

# FINAL BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

## APPENDIX F

### Public Participation

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

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APPENDICES

Final Basic Assessment Report: Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

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## F.1 COPY OF SITE NOTICE BOARDS

### F.1.1 Copy of English Site Notice

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR THE BASIC ASSESSMENT AND APPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL WATER ACT, THE MINERAL PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT AND THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 132 KV OVERHEAD POWER LINE AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED VHUVHILI SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR SECUNDA IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.**

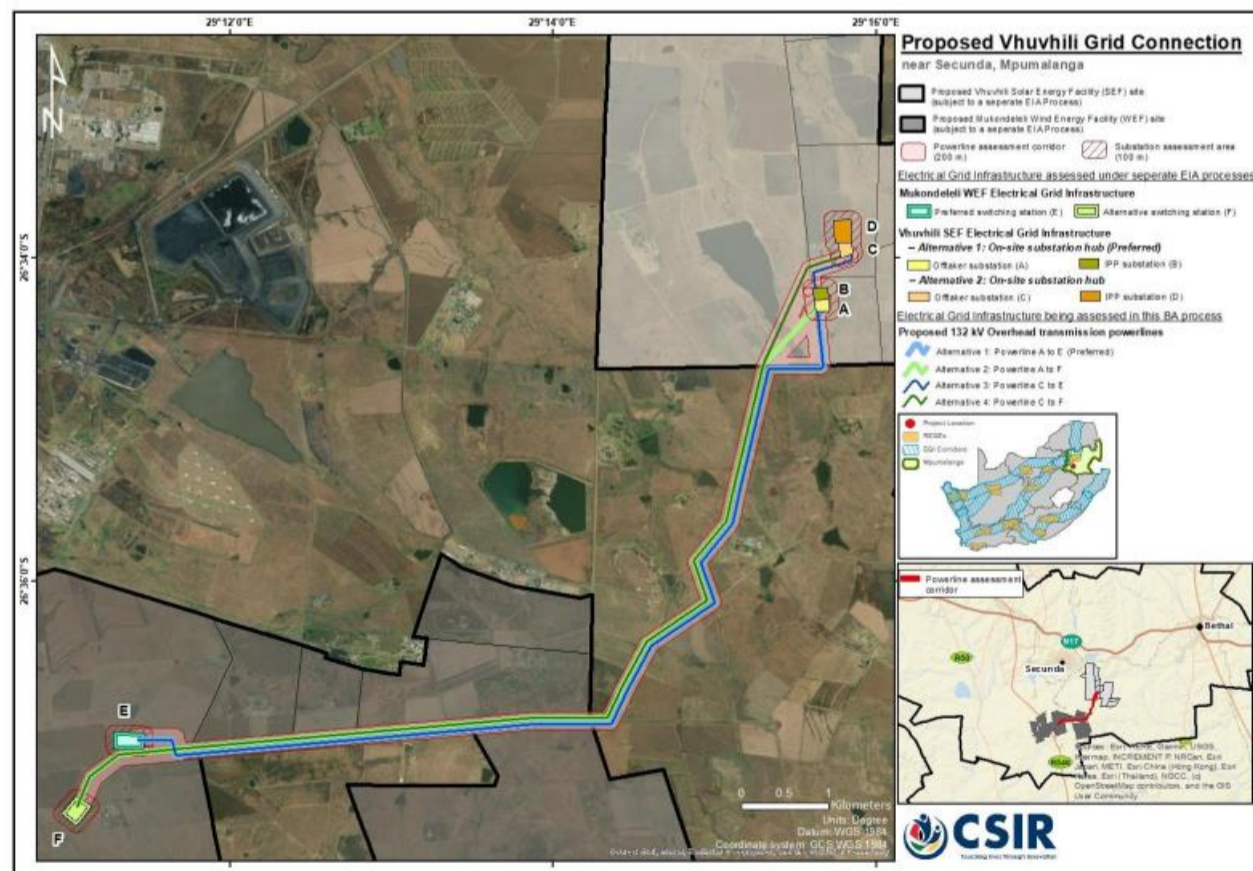
Notice is hereby given that Vhuvhili Solar RF (Pty) Ltd ("The Applicant") is proposing to develop a 132 kV overhead power line, which will extend approximately 12 km, and associated Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) to support the proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility (SEF) near Secunda, in the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality and the Gert Sibande District Municipality in the Mpumalanga Province. A Basic Assessment (BA) is being undertaken to assess the proposed 132 kV overhead power line and associated EGI which will transmit electricity from the on-site substation at the proposed Vhuvhili SEF to a switching substation at the proposed Mukondeleli Wind Energy Facility (WEF). From there the electricity will be fed into the Sasol grid at the Secunda Synfuels facility to produce green hydrogen, or alternatively the electricity will be fed into the national electrical grid as part of South Africa's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme. The project comprises associated infrastructure which includes pylons, busbar foundations and connections, access roads and temporary laydown areas. The proposed Vhuvhili SEF and on-site substation are subject to a separate Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process (NEAS: MPP/EIA/0001063/2022). The proposed Mukondeleli WEF and on-site switching station are also subject to a separate S&EIA process (NEAS: MPP/EIA/0001099/2022).

The BA process assesses four alternative power line routings with a corridor width of 200 m (please refer to Figure 1). The following farm portions will be affected by the proposed Vhuvhili power line and associated EGI project:

- Portion 20 of Farm Grootvlei No. 293;
- Remaining Extent (RE) of Farm Grootvlei No. 584;
- RE of Farm Vlakspruit No.292;
- Portions 2, 3, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 19 of Farm Vlakspruit No. 292;
- RE of Farm Knoppiesfontein No. 313;
- RE of Farm Knoppies No. 314;
- Portion 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of Farm Brandwacht No. 316;
- Portion 6, 10, 11 and 13 of Farm Bosjesspruit No. 291; and
- Portion 2 and 12 of Farm Tondershoek No. 317.

The proposed project triggers various activities listed in GN R327 (Listing Notice (LN) 1) and GN R324 (LN 3) under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998), as amended (NEMA) EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. GN R327 (LN1) Activity 11 serves as the main activity for the proposed project. Please note that comment regarding the proposed project will also be sought from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999). The BA process will also confirm the need for a Water Use Licence or General Authorisation (as applicable) in accordance with the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), as amended. In addition, meaningful consultation is also required in terms of Section 53 of the Mineral Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002).

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been appointed to undertake and manage the BA process for the proposed project on behalf of the Project Applicant. Should you be interested in registering as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP) and to provide comments on the proposed project you are kindly requested to e-mail your name and contact details, with an indication of any direct, business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the application, to the Project Manager at the CSIR: Minnelise Levendal (Tel: 083 309 8159); E-mail: [ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za) (with "Vhuvhili EGI BA" as the subject line); Postal address: PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599.



**Figure 1:** Layout map of the proposed four power line routing alternatives from the Vhuvhili SEF on-site substation to the Mukondeleli WEF switching station. The preferred infrastructure is power line routing Alternative 1 which connects Vhuvhili SEF on-site substation hub A-B to the Mukondeleli WEF switching station E. The proposed power line routing alternative to be constructed will be determined based on the final authorised location of the proposed Vhuvhili SEF on-site substation and the proposed Mukondeleli WEF switching station.



F.1.2 Copy of Afrikaans Site Notice

**KENNISGEWING VAN OPENBARE PUBLIEKE DEELNAME PROSES VIR DIE BASIESE EVALUERINGSPROSES IN TERME VAN DIE NASIONALE OMGEWINGSBESTUURSWET EN AANSOEKE IN TERME VAN DIE NASIONALE WATER WET, DIE WET OP NASIONALE ERFENISHULPBRONNE EN DIE WET OP DIE ONTWIKKELING VAN MINERALE EN PETROLEUM HULPBRONNE VIR DIE VOORGESTELDE ONTWIKKELING VAN 'N 132 KV KRAGLYN EN MEEGAANDE ELEKTRIESE NETWERK INFRASTRUKTUUR (EGI) OM DIE VOORGESTELDE VHUVHILI PHOTOVOLTAÏSE (PV) SON ENERGIE PROJEK TE ONDERSTEUN, NABY SECUNDA IN DIE MPUMALANGA PROVINSIE.**

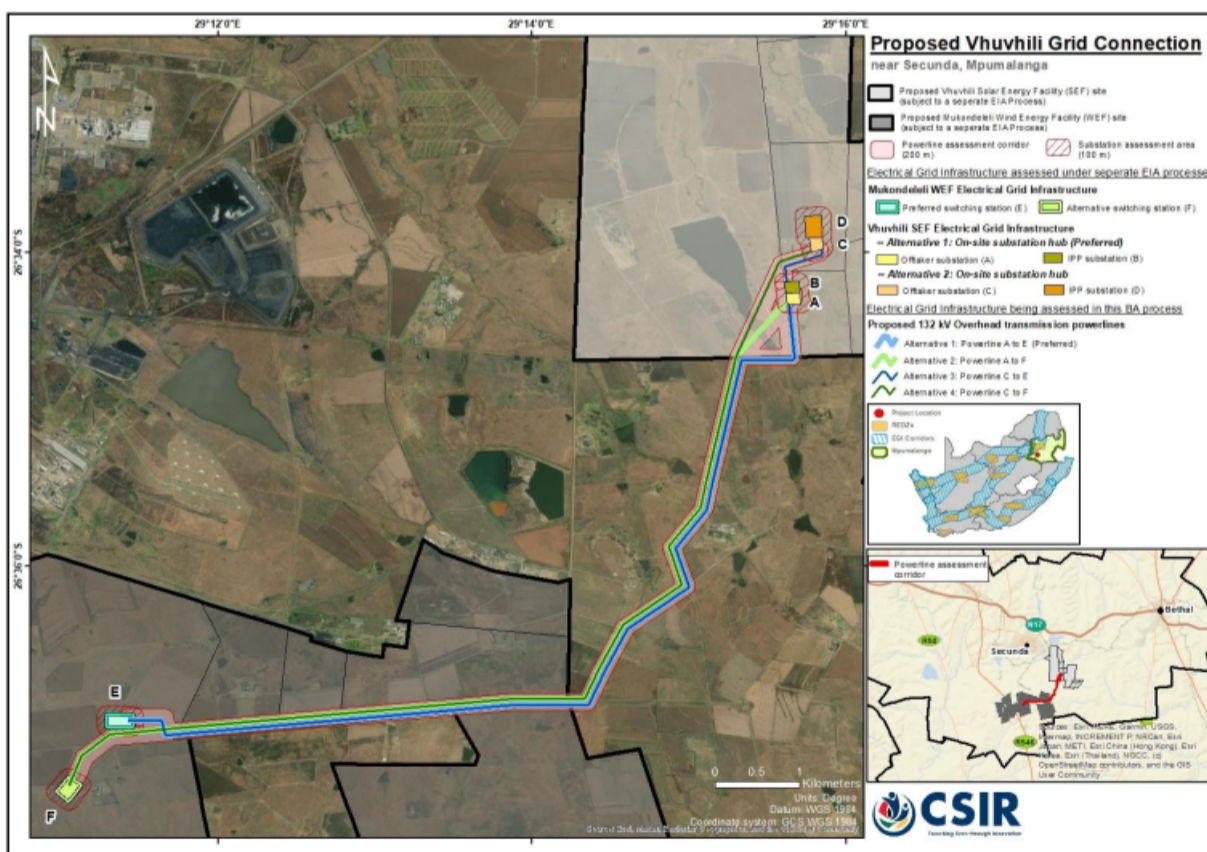
Hiermee word kennis gegee dat Vhuvhili Solar RF Eiendoms Beperk ("Die Aansoeker") van voorneme is om 'n 132 kV kraglyn, wat ongeveer 12 km sal strek, en meegaande EGI te ontwikkel om die voorgestelde Vhuvhili PV projek te ondersteun, naby Secunda in die Govan Mbeki Plaaslike Munisipaliteit en die Gert Sibande Distrikmunisipaliteit in die Mpumalanga Provinsie. 'n Basiese Evalueringsproses (BA) word onderneem om die voorgestelde 132 kV oorhoofse kraglyn en meegaande EGI te assesseer wat elektrisiteit sal vervoer vanaf die voorgestelde Vhuvhili PV substasie na die substasie by die voorgestelde Mukondeleli Wind Energie Fasiliteit (WEF). Vanaf die Mukondeleli WEF substasie sal die elektrisiteit in die elektriese netwerk by Sasol Secunda gevoer word vir die vervaardiging van groen Waterstof ("green Hydrogen"), of dit sal in die nasionale elektriese netwerk gevoer word as deel van Suid-Afrika se hernubare energie program. Die voorgestelde Vhuvhili PV fasiliteit en meegaande substasie is onderhewig aan 'n aparte Bestek en Omgewingsimpakstudie ("EIA") (NEAS: MPP/EIA/0001063/2022). Die voorgestelde Mukondeleli WEF en meegaande substasie is ook onderhewig aan 'n aparte EIA (NEAS: MPP/EIA/0001099/2022).

Die BA proses evalueer vier alternatiewe kraglynroetes met 'n korridor breedte van 200 m (verwys asseblief na Figuur 1). Die volgende plaas gedeeltes sal geaffekteer word deur die voorgestelde Vhuvhili kraglyn en EGI projek:

- Gedeelte 20 van Plaas Grootvlei Nr. 293;
- Restant (RES) van Plaas Grootvlei Nr. 584;
- RES van Plaas Vlakspruit Nr.292;
- Gedeeltes 2, 3, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 en 19 van Plaas Vlakspruit Nr. 292;
- RES van Plaas Knoppiesfontein Nr. 313;
- RES van Plaas Knoppies Nr. 314;
- Gedeeltes 3, 6, 7, 8 en 9 van Plaas Brandwacht Nr. 316;
- Gedeeltes 6, 10, 11 en 13 van Plaas Bosjesspruit Nr. 291; en
- Gedeeltes 2 en 12 van Plaas Tondershoek Nr. 317.

Die voorgestelde projek aktiveer verskeie aktiwiteite gelys in GN R327 (LN 1) en GN R324 (LN 3) onder die Nasionale Omgewingsbestuurswet, 1998 (Wet Nr.107 van 1998), soos gewysig (NEMA) Omgewingsimpakstudie Regulasies, 2014, soos gewysig. Aktiwiteit 11 van GN R327 (LN1) dien as die hoof aktiwiteit vir die voorgestelde kraglyn projek. Let wel, kommentaar op die voorgestelde projek sal ook versoek word vanaf die Suid Afrikaanse Erfenis Bronne Genootskap ["South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)"] ingevolge die Wet op Nasionale Erfenishulpbronne, 1999 (Wet Nr. 25 van 1999). Die BA studie sal ook bevestig indien 'n aansoek ingedien moet word vir 'n Waterverbruikers Lisensie of 'n Algemene Goedkeuring in terme van die Nasionale Water Wet, 1998 (Wet Nr. 36 van 1998), soos gewysig. Betekenisvolle konsultasie sal ook onderneem word soos vereis in terme van Afdeling 53 van die Wet op die Ontwikkeling van Minerale en Petroleum Hulpbronne, 2002 (Wet Nr. 28 van 2002) ("MPRDA").

Die Wetenskaplike Nywerheids- en Navorsingsraad (WNNR) ("CSIR") is aangestel om die BA proses te behartig en te bestuur vir die voorgestelde Vhuvhili kraglyn projek namens die aansoeker. Sou u belangstel om te registreer as 'n Geïnteresseerde en/of Belanghebbende Party (G&BP), en om kommentaar te lewer op die voorgestelde projek, word u vriendelik versoek om u naam en kontakbesonderhede te epos, asook 'n aanduiding van enige direkte besigheid, finansiële, persoonlike of ander redes vir u moontlike belangstelling in die aansoek, na die Projek Bestuurder by die WNNR: Minnelise Levendal (Selfoon nr: 083 309 8159); e-pos: [ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za) (met "Vhuvhili Kraglyn BA" as die onderwerp); Pos adres: Posbus 320, Stellenbosch, 7599.



**Figuur 1:** Ligging van die voorgestelde vier alternatiewe kraglynroetes vanaf die Vhuvhili SEF-substasie na die Mukondeleli WEF-substasie. Die voorkeur infrastruktuur is kraglyn roete Alternatief 1 wat vanaf Vhuvhili SEF-substasie A-B na die Mukondeleli WEF-substasie E strek. Die voorgestelde kraglyn roete alternatief wat gebou gaan word sal gebaseer word op die ligging van die voorgestelde Vhuvhili SEF-substasie en die voorgestelde Mukondeleli WEF-substasie wat goedgekeur gaan word.



