

Appendix C7
Meeting Notes



Savannah Public Process

From: Savannah Public Process
Sent: Wednesday, 22 June 2022 14:28
To: themba.ph@govanmbeki.gov.za; MMatlala Rabothata; MMatlala Rabothata; Jan Oliver (NR); John Geeringh; john.geeringh@eskom.co.za
Cc: Nondumiso Bulunga
Subject: SE3292: Ummbila Emoyeni Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities - KSW meeting notes
Attachments: SE3292-Ummbila Emoyeni Renewable Cluster KSW-FINAL.pdf

Dear Stakeholders,

Please find attached for your review and inputs the meeting notes of the Key Stakeholder Workshop held on Wednesday, 15 June 2022.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need any clarification or additional information.

Kind regards,



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Nicolene Venter

Public Participation and Social
Consultant

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

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**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES
FOR THE
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE UMBILA EMOYENI
RENEWABLE ENERGY WIND AND SOLAR PV FACILITIES, AND
GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA
PROVINCE**

Umbila Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility – DFFE Ref No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2160
Umbila Emoyeni Solar Energy Facility – DFFE Ref No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2161
Umbila Emoyeni Electrical Grid Infrastructure – DFFE Ref No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2162

**MEETING NOTES OF THE KEY STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 15 JUNE 2022 AT 11H00
VENUE: VIRTUAL MEETING, MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Nicolene Venter

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

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*Please note that these notes are not verbatim, but a summary of the comments submitted at the meeting.
Please address any comments to Savannah Environmental at the above address*

**UMMBILA EMOYENI CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY WIND AND SOLAR PV FACILITIES AND GRID
CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED BETWEEN BETHAL AND MORGENZON, MPUMALANGA
PROVINCES**

MEETING ATTENDEES

(Captured according to Organisation)

Name	Organisation	Position
Mmatlala Rabothata	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE): Directorate Biodiversity Conservation	Biodiversity Mainstreaming
John Geeringh	Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (Eskom)	Snr Environmental Advisor: Transmission Land & Rights
Themba Phungwayo	Govan Mbeki Local Municipality	Deputy Director: IDP, LED & PMS
Jan Olivier	South African National Roads Agency SOC Ltd (SANRAL)	Land Manager
Ben Brimble	Windlab Developments	Project Manager
Mmakoenla Mmola	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Nicolene Venter		Public Participation & Social Consultant

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Nicolene Venter welcomed the attendees at the Key Stakeholder Workshop (KSW) for the Umbila Emoyeni Cluster of Renewable Energy Wind and Solar PV Facilities and Grid Connection Infrastructure. After introducing herself, she requested the project team to introduce themselves to the stakeholders and thereafter requested the stakeholders to introduce themselves to the project team.

She presented the agenda and purpose of the meeting.

APOLOGIES

No apologies were presented.

A copy of the electronic Attendance Record is attached as **Appendix A** to the KSW notes.

BACKGROUND AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Mmakoena Mmola presented the following:

- project description for the proposed Umbila Emoyeni Cluster of Renewable Energy Wind and Solar PV Facilities and Grid Connection Infrastructure;
- the Scoping Phase and public participation processes followed to date;
- a summary of the key environmental findings as documented in the Scoping Reports; and
- the plan of study for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Phase.

Nicolene Venter informed the attendees that it is important to note that the public participation process is an ongoing process which commenced when site notices were erected at the project site and the Background Information Document (BID) was distributed to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), and is not only limited to the 30-day review and comment period of the various Reports as presented in the presentation. The public participation process is only concluded once registered I&APs are notified of the DFFE decision to issue an Environmental Authorisation (EA) for each project.

She ended the presentation by providing the way forward on the Scoping and consultation process.

