also supply me with answer to the following questions

1) who is the project manager of the clusters of renewable energy facilities

2) who are the directors of wind relic and all the applicants company's

3) could you pls provide me with the shareholders certificates in wind relic
And all the other applicant companies

It would be appreciated if you could get back to me with a response as soon as possible
Maybe by the end of the week

Could you also acknowledge receipt of mail
And yesterdays mail

Kind regards
Chad Comley



WIND RELIC is Dimsum Energy's privately-owned partner in the current development of two significant wind projects in the Eastern Cape – the first, just South of Somerset East and the second, just West of Grahamstown. Once completed, these two utilities will combine to

Savannah Public Process

From: Savannah Public Process
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:18 PM
To: Estelle Pillay
Subject: RE: Development of a cluster of renewable energy facility between Somerset East and Grahamstown, Eastern Cape.

Dear Estelle,

Thank you for your e-mail below.

Please be informed that Savannah Environmental is the appointed Environmental Assessment Practitioner undertaking the various environmental studies for the Basic Assessment process and are not associated with or responsible for the Town Planning application referred to in your e-mail below. Also, we are not part of the procurement / construction phase of these projects.

Herewith the response to your enquiries below:

- EIA Consultant: Savannah Environmental
- Town Planners: Not part of our scope of work
- Client: Information for all the project are included in the Background Information Document (available on our website)
- Private Developer: Yes

You are most welcome to access the Background Information Document and any other project related information from our website at: <https://savannahsa.com/public-documents/energy-generation/eastern-cape-cluster-of-renewable-energy-facilities/>.

Please be informed that you are registered on the projects' databases and will receive all future environmental authorization process notifications regarding these applications.

Kind regards,



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

From: Estelle Pillay <EstelleP@l2b.co.za>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 11:09 AM
To: Savannah Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
Subject: Re: Development of a cluster of renewable energy facility between Somerset East and Grahamstown, Eastern Cape.

Good Day Nicolene,

I hope you are well. I wonder if you could please assist me with a development. I came across in a Town

Planning Notice for the development of a cluster of renewable energy facility between Somerset East and Grahamstown, Eastern Cape.

I do not have any objections, I am an interested party and I wanted to know if you would please provide me with the details of the client or any professionals involved.

I am interested in following the progress of the various stages of this development from the town planning stages, through design and construction. I follow all the building and construction projects in South Africa and Africa right from the conceptual stages up until construction is complete.

EIA Consultant: ?
Town Planners: ?
Client: ?
Private Developer: ?

Please can you provide me with the copy of the Background Information Document for this development?

Any information would be greatly appreciated. Looking forward to your response.

--

Kind regards,



Our Business is about growing Yours. Find out Who is building What, When & Where.

Estelle Pillay | Regional Content Researcher Projects

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