F.1.3 Copy of Afrikaans Site Notice

**ISAZISO SOQHUBO LOKUBAMBA IQHAZA NJENGOMPHAKATHI NGOKUHLOLA NGOKWEZEMVELO KANYE NEZICELO MAYELANA NOMTHETHO KAZWELONKE WAMANZI, UMTHETHO WOKUTHUTHUKISWA KWEZINCEBISO ZIKAPETROLI KANYE NOMTHETHO KAZWELONKE WEZINCEDO ZAMAGUGU NGOKWAKHIWA KWENTAMBO KAGESI EHLONGOZWAYO ENGU 132 KV KANYE NENGQALASIZINDA YEGRIDI KAGESI EHLANGANISIWE UKUSEKELA ISIKHUNGO ESIPHEHLA UGESI NGELANGA, IVHUVHILI, EHLONGOZIWE, DUZE NE-SECUNDA ESIFUNDAZWENI SEMPUMALANGA.**

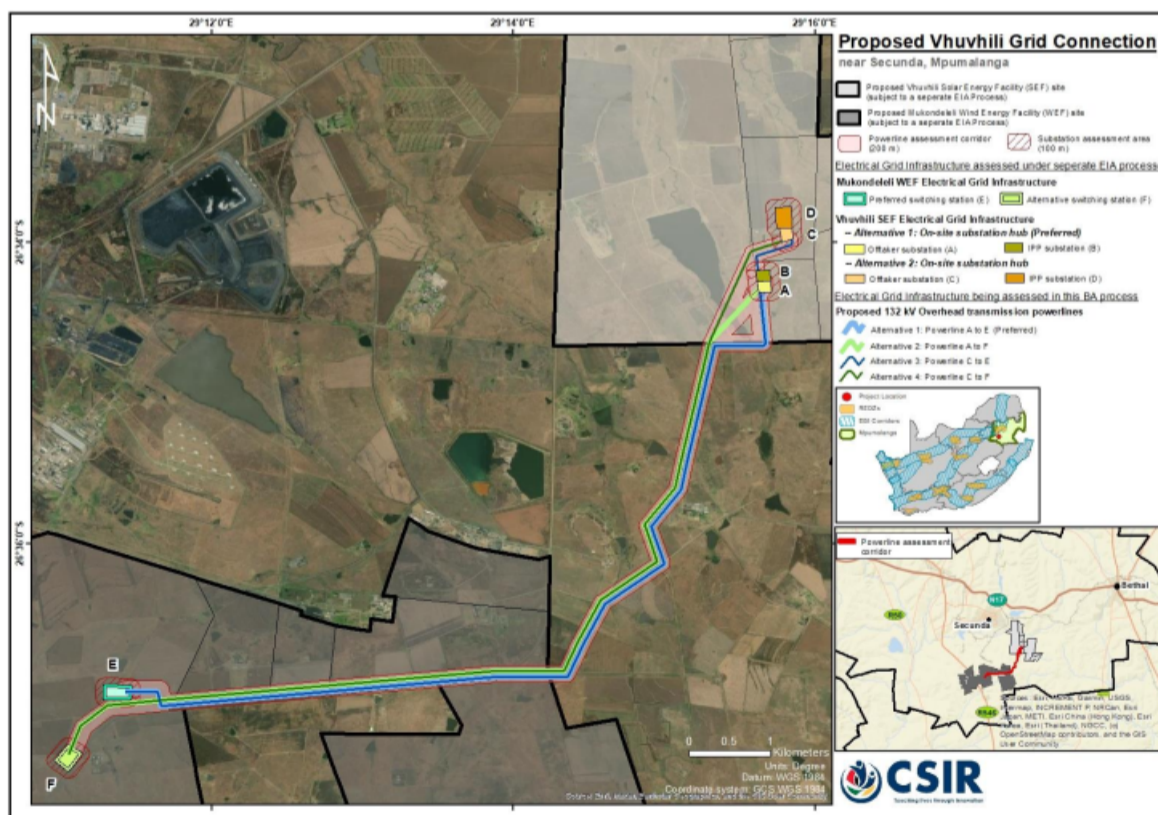
Isaziso siyanikezwa ngokuba iVhuvhili Solar RF (Pty) Ltd ("Umfakisicelo") uhlongoza ukwakha ulayini odlulisa ugesi ofika kwinqanaba elingu 132 kV, ozoba amakhilomitha angu 12, kanye nengqalasisizinda ye-gridi kagesi (EGI) ehlanganisiwe ukusekela isikhungo esiphehla ugesi ngelanga, i-Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility (SEF), ehlongoziwe eduze nase Secunda, kuMasipala Wasekhaya i-Govan Mbeki kanye noMasipala Wesifunda sase-Gert Sibande esifundazweni saseMpumalanga. Kwenziwa uhlolo ngokwemvelo okuyisisekelo (BA) ukuze kuhlolwe intambo kagesi ehlongozwayo engu-132 kV kanye ne-EGI ehambisanayo ezodlulisa ugesi usuka esiteshini se-Vhuvhili SEF ehlongoziwe uyiswe esiteshini esishintshayo esikhungweni esihlongozwayo i-Mukondeleli Wind Energy Facility (WEF). Ukusuka lapho ugesi uzofakwa kugridi yakwa-Sasol esikhungweni sase-Secunda Synfuels ukuze kukhiqizwe i-hydrogen eluhlaza, noma okanye ugesi uzofakwa kugridi kagesi kazwelonke njengengxenywe yoHlelo Lokutholakala Kwamandla Avuselelekayo Kubakhiqizi Bagesi Abazimele lwaseNingizimu Afrika. Le phrojekthi ihlanganisa ingqalasisizinda ehambisanayo ehlanganisa izigxobo zikagesi, izintambo zokuxhuma ugesi, imigwaqo yokungena kanye nezindawo zesikhashana zokubeka imishini nezimpahla. I-Vhuvhili SEF ehlongozwayo kanye nesiteshi sokushinsha kungaphansi kwenqubo ehlukelele yokubika ngemithetho yezemvelo (S&EIA) (NEAS: MPP/EIA/0001063/2022). I-WEF yaseMukondeleli ehlongozwayo kanye nesiteshi sokushintshwa esisendaweni nakho kungaphansi kwenqubo ehlukelele ye-S&EIA (NEAS: MPP/EIA/0001099/2022).

Inqubo ye-BA ihlola ezinye izindlela ezine zezintambo zikagesi ezinobubanzi obungama-200 m (sicela ubhekisele kuMfanekiso 1). Izingxenywe zepulazi ezilandelayo zizothintwa intambo kagesi yakwa-Vhuvhili ehlongozwayo kanye nephrojekthi ye-EGI ehlobene:

- Inqubo ye-BA yePulazi 293;
- Izinga Elisele (RE) lePulazi Grootvlei 584;
- RE lePulazi Vlakspruit 292;
- Izingxenywe 2, 3, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 kanye no 19 zePulazi Vlakspruit 292;
- RE lePulazi Knoppiesfontein 313;
- RE lePulazi Knoppies 314;
- Izingxenywe 3, 6, 7, 8 kanye no 9 zePulazi Brandwacht 316;
- Izingxenywe 6, 10, 11 kanye no 13 zePulazi Bosjesspruit 291; kanye
- Inqubo ye-BA yePulazi Tondershoek 317.

Le projekthi ithinta uhlu lwezikhombo ezahlukahlukeni ngokoMthetho Wokuphathwa Kwemvelo Kazwelonke (uMthetho 107 ka-1998) (NEMA) (njengoba uchitshiyelwe), ngokweMthetho ngqubo yokuHlola Umthelela kwezemvelo ka 2014 (2014 EIA Regulations), njengoba uchitshiyelwe. Isihlu esiyinhloko kulephrojekthi ehlongozwayo yilesi sika GN R327 (LN1) Umsebenzi we-11. Uyaziswa ukuba imibono izocelwa kuMnyango Wamagugu ngokoMthetho Wemithombo Yamagugu Kazwelonke (uMthetho 25 ka-1999). Uqhubo lwe BA luzophinde luqinisekise isidingo sokuGunyazwa Okujwayelekile (GA) noma seLayisense Yokusebenzisa Amanzi (WUL) ngokoMthetho Wamanzi Kazwelonke ka-1998 (uMthetho 36 ka-1998), njengoba uchitshiyelwe. Ukwengeza, ukubonisana okuphusile nakho kuyadingeka ngokweSigaba 53 soMthetho Wokuthuthukiswa Kwemithombo YeziMbiwa Phansi, ka-2002 (uMthetho 28 ka-2002)

I-Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) iqokwe ukuba iphathe inqubo ye-BA yephrojekthi ehlongozwayo egameni lomfakisicelo wephrojekthi. Abantu abafisa ukubhalisa ngokusemthethweni njengababambe iqhaza ukuze babeke imibono yabo mayelana neprojekthi ehlongozwayo bayacelwa ukuba bathumele imininingwane yabo egcwele kanye nenkomba yanoma iyiphi intshisekelo eqondile, yebhizinisi, yezezimali, yomuntu siqu noma enye intshisekelo ongaba nayo esicelweni ku-Mphathi woQhubo e-CSIR: Minnelise Levendal (Inombolo: 083 309 8159); i-Imeyili: [ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za) (ubhale u "Vhuvhili EGI BA" njengesihloko); Ikheli: PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599.



**Umfanekiso 1:** Imephu ekhombisa izindlela ezine zomzila wamandla kagesi ukusuka esiteshini se Vhuvhili SEF ukuya esiteshini esishintshayo se-WEF iMukondeleli. Ingqalasisizinda ekhethwayo umzila kagesi i-Alternative 1 exhumanisa i-Vhuvhili SEF esiteshini se-Vhuvhili A-B esiteshini esishintshayo se-WEF saseMukondeleli E. Enye indlela ehlongozwayo yomzila kagesi ezokwakhiswa izonqunywa ngokusekelwe endaweni yokugcina egunyaziwe yesiteshi se-Vhuvhili SEF ehlongozwayo kanye nesiteshi sokushintsha saseMukondeleli WEF esihlongozwayo



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## **F.2 PROOF OF PLACEMENT OF SITE NOTICE BOARDS**

### **F.2.1 Site Notice Board Placement for the Proposed Project**

#	Locality/ Description	Co-ordinates
1	On the fence at the entrance to Remaining Extent of Grootvlei Farm No.584, along the D823 secondary road which is also a proposed access point to the Vhuvhili SEF.	26°34'41.27"S; 29°14'17.40"E
2	On the fence at the entrance to farm Portion 13 of Vlakspruit Farm No. 292, along the D619 secondary road which is also a proposed access point to the Vhuvhili SEF.	26°35'29.66"S; 29°16'2.01"E



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#	Locality/ Description	Co-ordinates
3	On the fence along the D619 secondary road, approximately at the mid-point of the power line corridor for Alternative 3.	26°36'9.27"S; 29°14'57.88"E
4	On the fence along the D823 secondary road, approximately at the mid-point of the power line corridor for Alternatives 1, 2 and 4.	26°36'52.15"S; 29°13'52.09"E
5	On the fence along the D823 secondary road, approximately at the end-point of the power line corridor for Alternatives 1 and 3.	26°37'10.34"S; 29°11'19.35"E

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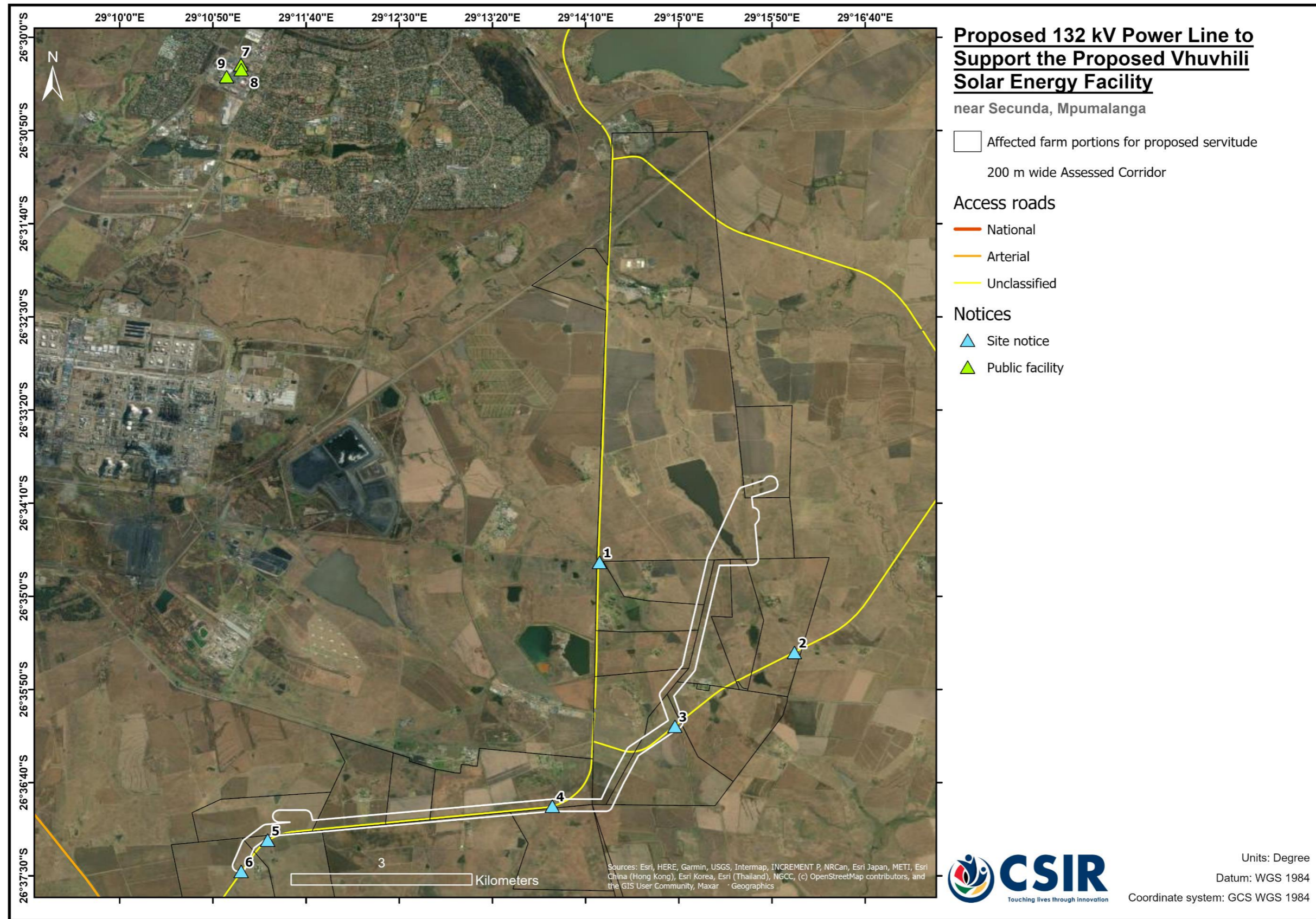
#	Locality/ Description	Co-ordinates
6	On the fence along the D823 secondary road, approximately at the end-point of the power line corridor for Alternatives 2 and 4.	26°37'27.14"S; 29°11'5.14"E
<p>19 Oct 2022 12:26:08 Unnamed Road Gert Sibande District Municipality Mpumalanga</p> <p>19 Oct 2022 12:26:02 Unnamed Road Gert Sibande District Municipality Mpumalanga</p>		
7	Notice board inside the Secunda Public Library on 1 Louwrens Muller St, Secunda.	26°30'14.17"S; 29°11'5.05"E
<p>19 Oct 2022 14:39:48 1 Louwrens Muller Street Secunda Gert Sibande District Municipality Mpumalanga</p> <p>19 Oct 2022 14:39:41 1 Louwrens Muller Street Secunda Gert Sibande District Municipality Mpumalanga</p> <p>19 Oct 2022 14:34:16 1 Louwrens Muller Street Secunda Gert Sibande District Municipality Mpumalanga</p>		

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#	Locality/ Description	Co-ordinates
8	Notice Board inside the Govan Mbeki Local Municipal Offices on Horwood Street, Secunda.	26°30'16.84"S; 29°11'5.18"E
 		
9	Notice board inside Secunda Central shopping mall on the Corner of Walter Sisulu Road and Oliver Tambo Drive, Secunda.	26°30'20.65"S; 29°10'57.33"E
		

F.2.2 Placement of notice boards at the proposed site and public facilities in Secunda for the proposed 132 kV power line project.



## F.3 PROOF OF NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT PLACED IN THE RIDGE TIMES NEWSPAPER, DATED 11 NOVEMBER 2022

### F.3.1 Content of the Newspaper Advertisement

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR THE BASIC ASSESSMENT IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT AND APPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL WATER ACT, THE MINERAL PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT AND THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 132 KV OVERHEAD POWER LINE AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE (EGI) TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED VHUVHILI SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ENERGY FACILITY (SEF), NEAR SECUNDA IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.**

Notice is hereby given that Vhuvhili Solar RF (Pty) Ltd ("The Applicant") is proposing to develop a 132 kV overhead power line, which will extend approximately 12 km, and associated EGI to support the proposed Vhuvhili SEF near Secunda, in the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality and the Gert Sibande District Municipality in the Mpumalanga Province. A Basic Assessment (BA) is being undertaken to assess the proposed 132 kV overhead power line and associated EGI which will transmit electricity from the proposed Vhuvhili SEF to the proposed Mukondeleli Wind Energy Facility (WEF). From there the electricity will be fed into the Sasol grid at the Secunda Synfuels facility to produce green hydrogen, or alternatively the electricity will be bid to feed into South Africa's national electrical grid. The project comprises associated infrastructure which includes pylons, busbar foundations and connections, access roads and temporary laydown areas. The proposed Vhuvhili SEF and on-site substation are subject to a separate Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process (NEAS: MPP/EIA/0001063/2022). The proposed Mukondeleli WEF and on-site switching station are also subject to a separate S&EIA process (NEAS: MPP/EIA/0001099/2022).

The farm portions to be affected by the proposed Vhuvhili power line and associated EGI project are: Portion 20 of Farm Grootvlei No. 293; Remaining Extent (RE) Farm Grootvlei No. 584; RE of Farm Vlakspruit No.292; Portions 2, 3, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 19 of Farm Vlakspruit No. 292; RE of Farm Knoppies No. 314; Portion 3 of Farm Brandwacht No. 316; Portion 6, 10, 11 and 13 of Farm Bosjesspruit No. 291; and Portion 2 and 12 of Farm Tondershoek No. 317.

The proposed project triggers various activities listed in GN R327 (Listing Notice (LN) 1) and GN R324 (LN 3) under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998), as amended (NEMA) EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. GN R327 (LN1) Activity 11 serves as the main activity for the proposed project. Please note that comment regarding the proposed project will also be sought from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999). The BA process will also confirm the need for a Water Use Licence or General Authorisation (as applicable) in accordance with the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), as amended. In addition, meaningful consultation is also required in terms of Section 53 of the Mineral Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002).

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been appointed to undertake and manage the BA process for the proposed project on behalf of the Project Applicant. **Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby notified of the release of the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) for the proposed project for a 30-day commenting period, which will extend from 14 November 2022 to 14 December 2022.** The DBAR can be downloaded from the following website: <https://www.csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment>

**Should you wish to register as an I&AP and to provide comments on the DBAR, you are kindly requested to send your name and contact details, with an indication of your interest in the application, to the Project Manager at the CSIR: Minnelise Levendal, E-mail: [ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za) (with "Vhuvhili EGI BA" as the subject line); Postal address: PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599, or call +27 83 309 8159. Future correspondence relating to this BA process will be distributed to all registered I&APs.**



F.3.2 Extract of the Advertisement in the Ridge Times, Dated 11 November 2022

11 November 2022 | Secunda • Standerton • Bethal

SPORT 7



Action Sport Secunda hosted its spring league cricket finals on Saturday, October 22. Challengers were the mixed league winners for the spring league.

# Action sports teams compete in finals

Kerry Bird

SECUNDA - As fast as Action Sport Secunda's spring cricket league season began, it came to an end, making way for the summer league season. The finals were played on Saturday, October 22. The finals had league teams of women, men, and

mixed competing for gold, silver and bronze. In the men's B league, Kosmos Eagles claimed victory with gold, followed by Nativ Valkies with silver and Class on Grass bronze. The men's C league, Fastner & Fluid finished the season with gold. Silver went to All Rounders and

bronze was awarded to Safety Horizon. One Love C.T claimed gold in the men's D league, followed by Buffalos who claimed silver and Fireballs bronze. The men's E league was dominated by Bomb Squad, with Mavericks claiming silver and Yahweh Rapha bronze.



Kosmos Eagles were the winners of the men's B league spring cricket finals played at Action Sport Secunda on Saturday, October 22.