The presentation is attached as **Appendix B** to the meeting notes.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Raised by	Question / Comment	Response
Mmatlala Rabothata	For clarification purposes, the presentation indicates the Scoping Reports review period as 12 May to 13 June 2022, although in a follow-up e-mail it was indicated that the review period is ending on Monday, 13 July 2022.	Nicolene Venter confirmed that the review period ended on Monday, 13 June 2022 and that the date as referred to in the e-mail mentioned was a typing error.
	Also, for clarification purposes, are the reports that require comment the draft Scoping Reports or the final Scoping Reports.	Nicolene Venter responded that as per the presentation, the draft Scoping Reports were made available for review and comment and that it is envisaged that the Final Scoping Reports will be submitted to the DFFE by end of June 2022. It was further mentioned that it is envisaged that the EIA Reports and EMPr will be made available for review and comment towards mid-or end of July 2022.
	It was commented that the DFFE: Biodiversity Conservation did not receive the notification of the	Mmakoena Mmola confirmed that the Directorate can submit their formal written comments on the final

Meeting Notes

Umbila Emoyeni Cluster of Renewable Energy Wind and Solar PV Facilities and Grid Connection Infrastructure, Mpumalanga Provinces

	<p>availability of the draft Scoping, but as they are now aware of the reports, that their Directorate will comment on the final Scoping Reports.</p>	<p>Scoping Reports, and these will be incorporated into the EIA Reports.</p>
<p>Jan Olivier</p>	<p>Where are the access points to the development sites from the national roads?</p>	<p>Mmakoena Mmola responded as follows by referencing the findings of the Traffic Assessment as documented in the Scoping Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should components be imported into the country, it will be via the Port of Richard's Bay. The route would follow the N2 north, passing through Pongola and Piet Retief before turning off on the N17 in Ermelo, leading to an unnumbered gravel road towards the proposed site. alternatively • -Alternatively, it will be via the Port of East London. The route would follow the N6 north-west to Bloemfontein before taking the N1 north-east to Johannesburg. From there the convoy would head east on the N12 and N17, passing through Bethal and then turn off on an unnumbered gravel road to the proposed site. • The third alternative would be the Port of Ngqura. The route would follow the N10 north up to Cradock before taking the R390 further north, passing through the town of Steynsburg and turning onto the N1 at Gariep. The route would then continue north-east along the N1, through Bloemfontein up to Johannesburg. From there, the vehicles would head east on the N12 and N17, passing through Bethal and then turn off on an unnumbered gravel road to the proposed site. <p>The proposed alternative routes and entry points to the development sites are indicated in Figures 8.19 to 8.21</p>

Meeting Notes

Umbhila Emoyeni Cluster of Renewable Energy Wind and Solar PV Facilities and Grid Connection Infrastructure,
Mpumalanga Provinces

		of the Scoping Report for the Wind Energy Facility.
Themba Phungwayo	The following will be commented on in the EIA Phase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-economic studies and related impacts. • Traffic studies and related impacts on the local road networks. • Bat species and their mitigation measures. Reference has been made to a wind energy project located in the Eastern Cape where the project was not granted an EA due to the impacts on Bats. 	The comment that Govan Mbeki LM will be submitting written comments on these environmental studies during the EIA Phase has been acknowledged.
	The contact details of Mr Ben Brimble were requested to discuss Local Economic Development (LED) on Provincial level as this discussion would not form part of the EIA process.	Ben Brimble confirmed the sharing of his contact details with Mr Phungwayo. Ben Brimble's e-mail address was forwarded to Mr Phungwayo on 20 June 2022.
John Geeringh	It was asked whether the developer is looking at establishing a new 400Kv Main Transmission Substation (MTS).	Ben Brimble responded that a new 400Kv MTS is part of this proposed development and would have the same scope as that of Eskom's Gamma MTS.
	It was requested that the proposed location of the 400Kv MTS be provided, and it was asked whether the proposed 400Kv MTS forms part of this EIA process.	Ben Brimble responded that a preliminary location will be included in the EIA Report for the Grid Connection Infrastructure and will be shared with Mr Geeringh. It was confirmed that the proposed 400Kv MTS is part of the EIA process.
	It was commented that should the 400Kv MTS be located in the middle of project site, access to the MTS could eliminate any other infrastructure developments in the area that would need to / want to link to the MTS.	Ben Brimble responded that further discussions regarding the location of the proposed 400Kv MTS will take place in due course as the current location might change after discussions with Eskom.
	It was recommended that a separate discussion regarding this matter, outside of the EIA process, be held with Eskom's planning team as they are aware of other interest in the area and would be able to optimise the proposed 400Kv MTS location.	Ben Brimble confirmed that Winlab would set up a meeting with Eskom in due course.

WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

The presentation was e-mailed to all attendees during the technical presentation.

Nicolene Venter reminded all present that the review period for the Scoping Reports ended on Monday, 13 June 2022 and that the reports are still available for download from Savannah Environmental's website, and that once the reports have been updated with written comments received during the 30-day review and comment period, the final Scoping Reports will be submitted to the DFFE for decision-making.

She thanked the participants for making time to attend the KSW and for their valuable inputs into the EIA and public participation process.

Ben Brimble thanked the participants for their time attending and participating in the KSW and stated that he is looking forward to their comments to ensure that all matters are addressed as early as possible in the EIA process.

The workshop was closed at 12h15.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BA	Basic Assessment	KSW	Key Stakeholder Workshop
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	LED	Local Economic Development
EA	Environmental Authorisation	LM	Local Municipality
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	MTS	Main Transmission Substation

APPENDIX A: Attendance Record	
Total Number of Participants	8
Meeting Title	SE3292: Umbila Emoyeni Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities - Invitation to Key Stakeholder Workshop
Meeting Start Time	6/15/2022, 10:54:20 AM
Meeting End Time	6/15/2022, 12:10:30 PM
Meeting Id	59225230-52e8-403e-8b9b-da024a99cb64
Attendees	Company / Organisation
Nicolene Venter	Savannah Environmental
Mmakoena Mmola	Savannah Environmental
Themba Phungwayo	Govan Mbeki Local Municipality
Jan Oliver	South African National Roads Agency
Ben Brimble	Windlab
Matlala Rabothata	DFFE: Biodiversity Conservation
John Geeringh	Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd

UMMBILA EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY, SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY (PV) AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Key Stakeholder Workshop
Wednesday, 15 June 2022



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AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction
- Meeting Conduct
- Purpose of the Meeting
- Project Overview
- Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Process
- Key Environmental Findings
- Way Forward
- Discussions



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MEETING CONDUCT

- Recording of the meeting
- Please stay on mute during the presentation
- Register attendance on chat function (name, surname, and affiliation)
- Equal opportunity
- Questions and comments can be submitted on the chat function during the presentation – team will respond after presentation
- Please hold all verbal questions until after the presentation
- Please raise your hand (virtual function) to ask a question and state your name



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PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Provide stakeholders & I&APs with an overview of the **Umbilla Emoyeni Renewable Energy Farm (separate projects)**
- Summary of the **Scoping & Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & Public Participation** being undertaken
- Present a summary of the key environmental findings as documented in the respective **Scoping Reports**
- Provide stakeholders the opportunity to seek clarity regarding the projects and their respective environmental studies, as well as the opportunity to provide valuable input into/to inform the EIA process
- Obtain and record comments for inclusion in the submissions to DFFE

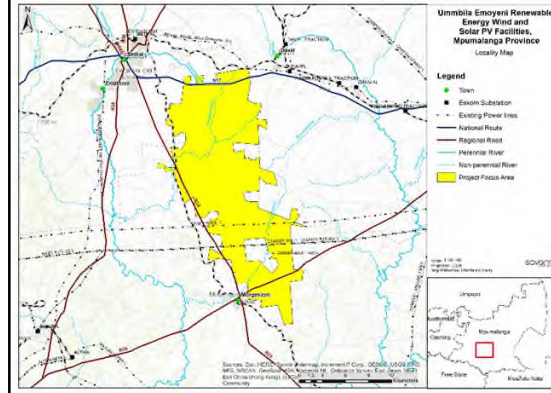


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PROJECT OVERVIEW (Mmakoena Mmola)

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LOCALITY MAP



- Cluster of renewable energy facilities, which include a 666MW Wind Energy Facility, 150MW Solar Energy Facility and a grid connection solution consisting of a 400/132kV Main Transmission Substation (MTS) and two 400kV loop-in loop-out power lines to the existing Camden-Sol 400kV transmission line.

