

## Mmakoena Mmola

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**From:** Nyiko Nkosi <NNKOSI@dffe.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 30 March 2022 13:39  
**To:** Jana de Jager; Julliet Mahlangu  
**Cc:** Dr. Danie Smit; Jo-Anne Thomas  
**Subject:** RE: 2022-03-0033

Dear Jana

Thanks for the clarity, when we approved the PP Plan, the same approval will have to be attached on each application that you will be lodging with the Department and the pre app reference number must be used.

We will review the submitted PP Plan and respond in due course.

Regards

Ms. Nyiko Nkosi  
Control Environmental Officer  
**Chief Directorate: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
Environment House  
473 Steve Biko and Soutpansberg Streets  
PRETORIA  
Tel: (012) 399 9392  
Cell: 071 607 2145  
E-mail: [nnkosi@dffe.gov.za](mailto:nnkosi@dffe.gov.za)  
Call Centre: 086 111 2468



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

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**From:** Jana de Jager <Jana@savannahsa.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 30 March 2022 13:34  
**To:** Nyiko Nkosi <NNKOSI@dffe.gov.za>; Julliet Mahlangu <JMMahlangu@dffe.gov.za>  
**Cc:** Dr. Danie Smit <DSMIT@dffe.gov.za>; Jo-Anne Thomas <joanne@savannahsa.com>  
**Subject:** RE: 2022-03-0033

Good day Nyiko

Thank you for the acknowledgement of the pre-application request.

Regarding the clarification questions, three (3) separate applications are proposed for a wind facility, solar facility, and grid infrastructure. However, during the Scoping Phase the entire focus area (refer to attached map) will be investigated for each of the applications to define the development footprint to be assessed further in the EIA phase for each component.

Kindly let me know if you require any further information or clarification.

Kind regards



t: +27 (0)11 656 3237  
c: +27 (0)81 444 3432  
f: +27 (0) 86 684 0547

**Jana de Jager**  
Environmental Consultant

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

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

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**From:** Nyiko Nkosi <[NNKOSI@dffe.gov.za](mailto:NNKOSI@dffe.gov.za)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 30 March 2022 12:14  
**To:** Jana de Jager <[Jana@savannahsa.com](mailto:Jana@savannahsa.com)>; Julliet Mahlangu <[JMMahlangu@dffe.gov.za](mailto:JMMahlangu@dffe.gov.za)>  
**Cc:** Dr. Danie Smit <[DSMIT@dffe.gov.za](mailto:DSMIT@dffe.gov.za)>  
**Subject:** RE: 2022-03-0033

Dear Jana

Below emails refers.

We have received your pre application meeting request and the public participation plan for the proposed project. From the information provided you have indicated that you do not require a meeting however you require an approval of the PP Plan.

On the PP Plan, I have noticed that the applicant intent to develop a wind energy facility, solar facility and the Grid Connection to connect these infrastructures to Eskom. Before e the Department can process the submitted PP Plan, the following clarity is required.

1. How many applications are you intending to submit for the proposed project.
2. Will you be submitting three (03) applications for 1. Wind Facility 2. PV Facility and 3. Grid Infrastructure or
3. You intend to submit one application for all these infrastructures

Regards

Ms. Nyiko Nkosi

Control Environmental Officer

**Chief Directorate: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Environment House

473 Steve Biko and Soutpansberg Streets

PRETORIA

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**From:** EIA Applications <[EIAApplications@dffe.gov.za](mailto:EIAApplications@dffe.gov.za)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 30 March 2022 11:29  
**To:** Julliet Mahlangu <[JMMahlangu@dffe.gov.za](mailto:JMMahlangu@dffe.gov.za)>  
**Cc:** Nyiko Nkosi <[NNKOSI@dffe.gov.za](mailto:NNKOSI@dffe.gov.za)>; Dr. Danie Smit <[DSMIT@dffe.gov.za](mailto:DSMIT@dffe.gov.za)>; Jana de Jager <[Jana@savannahsa.com](mailto:Jana@savannahsa.com)>  
**Subject:** 2022-03-0033

Dear Julliet.

Please note that you have been allocated an application:

**Type of Application:** Pre-Application Meeting Request;  
**Reference Number:** 2022-03-0033;  
**Date Received:** 29/03/2022;  
**Action Required:** Decide on meeting request.

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

\*EAP/Applicant: please use this reference number when submitting the application for EA/amendment application (page 1 of the application form), as well as attach the approved PP Plan if the application requires a PP process.