Wolverines did it again in the women's league by taking first place. They were followed by Bats and Bra's claiming silver and Supernovas taking the bronze. Challengers also walked away with another gold in the mixed league with The Pit Crew taking silver and Shooters bronze. The summer league is currently underway at Action Sport Secunda. For more information, contact Mariska Lubbe on 082 851 1797 or Bianca Lubbe on 071 427 7404.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR THE BASIC ASSESSMENT IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT AND APPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL WATER ACT, THE MINERAL PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT AND THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 132 KV OVERHEAD POWER LINE AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE (EGI) TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED VHUHVILI SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ENERGY FACILITY (SEF), NEAR SECUNDA IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

Notice is hereby given that Vhuvhili Solar RF (Pty) Ltd ("The Applicant") is proposing to develop a 132 kV overhead power line, which will extend approximately 12 km, and associated EGI to support the proposed Vhuvhili SEF near Secunda, in the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality and the Gert Sibande District Municipality in the Mpumalanga Province. A Basic Assessment (BA) is being undertaken to assess the proposed 132 kV overhead power line and associated EGI which will transmit electricity from the proposed Vhuvhili SEF to the proposed Mukondeleli Wind Energy Facility (WEF). From there the electricity will be fed into the Sasol grid at the Secunda Synfuels facility to produce green hydrogen, or alternatively the electricity will be bid to feed into South Africa's national electrical grid. The project comprises associated infrastructure which includes pylons, busbar foundations and connections, access roads and temporary laydown areas. The proposed Vhuvhili SEF and on-site substation are subject to a separate Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process [NEAS: MPP/EIA/0001063/2022]. The proposed Mukondeleli WEF and on-site switching station are also subject to a separate S&EIA process [NEAS: MPP/EIA/0001099/2022].

The farm portions to be affected by the proposed Vhuvhili power line and associated EGI project are: Portion 20 of Farm Grootvlei No. 293; Remaining Extent (RE) Farm Grootvlei No. 584; RE of Farm Vlakspuit No. 292; Portions 2, 3, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 19 of Farm Vlakspuit No. 292; RE of Farm Knoppies No. 314; Portion 3 of Farm Brandwacht No. 316; Portion 6, 10, 11 and 13 of Farm Bosjesspruit No. 291; and Portion 2 and 12 of Farm Tondershoek No. 317.

The proposed project triggers various activities listed in GN R327 (Listing Notice (LN) 1) and GN R324 (LN 3) under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998), as amended (NEMA) EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. GN R327 (LN1) Activity 11 serves as the main activity for the proposed project. Please note that comment regarding the proposed project will also be sought from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999). The BA process will also confirm the need for a Water Use Licence or General Authorisation (as applicable) in accordance with the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), as amended. In addition, meaningful consultation is also required in terms of Section 53 of the Mineral Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002).

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been appointed to undertake and manage the BA process for the proposed project on behalf of the Project Applicant. Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby notified of the release of the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) for the proposed project for a 30-day commenting period, which will extend from 14 November 2022 to 14 December 2022. The DBAR can be downloaded from the following website: <https://www.csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment>

Should you wish to register as an I&AP and to provide comments on the DBAR, you are kindly requested to send your name and contact details, with an indication of your interest in the application, to the Project Manager at the CSIR: Minnelise Levendal, E-mail: [ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za) (with "Vhuvhili EGI BA" as the subject line); Postal address: PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599, or call +27 83 309 8159. Future correspondence relating to this BA process will be distributed to all registered I&APs.



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR THE SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (S&EIA) IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, AND APPLICATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL WATER ACT, THE MINERAL PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT AND THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF THE VHUHVILI SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ENERGY FACILITY (SEF) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR SECUNDA IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Notice is hereby given that Vhuvhili Solar RF (Pty) Ltd ("The Applicant"), is proposing to develop the Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, with a maximum capacity of 300 MW, and associated infrastructure near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province. The proposed project is located within the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality and the Gert Sibande District Municipality. The farm portions to be affected by the proposed Vhuvhili Solar Energy Facility (SEF) are the Remaining Extent (RE) Farm Grootvlei No. 584; Portions 18, 20 and 21 of Farm Grootvlei No. 293; RE Farm Poverty Acres No. 585; as well as Portion 21 of Farm Vlakspuit No. 292.

The associated infrastructure includes various structures, buildings, an on-site substation (SS) and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) complex. The Applicant also intends to develop a 132 kV power line and associated Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) including a switching SS at the Mukondeleli Wind Energy Facility (WEF). From there the electricity will be fed into the Sasol grid at the Secunda Synfuels facility to produce green hydrogen, or alternatively the electricity will be bid to feed into South Africa's national electrical grid. The proposed Vhuvhili power line is subject to a Basic Assessment process currently undertaken by the Applicant. The proposed Mukondeleli WEF and on-site switching station are also subject to a separate S&EIA process [NEAS: MPP/EIA/0001099/2022].

The proposed project triggers various listed activities in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998), as amended (NEMA) EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended with GN 325 LN2:1 serving as the main activity. Please note that comment regarding the proposed project will also be sought from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999). The BA process will also confirm the need for a Water Use Licence or General Authorisation (as applicable) in accordance with the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), as amended. In addition, meaningful consultation is also required in terms of Section 53 of the Mineral Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002).

Please note that comment will also be sought from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999). The S&EIA process will also confirm the need for a Water Use Licence or General Authorisation in accordance with the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), as amended. In addition, the S&EIA will also confirm the need for an application to be lodged with the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) in terms of Section 53 of the Mineral Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPDRA) and in terms of Chapter 17 of the Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996 (Act No 29 of 1996) or any other relevant section in these Acts.

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been appointed to undertake and manage the S&EIA process for the proposed project on behalf of the Project Applicant. Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby notified of the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the proposed project for a 30-day commenting period, which will extend from 14 November 2022 to 14 December 2022. The Draft EIR can be downloaded from the following website: <https://www.csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment>

Should you wish to register as an I&AP and to provide comments on the Draft EIR, you are kindly requested to send your name and contact details, with an indication of your interest in the application, to the Project Manager at the CSIR: Minnelise Levendal, E-mail: [ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za) (with "Vhuvhili SEF EIA" as the subject line); Postal address: PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599, or call +27 83 309 8159. Future correspondence relating to this EIA process will be distributed to all registered I&APs.

### KENNISGEWING VAN OPENBARE PUBLIEKE DEELNAME PROSES VIR DIE BESTEKONAME EN OMGEWINGSIMPAKSTUDIE ("EIA") IN TERME VAN DIE NASIONALE OMGEWINGSBESTUURSWET EN AANSOeke IN TERME VAN DIE NASIONALE WATER WET, DIE WET OP NASIONALE ERFENISHPULBRONNE EN DIE WET OP DIE ONTWIKKELING VAN MINERALE EN PETROLEUM HULPBRONNE VIR DIE VOORGESTELDE ONTWIKKELING EN BEDRYF VAN DIE VHUHVILI PHOTOVOLTAIE (PV) SON ENERGIE FASILITEIT (SEF), NABY SECUNDA IN DIE MPUMALANGA PROVINSIE.

Hiermee word kennis gegee dat Vhuvhili Solar RF Eiendoms Beperk ("Die Aansoeker") van voorneme is om die Vhuvhili SEF met 'n maksimum geïnstalleerde kapasiteit van 300 MW, en meegaande infrastruktuur, op te rig naby Secunda in die Mpumalanga Provinsie. Die voorgestelde Vhuvhili SEF is geleë in die Govan Mbeki Plaaslike Munisipaliteit en die Gert Sibande Distrikmunisipaliteit. Die plaas gedeeltes wat geaffekteer sal word deur die voorgestelde Vhuvhili SEF en meegaande infrastruktuur is: Restant (RES) Plaas Grootvlei Nr. 584; Gedeeltes 18, 20 en 21 van Plaas Grootvlei Nr. 293; RES Plaas Poverty Acres Nr. 585; en Gedeelte 21 van Plaas Vlakspuit Nr. 292.

Die meegaande infrastruktuur sluit in verskeie strukture, geboue en interne elektriese netwerk infrastruktuur ("EGI") insluitende, maar nie beperk tot 'n substansie en Battery Energie Bergingsstelsel ("BESS") op die projek terrein. Die Aansoeker is ook van voorneme om die 132 kV kraglyn en meegaande EGI te ontwikkel om die elektrisiteit wat opgewek word deur die Vhuvhili SEF te voer na die voorgestelde substansie by die voorgestelde Mukondeleli Wind Energie Fasiliteit (WEF). Vanaf die voorgestelde Mukondeleli WEF sal die elektrisiteit in die elektriese netwerk by Sasol Secunda gevoer word vir die vervaardiging van groen Waterstof ("green Hydrogen"), of dit sal in die nasionale elektriese netwerk gevoer word as deel van Suid-Afrika se hernubare energie program. Die voorgestelde kraglyn en die meegaande EGI is onderhewig aan 'n Basiese Omgewingsimpakstudie ("BA") wat tans deur die Aansoeker onderneem word. Die voorgestelde Mukondeleli WEF en meegaande substansie is ook onderhewig aan 'n aparte EIA [NEAS: MPP/EIA/0001099/2022].

Die voorgestelde Vhuvhili SEF aktiewe verskeie gestelde aktiwiteite ingevolge die Nasionale Omgewingsbestuurswet, 1998 (Wet 107 van 1998), soos gewysig (NEMA) Omgewingsimpakstudie Regulasies, 2014, soos gewysig, met GN 325 LN2: 1, wat dien as die hoof aktiwiteit vir die voorgestelde SEF. Let wel, kommentaar op die voorgestelde projek sal ook versoek word vanaf die Suid Afrikaanse Erfenis Bronne Genootskap ["South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)"] ingevolge die Wet op Nasionale Erfenis hulppulbronne, 1999 (Wet Nr. 25 van 1999). Die EIA sal ook bevestig indien 'n aansoek ingedien moet word vir 'n Waterverbruikers Lisensie of 'n Algemene Goedkeuring in terme van die Nasionale Water Wet, 1998 (Wet Nr. 36 van 1998), soos gewysig. Betekenisvolle konsultasie sal ook onderneem word soos verais in terme van Afdeling 53 van die Wet op die Ontwikkeling van Minerale en Petroleum Hulpbronne, 2002 (Wet Nr. 28 van 2002) ("MPDRA").

Die Wetenskaplike Nywerheids- en Navorsingsraad (WNNR) ("CSIR") is aangestel om die Vhuvhili SEF EIA proses te behartig en te bestuur namens die aansoeker. Geïnteresseerde en/of Belanghebbende Partye (G&BPe) word hiermee in kennis gestel van die vrystelling van die Konsep EIA verslag vir die voorgestelde projek vir 'n 30-dae kommentaar periode, wat strek vanaf 14 November 2022 tot 14 Desember 2022. Die genoemde verslag kan afgelaai word van die volgende webtuiste: <https://www.csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment>

Sou u belangstel om te registreer as 'n G&BPe, en om kommentaar te lewer op die Konsep EIA verslag, word u vriendelik versoek om u naam en kontakbesonderhede te stuur, asook 'n aanduiding van u belangstelling in die aansoek, na die Projek Bestuurder by die WNNR: Minnelise Levendal, e-pos: [ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za) (met "Vhuvhili SEF EIA" as die onderwerp); Posadres: Posbus 320, Stellenbosch, 7599; of kontak gerus per foon +27 83 309 8159. Toekomstige korrespondensie aangaande hierdie EIA-proses sal aan alle geregistreerde G&BPe versprei word.



### NOTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF REGULATION 4(2) HALFGEWONNEN SOLAR PV FACILITY ON PORTIONS 7, 8, 9 AND 16 OF THE FARM HALFGEWONNEN 190IS, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE DFFE REFERENCE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2068

Dreamworks Haven Investments (Pty) Ltd applied for Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014 (as amended) for Listed Activities associated with the Halfgewonnen Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Project.

On 31 October 2022, the DFFE decided to Grant Authorisation for the Project. The reasons for the decision are included in the EA and can be provided on request. Please do not hesitate to contact Cabanga Environmental email: [info@cabangaenvironmental.co.za](mailto:info@cabangaenvironmental.co.za) to obtain a copy of the EA, which contains reasons for the decision and conditions of authorisation.

Should you wish to appeal any aspect of the decision, kindly submit your appeal to the appeal administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the Applicant, Registered Interested and Affected Parties and organs of state with an interest in the matter within 20 days from the date of this notification. Appeals must be submitted in writing in the prescribed form to:

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review, Department of Fisheries Forestry and Environment  
By email: [appealsdirector@environment.gov.za](mailto:appealsdirector@environment.gov.za)  
By hand: Environment House, 476 Steve Biko Street, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0083  
By post: Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001

To obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals please visit [https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal\\_authorisations](https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations) or request a copy of the documents at [appealsdirector@environment.gov.za](mailto:appealsdirector@environment.gov.za)



CS20220517M66W

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

# F.4 PROOF OF EMAIL NOTIFICATION TO I&APS FOR THE RELEASE OF THE DRAFT BA REPORT FOR A 30-DAY COMMENTING PERIOD

## F.4.1 Email to I&APs to Notify Them of the Release of the Draft BA Report for a 30-day Commenting Period

<b>From:</b>	EMS <ems@csir.co.za>
<b>Sent:</b>	Friday, 11 November 2022 18:17
<b>To:</b>	EMS
<b>Subject:</b>	RELEASE OF DRAFT BA REPORT FOR COMMENT FOR THE PROPOSED VHUVHILI 132 KV POWER LINE PROJECT NEAR SECUNDA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
<b>Attachments:</b>	Vhuvhili 132 kV Power line_Cover Letter to I&APs.pdf; Vhuvhili 132 kV Power line_Executive Summary.pdf
<b>Categories:</b>	This message has been archived by Retain on November 19 2022 19:10
<b>Bcc:</b>	OLetlalo@dffe.gov.za; SDlomo; AMaifo@environment.gov.za; ThandoNd@Dalrrd.gov.za; myeni@dffe.gov.za; TBooi@dffe.gov.za; mshubane@dffe.gov.za; mrbothata@dffe.gov.za; RMagodi@dffe.gov.za; TNethononda@dffe.gov.za; pkershaw@dffe.gov.za; mmasithi@dffe.gov.za; StanleyT@dffe.gov.za; bcadmin@environment.gov.za; Slekota@dffe.gov.za; Mrbothata@dffe.gov.za; Pmakitla@dffe.gov.za; Tnethononda@dffe.gov.za; kgapholam@dws.gov.za; mxim@dws.gov.za; swartsf@dws.gov.za; claassenm@dws.gov.za; MeiM@dwa.gov.za; SchwartzC@dws.gov.za; MalaudziM@dws.gov.za; ranwedzim@dwa.gov.za; smbanjwa@ncpg.gov.za; SekwailaK@dws.gov.za; maryjeang@daff.gov.za; AnnelizaC@Dalrrd.gov.za; MashuduMa@daff.gov.za; JMans@environment.gov.za; MasithandazeF@Dalrrd.gov.za; gjdebruin@ruraldevelopment.gov.za; ThokoB@daff.gov.za; Kgauta.Mokoena@dmr.gov.za; Mpho.mabaso@energy.gov.za; mndzilili@ncpg.gov.za; odgcorrespondence@economic.gov.za; GeerinJH@eskom.co.za; DikgangJ@dot.gov.za; bmoduka@mpg.gov.za; info@sahra.org; nkhumalo@sahra.org.za; rredelstorff@sahra.org.za; nhiggitt@sahra.org.za; lucius.moolman@sanparks.org; howard.hendricks@sanparks.org; helga@saeon.ac.za; lucky.legodi@drdlr.gov.za; sharigobin@salga.org.za; herman.coetze2@transnet.net; AbrahamsN@nra.co.za; BestbierG@caa.co.za; MazheteseC@caa.co.za; Masilelas@caa.co.za; richardma@atns.co.za; kebasenosi@yahoo.com; rwump@yahoo.com; nditsheni.ramuhulu@dmr.gov.za; Aubrey.Tshivhandekano@dmr.gov.za; Tshivhandekano@dmr.gov.za; MulaudziM@dws.gov.za; rambudaa@dwa.gov.za; gumaf@dws.gov.za; cmchunda@mpg.gov.za; pnntuli@mpg.gov.za; sam.nkosi@drdlr.gov.za; SANKosi@ruraldevelopment.gov.za; Nonhlanhla.Mbatha@drdlr.gov.za; ntokozi.nkambule@drdlr.gov.za; dtswai@wit.mpu.gov.za; lebjane.maphutha@drdlr.gov.za; HALberts@environment.gov.za; MMundalamo@environment.gov.za; Tshikalangen@dws.gov.za; saveram@mpuhealth.gov.za; liezelp@mpuhealth.gov.za; kmohlasedi@mpg.gov.za; SPenaar@mpg.gov.za; mvdmerwe@mpg.gov.za; lkhoza@mpg.gov.za; bmoduka@mpg.gov.za; kutumelagm@mpg.gov.za; sihle.madlala@transnet.net; Zanele.Manyathi@transnet.net; john.geeringh@eskom.co.za; mpho.muswubi@eskom.co.za; mike.summerfield@blutechretail.co.za; BadenHC@eskom.co.za; lerato.mokgwathheng@eskom.co.za; mokwall@eskom.co.za; mokwasLL@eskom.co.za; FranciA@eskom.co.za; SnymanPD@eskom.co.za; PeenseRN@eskom.co.za; SalazeT@eskom.co.za; reddylyu@eskom.co.za; mamokete.mafumo@eskom.co.za; MafumoML@eskom.co.za; vGenseAL@eskom.co.za; BerghS@eskom.co.za; andre.crous@eskom.co.za; BloemDJ@eskom.co.za; PetersOw@eskom.co.za; VilakazS@eskom.co.za; elroy.saan@eskom.co.za; MampurSD@eskom.co.za; TunnickDA@eskom.co.za; HaridaJ@eskom.co.za; SirkarA@eskom.co.za; abrahams@wkn-windcurrent.com; rimbault@wkn-windcurrent.com; jack; d.zoekop@lando.co.za;