- Located ~6km southeast of the town of Bethal in the Mpumalanga Province. The project site is located across the Govan Mbeki, Lekwa, and Msukaligwa Local Municipalities within the Gert Sibande District Municipality.

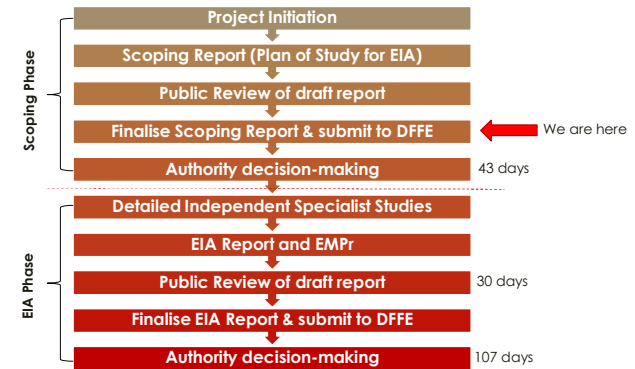
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COMPONENTS OF THE UMBILA EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY, SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE

Solar Energy Facility	Wind Energy Facility	Electrical Grid Infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PV modules in the range of 330Wp to 450Wp mounted on either a fixed tilt or single axis tracker structure, dependent on optimisation, technology available and cost. Inverters and transformers. 33kV cabling to connect to the onsite collector substation, to be laid underground where practical. 33kV/132kV onsite collector substation. 132kV overhead power line from the onsite collector substation to the MTS. Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). Cabling between turbines, to be laid underground where practical. Construction compounds including site office (approximately 300m x 300m in total but split into 3ha each of 150m x 200m): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction compound (temporary). Maintenance office. Access roads (up to 12m wide) and internal distribution roads (up to 12m wide). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 111 wind turbines with a maximum hub height of up to 200m. The tip height of the turbines will be up to 300m. 33kV cabling to connect the wind turbines to the onsite collector substations, to be laid underground where practical. 3 x 33kV/132kV onsite collector substation, each being 5ha. 3 x 132kV overhead power lines from the onsite collector substations to the MTS. Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). Cabling between turbines, to be laid underground where practical. Construction compounds including site office (approximately 300m x 300m in total but split into 3ha each of 150m x 200m): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Batching plant of up to 4ha to 7ha. 3 x O&M office of approximately 1.5ha each adjacent to each collector SS. 3 x construction compound / laydown area, including site office of 3ha each (150m x 200m each). Laydown and crane hardstand areas (approximately 75m x 120m). Access roads of 12-13m wide, with 12m at turning circles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new 400/132kV Main Transmission Substation (MTS), to be located on the Camden-SOL Lines. Two 400kV loop-in loop-out power lines to the existing Camden-Sol 400kV transmission line. On-site switching stations (132kV in capacity) at each renewable energy facility. 132kV power lines from the switching stations to a new MTS. Access roads up to 8m wide to the substation.