#### EIA Applications

Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

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

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

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

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**From:** Jana de Jager <[Jana@savannahsa.com](mailto:Jana@savannahsa.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 March 2022 14:45  
**To:** EIA Applications <[EIAApplications@dffe.gov.za](mailto:EIAApplications@dffe.gov.za)>  
**Cc:** Jo-Anne Thomas <[joanne@savannahsa.com](mailto:joanne@savannahsa.com)>  
**Subject:** Request for Pre-application & PP Plan Approval -Umbila Emoyeni Renewable Energy Facility

Good day

Kindly see attached the Pre-application form and PP Plan for the Umbila Emoyeni Renewable Energy Facility. A pre-application meeting is not specifically required for the project, the request is submitted in order to provide the DFFE details of the proposed Umbila Emoyeni Renewable Energy Facility and for approval of the Public Participation Plan.

Your assistance will be highly appreciated. Please contact me should you have any queries in this regard.

Kind regards



t: +27 (0)11 656 3237  
c: +27 (0)81 444 3432  
f: +27 (0) 86 684 0547

**Jana de Jager**  
Environmental Consultant

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

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

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## Mmakoena Mmola

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**From:** Julliet Mahlangu <JMMahlangu@dffe.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 31 March 2022 10:41  
**To:** Jana de Jager  
**Cc:** Nyiko Nkosi; Ephron Maradwa  
**Subject:** Approval of Public Participation (PP) Plan for the proposed Umbila Emoyeni renewable energy wind and solar PV facilities including grid connection infrastructure, Mpumalanga province

Dear Jana de Jager

The Public Participation (PP) Plan for the proposed Umbila Emoyeni Renewable Energy wind and solar PV facilities including grid connection infrastructure, Mpumalanga Province, received by this Department on 29 March 2022, refers.

Based on the information provided this Department decided to approve the PP Plan for the proposed project. You may proceed with the PP process in accordance with tasks contemplated in the PP plan. Should you wish to deviate from the submitted PP Plan, the amended PP Plan must be submitted to the Department for approval prior commencement.

A copy of the PP Plan and this approval must be submitted as part of the application form when the application is lodged.

Also note that submission of a PP Plan and approval thereof do not negate your responsibility to comply with the requirements for public participation in terms of Regulations 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended

Julliet Mahlangu  
Environmental Officer Specialised Production  
Chief Directorate Integrated Environmental Authorisation  
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment  
Cell: 064 880 8742  
Tel: (012) 399 9320





# 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:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/2162

**Enquiries:** Ms Julliet Mahlangu

**Telephone:** (012) 399 9320**E-mail:** [jmmahalngu@dff.gov.za](mailto:jmmahalngu@dff.gov.za)

Ms Jo-Anne Thomas  
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 148  
**SUNNINGHILL**  
2191

**Telephone Number:** 011 656 3237/3256/3251  
**Email Address:** [joanne@savannahsa.com](mailto:joanne@savannahsa.com)

## **PER MAIL / E-MAIL**

Dear Ms Thomas

### **COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED UMBILA EMOYENI ELECTRIC GRID INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated May 2022 and received by the Department on 13 May 2022, refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the Final Scoping Report:

#### **(a) Layout & Sensitivity Maps**

The layout map submitted under appendix of the SR does not show the location of the proposed Grid infrastructure and only shows the project area to be covered by the proposed Umbila Emoyeni Renewable Energy Project. Appendix 2 (1) (c) (i) requires that the SR must include a plan which locates the proposed activity or activities applied for at an appropriate scale, or, if it is a linear activity, a description and coordinates of the corridor in which the proposed activity or activities is to be undertaken. You are therefore requested to provide a layout map which indicates the following:

- location of the proposed grid infrastructure
- All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed);
- The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;
- Buffer areas; and
- All “no-go” areas.
- The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.
- Google maps will not be accepted.

#### **(b) Public Participation Process**

- Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department’s Biodiversity

Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the Final SR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

- A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&R 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. 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 I&AP’s comments.
- The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development; particularly the South African Astronomical Observatory, the Mpumalanga Environmental Department, the District and Local Municipalities.

### **(c) Specialist Assessments**

- Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of turbine positions, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.
- The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.
- Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
- It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. **Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.**

### **(d) Cumulative Assessment**

- Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:
  - Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
  - Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist’s recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
  - The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
  - A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

## **General**

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:

*“If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has 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”*

You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).

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



**Milicent Solomons**  
**Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
**Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**  
**Letter signed by: Dr Danie Smit**  
**Designation: Deputy Director: National Infrastructure Projects**  
**Date: 08/06/2022**

cc:	Mr Peter Carl Venn	Emoyeni Renewable Energy Farm	Email: <a href="mailto:Peter.venn@windlab.com">Peter.venn@windlab.com</a>
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