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

**Bcc:** mariette@burst.co.za; info@birdlife.org.za; yolanf@ewt.org.za; gareht@ewt.org.za; lourensl@ewt.org.za; oscarm@ewt.org.za; eia@ewt.org.za; bradleyg@ewt.org.za; mlunie@mweb.co.za; ceo@mpumalangalandsbou.co.za; tlu@axess.co.za; gbaenes@wessanorth.co.za; malcolms@lantic.net; slowveld@soft.co.za; lowveldchair@wessa.co.za; abeegte@dffe.gov.za; hanneswetlands@gmail.com; nvdwalt@randwater.co.za; matrixpr@ananzi.co.za; info@orf.co.za; mohalabel@iucma.co.za; dzhangit@iucma.co.za; dlaminis@iucma.co.za; berodadaan@lantic.net; records@gsibande.gov.za; zakhele.jiyane@vodacom.co.za; mtnhq@mtn.com; cellcermelo@celcc.co.za; Strohl@caa.co.za; obstacles@caa.co.za; richardma@atns.co.za; oliver.mohlala@weathersa.co.za; KoegelenbergJD@sentech.co.za; MotlhakeS@sentech.co.za; aflynn@falconoilandgas.com; pretoriusa@sentech.co.za; johan@fleetcall.co.za; franss@netstar.co.za; info@icasa.org.za; brian.dryer@neotel.co.za; vanree\_c@mtn.co.za; renier.nel@mtn.co.za; leonardS@openseve.co.za; smitjj1@telkom.co.za; barnesc@vodacom.co.za; nico.fourie@vodacom.co.za; danie.oosthuizen@vodacom.co.za; SchutCE5@telkom.co.za; A.Sibanda@knowledgepele.com; ferdis@atns.co.za; phillipd@atns.co.za; radiotech@saps.org.za; kebasenosi@yahoo.com; zukile.mali@yahoo.com; loydejager@hotmail.com; agrisa@agrisa.co.za; janse@agrisa.co.za; spothil@gmail.com; info@birdlife.org.za; advocacy@birdlife.org.za; energy@birdlife.org.za; seccp@earthlife.org.za; mabule@ghouse.org.za; constanth@ewt.org.za; eia@ewt.org.za; lourensl@ewt.org.za; bonnies@ewt.org.za; wep@ewt.org.za; cobust@ewt.org.za; mmoni.suza@nersa.org.za; warren.joubert@weathersa.co.za; lynne.hannay@shell.com; salt@salt.ac.za; chris@salt.ac.za; ferdie@salt.co.za; atiplady@ska.ac.za; tnape@ska.ac.za; mbaloye@ska.ac.za; bsethole@ska.ac.za; smathane@ska.ac.za; office@sessa.org.za; morgan.griffiths@wessa.co.za; mduplessis@wwf.org.za; LHirshon@biothermenergy.com; Warren Morse; Mitchell.Hodgson@scatecsolar.com; info@solarcapital.co.za; steyn.devos@juwi.co.za; adam.treki@scatec.com; eia@g7energies.com; m.lubaxa@ymail.com; jacques.dutoit2@sasol.com; paul.cronje@sasol.com; Michael.Barnes@enertrag.com; Kyle.Swartz@enertrag.com; Minnelise Levendal; Willan Adonis; Paul Lochner

Dear Stakeholder,

**RE: NOTIFICATION OF THE RELEASE OF THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR A 30-DAY COMMENTING PERIOD FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 132 KV POWER LINE AND SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR SECUNDA IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Notification is hereby given of the commencement of the Basic Assessment (BA) Process and of the release of the Draft BA Report for a 30-day commenting period, extending from 14 November 2022 to 14 December 2022, in terms of Regulation 40(1)(a) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), as amended, (NEMA) for the proposed development of a 132 kV overhead power line and supporting infrastructure for the proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility (SEF), near Secunda in the Mpumalanga province. The proposed project is located within the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality which falls within the Gert Sibande District Municipality.

In line with Regulation 19(1) and 20(1) of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended), the Draft BA Report has been compiled and notice is hereby given of the release of the Draft BA Report for the proposed Vhuvhili 132 kV power line for a 30-day commenting period **extending from 14 November to 14 December 2022**

The Draft BA Report can be accessed on the project website and Google Drive; details are indicated below:

- [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1njlWGgOd1Kq3Rwl2CObuy5-4Ri87nx2R?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1njlWGgOd1Kq3Rwl2CObuy5-4Ri87nx2R?usp=share_link)



## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

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- <https://www.csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment>

You are kindly invited to register your interest and submit any comments you may have on the Draft BA Report to the Project Manager at the CSIR by 14 December 2022.

Details are provided below and in the attached cover letter.

Kindly find attached a cover letter that provides additional detail on the proposed project. For ease of reference, we have also attached the Executive Summary of the Draft BA Report to this email.

Copies of all comments received from I&APs and stakeholders during the review of the Draft BA Report will be included as an appendix to the Final BA Report and in the Comments and Response Report. The Final BA Report will then be submitted to the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Affairs (DARDLEA) for decision-making in line with Regulation 23(1) (a) (b) of the 2014 National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (as amended).

We would like to thank you in advance for your participation in this BA Process.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries relating to the above or should you struggle to access the documentation at the links provided above.

Should you email us, please use "**Vhuvhili Power line BA**" as the subject line.

Kind Regards,  
CSIR BA Project Team

CSIR-EMS  
PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599  
Tel: 083 309 8159  
Fax: 021 888 2693  
Email: [ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za)

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

### F.4.2 Cover Letter



#### CSIR SMART PLACES: EMS

11 Jan Celliers Road, Stellenbosch, 7600, South Africa  
PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599  
Tel: +27 21 888 2400  
Fax: 021 888 2693  
Email: [ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za)

11 November 2022

Dear Interested and/or Affected Party,

**RE: NOTIFICATION OF THE RELEASE OF THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 132 KV OVERHEAD POWER LINE AND SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE PROPOSED VHUVHILI SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ENERGY FACILITY (SEF), NEAR SECUNDA IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.**

Notification is hereby given of the commencement of the Basic Assessment (BA) Process and of the release of the **Draft BA Report for a 30-day commenting period, extending from 14 November 2022 to 14 December 2022**, in terms of Regulation 40(1)(a) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), as amended, (NEMA) for the proposed development of a 132 kV overhead power line and supporting infrastructure for the proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility (SEF), near Secunda in the Mpumalanga province.

Notice is hereby given that Vhuvhili Solar RF (Pty) Ltd ("The Applicant") is proposing to develop a 132 kV overhead power line, which will extend approximately 12 km, to support the proposed Vhuvhili SEF near Secunda, in the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality and the Gert Sibande District Municipality in the Mpumalanga Province. A BA is being undertaken to assess the proposed 132 kV overhead power line and supporting infrastructure which will transmit electricity from the proposed Vhuvhili SEF to the proposed Mukondeleli Wind Energy Facility (WEF). From there the electricity will be fed into the Sasol grid at the Secunda Synfuels facility to produce green hydrogen, or alternatively the electricity will be bid to feed into South Africa's national electrical grid. The project comprises associated infrastructure which includes pylons, busbar foundations and connections, access roads and temporary laydown areas. The proposed Vhuvhili SEF and on-site substation are subject to a separate Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process (NEAS: MPP/EIA/0001063/2022). The proposed Mukondeleli WEF and on-site switching station are also subject to a separate S&EIA process (NEAS: MPP/EIA/0001099/2022).

The power line will comprise of monopole pylon or steel lattice pylon structures which will extend at most 40 m in height. The tower span lengths are anticipated to range between 200 m to 500 m. The registered servitude for the proposed power line will be up to 32 m wide, or where multiple adjacent power lines occur, in line with guideline and requirements for 132 kV powerlines stipulated in the 2011 Eskom Distribution Guide Part 19. Please refer to Section A of the Draft BA Report for a detailed project description.

The farm portions to be affected by the proposed Vhuvhili power line project are: Portion 20 of Farm Grootvlei No. 293; Remaining Extent (RE) Farm Grootvlei No. 584; RE of Farm Vlakspruit No.292; Portions 2, 3, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 19 of Farm Vlakspruit No. 292; RE of Farm Knoppies No. 314; Portion 3 of Farm Brandwacht No. 316; Portion 6, 10, 11 and 13 of Farm Bosjesspruit No. 291; and Portion 2 and 12 of Farm Tondershoek No. 317.

The need for the BA is required for various activities as listed in GN R327 (Listing Notice (LN) 1) and GN R324 (LN 3) under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998), as amended (NEMA) EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. GN R327 (LN 1) Activity 11 serves as the main activity for the proposed project, which includes:

*"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts".*

Therefore, the proposed Vhuvhili power line requires Environmental Authorisation from the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA). A BA Process is

Board members: Prof. T. Majazi (Chairperson), Ms P. Baleni, Dr A. Childs, Dr R. Masango, Mr S. Masie, Ms T. Mokhabuki, Dr V. Mthethwa, Mr J. Netshitenzhe, Dr C. Render, Mr C. Shariff, Dr T. Dlamini (CEO)

[www.csir.co.za](http://www.csir.co.za)

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

being undertaken for the proposed 132 kV overhead transmission power line with a 57-day decision-making timeframe as provided by Government Notice No. 2716 in Government Gazette No. 47448 of 4 November 2022.

Please note that comment regarding the proposed project will also be sought from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999). The BA process will also confirm the need for a Water Use Licence or General Authorisation (as applicable) in accordance with the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), as amended. In addition, meaningful consultation is also required in terms of Section 53 of the Mineral Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002).

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been appointed to undertake and manage the BA process for the proposed project on behalf of the Project Applicant. **Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby notified of the release of the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) for the proposed project for a 30-day commenting period, which will extend from 14 November 2022 to 14 December 2022.**

Should you wish to register as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP) and/or provide comments on the Draft BA Reports, you are kindly requested to e-mail or Whatsapp your name, contact details (with an indication of your interest in the application), and project-related comments to the Project Manager at the contact details provided below no later than **14 December 2022**.

For your record and commenting purposes, the Draft BA Report can be accessed via:

- The project website (<https://www.csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment>)
- The Google Drive project folder: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1njlWGgOd1Kq3Rwl2CObuy5-4Ri87nx2R?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1njlWGgOd1Kq3Rwl2CObuy5-4Ri87nx2R?usp=share_link)

All comments and issues raised as part of the review period of the Draft BA Report will be captured in a Comments and Responses Report and addressed, where applicable, and included in the Final BA Report which will be submitted to the Mpumalanga DARDLEA for decision-making in terms of Regulation 20(1) and (2) of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended). As a registered I&AP on this project, you will be duly informed of the submission of the Final BA Report to the Mpumalanga DARDLEA for decision-making as well as the outcome of the department's decision on the Final BA Report for this proposed project.

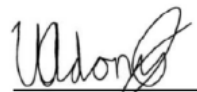
Should you wish to register as an I&AP and to provide comments on the Draft BA Report, please send your name and contact details, with an indication of your interest to the Project Manager at the CSIR, as provided below:

- Attention: Willan Adonis
- PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599
- Tel: 021 888 2402
- Mobile: +27 76 278 1796
- Email: [ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za) (Please use "Vhuvhili Power line BA" as the subject)

We thank you in advance for your participation in this BA Process. Future correspondence relating to this BA process will be distributed to all registered I&APs.



Paul Lochner (Registered EAP (2019/745))  
Project Leader and EAP  
CSIR Environmental Management Services

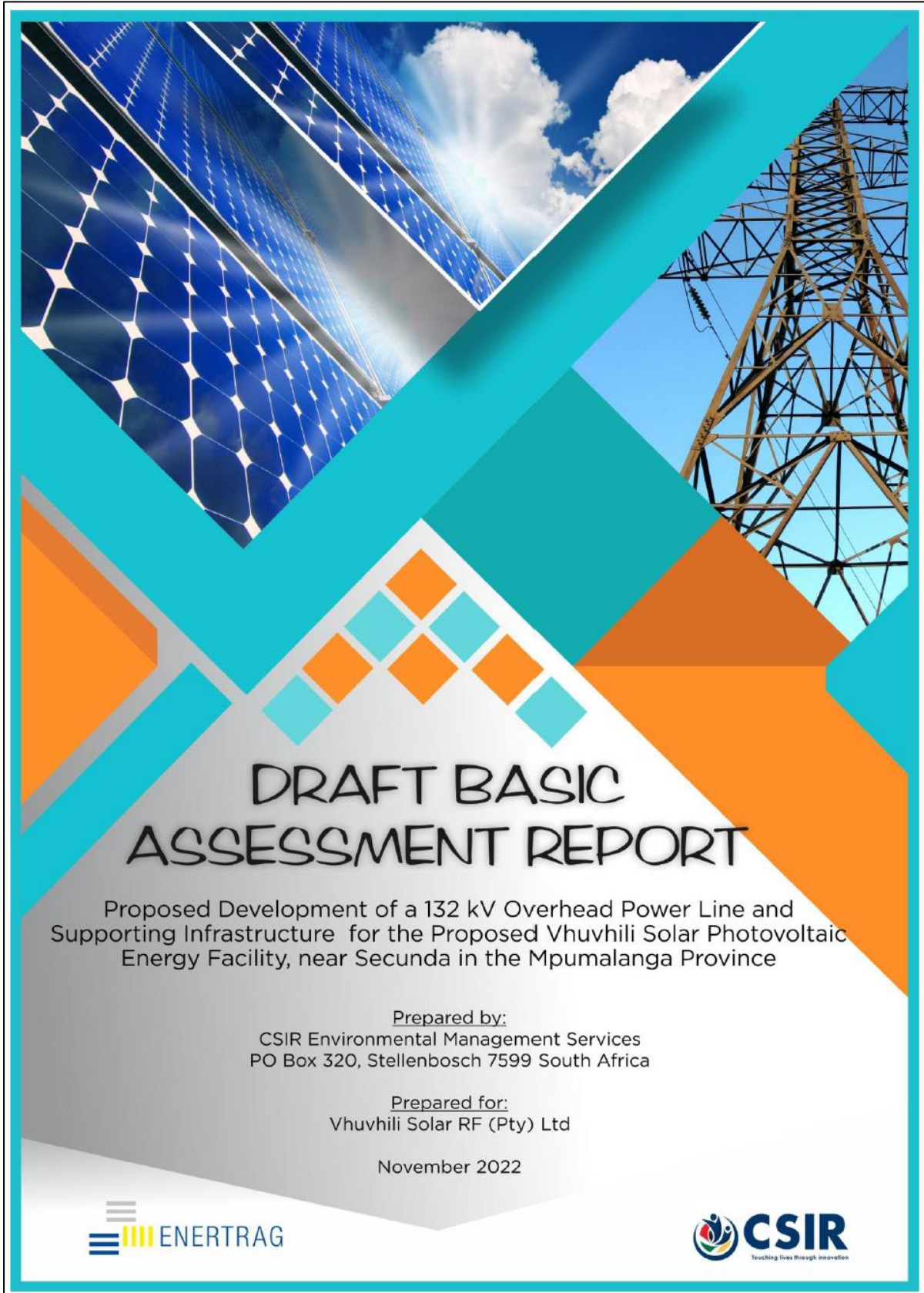


Willan Adonis  
Project Manager  
CSIR Environmental Management Services

APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

**F.4.3 Executive Summary**





**DRAFT BASIC  
ASSESSMENT REPORT**

Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

Prepared by:  
CSIR Environmental Management Services  
PO Box 320, Stellenbosch 7599 South Africa

Prepared for:  
Vhuvhili Solar RF (Pty) Ltd

November 2022

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

# Executive Summary

## **INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT BACKGROUND**

Vhuvhili Solar RF (Pty) Ltd ("The Applicant") is proposing to develop a 132 kV overhead power line and associated infrastructure to support the proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility (SEF) near Secunda, in the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality and the Gert Sibande District Municipality in the Mpumalanga Province. A Basic Assessment (BA) is being undertaken to assess the proposed 132 kV overhead power line and supporting infrastructure which will transmit electricity, approximately 12 km, from the Vhuvhili SEF to the proposed Mukondeleli Wind Energy Facility (WEF). From there the electricity will be fed into the Sasol grid at the Secunda Synfuels facility to produce green hydrogen (preferred offtake scenario), or alternatively the electricity will be bid in future rounds of South Africa's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme to feed into the national electrical grid (alternative scenario). It is important to note that this BA process only includes the assessment of the proposed 132 kV power line and supporting infrastructure. The proposed Vhuvhili SEF and on-site substation are subject to a separate Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process (NEAS: MPP/EIA/0001063/2022). The proposed Mukondeleli WEF and on-site switching station are also subject to a separate S&EIA process (NEAS: MPP/EIA/0001099/2022).

The Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) assessed in this BA is essential to the operation of the proposed Vhuvhili SEF project. A summary description of the key components of the proposed power line and EGI project is provided in Table A below. It is important to note at the outset that the exact specifications of the proposed project components will be determined during the detailed engineering phase (subsequent to the issuing of EA, should such authorisation be granted for the proposed power line and EGI project) but that the information provided below is seen as the worst-case scenario for the proposed power line project.

**Table A: Description of the project components for the proposed 132 kV overhead power line and supporting infrastructure**

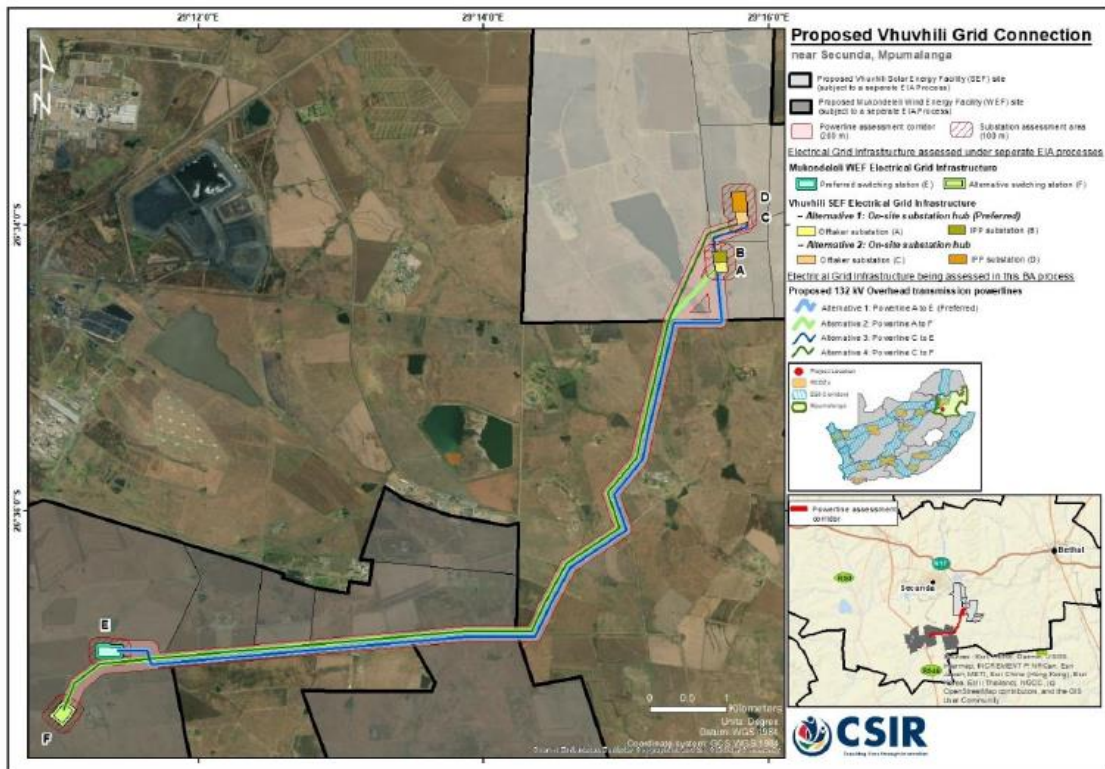
<b>Component</b>	<b>Description</b>
Power line/pylon height	Up to 40 m
Power line length	Approx. 12 km
Power line capacity	Up to 132 kV (either single or double circuit)
Minimum conductor ground clearance	Approx. 8.1 m
Distance between conductors	Between 2.4 m and 3.8 m
Pylon type, span, working area and footprint	Monopole or steel lattice <u>type</u> pylons, or combination of both where required. The pylons will have a <u>span</u> of 200 m to 350 m for monopole pylons and up to approximately 500 m for lattice structures. The <u>working area</u> required around a pylon position during the construction phase is approximately 30 m x 30 m. The size of the final constructed pylon <u>footprint</u> depends on the type of structure used, which will typically range from approximately 0.5 m <sup>2</sup> to 8 m <sup>2</sup> for monopole pylons, and 36 m <sup>2</sup> to 64 m <sup>2</sup> for steel lattice pylons.