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SCOPING & EIA PROCESS & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



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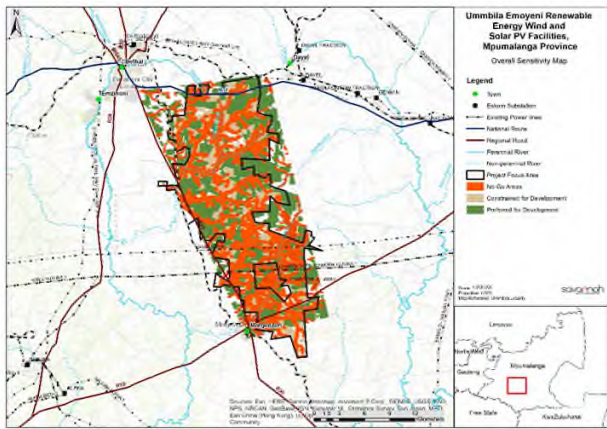
APPROACH TO SCOPING

- Identification of issues – social and biophysical environment
- Potential sensitive areas identified through specialist desktop and in-field studies
- Design of appropriate facility layout to be informed by sensitive areas identified through the EIA process. The facility layout will be presented and considered in the EIA Phase
- A revised application of the mitigation hierarchy (i.e., avoid, minimise, mitigate and offset)
- Any further micro-siting required to facility layout will be addressed in EIA Phase
- Prepare a Plan of Study for the EIA Phase

SPECIALIST STUDIES

Specialist	Area of Expertise
Gerhard Botha of Nkurenkuru Ecology and Biodiversity (Pty) Ltd	Ecology (Flora, Fauna and Freshwater)
Owen Davies of Arcus Consulting	Avifauna
Jonathan Aronson of Camissa	Bats
Andrew Husted of the Biodiversity Company	Soils and Agricultural Potential
Morné de Jager of Enviro-Acoustic Research	Noise
Jon Marshall of Environmental Planning & Design CC	Visual
Pierre van Jaarsveld of Urban-Econ Development Economist (Pty) Ltd	Socio-Economic
Jenna Lavin of CTS Heritage	Heritage (including Archaeology Palaeontology and Cultural Heritage)
Iris Wink of JG Afrika	Traffic

SENSITIVITY MAPPING (all projects)



SENSITIVITY MAPPING (all projects)

Restricted for Development (Highest Risk – No-go Areas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmed CBAs (Irreplaceable). • Freshwater resource features and the recommended freshwater buffers (100m buffer around exorheic features and 50m buffer around endorheic features). It should be noted that activities relating to route access and cabling are permitted within these features and their recommended buffers. • Farms dams, trees, buildings, rivers/streams, and wetlands (200m buffer inside which no turbines may be installed). • Historic farm werfs (1km buffer has been recommended around these sites). • Noise sensitive receptors (160m and 500m no-go buffer). • N17, R35, R39 (500m corridor).
Constrained for Development (Moderate to High Risk)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary grassland. • CBA Optimal. • Ecological Support Area (ESA) landscape corridor. • ESA local corridor. • Other Natural Areas.
Preferred for development (Lowest Risk)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural/cultivated areas. • Areas with infrastructure. • Secondary grassland. • Moderately and heavily modified land. • Valley side slopes.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS IDENTIFIED (all projects)

	Scoping of Issues
Impacts on Ecology (fauna & flora)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts on vegetation and protected plant species Direct faunal impacts Soil erosion and associated degradation of ecosystems Alien plant invasion Impacts on Critical Biodiversity Areas and Broad-Scale Ecological Processes
Impacts on Freshwater Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased loss of soil. Loss of/disturbance to indigenous wetland vegetation. Loss of sensitive wetland habitats. Loss or disturbance to individuals of rare, endangered, endemic and/or protected species that occur in wetlands. Fragmentation of sensitive habitats. Impairment of wetland function. Change in channel morphology in downstream wetlands, potentially leading to further loss of wetland vegetation. Reduction in water quality in wetlands downstream.
Impacts on Bats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modification of bat foraging/commuting habitat. Destruction of/Disturbance to bat roosts. Bat mortality. Disturbance to bats. Barrier effects. Polarized light pollution.