**APPENDICES**

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

Component	Description
Servitude width	<p>Once built, the registered servitude will be up to 32 m wide in line with guideline and requirements for 132 kV power lines stipulated in the 2011 Eskom Distribution Guide Part 19.</p> <p>Note that the entire servitude will <u>not</u> be cleared of vegetation. Vegetation clearance within the servitude will be undertaken in compliance with relevant standards and specifications.</p> <p>Specialists were required to assess an approximately 200 m wide power line corridor (100 m on either side of the centre line).</p>
<b>Supporting Infrastructure</b>	
Service roads	There are a number of existing gravel farm roads (some just jeep tracks) with widths ranging between 4 m and 5 m located around and within the proposed Vhuvhili power line corridor. A service road of approximately 5 m wide will be required below the power line.
Proximity to grid connection	The proposed 132 kV overhead power line will extend approximately 12 km from proposed Vhuvhili SEF on-site substation to a switching station at the proposed Mukondeleli WEF site.

The BA process assessed four power line routing alternatives for the transfer of the electricity generated by the proposed Vhuvhili SEF to the switching station at the proposed Mukondeleli WEF. Please refer to Figure A for the power line routing alternatives which are assessed as part of this BA process. The figure also includes the preferred and alternative substation hubs at the proposed Vhuvhili SEF site and the two switching station alternatives at the proposed Mukondeleli WEF site.

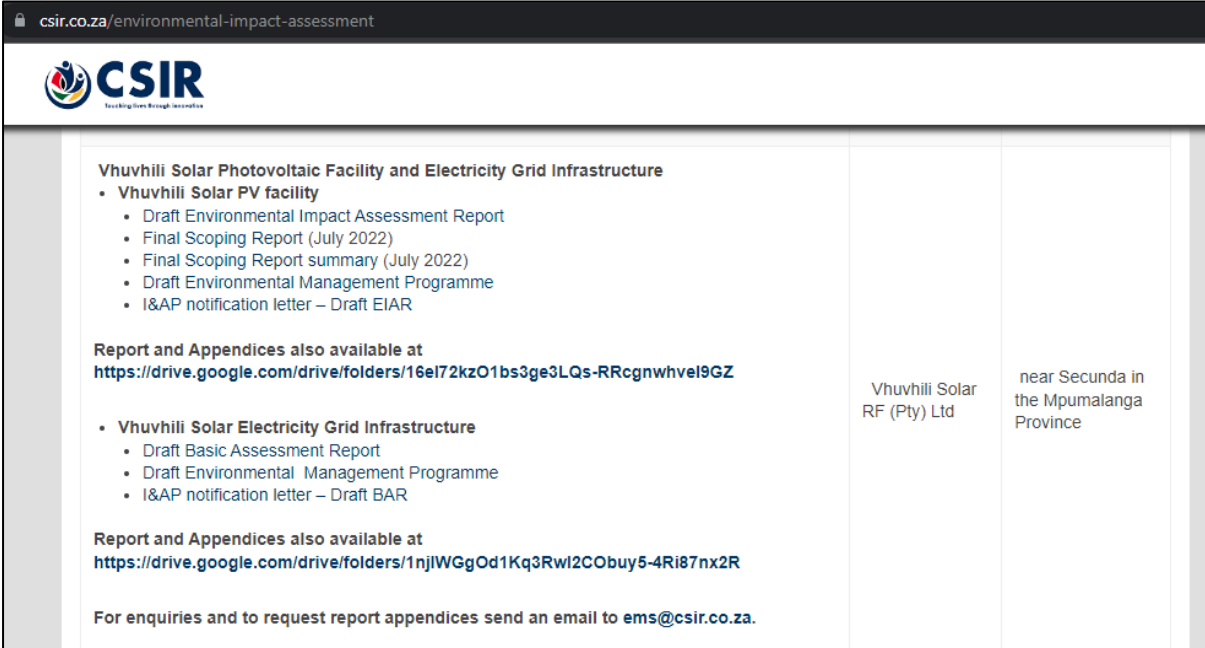


**Figure A: Locality map showing the proposed 132 kV overhead power line routing alternatives (that is the subject of this BA Report), which extends from the proposed Vhuvhili SEF (subject of a separate S&EIA process) to the proposed Mukondeleli WEF (subject of a separate S&EIA process).**

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

### F.4.4 Proof of Upload of the Draft BA Report to the EMS website



The screenshot shows the CSIR website interface for environmental impact assessment. The header includes the CSIR logo and the URL [csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment](https://csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment). The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column contains project details and links to reports. The middle column lists the project name and company. The right column lists the location.

Project Details	Company	Location
<p><b>Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Facility and Electricity Grid Infrastructure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Vhuvhili Solar PV facility</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report</li><li>• Final Scoping Report (July 2022)</li><li>• Final Scoping Report summary (July 2022)</li><li>• Draft Environmental Management Programme</li><li>• I&amp;AP notification letter – Draft EIAR</li></ul></li></ul> <p>Report and Appendices also available at <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16eI72kzO1bs3ge3LQs-RRcgnwhveI9GZ">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16eI72kzO1bs3ge3LQs-RRcgnwhveI9GZ</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Vhuvhili Solar Electricity Grid Infrastructure</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Draft Basic Assessment Report</li><li>• Draft Environmental Management Programme</li><li>• I&amp;AP notification letter – Draft BAR</li></ul></li></ul> <p>Report and Appendices also available at <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1njIWGgOd1Kq3RwI2CObuy5-4Ri87nx2R">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1njIWGgOd1Kq3RwI2CObuy5-4Ri87nx2R</a></p> <p>For enquiries and to request report appendices send an email to <a href="mailto:ems@csir.co.za">ems@csir.co.za</a>.</p>	Vhuvhili Solar RF (Pty) Ltd	near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

**APPENDICES**

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

## F.4.5 Proof of upload of the Draft BA Report to Google Drive

My Drive > Vhuvhili Public Participation Docs > Public Participation Document...

Name	Owner	Last modified
APPENDICES_Proposed Vhuvhili 132 kV Power Line_DBAR	me	14 Nov 2022
Proposed Vhuvhili 132kV Power line_DBAR_MAIN REPORT.pdf	me	11 Nov 2022

**Public Participation Documents for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Energy Facility**

Details | Activity

Last year

11 Nov 2022

You shared 9 items

- Proposed Vhuvhili 132kV Po...
- Proposed Vhuvhili 132kV Po...
- Proposed Vhuvhili 132kV Po...
- Proposed Vhuvhili 132kV Po...
- Proposed Vhuvhili 132kV Po...
- Proposed Vhuvhili 132kV Po...

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My Drive > Vhuvhili Public Participation ... > Public Participation Docum... > APPENDICES\_Proposed Vhuvhi...

Name	Owner	Last modified
Proposed Vhuvhili 132kV Power line_DBAR_APPENDIX A_EAP Detail...	me	11 Nov 2022
Proposed Vhuvhili 132kV Power line_DBAR_APPENDIX B_SPECIALIS...	me	11 Nov 2022
Proposed Vhuvhili 132kV Power line_DBAR_APPENDIX D_SPECIALIS...	me	11 Nov 2022
Proposed Vhuvhili 132kV Power line_DBAR_APPENDIX E_I&AP data...	me	11 Nov 2022
Proposed Vhuvhili 132kV Power line_DBAR_APPENDIX F_PUBLIC PA...	me	11 Nov 2022
Proposed Vhuvhili 132kV Power line_DBAR_APPENDIX G_EMPPr.pdf	me	11 Nov 2022
Proposed Vhuvhili 132kV Power line_DBAR_APPENDIX H_ADDITION...	me	11 Nov 2022
Proposed Vhuvhili 132kV Power line_DBAR_APPENDIX_C_MAPS.pdf	me	11 Nov 2022

**APPENDICES\_Proposed Vhuvhili 132 kV Power Line\_DBAR**

Details | Activity

Last year

11 Nov 2022

You shared 8 items

- Proposed Vhuvhili 132kV Po...
- Proposed Vhuvhili 132kV Po...
- Proposed Vhuvhili 132kV Po...
- Proposed Vhuvhili 132kV Po...
- Proposed Vhuvhili 132kV Po...
- Proposed Vhuvhili 132kV Po...

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## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

### F.4.6 Proof of Email Notification Reminding I&APs of the Closure of the 30-Day Commenting Period on the Draft BA Report Ending 14 December 2022

**From:** EMS <ems@csir.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 09 December 2022 16:35  
**To:** EMS  
**Subject:** REMINDER: RELEASE OF DRAFT BA REPORT FOR COMMENT FOR THE PROPOSED VHUVHILI 132 KV POWER LINE PROJECT NEAR SECUNDA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

**Categories:** This message has been archived by Retain on December 16 2022 20:36  
**Bcc:** OLetlalo@dffe.gov.za; SDlomo; AMaifo@environment.gov.za; ThandoNd@Dalrrd.gov.za; myeni@dffe.gov.za; TBooi@dffe.gov.za; mshubane@dffe.gov.za; mrbothata@dffe.gov.za; RMagodi@dffe.gov.za; TNethononda@dffe.gov.za; pkershaw@dffe.gov.za; mmasithi@dffe.gov.za; StanleyT@dffe.gov.za; bcadmin@environment.gov.za; Slekota@dffe.gov.za; Mrbothata@dffe.gov.za; Pmakitla@dffe.gov.za; Tnethononda@dffe.gov.za; kgapholam@dws.gov.za; mxim@dws.gov.za; swartsf@dws.gov.za; claassenm@dws.gov.za; MeiM@dwa.gov.za; SchwartzC@dws.gov.za; MalaudziM@dws.gov.za; ranwedzim@dwa.gov.za; smbajwa@ncpg.gov.za; SekwailaK@dws.gov.za; maryjeang@daff.gov.za; AnnelizaC@Dalrrd.gov.za; MashuduMa@daff.gov.za; JMans@environment.gov.za; MasithandazeF@Dalrrd.gov.za; gjdebruin@ruraldevelopment.gov.za; ThokoB@daff.gov.za; Kgauta.Mokoena@dmr.gov.za; Mpho.mabaso@energy.gov.za; mndzilili@ncpg.gov.za; odgcorrespondence@economic.gov.za; GeerinJH@eskom.co.za; DikgangJ@dot.gov.za; bmoduka@mpg.gov.za; info@sahra.org; nkhumalo@sahra.org.za; rredelstorff@sahra.org.za; nhiggitt@sahra.org.za; lucius.moolman@sanparks.org; howard.hendricks@sanparks.org; helga@saeon.ac.za; lucky.legodi@drdlr.gov.za; sharigobin@salga.org.za; herman.coetzee2@transnet.net; AbrahamsN@nra.co.za; BestbierG@caa.co.za; MazheteseC@caa.co.za; Masilelas@caa.co.za; richardma@atns.co.za; kebasenosi@yahoo.com; rwump@yahoo.com; nditsheni.ramuhulu@dmr.gov.za; Aubrey.Tshivhandekano@dmr.gov.za; Tshivhandekano@dmr.gov.za; MulaudziM@dws.gov.za; rambudaa@dwa.gov.za; gumaf@dws.gov.za; cmchunda@mpg.gov.za; pnntuli@mpg.gov.za; sam.nkosi@drdlr.gov.za; SANKosi@ruraldevelopment.gov.za; Nonhlanhla.Mbatha@drdlr.gov.za; ntokozi.nkambule@drdlr.gov.za; dtswai@wit.mpu.gov.za; lebjane.maphutha@drdlr.gov.za; HALberts@environment.gov.za; MMundalamo@environment.gov.za; Tshikalangen@dws.gov.za; saveram@mpuhealth.gov.za; liezelp@mpuhealth.gov.za; kmohlasedi@mpg.gov.za; SPienaar@mpg.gov.za; mvdmerwe@mpg.gov.za; lkhoza@mpg.gov.za; bmoduka@mpg.gov.za; kutumelagm@mpg.gov.za; sihle.madlala@transnet.net; Zanele.Manyathi@transnet.net; john.geeringh@eskom.co.za; mpho.muswubi@eskom.co.za; mike.summerfield@blutechretail.co.za; BadenHC@eskom.co.za; lerato.mokgwathheng@eskom.co.za; mokwall@eskom.co.za; mokwasLL@eskom.co.za; FranciA@eskom.co.za; SnymanPD@eskom.co.za; PeenseRN@eskom.co.za; SalazeT@eskom.co.za; reddylu@eskom.co.za; mamokete.mafumo@eskom.co.za; MafumoML@eskom.co.za; vGenseAL@eskom.co.za; BerghS@eskom.co.za; andre.crous@eskom.co.za; BloemDJ@eskom.co.za; PetersOw@eskom.co.za; VilakazS@eskom.co.za; elroy.saaynan@eskom.co.za; MampurSD@eskom.co.za; TunnickDA@eskom.co.za; Haridaj@eskom.co.za; SirkarA@eskom.co.za; abrahams@wkn-windcurrent.com; rimbault@wkn-windcurrent.com; jack; d.zoekop@lando.co.za; mariette@burst.co.za; info@birdlife.org.za; yolanf@ewt.org.za; gareht@ewt.org.za; lourensl@ewt.org.za; oscarm@ewt.org.za; eia@ewt.org.za; bradleyg@ewt.org.za;

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**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

**Bcc:** mlunie@mweb.co.za; ceo@mpumalangalandbou.co.za; tlu@axess.co.za; gbaenes@wessanorth.co.za; malcolms@lantic.net; slowveld@soft.co.za; lowveldchair@wessa.co.za; abeegte@dffe.gov.za; hanneswetlands@gmail.com; nvdwalt@randwater.co.za; matrixpr@ananzi.co.za; info@orf.co.za; mohalabel@iucma.co.za; dzhangit@iucma.co.za; dlaminis@iucma.co.za; berodadaan@lantic.net; records@gsibande.gov.za; zakhele.jiyane@vodacom.co.za; mtnhq@mtn.com; cellcermelo@celcc.co.za; Strohl@caa.co.za; obstacles@caa.co.za; richardma@atns.co.za; oliver.mohlala@weathersa.co.za; KoegelebergJD@sentech.co.za; MotlhakeS@sentech.co.za; pretoriusa@sentech.co.za; johan@fleetcall.co.za; franss@netstar.co.za; info@icasa.org.za; brian.dryer@neotel.co.za; vanree\_c@mtn.co.za; renier.nel@mtn.co.za; leonardS@openseve.co.za; smitj1@telkom.co.za; barnesc@vodacom.co.za; nico.fourie@vodacom.co.za; danie.oosthuizen@vodacom.co.za; SchutCE5@telkom.co.za; A.Sibanda@knowledgepele.com; ferdis@atns.co.za; phillipd@atns.co.za; radiotech@saps.org.za; kebasenosi@yahoo.com; zukile.mali@yahoo.com; loydejager@hotmail.com; agrisa@agrisa.co.za; janse@agrisa.co.za; spothil@gmail.com; info@birdlife.org.za; whitneyt832@gmail.com; advocacy@birdlife.org.za; energy@birdlife.org.za; seccp@earthlife.org.za; mabule@ghouse.org.za; constanth@ewt.org.za; eia@ewt.org.za; lourensl@ewt.org.za; bonnies@ewt.org.za; wep@ewt.org.za; cobust@ewt.org.za; mmoni.suza@nersa.org.za; warren.joubert@weathersa.co.za; lynne.hannay@shell.com; salt@salt.ac.za; chris@salt.ac.za; ferdie@salt.co.za; atiplady@ska.ac.za; tnape@ska.ac.za; mbaloye@ska.ac.za; bsethole@ska.ac.za; smatlhane@ska.ac.za; office@sessa.org.za; morgan.griffiths@wessa.co.za; mduplessis@wwf.org.za; LHirshon@biothermenergy.com; Warren Morse; Mitchell.Hodgson@scatecsolar.com; info@solarcapital.co.za; steyn.devos@juwi.co.za; adam.treki@scatec.com; eia@g7energies.com; m.lubaxa@ymail.com; jacques.dutoit2@sasol.com; paul.cronje@sasol.com; Michael.Barnes@enertrag.com; Kyle.Swartz@enertrag.com; Minnelise Levendal; Willan Adonis; Paul Lochner

Dear stakeholder,

**RE: REMINDER OF THE RELEASE OF THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR A 30-DAY COMMENTING PERIOD FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 132 KV POWER LINE AND SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR SECUNDA IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Further to the email notification below, this serves as a reminder that the 30-day public comment period on the Draft BA Report for the Proposed Development of a 132 kV Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Energy Facility near Secunda, Mpumalanga Province, closes on **14 December 2022**.

The Draft BA Report can be accessed on the project website and Google Drive; details are indicated below:

- [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nilWGGod1Kq3Rwl2CObuy5-4Ri87nx2R?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nilWGGod1Kq3Rwl2CObuy5-4Ri87nx2R?usp=share_link)
- <https://www.csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment>

You are kindly reminded to submit any comments you may have on the Draft BA Report to the Project Manager at the CSIR by 14 December 2022, contact details are provided below.

Copies of all comments received from I&APs and stakeholders during the review of the Draft BA Report will be included as an appendix to the Final BA Report and in the Comments and Response Report. The Final BA Report will then be submitted to the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Affairs (DARDLEA) for decision-

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**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

making in line with Regulation 23(1) (a) (b) of the 2014 National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (as amended).

We would like to thank you in advance for your participation in this BA Process.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries relating to the above or should you find difficulty in accessing the documentation at the links provided above.