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS IDENTIFIED (all projects)

	Scoping of Issues
Impacts of Avifauna	<p>Construction Phase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct Habitat Destruction – modification, removal and clearing of vegetation for development of infrastructure such as temporary laydown areas, site buildings, solar PV arrays, access roads and servitudes. Disturbance/Displacement – indirect habitat loss and/or reduced breeding success due to displacement by noise and activity associated with machinery and construction activity. Direct Mortality – fatalities of avifauna due to vehicle collision, entrapment, entanglement, or collision with temporary infrastructure (e.g., fencing), entrapment in uncovered excavations and increased predation pressure. <p>Operational Phase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct Habitat Destruction – Contamination of habitats due to routine operational maintenance activity (e.g., cleaning of solar PV arrays). Disturbance/Displacement – indirect habitat loss, reduced breeding success, obstruction of movement corridors due to displacement by infrastructure and noise/activity associated with ongoing, routine operational tasks/maintenance activity; and Direct Mortality – fatalities of avifauna due to collision with solar PV arrays and wind turbines, collision or entrapment with perimeter fencing, collision with overhead power lines, and electrocution from electrical components.
Impacts on Agricultural Potential and Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The primary impact on soils expected to be associated with the proposed developments is compaction/soil stripping/transformation of land use, which leads to loss of land capability.
Impacts on Heritage (Cultural Landscape, Archaeology and Palaeontology)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct impact to archaeological heritage of scientific significance. Direct impact to palaeontological heritage of scientific significance. Indirect impact to significance of cultural landscapes.

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS IDENTIFIED (all projects)

	Scoping of Issues
Impacts on Visual Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential change to the rural landscape. Potential visual impacts as experienced by visitors to the Rietvlei Reserve. Potential visual impacts as experienced by visitors to the Silver Stream Reserve. Potential visual impacts as experienced by users of adjacent local roads particularly users of the N17, the R35, the R38 and the R39. Potential visual impacts as experienced by residents of homesteads. Potential visual impacts as experienced by residents of local settlements particularly residents on the south-eastern edge of Bethal and the north-western edge of Morgenster. Potential Shadow Flicker impacts particularly affecting local homesteads.
Impacts on Sensitive Noise Receptors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased noises or disturbing noises may increase annoyance levels with project. Noise levels could exceed 45 dBA during construction.
Impacts on Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential traffic congestion and delays on the surrounding road network. The associated noise, dust and exhaust pollution due to the increase in traffic.
Impacts on the Socio-Economic Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary stimulation of the national and local economy (GDP and Production). Increase in employment in the national and local economies. Contribution to skills development in the country and local economy. Increase in household earnings and improved standards of living for benefiting households. Increase in national and local government revenue. Negative changes to the sense of place. Temporary increase in social conflicts associated with the influx of people. Impacts on daily movement patterns. Sustainable rental revenue for farms where the wind farm is located. Sustainable increase in electricity available for the local region and South Africa. Negative impact on agricultural operations.

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PLAN OF STUDY FOR THE EIA PHASE

- The Plan of Study for EIA is intended to provide a summary of the key findings of the Scoping Phase and to describe the activities to be undertaken in the EIA Phase of the EIA process.
- Based on the findings of the Scoping assessment, the following further investigations within the EIA Phase are required:**
 - Ecological Impact Assessment (including flora, fauna and freshwater)
 - Avifauna Impact Assessment
 - Bat Impact Assessment (informed by monitoring)
 - Soils and Agricultural Potential Impact Assessment
 - Noise Impact Assessment
 - Visual Impact Assessment
 - Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
 - Heritage Impact Assessment (including archaeology, palaeontology and cultural heritage)
 - Traffic Impact Assessment

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WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE (Nicolene Venter)



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WAY FORWARD

- Scoping Report review period: **12 May 2022 – 13 June 2022** (can be downloaded from the Savannah Environmental website)
- Final Scoping Report to be submitted to DFFE – June 2022
- EIA & EMPr for review – envisaged July 2022 (TBC)
- Our Public Participation team is available to answer any questions on the development and register you as an I&AP so that you can receive important project information as it becomes available.