Should you email us, please use "**Vhuvhili Power line BA**" as the subject line.

Kind Regards,  
CSIR BA Project Team

CSIR-EMS  
PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599  
Tel: 083 309 8159  
Fax: 021 888 2693  
Email: [ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za)

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**From:** EMS <[ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 11 November 2022 18:17  
**To:** EMS <[ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za)>  
**Subject:** RELEASE OF DRAFT BA REPORT FOR COMMENT FOR THE PROPOSED VHUVHILI 132 KV POWER LINE PROJECT NEAR SECUNDA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Dear Stakeholder,

**RE: NOTIFICATION OF THE RELEASE OF THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR A 30-DAY COMMENTING PERIOD FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 132 KV POWER LINE AND SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR SECUNDA IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Notification is hereby given of the commencement of the Basic Assessment (BA) Process and of the release of the Draft BA Report for a 30-day commenting period, extending from 14 November 2022 to 14 December 2022, in terms of Regulation 40(1)(a) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), as amended, (NEMA) for the proposed development of a 132 kV overhead power line and supporting infrastructure for the proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility (SEF), near Secunda in the Mpumalanga province. The proposed project is located within the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality which falls within the Gert Sibande District Municipality.

In line with Regulation 19(1) and 20(1) of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended), the Draft BA Report has been compiled and notice is hereby given of the release of the Draft BA Report for the proposed Vhuvhili 132 kV power line for a 30-day commenting period **extending from 14 November to 14 December 2022**

The Draft BA Report can be accessed on the project website and Google Drive; details are indicated below:

- [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1njlWGgOd1Kq3Rwl2CObuy5-4Ri87nx2R?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1njlWGgOd1Kq3Rwl2CObuy5-4Ri87nx2R?usp=share_link)
- <https://www.csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment>

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**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

You are kindly invited to register your interest and submit any comments you may have on the Draft BA Report to the Project Manager at the CSIR by 14 December 2022.

Details are provided below and in the attached cover letter.

Kindly find attached a cover letter that provides additional detail on the proposed project. For ease of reference, we have also attached the Executive Summary of the Draft BA Report to this email.

Copies of all comments received from I&APs and stakeholders during the review of the Draft BA Report will be included as an appendix to the Final BA Report and in the Comments and Response Report. The Final BA Report will then be submitted to the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Affairs (DARDLEA) for decision-making in line with Regulation 23(1) (a) (b) of the 2014 National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (as amended).

We would like to thank you in advance for your participation in this BA Process.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries relating to the above or should you struggle to access the documentation at the links provided above.

Should you email us, please use "Vhuvhili Power line BA" as the subject line.

Kind Regards,  
CSIR BA Project Team

CSIR-EMS  
PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599  
Tel: 083 309 8159  
Fax: 021 888 2693  
Email: [ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za)

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

### F.5 PROOF OF SMS NOTIFICATION TO I&APS FOR THE RELEASE OF THE DRAFT BA REPORT FOR A 30-DAY COMMENTING PERIOD

The following text message (SMS) was sent on 14 November 2020 to the contact details listed in the table below using a bulk SMS service.

**SMS text:**

Dear Stakeholder, the Draft BA Report for the proposed Vhuvhili EGI project near Secunda, Mpumalanga Province is now available for comment until 14 December 2022. Visit <http://bit.ly/3TxrMCD> or [https://bit.ly/CSIR\\_EIA](https://bit.ly/CSIR_EIA) to access the report. To send queries or to opt out of future communication on this project, email [ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za). Regards, CSIR EMS Team. ([https://bit.ly/CSIR\\_privacy](https://bit.ly/CSIR_privacy))

**Proof of SMS notifications:**

Date and Time Sent	Cellphone number	Date and Time Delivered	Delivery Status
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27722046224	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27722046224	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
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**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

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2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27834173671	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
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**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

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2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27823275886	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27823275886	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27834616660	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27834616660	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27834616660	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27842402264	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27842402264	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27842402264	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27723922052	2022-11-14 19:00:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27723922052	2022-11-14 19:00:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27723922052	2022-11-14 19:00:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27178114830	2022-11-14 20:15:00.0	Failed
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27178114830	2022-11-15 03:31:00.0	Failed
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27178114830	2022-11-15 10:46:00.0	Failed
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27768038216	2022-11-14 13:24:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27768038216	2022-11-14 13:24:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27768038216	2022-11-14 13:24:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27718560576	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27718560576	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27718560576	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27718560576	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27832997618	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27832997618	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27832997618	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27781397429	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27781397429	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27781397429	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27176206000	2022-11-14 20:15:00.0	Failed
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27176206000	2022-11-15 03:31:00.0	Failed
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27176206000	2022-11-15 10:46:00.0	Failed
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27832251878	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27832251878	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27832251878	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27825683156	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27825683156	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27825683156	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27836596296	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27836596296	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27836596296	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27178017000	2022-11-14 20:15:00.0	Failed
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27178017000	2022-11-15 10:46:00.0	Failed
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27178017000	2022-11-15 03:31:00.0	Failed
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27848280270	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27848280270	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27848280270	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone

**APPENDICES**

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27726981669	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27726981669	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27726981669	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27823183191	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27823183191	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27823183191	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27781521022	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27781521022	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27781521022	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27766412834	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27766412834	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27766412834	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27829040736	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27829040736	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27829040736	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27716030909		Failed: blocked
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27716030909		Failed: blocked
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27716030909		Failed: blocked
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27178192076	2022-11-14 20:15:00.0	Failed
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27178192076	2022-11-15 03:31:00.0	Failed
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27178192076	2022-11-15 10:46:00.0	Failed
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27721249401	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27721249401	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27721249401	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27826977364	2022-11-14 15:07:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27826977364	2022-11-14 15:07:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27826977364	2022-11-14 15:07:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27768705543	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27768705543	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27768705543	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27636852093	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27636852093	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27636852093	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27823749720	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27823749720	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27823749720	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27839864400	2022-11-14 17:05:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27839864400	2022-11-14 17:03:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27839864400	2022-11-14 17:09:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27732314893	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27732314893	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27732314893	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27837957263	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27837957263	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27837957263	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27823880082	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27823880082	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27823880082	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27827743303	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27827743303	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27827743303	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone



**APPENDICES**

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27725387555	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27725387555	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27725387555	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27660351231	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27660351231	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27660351231	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27829774552	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27829774552	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27829774552	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27825665803	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27825665803	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27825665803	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27822686282	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27822686282	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27822686282	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27722811751	2022-11-16 12:59:00.0	Failed: message expired
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27722811751	2022-11-16 12:59:00.0	Failed: message expired
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27722811751	2022-11-16 12:59:00.0	Failed: message expired
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27824965295	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27824965295	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27824965295	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27829029523	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27829029523	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27829029523	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27827749635	2022-11-14 13:00:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27827749635	2022-11-14 13:00:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27827749635	2022-11-14 13:00:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27663040448	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27663040448	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27663040448	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27829016327	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27829016327	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27829016327	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27845145254	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27845145254	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27845145254	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27825699178	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27825699178	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27825699178	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27824911582	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27824911582	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27824911582	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27824911579	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27824911579	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27824911579	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27837560072	2022-11-14 13:00:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27837560072	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27837560072	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone

**APPENDICES**

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province


2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27762781796	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27762781796	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27762781796	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27828079278	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27828079278	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27828079278	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27823376166	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27823376166	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27823376166	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27664361425	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27664361425	2022-11-14 13:00:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27664361425	2022-11-14 13:00:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27824501433	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27824501433	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27824501433	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27612262668	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27612262668	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27612262668	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27630096761	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27630096761	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone
2022-11-14 12:59:21.0	27630096761	2022-11-14 12:59:00.0	Delivered to phone

APPENDICES

Final Basic Assessment Report: Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

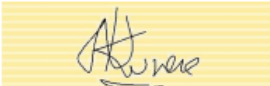
## F.6 PROOF OF DRAFT BA REPORT HARD-COPY DELIVERIES

### F.6.1 Delivery to Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA)



17 November 2022  
Dear Customer,  
This is a proof of delivery / statement of final status for the shipment with waybill number 3495183624.  
Thank you for choosing DHL Express.  
[www.dhl.com](http://www.dhl.com)

**Your shipment 3495183624 was delivered on 16 November 2022 at 12.24**

<b>Signed</b>	NOMCEBO	<b>Destination Service Area</b>	JOHANNESBURG OUTLYING SOUTH AFRICA
<b>Signature</b>		<b>Shipment Status</b>	Delivered
		<b>Piece ID(s)</b>	JD014600010450837931

---

**Additional Shipment Details**

<b>Service</b>	DOMESTIC EXPRESS	<b>Origin Service Area</b>	CAPE TOWN SOUTH AFRICA
<b>Picked Up</b>	11 November 2022 at 14.24	<b>Shipper Reference</b>	Sharifa Lameyer 3495183624ZA20221111102423626

APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

## F.6.2 Delivery to Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA)



17 November 2022

Dear Customer,

This is a proof of delivery / statement of final status for the shipment with waybill number 3495193236.

Thank you for choosing DHL Express.

[www.dhl.com](http://www.dhl.com)

**Your shipment 3495193236 was delivered on 17 November 2022 at 10.30**

<b>Signed</b>	ZANELE NKOSI SECURITY	<b>Destination Service Area</b>	JOHANNESBURG OUTLYING SOUTH AFRICA
		<b>Shipment Status</b>	Delivered
		<b>Piece ID(s)</b>	JD014600010450839218

---

**Additional Shipment Details**

<b>Service</b>	DOMESTIC EXPRESS	<b>Origin Service Area</b>	CAPE TOWN SOUTH AFRICA
<b>Picked Up</b>	11 November 2022 at 14.32	<b>Shipper Reference</b>	3495193236ZA2022111103257596 Sharifa Lameyer

APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

**F.6.3 Delivery to Govan Mbeki Local Municipality**



17 November 2022  
Dear Customer,  
This is a proof of delivery / statement of final status for the shipment with waybill number 3495180102.  
Thank you for choosing DHL Express.  
[www.dhl.com](http://www.dhl.com)

**Your shipment 3495180102 was delivered on 17 November 2022 at 14.55**

<b>Signed</b>	CHANTELLE WILLIAMS	<b>Destination Service Area</b>	JOHANNESBURG OUTLYING SOUTH AFRICA
		<b>Shipment Status</b>	Delivered
		<b>Piece ID(s)</b>	JD014600010450837493

---

**Additional Shipment Details**

<b>Service</b>	DOMESTIC EXPRESS	<b>Origin Service Area</b>	CAPE TOWN SOUTH AFRICA
<b>Picked Up</b>	11 November 2022 at 14.20	<b>Shipper Reference</b>	3495180102ZA2022111102057417 Sharifa Lameyer

APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

## F.6.4 Delivery to Secunda Public Library



17 November 2022

Dear Customer,

This is a proof of delivery / statement of final status for the shipment with waybill number 1857097841.

Thank you for choosing DHL Express.

[www.dhl.com](http://www.dhl.com)

**Your shipment 1857097841 was delivered on 17 November 2022 at 14.54**

<b>Signed</b>	CHANTELLE WILLIAMS	<b>Destination Service Area</b>	JOHANNESBURG OUTLYING SOUTH AFRICA
		<b>Shipment Status</b>	Delivered
		<b>Piece ID(s)</b>	JD014600010414116083

### Additional Shipment Details

<b>Service</b>	DOMESTIC EXPRESS	<b>Origin Service Area</b>	CAPE TOWN SOUTH AFRICA
<b>Picked Up</b>	11 November 2022 at 14.45	<b>Shipper Reference</b>	Sharifa Lameyer 1857097841ZA20221111104505742

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

### F.6.5 Delivery to Gert Sibande District Municipality

Please note: DHL reported telephonically to the EAP that delivery to Gert Sibande District Municipality on 17 November 2022 failed. Delivery was re-attempted and succeeded on 21 November 2022, as per the below proof.



21 November 2022

Dear Customer,

This is a proof of delivery / statement of final status for the shipment with waybill number 1857094190.

Thank you for choosing DHL Express.

[www.dhl.com](http://www.dhl.com)

**Your shipment 1857094190 was delivered on 21 November 2022 at 11.40**

<b>Signed</b>	SIBONGILE LEKALAKE	<b>Destination Service Area</b>	JOHANNESBURG OUTLYING SOUTH AFRICA
		<b>Shipment Status</b>	Delivered
		<b>Piece ID(s)</b>	JD014600010414115605

---

**Additional Shipment Details**

<b>Service</b>	DOMESTIC EXPRESS	<b>Origin Service Area</b>	CAPE TOWN SOUTH AFRICA
<b>Picked Up</b>	11 November 2022 at 14.41	<b>Shipper Reference</b>	1857094190ZA2022111104106619 Sharifa Lameyer

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

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### F.7 COPIES OF COMMENTS RECEIVED FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF THE DRAFT BA REPORT

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#### F.7.1 COMMENTS FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY

##### *F.7.1.i Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA)*

**From:** Whitney Tshimbana <whitneyt832@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 30 November 2022 10:23  
**To:** Paul Lochner; Willan Adonis  
**Subject:** Re: Acknowledgement of receipt of application  
**Attachments:** Acknowledgement of Application G272.pdf  
**Categories:** This message has been archived by Retain on December 07 2022 19:37

Some people who received this message don't often get email from whitneyt832@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning,

Attached is the acknowledgement letter that was sent on 25 November 2022.

Kind regards,  
Whitney Tshimbana

On Tue, Nov 29, 2022 at 5:40 PM Whitney Tshimbana <whitneyt832@gmail.com> wrote:

On Fri, 25 Nov 2022 at 12:50, Whitney Tshimbana <whitneyt832@gmail.com> wrote:

Good day,

Find attached for your attention.

Kind regards,  
Whitney Tshimbana



## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province



agriculture, rural development,  
land & environmental affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

13 De Jager, Ermelo, 2350, Mpumalanga Province  
Private Bag X 2777, Ermelo, 2350  
Tel: +27 ((17) 8114830, +27(17)8113944

GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT

LitikoLetekulima, Kutfufukiswa  
KwetiInJzawuTasemakhaya, Temahlaba  
Natesimondzawo

Departement van Landbou.  
LandelikeOntwikkeling,  
GrondenOngewing Sake

umNyangoweZelimo  
UkuThutlukiswakweeNdawozemaKhaya,  
iNarhaneNdabazeBhoduluko

Enquiries : Okwethu-kuhle Fakude / Whitney Tshimbana  
Telephone : (017) 811 4830  
Reference : 1/3/1/16/1 G-272  
NEAS No. : MPP/EIA/0001128/2022

Paul Lochner  
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research  
P.O. Box 320  
Stellenbosch  
7599

Telephone : 084 442 3646  
Email : plochner@csir.co.za

Dear Sir,

**APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 132 KV OVERHEAD POWER LINE AND SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE PROPOSED VHUVHILI SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ENERGY (SEF) ON PORTION 20 OF THE FARM GROOTVLEI 293 IS, REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM GROOTVLEI 584 IS, REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM VLAKSPRUIT 292 IS, PORTIONS 2, 3, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 AND 19 OF THE FARM VLAKSPRUIT 292, REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM KNOPPIES 314 IS, PORTION 3 OF THE FARM BRANDWACHT 316 IS, PORTIONS 6, 10, 11 AND 13 OF THE FARM BOSJESSPRUIT 291 IS AND PORTIONS 2 AND 12 OF THE FARM TONDERSHOEK 317 IS, SECUNDA, GOVAN MBEKI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.**

The Department confirms having received the application form and draft Basic Assessment Report for Environmental Authorisation for the above mentioned project on 17 November 2022.

The application has been assigned a reference number **1/3/1/16/1G-272**. Kindly quote this reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application. The responsible officer is Whitney Tshimbana and all correspondence must be directed to the Environmental Impact Management, Gert Sibande District Office, marked for the attention of the responsible officer. Please note that you must, within 90 days from 17 November 2022, submit to this office a Final Basic Assessment Report- inclusive of specialist reports and an EMPr- which has already been subjected to a public participation process, and was provided to interested and affected parties for a period of 30 days for comments, and which reflects the incorporation of any comments received, including any comments from this office. In this regard you are referred to the requirements of Regulation 40(3).

Please note that in terms of the provisions of Regulation 45, this application will lapse, and this office will deem the application to have lapsed, if the applicant fails to submit the Final Basic Assessment Report within the timeframe specified above.

Please draw the applicant's attention to the fact that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. SB Mbuyane  
Environmental Impact Management

25/11/2022  
Date



**APPENDICES**

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

**From:** Whitney Tshimbana <whitneyt832@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 13 December 2022 12:33  
**To:** Paul Lochner; Willan Adonis  
**Cc:** Okwethu Fakude  
**Subject:** Vhuvhili power line comments  
**Attachments:** vhuvhili powerline comments.pdf

**Categories:** This message has been archived by Retain on December 21 2022 01:07

Good day,

Find attached for your attention.

Kind regards,  
Whitney Tshimbana

APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province



agriculture, rural development,  
land & environmental affairs  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT

13 De Jager, Ermelo, 2350, Mpumalanga Province  
Private Bag X 2777, Ermelo, 2350  
Tel: +27 ((17) 8114830, +27(17)8113944

Liliko Letekulima, Kufufukiswa  
Kwelindzawo Tasemakhaya, Temhlaba  
Netesimondzawo

Departement van Landbou,  
Landelike Ontwikkeling,  
Grond en Ongeewing Sake

umNyango weZelimo  
UkuThuthukiswa kweeNdawo zemaKhaya,  
iNarha neeNdaba zeBhoduluko

Enquiries : Okwethu Fakude / Whitney Tshimbana  
Telephone : (013) 004 0768  
Reference : 1/3/1/16/1 G-272  
NEAS No. : MPP/EIA/0001128/2022

Paul Lochner  
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research  
P.O. Box 320  
Stellenbosch  
7599

Telephone: 084 442 3646  
Email: plochner@csir.co.za

Dear Sir,

**DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT: ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 132 KV OVERHEAD POWER LINE AND SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE PROPOSED VHUVHILI SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ENERGY (SEF) ON PORTION 20 OF THE FARM GROOTVLEI 293 IS, REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM GROOTVLEI 584 IS, REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM VLAKSPRUIT 292 IS, PORTIONS 2, 3, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 AND 19 OF THE FARM VLAKSPRUIT 292, REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM KNOPPIES 314 IS, PORTION 3 OF THE FARM BRANDWACHT 316 IS, PORTIONS 6, 10, 11 AND 13 OF THE FARM BOSJESSPRUIT 291 IS AND PORTIONS 2 AND 12 OF THE FARM TONDESSHOEK 317 IS, SECUNDA, GOVAN MBEKI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.**

The draft basic assessment report which was submitted by you in respect of the abovementioned application and received by the Department on 17 November 2022 refers.

After careful consideration of the information contained, the following must be attended to and included in the final basic assessment report (BAR):

1. In accordance with Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) must have been provided written notice of the application and must be provided with a period of at least 30 days to submit comments on all reports (where such period is applicable after the submission of an application form as per the requirement of Regulation 40(3)).
2. MTPA's comments on this application are particularly critical given that Portion 20 of the farm Grootvlei 293 IS fall within Irreplaceable Critical Biodiversity Areas, Portion 12 of the farm Tondershoek 317 IS and remaining extent of the farm Grootvlei 584 IS fall within Optimal Critical Biodiversity Areas and Portion 2 of the farm Tondershoek 317 IS falls within Ecological Support Areas that is a Landscape corridor according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan: ARC GIS Viewer. S.B



## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

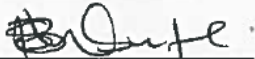
1/3/1/16/IG-272

3. The final BAR must contain possible risks and external contingencies relevant to the proposed activities, identifying and determining those that pose risks or threats to the environment and human health.
4. The final layout plan that will be included on the final BAR must clearly indicate that infrastructure will be repositioned to habitats of low sensitivity and pylons are positioned to avoid wetland and buffer zones.
5. All mitigation measures recommended by the various specialist studies/assessments for the identified impacts must be incorporated on the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).
6. The final BAR must provide proof that all potential and registered I&AP's, including the Organs of State, were provided with access to and an opportunity to comment on the draft BAR following submission of the application form (Regulation 40(3)).
7. The final BAR must include an issues and response report, as well as copies of and responses to comments received from all I&AP, including these comments.

You are reminded of the requirements of Regulation 19(1), and that if such requirement is not met, the application will lapse in terms of the provisions of Regulation 45.

Please draw the applicant's attention to the fact that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department and do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.

Yours sincerely,



**MS. S.B. MBUYANE**

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT**

**DATE: 13/12/2022**



## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

### F.7.2 COMMENTS FROM COMMENTING AUTHORITIES AND ORGANS OF STATE

#### F.7.2.i Comments from Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA)

**From:** Nokwazi Ngobeni <Nokwazi.Ngobeni@mtpa.co.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 12 December 2022 15:34  
**To:** EMS  
**Cc:** Johan Eksteen; Phumla Nkosi; Khumbelo Malele; Komilla Knarasoo; Karin Van Niekerk; Frans Krige; Tebogo T. Sibande; Lorraine Oosthuizen  
**Subject:** MTPA's comments on the Overhead power line and vhuvhili solar photovoltaic facility  
**Attachments:** LUA 22.3285\_DrftBar\_132KV Power Line and Infrastructure\_Secunda\_CSIR.pdf; LUA 22.3286\_DrftEIAR\_Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic facility\_Secunda\_CSIR.pdf

**Categories:** This message has been archived by Retain on December 19 2022 18:54

You don't often get email from nokwazi.ngobeni@mtpa.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

[The e-mail server of the sender could not be verified (SPF Record)]



Good day Ms. Levendal and Mr. Adonis

Please find the two attached MTPA's comments on the draft bar for an Overhead power line and the draft EIARR for Vhuvhili solar photovoltaic facility.

Reference: LUA 22/3285  
LUA 22/3286

Warm regards  
Nokwazi Ngobeni

**Disclaimer:**

All views or opinions expressed in this electronic message and its attachments are the views of the sender and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency. No employee of Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency is entitled to conclude a binding contract on behalf of the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency unless he/ she is an Accounting Officer of the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency, or his or her authorized representative. The information contained in this message and its attachments may be confidential or privileged and is for the use of the named recipient only, except where the sender specifically states otherwise. If you are not the intended recipient you may not copy or deliver this message to anyone.

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province



### OFFICE OF THE CEO

Ref: LUA 22/3285  
Unit: LUA/SS  
Enquiries: F.N. Krige  
E-mail: [frans@mtpa.co.za](mailto:frans@mtpa.co.za)  
Tel/Fax: 013 - 2540279

Attention: Willlan Adonis  
Project Manager  
**CSIR Environmental Services**  
P.O. Box 320  
**STELLENBOSCH**  
7599

E-mail: [ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za)

Dear Mr. Adonis

**SUBJECT: THE MTPA COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 132 KV OVERHEAD POWER LINE AND SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE PROPOSED VHUVHILI SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ENERGY FACILITY NEAR SECUNDA IN MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.**

Your correspondence with reference "Vhuvhili Power Line BA" of November 2022 refer.

Please register the project with DARDLEA to obtain a reference number.

The MTPA does not object to this proposal but has the following comments:

- The preferred alternative 1 route is supported, with the understanding that the wetland crossings will be developed in a responsible way. The Ecological Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations should be adhered to where structures such as power line pillars or bridges for service roads within these wetlands will affect the natural water flow and vegetation. The necessary water management features to avoid erosion and siltation must be designed and implemented.
- The MTPA is concerned African bullfrogs, *Pyxicephalus adspersus*. If present, mitigation methods for the movement of bullfrogs should be implemented. If any Bullfrogs are encountered during or before construction commences the MTPA herpetologist Dr Botha must be informed.
- The mitigation for the prevention of collisions with large birds such as the African Grass Owl, *Tyto capensis*, must be implemented. Other mitigation methods prescribed by the avifaunal specialist must be adhered to.



Private Bag X11338 Mbombela, 1200, N4 National Road, Hall's Gateway  
Mataffin, Mbombela, Mpumalanga  
Tel: +27 (0)13 759 5300/01 Fax : +27 (0)13 755 3928 [www.mpumalanga.com](http://www.mpumalanga.com)



## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

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- Plant specialists should indicate the position of Conservation important plants on site. Wherever some of these plants should be rescued, an application for a permit should be submitted.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Vilakazi", is written over a series of vertical lines.

**MR. M.H. VILAKAZI**  
**ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
DATE: 09 / 12 / 2022



Private Bag X11338 Mbombela, 1200, N4 National Road, Hall's Gateway  
Mataffin, Mbombela, Mpumalanga  
Tel: +27 (0)13 759 5300/01 Fax : +27 (0)13 755 3928 [www.mpumalanga.com](http://www.mpumalanga.com)




## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

### **F.7.2.ii Comments from the South African Heritage Resources Agency: Interim Comment**

**Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province**  
Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za  
CaseID: 20125

Date: Wednesday December 14, 2022  
Page No: 1

### Interim Comment

**In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

Attention: Vhuvhili Solar (RF) (Pty) Ltd

**The Project Applicant is proposing the construction of a 132 kV overhead transmission power line and associated EGI to feed the electricity generated by the proposed Vhuvhili SEF to the switching station at the proposed Mukondeleli WEF. The electricity will be transferred from the proposed on-site substation at the proposed Vhuvhili SEF via a 132 kV power line which extends approximately 12 km in length to the proposed switching station at the proposed Mukondeleli WEF.**

CSIR has been appointed by Vhuvhili Solar RF (Pty) Ltd conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed 132kV overhead powerline and associated infrastructure and associated electrical grid infrastructure to support the Vhuvhili Solar Energy Facility near Secunda, Mpumalanga Province.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include the construction of a 132kV overhead powerline up to 12 km long (four alternative routes) with a 32 m servitude and service roads.

Prof Marion Bamford, ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd and Beyond Heritage have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

*Bamford, M. 2022. Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Associated Electrical Grid Infrastructure to support the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda, Mpumalanga Province*

The proposed development is underlain by the Vryheid Formation that may contain fossils of the Glossopteris flora. No site visit was undertaken.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- A Fossil Chance Finds Protocol is to be implemented;



## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

### Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za  
CaseID: 20125

Date: Wednesday December 14, 2022  
Page No: 2

- When the final grid connection route has been determined based on other specialist inputs, and excavations for pole foundations have commenced, and only if fossils are found, then the Vhuvhili substation site grid route should be visited by a palaeontologist and any fossils found should be removed.

*Orton, J and Van der Walt, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: Basic Assessment for a Proposed 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Associated Electrical Grid Infrastructure to support the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Energy Facility near Secunda, Mpumalanga*

No specific site visit was conducted for the proposed powerline route. Data from previous surveys of adjacent development areas and satellite imagery was used. A total of five (5) heritage resources are located in the development footprint. These include one stone feature and historical ruins of low heritage significance and two burial grounds of high heritage significance.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The graves in the Alternative 3 (waypoint 179) and Alternative 4 (waypoint 182) corridors must be avoided and protected if either of these corridors are used. The powerline and associated service track must be located at least 50 m from the graves;
- If Alternatives 3 or 4 are used, before construction starts, the relevant graveyard must be fenced with a farm-style wire fence with a pedestrian gate to facilitate public access. The fence must be placed a minimum of 5 m away from all graves;
- A pre-construction survey of the final alignment must be carried out once the design is completed as to determine whether there are any further areas requiring intervention;
- A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

#### Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that an archaeological field assessment of the powerline routes be conducted as part of the EA process. The HIA must be revised based on the results of the field assessment.

The applicant is advised to extend the EA process in terms of section 19(1)b of the NEMA EIA Regulations in order to address this comment. Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above revised HIA and a

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

### Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: [nhiggitt@sahra.org.za](mailto:nhiggitt@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 20125

Date: Wednesday December 14, 2022  
Page No: 3

revised DBAR that incorporates the results of the revised HIA.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

---

Natasha Higgitt  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

---

Phillip Hine  
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/609071>  
(DARDLEA, Ref: )

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

### **F.7.2.iii Comments from the South African Heritage Resources Agency: Final Comment**

Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za  
CaseID: 20125

Date: Tuesday January 24, 2023  
Page No: 1

#### **Final Comment**

**In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

Attention: Vhuvhili Solar (RF) (Pty) Ltd

**The Project Applicant is proposing the construction of a 132 kV overhead transmission power line and associated EGI to feed the electricity generated by the proposed Vhuvhili SEF to the switching station at the proposed Mukondeleli WEF. The electricity will be transferred from the proposed on-site substation at the proposed Vhuvhili SEF via a 132 kV power line which extends approximately 12 km in length to the proposed switching station at the proposed Mukondeleli WEF.**

CSIR has been appointed by Vhuvhili Solar RF (Pty) Ltd conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed 132kV overhead powerline and associated infrastructure and associated electrical grid infrastructure to support the Vhuvhili Solar Energy Facility near Secunda, Mpumalanga Province.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include the construction of a 132kV overhead powerline up to 12 km long (four alternative routes) with a 32 m servitude and service roads.

Prof Marion Bamford, ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd and Beyond Heritage have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

*Bamford, M. 2022. Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Associated Electrical Grid Infrastructure to support the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda, Mpumalanga Province*

The proposed development is underlain by the Vryheid Formation that may contain fossils of the Glossopteris flora. No site visit was undertaken.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- A Fossil Chance Finds Protocol is to be implemented;

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

### Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za  
CaseID: 20125

Date: Tuesday January 24, 2023  
Page No: 2

- When the final grid connection route has been determined based on other specialist inputs, and excavations for pole foundations have commenced, and only if fossils are found, then the Vhuvhili substation site grid route should be visited by a palaeontologist and any fossils found should be removed.

*Orton, J and Van der Walt, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: Basic Assessment for a Proposed 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Associated Electrical Grid Infrastructure to support the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Energy Facility near Secunda, Mpumalanga*

No specific site visit was conducted for the proposed powerline route. Data from previous surveys of adjacent development areas and satellite imagery was used. A total of five (5) heritage resources are located in the development footprint. These include one stone feature and historical ruins of low heritage significance and two burial grounds of high heritage significance.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The graves in the Alternative 3 (waypoint 179) and Alternative 4 (waypoint 182) corridors must be avoided and protected if either of these corridors are used. The powerline and associated service track must be located at least 50 m from the graves;
- If Alternatives 3 or 4 are used, before construction starts, the relevant graveyard must be fenced with a farm-style wire fence with a pedestrian gate to facilitate public access. The fence must be placed a minimum of 5 m away from all graves;
- A pre-construction survey of the final alignment must be carried out once the design is completed as to determine whether there are any further areas requiring intervention;
- A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 14/12/2022, SAHRA requested that an archaeological field assessment of the powerline routes be conducted as part of the EA process. The HIA must be revised based on the results of the field assessment.

In a response to the SAHRA comment, the heritage specialist argued that there is enough evidence to confirm the sensitivity, predict the impacts and devise appropriate mitigation measures. Additionally, the conditions on site do not allow for a survey to be conducted (heavy rains). The specialist has requested that the heritage reports be accepted and that a pre-construction survey should be conducted in the dry season.

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
www.sahra.org.za

### Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final BAR and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit and Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development:
- The preconstruction survey must be conducted prior to any ground clearance. The report of the survey must be submitted to SAHRA for comment prior to any ground clearance. No ground clearance of construction may occur on site without comments from SAHRA;
- SAHRA reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions, layout changes or object to the development based on the results of the preconstruction survey;
- BGG Unit conditions: The development footprint must avoid sites 179 and 182 with a buffer-zone of 50m as suggested in the HIA. Should the developer wish to utilize the said sites, a grave exhumation/relocation process which includes public participation as outlined under Chapter XI of the NHRA regulations of 2000 must be initiated to obtain family consent. The exhumation must then be conducted by a qualified Archaeologist after obtaining a section 36 permit;
- 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Ngqabutho Madida 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51 of the NHRA regarding offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
- With reference to the mitigation work noted above, a qualified archaeologist must be appointed to undertake the work in terms of the permit applied for as noted above;

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

### Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: [nhiggitt@sahra.org.za](mailto:nhiggitt@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 20125

Date: Tuesday January 24, 2023  
Page No: 4

- If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
- The Final BAR and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

---

Natasha Higgitt  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

---

Phillip Hine  
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

#### ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/609071>  
(DARDLEA, Ref: )

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

### Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za  
CaseID: 20125

Date: Tuesday January 24, 2023  
Page No: 5

#### Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

### **F.7.2.iv Comments from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE): Biodiversity Mainstreaming & EIA**

**From:** Mashudu Mudau <MaMudau@dffe.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 12 December 2022 14:45  
**To:** EMS  
**Subject:** RE: REMINDER: RELEASE OF DRAFT BA REPORT FOR COMMENT FOR THE PROPOSED VHUHILI 132 KV POWER LINE PROJECT NEAR SECUNDA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
**Categories:** This message has been archived by Retain on December 19 2022 18:54

You don't often get email from mamudau@dffe.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good day.

Thank you for the reminder, however, kindly note we did not receive the aforementioned project.

Regards,

**Mashudu Mudau**

Biodiversity Mainstreaming & EIA  
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
Environment House  
473 Steve Biko and Soutpansberg Streets  
PRETORIA  
Tel: (012) 399 9945  
Cell: 076 166 8307  
E-mail: [mamudau@dffe.gov.za](mailto:mamudau@dffe.gov.za)



forestry, fisheries  
and the environment  
Department of  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**From:** Seoka Lekota <SLEKOTA@dffe.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 12 December 2022 11:33  
**To:** Mashudu Mudau <MaMudau@dffe.gov.za>  
**Subject:** FW: REMINDER: RELEASE OF DRAFT BA REPORT FOR COMMENT FOR THE PROPOSED VHUHILI 132 KV POWER LINE PROJECT NEAR SECUNDA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

fya

Mr. Seoka Lekota  
Deputy Director: Biodiversity Mainstreaming EIA



## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

*Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment  
Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Road and Soutpansberg Streets  
Tel: +27 (12) 399 9573  
Email: [SEKOTA@dffe.gov.za](mailto:SEKOTA@dffe.gov.za)*

---

**From:** Mukondi Matshusa <[MMatshusa@dffe.gov.za](mailto:MMatshusa@dffe.gov.za)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 09 December 2022 18:34  
**To:** Seoka Lekota <[SLEKOTA@dffe.gov.za](mailto:SLEKOTA@dffe.gov.za)>  
**Subject:** FW: REMINDER: RELEASE OF DRAFT BA REPORT FOR COMMENT FOR THE PROPOSED VHUVHILI 132 KV POWER LINE PROJECT NEAR SECUNDA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

---

**From:** EMS <[ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 09 December 2022 16:35  
**To:** EMS <[ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za)>  
**Subject:** REMINDER: RELEASE OF DRAFT BA REPORT FOR COMMENT FOR THE PROPOSED VHUVHILI 132 KV POWER LINE PROJECT NEAR SECUNDA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Dear stakeholder,

**RE: REMINDER OF THE RELEASE OF THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR A 30-DAY COMMENTING PERIOD FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 132 KV POWER LINE AND SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR SECUNDA IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Further to the email notification below, this serves as a reminder that the 30-day public comment period on the Draft BA Report for the Proposed Development of a 132 kV Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Energy Facility near Secunda, Mpumalanga Province, closes on **14 December 2022**.

The Draft BA Report can be accessed on the project website and Google Drive; details are indicated below:

- [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1njIWGgOd1Kq3Rw2CObuy5-4Ri87nx2R?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1njIWGgOd1Kq3Rw2CObuy5-4Ri87nx2R?usp=share_link)
- <https://www.csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment>

You are kindly reminded to submit any comments you may have on the Draft BA Report to the Project Manager at the CSIR by 14 December 2022, contact details are provided below.

Copies of all comments received from I&APs and stakeholders during the review of the Draft BA Report will be included as an appendix to the Final BA Report and in the Comments and Response Report. The Final BA Report will then be submitted to the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Affairs (DARDLEA) for decision-making in line with Regulation 23(1) (a) (b) of the 2014 National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (as amended).

We would like to thank you in advance for your participation in this BA Process.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries relating to the above or should you find difficulty in accessing the documentation at the links provided above.

Should you email us, please use "**Vhuvhili Power line BA**" as the subject line.

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

Kind Regards,  
CSIR BA Project Team

CSIR-EMS  
PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599  
Tel: 083 309 8159  
Fax: 021 888 2693  
Email: [ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za)

---

**From:** EMS <[ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 11 November 2022 18:17  
**To:** EMS <[ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za)>  
**Subject:** RELEASE OF DRAFT BA REPORT FOR COMMENT FOR THE PROPOSED VHUVHILI 132 KV POWER LINE PROJECT NEAR SECUNDA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Dear Stakeholder,

**RE: NOTIFICATION OF THE RELEASE OF THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR A 30-DAY COMMENTING PERIOD FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 132 KV POWER LINE AND SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR SECUNDA IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Notification is hereby given of the commencement of the Basic Assessment (BA) Process and of the release of the Draft BA Report for a 30-day commenting period, extending from 14 November 2022 to 14 December 2022, in terms of Regulation 40(1)(a) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), as amended, (NEMA) for the proposed development of a 132 kV overhead power line and supporting infrastructure for the proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility (SEF), near Secunda in the Mpumalanga province. The proposed project is located within the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality which falls within the Gert Sibande District Municipality.