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WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Nicolene Venter

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www.savannahSA.com



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**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES
FOR THE
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE UMBILA EMOYENI
RENEWABLE ENERGY WIND AND SOLAR PV FACILITIES, AND
GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA
PROVINCE**

Umbila Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility – DFFE Ref No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2160
Umbila Emoyeni Solar Energy Facility – DFFE Ref No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2161
Umbila Emoyeni Electrical Grid Infrastructure – DFFE Ref No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2162

**MEETING NOTES OF LANDOWNER'S (Southern Section) INFORMATION
MEETING**

**HELD ON TUESDAY, 14 JUNE 2022 AT 10H00
VENUE: FARM ROODEKRANS, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Nicolene Venter

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

*Please note that these notes are not verbatim, but a summary of the comments submitted at the meeting.
Please address any comments to Savannah Environmental at the above address*

**UMMBILA EMOYENI CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES AND GRID CONNECTION
INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED BETWEEN BETHAL AND MORGENZON, MPUMALANGA PROVINCES**

MEETING ATTENDEES

(Captured according to Surname)

Name	Organisation
JP Swart	Farm Roodekrans
Johan Swart	Farm Roodekrans
Corné Swart	
Louis du Pisanie	Farm Maisefield
Nicolene Venter	Savannah Environmental

APOLOGIES

- Wiekie Erasmus
- Almero du Pisanie

A copy of the signed Attendance Record is attached as **Appendix A** to the Meeting Notes.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Nicolene Venter welcomed the attendees at the Landowners Information Meeting for the Umbila Emoyeni Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities (Wind and Solar Energy Facilities) and Grid Connection Infrastructure.

She informed the attendees that the purpose of the meeting was to present the cluster of renewable projects, including the grid connection infrastructure, currently proposed and to obtain any comments and/or concerns that they, as adjacent landowners, might have at this stage for consideration in the impact phase of the projects. It was also mentioned that it is important to obtain as much local knowledge as possible for inclusion in the process, thereby allowing the decision-making authority, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), to make an informed decision.

BACKGROUND AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Nicolene Venter presented the list of the various environmental studies being undertaken and informed the attendees that the results of the studies as documented in the Scoping Reports are mostly desk-top based.

She informed the attendees that it is important to note that the public participation process is an ongoing process which commenced when site notices were erected at the project area and with the distribution of the Background Information Document (BID), and that the comments, concerns and issues raised at this meeting will be included in the final Scoping Reports that will be submitted to the DFFE for their review and acceptance.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Raised by	Question / Comment	Response
The following are collective questions and comments raised by the attendees.	It was asked why the properties located in the centre of the Southern Landowners' Map are excluded for development.	<p><u>Post-meeting note provided by Mmakoena Mmola</u></p> <p>The properties located in the centre of the Southern Landowner's Map are excluded for development as there are no agreements in place with these landowners to undertake the S&EIA process for the proposed projects over their properties.</p>
	How many hectares would be taken up by the WEFs and SEFs respectively?	<p><u>Post-meeting note provided by Mmakoena Mmola</u></p> <p>The exact footprints of the Wind Energy Facility and Solar Energy Facility are not available at this stage. The footprints will however be included in the EIA Reports to be prepared as part of the EIA Phase of the process.</p>
	<p>The following maps have been requested to enable the landowners to comment meaningful regarding the proposed projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locality of the SEFs • Locality of the WEFs • Access roads • Substation locations 	<p>Nicolene Venter responded that the preliminary layouts for the renewable energy facilities and grid connection infrastructure are not available at this stage. Once these maps are available, they will be e-mailed to the landowners.</p>
	<p>The request for information regarding access roads has been raised as these access roads could traverse their properties and could have a negative impact on the infrastructures on the properties.</p> <p>It was requested that existing roads be considered for access to the development sites.</p>	<p><u>Post-meeting note provided by Mmakoena Mmola</u></p> <p>Access to the project site is ample with the presence of existing roads mainly consisting of national and regional roads. The project site is situated directly adjacent to the N17 and near the N2 and N11 national road, which provides access to the project site and development area. Transport of components would be routine via the N2 highway from the Richards Bay deep-water port, via Ermelo.</p> <p>Wherever possible, existing access roads will be utilised to access the project site and development area. It is unlikely that access roads will need to be upgraded as part of the proposed development. Internal roads of up to 12-13m in width will be required to access each turbine, the</p>

		<p>solar panels and the on-site substations.</p> <p>For the grid connection infrastructure, where necessary, new access roads (up to 12 wide) will be established to provide access to the Main Transmission Substation (MTS). During construction, a permanent access road along the length of the power line corridor (300m wide) between 4 -6m wide will be established to allow for large crane movement. This track will then be utilised for maintenance during operation.</p> <p>The preliminary layouts for the renewable energy facilities and grid connection infrastructure, including the proposed access roads, will be distributed to the landowners once available.</p>
	<p>It was requested where will water be sourced from for construction and the cleaning of the solar panels.</p>	<p><u>Post-meeting note provided by Mmakoena Mmola</u> Either via borehole / municipal / dam or a combination of all 3 will be used to provide water. Should water availability at the time of construction and operation be limited, water will be transported to site via water tanks. Water will be used for sanitation and potable water on site as well as construction works. Water will be also used to clean the solar panels during the operational phase of facility.</p>
	<p>How deep would the underground cable be as the agricultural activities on the properties need to be taken into consideration i.e. planning and harvesting activities need to be taken into consideration?</p>	<p><u>Post-meeting note provided by Mmakoena Mmola</u> The cabling associated with the renewable energy facilities will be installed at a depth of up to 1.5m. Where not technically feasible to place cabling underground, this will be installed above-ground. The cabling will have a capacity of 33kV and will connect the turbines and solar panels to their respective on-site substations.</p>
	<p>It was recommended that the construction of the infrastructures need to take place during the dry</p>	<p><u>Post-meeting note provided by Mmakoena Mmola</u></p>

	season and farming activities must also be taken into consideration.	This comment is noted and will be included in the project EMPs for implementation during the construction phase.
	What impact would the Wake Effect have on climate change?	<u>Post-meeting note provided by Mmakoena Mmola</u> Based on current knowledge, the wake effect has no impact on climate change. The wake effect is the aggregated influence on the energy production of the wind farm, which results from the changes in wind speed caused by the impact of the turbines on each other.
	What is the size of each of the wind turbines?	<u>Post-meeting note provided by Mmakoena Mmola</u> Each wind turbine will have a hub height of 200m, a tip height of 300m and a rotor diameter between 150 – 200m. Individual turbines will have a capacity between 6MW and 15MW.
	It was recommended that the DMRE be consulted to ascertain which of the affected and adjacent properties have mining rights.	Nicolene Venter responded that the DMRE is a key stakeholder on the project and that information on whether any of the affected and adjacent properties have mining rights will be requested in writing.
	A list of affected and adjacent landowners was requested to assist with the grouping of landowners for the upcoming meetings in the impact phase.	Nicolene Venter responded that a landowner's map will be shared with the attendees and thanked them for assisting in grouping the landowners for the meetings to be conducted either prior to the EIA Reports' review period or meetings to be conducted during the EIA Reports' review period.

WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

Nicolene Venter thanked the attendees for making time available during the harvesting season to attend the meeting and also for the valuable information received. She reiterated that it is important to obtain local knowledge as part of the EIA process.

The meeting closed at 11h15.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

DMRE	Department of Mineral Resources and Energy	SEF	Solar Energy Facilities
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	WEF	Wind Energy Facilities

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

**ATTENDANCE AT THE LANDOWNERS' INFORMATION MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE
UMMBILA EMOYENI RENEWABLE ENERGY WIND AND SOLAR PV FACILITIES AND GRID CONNECTION
INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, 14 June 2022

MEETING TIME: 10h00

MEETING VENUE: Farm Roodekrans

ATTENDEE:

NAME & SURNAME:

MOBILE NUMBER:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

SIGNATURE:

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