In line with Regulation 19(1) and 20(1) of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended), the Draft BA Report has been compiled and notice is hereby given of the release of the Draft BA Report for the proposed Vhuvhili 132 kV power line for a 30-day commenting period **extending from 14 November to 14 December 2022**

The Draft BA Report can be accessed on the project website and Google Drive; details are indicated below:

- [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1njIWGgOd1Kq3Rw2CObuy5-4Ri87rx2R?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1njIWGgOd1Kq3Rw2CObuy5-4Ri87rx2R?usp=share_link)
- <https://www.csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment>

You are kindly invited to register your interest and submit any comments you may have on the Draft BA Report to the Project Manager at the CSIR by 14 December 2022.

Details are provided below and in the attached cover letter.

Kindly find attached a cover letter that provides additional detail on the proposed project. For ease of reference, we have also attached the Executive Summary of the Draft BA Report to this email

Copies of all comments received from I&APs and stakeholders during the review of the Draft BA Report will be included as an appendix to the Final BA Report and in the Comments and Response Report. The Final BA Report will then be

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

submitted to the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Affairs (DARDLEA) for decision-making in line with Regulation 23(1) (a) (b) of the 2014 National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (as amended).

We would like to thank you in advance for your participation in this BA Process.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries relating to the above or should you struggle to access the documentation at the links provided above.

Should you email us, please use "**Vhuvhili Power line BA**" as the subject line.

Kind Regards,  
CSIR BA Project Team

CSIR-EMS  
PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599  
Tel: 083 309 8159  
Fax: 021 888 2693  
Email: [ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za)

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

### F.7.2.v Comments from Eskom

**From:** Lerato Mokgwatlheng <MokgwaLL@eskom.co.za>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 17 November 2022 17:33  
**To:** EMS  
**Cc:** Precious Mashiteng; Grace Mashabela; Terence Malapane  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE OF DRAFT BA REPORT FOR COMMENT FOR THE PROPOSED VHU VHILI 132 KV POWER LINE PROJECT NEAR SECUNDA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

**Categories:** This message has been archived by Retain on November 24 2022 20:21

Dear CSIR BA Project Team

Thanks for the information.

Regarding this project going forward, please be informed that the Eskom's officials who will engage you are Ms Grace Mashabela (Senior Environmental Advisor) and Mr Terence Malapane (Senior Advisor – Negotiation/Acquisition Land & Rights).

Regards,  
Ms Lerato Mokgwatlheng

---

**From:** EMS <ems@csir.co.za>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 16 November 2022 17:08  
**To:** Lerato Mokgwatlheng <MokgwaLL@eskom.co.za>  
**Cc:** Precious Mashiteng <MashitePR@eskom.co.za>; Grace Mashabela <MashabGT@eskom.co.za>; Terence Malapane <MalapaMT@eskom.co.za>  
**Subject:** [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] - RE: RELEASE OF DRAFT BA REPORT FOR COMMENT FOR THE PROPOSED VHU VHILI 132 KV POWER LINE PROJECT NEAR SECUNDA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Good day Mr Mokgwatlheng

Thank you very much for your email.

Please find attached the kmz file for the proposed 132 kV power line (assessed corridor and associated power line alternatives) to transfer electricity from the on-site substation at the proposed Vhuvhili Solar Energy Facility to the switching station at the proposed Mukondeleli Wind Energy Facility.

These two Renewable Energy Facilities are subject to separate EIA applications with the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA).

Please advise if you require any additional information.

Best wishes,  
CSIR BA Project Team

---

**From:** Lerato Mokgwatlheng <MokgwaLL@eskom.co.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 15 November 2022 12:20  
**To:** EMS <ems@csir.co.za>  
**Cc:** Precious Mashiteng <MashitePR@eskom.co.za>; Grace Mashabela <MashabGT@eskom.co.za>; Terence Malapane <MalapaMT@eskom.co.za>

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

**Subject:** RE: RELEASE OF DRAFT BA REPORT FOR COMMENT FOR THE PROPOSED VHUVHILI 132 KV POWER LINE PROJECT NEAR SECUNDA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Dear CSIR BA Project Team,

Could you kindly send us the kmz files of your proposed project. We would like to over-lay your project with that of Eskom, to enable us to provide the comments thereafter.

Regards,

Lerato Mokgwatlheng (Pr. Sci. Nat.)  
Senior Environmental Advisor  
Grid Planning & Development: Land Rights  
Transmission Division  
Megawatt Park D1X37 Maxwell Drive Sunninghill Sandton  
Tel +27 (0)11 800 6812  
Cell +27 (0)84 580 6147  
Fax +27 (0)86 660 5639  
Email [MokgwatlL@eskom.co.za](mailto:MokgwatlL@eskom.co.za)

---

**From:** EMS <[ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za)>

**Sent:** Friday, 11 November 2022 18:17

**To:** EMS <[ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za)>

**Subject:** [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] - RELEASE OF DRAFT BA REPORT FOR COMMENT FOR THE PROPOSED VHUVHILI 132 KV POWER LINE PROJECT NEAR SECUNDA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Dear Stakeholder,

**RE: NOTIFICATION OF THE RELEASE OF THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR A 30-DAY COMMENTING PERIOD FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 132 KV POWER LINE AND SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR SECUNDA IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Notification is hereby given of the commencement of the Basic Assessment (BA) Process and of the release of the Draft BA Report for a 30-day commenting period, extending from 14 November 2022 to 14 December 2022, in terms of Regulation 40(1)(a) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), as amended, (NEMA) for the proposed development of a 132 kV overhead power line and supporting infrastructure for the proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility (SEF), near Secunda in the Mpumalanga province. The proposed project is located within the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality which falls within the Gert Sibande District Municipality.

In line with Regulation 19(1) and 20(1) of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended), the Draft BA Report has been compiled and notice is hereby given of the release of the Draft BA Report for the proposed Vhuvhili 132 kV power line for a 30-day commenting period **extending from 14 November to 14 December 2022**

The Draft BA Report can be accessed on the project website and Google Drive; details are indicated below:

- [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1njfWgOd1Kq3Rw2CObuy5-4Ri87nx2R?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1njfWgOd1Kq3Rw2CObuy5-4Ri87nx2R?usp=share_link)
- <https://www.csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment>

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

You are kindly invited to register your interest and submit any comments you may have on the Draft BA Report to the Project Manager at the CSIR by 14 December 2022.

Details are provided below and in the attached cover letter.

Kindly find attached a cover letter that provides additional detail on the proposed project. For ease of reference, we have also attached the Executive Summary of the Draft BA Report to this email.

Copies of all comments received from I&APs and stakeholders during the review of the Draft BA Report will be included as an appendix to the Final BA Report and in the Comments and Response Report. The Final BA Report will then be submitted to the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Affairs (DARDLEA) for decision-making in line with Regulation 23(1) (a) (b) of the 2014 National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (as amended).

We would like to thank you in advance for your participation in this BA Process.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries relating to the above or should you struggle to access the documentation at the links provided above.

Should you email us, please use "Vhuvhili Power line BA" as the subject line.

Kind Regards,  
CSIR BA Project Team

CSIR-EMS  
PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599  
Tel: 083 309 8159  
Fax: 021 888 2693  
Email: [ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za)

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NB: This Email and its contents are subject to the Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd EMAIL LEGAL NOTICE which can be viewed at [http://www.eskom.co.za/Pages/Email\\_Legal\\_Spam\\_Disclaimer.aspx](http://www.eskom.co.za/Pages/Email_Legal_Spam_Disclaimer.aspx)

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

### F.7.3 COMMENTS FROM OTHER INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

#### *F.7.3.i Falcon Oil and Gas*

**From:** Anne Flynn <aflynn@falconoilandgas.com >  
**Sent:** Monday, 21 November 2022 11:35  
**To:** EMS  
**Subject:** RE: Vhuvhili SEF EIA  
**Categories:** This message has been archived by Retain on November 28 2022 21:07

You don't often get email from aflynn@falconoilandgas.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning,

Thank you for the below. I have confirmed with our geologist that there is no overlap with the projects for Vhuvhili, therefore we are not an I&AP, can we please be removed from the mailing list for this project.

Thank you.

Kind regards,  
Anne.

---

**From:** EMS <ems@csir.co.za>  
**Sent:** Thursday 17 November 2022 14:59  
**To:** Anne Flynn <aflynn@falconoilandgas.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Vhuvhili SEF EIA

Good day Ms Flynn

I hope you are well.

Thank you for your email.

Please find attached the kmz files for the proposed Vhuvhili Solar Energy Facility and the associated Vhuvhili power line and electrical grid infrastructure.

Please advise if you require any additional information.

Best wishes  
CSIR EIA Project Team

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

**From:** Anne Flynn <aflynn@falconoilandgas.com >  
**Sent:** Monday, 14 November 2022 21:17  
**To:** EMS  
**Subject:** Vhuvhili Power line BA

**Categories:** This message has been archived by Retain on November 22 2022 21:22

You don't often get email from aflynn@falconoilandgas.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good evening,

Can you please provide me with the shape files for this project, on a review of the Draft BA report, I suspect it is outside Falcon's TCP area but would like to confirm.

Thank you.

Kind regards,  
Anne.

---

**From:** EMS <ems@csir.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday 11 November 2022 16:17  
**To:** EMS <ems@csir.co.za>  
**Subject:** RELEASE OF DRAFT BA REPORT FOR COMMENT FOR THE PROPOSED VHUVHILI 132 KV POWER LINE PROJECT NEAR SECUNDA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Dear Stakeholder,

**RE: NOTIFICATION OF THE RELEASE OF THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR A 30-DAY COMMENTING PERIOD FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 132 KV POWER LINE AND SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR SECUNDA IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Notification is hereby given of the commencement of the Basic Assessment (BA) Process and of the release of the Draft BA Report for a 30-day commenting period, extending from 14 November 2022 to 14 December 2022, in terms of Regulation 40(1)(a) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), as amended, (NEMA) for the proposed development of a 132 kV overhead power line and supporting infrastructure for the proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility (SEF), near Secunda in the Mpumalanga province. The proposed project is located within the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality which falls within the Gert Sibande District Municipality.

In line with Regulation 19(1) and 20(1) of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended), the Draft BA Report has been compiled and notice is hereby given of the release of the Draft BA Report for the proposed Vhuvhili 132 kV power line for a 30-day commenting period **extending from 14 November to 14 December 2022**

The Draft BA Report can be accessed on the project website and Google Drive; details are indicated below:

- [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1njIWGgOd1Kq3Rw2CObuy5-4Ri87nx2R?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1njIWGgOd1Kq3Rw2CObuy5-4Ri87nx2R?usp=share_link)
- <https://www.csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment>



## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

You are kindly invited to register your interest and submit any comments you may have on the Draft BA Report to the Project Manager at the CSIR by 14 December 2022.

Details are provided below and in the attached cover letter.

Kindly find attached a cover letter that provides additional detail on the proposed project. For ease of reference, we have also attached the Executive Summary of the Draft BA Report to this email.

Copies of all comments received from I&APs and stakeholders during the review of the Draft BA Report will be included as an appendix to the Final BA Report and in the Comments and Response Report. The Final BA Report will then be submitted to the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Affairs (DARDLEA) for decision-making in line with Regulation 23(1) (a) (b) of the 2014 National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (as amended).

We would like to thank you in advance for your participation in this BA Process.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries relating to the above or should you struggle to access the documentation at the links provided above.

Should you email us, please use "**Vhuvhili Power line BA**" as the subject line.

Kind Regards,  
CSIR BA Project Team

CSIR-EMS  
PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599  
Tel: 083 309 8159  
Fax: 021 888 2693  
Email: [ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za)

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

### **F.7.3.ii AgriSA**

**From:** AgriSA <agrisa@agrisa.co.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 12 December 2022 07:41  
**To:** EMS  
**Subject:** RE: REMINDER: RELEASE OF DRAFT BA REPORT FOR COMMENT FOR THE PROPOSED VHUVHILI 132 KV POWER LINE PROJECT NEAR SECUNDA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

**Categories:** This message has been archived by Retain on December 19 2022 18:54

Good morning

Please send notifications of this nature to [janse@agrisa.co.za](mailto:janse@agrisa.co.za) and remove this address from your mailing list.

---

**Van:** EMS <ems@csir.co.za>  
**Gestuur:** Friday, December 9, 2022 4:35 PM  
**Aan:** EMS <ems@csir.co.za>  
**Onderwerp:** REMINDER: RELEASE OF DRAFT BA REPORT FOR COMMENT FOR THE PROPOSED VHUVHILI 132 KV POWER LINE PROJECT NEAR SECUNDA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Dear stakeholder,

**RE: REMINDER OF THE RELEASE OF THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR A 30-DAY COMMENTING PERIOD FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 132 KV POWER LINE AND SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR SECUNDA IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Further to the email notification below, this serves as a reminder that the 30-day public comment period on the Draft BA Report for the Proposed Development of a 132 kV Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Energy Facility near Secunda, Mpumalanga Province, closes on **14 December 2022**.

The Draft BA Report can be accessed on the project website and Google Drive; details are indicated below:

- [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1njfWgOd1Kq3Rw2CObuy5-4Ri87nx2R?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1njfWgOd1Kq3Rw2CObuy5-4Ri87nx2R?usp=share_link)
- <https://www.csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment>

You are kindly reminded to submit any comments you may have on the Draft BA Report to the Project Manager at the CSIR by 14 December 2022, contact details are provided below.

Copies of all comments received from I&APs and stakeholders during the review of the Draft BA Report will be included as an appendix to the Final BA Report and in the Comments and Response Report. The Final BA Report will then be submitted to the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Affairs (DARDLEA) for decision-making in line with Regulation 23(1) (a) (b) of the 2014 National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (as amended).

We would like to thank you in advance for your participation in this BA Process.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries relating to the above or should you find difficulty in accessing the documentation at the links provided above.

## APPENDICES

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

Should you email us, please use "Vhuvhili Power line BA" as the subject line.

Kind Regards,  
CSIR BA Project Team

CSIR-EMS  
PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599  
Tel: 083 309 8159  
Fax: 021 888 2693  
Email: [ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za)

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**From:** EMS <[ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 11 November 2022 18:17  
**To:** EMS <[ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za)>  
**Subject:** RELEASE OF DRAFT BA REPORT FOR COMMENT FOR THE PROPOSED VHUHVILI 132 KV POWER LINE PROJECT NEAR SECUNDA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Dear Stakeholder,

**RE: NOTIFICATION OF THE RELEASE OF THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR A 30-DAY COMMENTING PERIOD FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 132 KV POWER LINE AND SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR SECUNDA IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Notification is hereby given of the commencement of the Basic Assessment (BA) Process and of the release of the Draft BA Report for a 30-day commenting period, extending from 14 November 2022 to 14 December 2022, in terms of Regulation 40(1)(a) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), as amended, (NEMA) for the proposed development of a 132 kV overhead power line and supporting infrastructure for the proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility (SEF), near Secunda in the Mpumalanga province. The proposed project is located within the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality which falls within the Gert Sibande District Municipality.

In line with Regulation 19(1) and 20(1) of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended), the Draft BA Report has been compiled and notice is hereby given of the release of the Draft BA Report for the proposed Vhuvhili 132 kV power line for a 30-day commenting period **extending from 14 November to 14 December 2022**

The Draft BA Report can be accessed on the project website and Google Drive; details are indicated below:

- [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1niIWGgOd1Kq3Rw2CObuy5-4Ri87rx2R?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1niIWGgOd1Kq3Rw2CObuy5-4Ri87rx2R?usp=share_link)
- <https://www.csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment>

You are kindly invited to register your interest and submit any comments you may have on the Draft BA Report to the Project Manager at the CSIR by 14 December 2022.

Details are provided below and in the attached cover letter.

Kindly find attached a cover letter that provides additional detail on the proposed project. For ease of reference, we have also attached the Executive Summary of the Draft BA Report to this email.

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**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

Copies of all comments received from I&APs and stakeholders during the review of the Draft BA Report will be included as an appendix to the Final BA Report and in the Comments and Response Report. The Final BA Report will then be submitted to the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Affairs (DARDLEA) for decision-making in line with Regulation 23(1) (a) (b) of the 2014 National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (as amended).

We would like to thank you in advance for your participation in this BA Process.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries relating to the above or should you struggle to access the documentation at the links provided above.

Should you email us, please use "Vhuvhili Power line BA" as the subject line.

Kind Regards,  
CSIR BA Project Team

CSIR-EMS  
PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599  
Tel: 083 309 8159  
Fax: 021 888 2693  
Email: [ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za)

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## F.8 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT

### F.8.1 COMMENTS FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY

#### *F.8.1.i The Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA)*

Date and Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from CSIR/Applicant/Specialist
<p>25 November 2022 Email Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA): Environmental Impact Management, Gert Sibande District  Ms. Whitney Tshimbana</p>	<p>Good day,  Find attached for your attention.  Kind regards, Whitney Tshimbana</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The letter of acknowledgement of the Draft Basic Assessment Report is received with thanks. Responses to the content of the letter follows below.</p>
<p>25 November 2022 Letter Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA): Environmental Impact Management, Gert Sibande District  Ms. SB Mbuyane</p>	<p>Enquiries: Okwethu-kuhle Fakude / Whitney Tshimbana Telephone: (017) 811 4830 Reference: 1/3/1/16/1 G-272 NEAS No.: MPP/EIA/0001128/2022  APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 132 KV OVERHEAD POWER LINE AND SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE PROPOSED VHUVHILI SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ENERGY (SEF) ON PORTION 20 OF THE FARM GROOTVLEI 293 IS, REMAINING EXTEN OF THE FARM GROOTVLEI 584</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The acknowledgement of the Draft Basic Assessment Report is noted with thanks. The CSIR notes the reference number to be quoted in future correspondence to the assigned case officer.  The requirement for submission of the Final Basic Assessment Report (inclusive specialists' reports and an EMPr) which reflects and incorporates the comments received during a 30-day commenting period is noted. The Draft Basic Assessment (BA) Report was made available for public comment to Interested and Affected Parties (I&amp;APs), Stakeholders and Organs of State for a 30-day period extending from 14 November 2022 to 14 December 2022. Email notifications and SMS notifications were sent to I&amp;APs</p>

**APPENDICES**

**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

<b>Date and Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&amp;AP</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response from CSIR/Applicant/Specialist</b>
	<p>IS, REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM VLAKSPRUIT 292 IS, PORTIONS 2, 3, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 AND 19 OF THE FARM VLAKSPRUIT 292, REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM KNOPPIES 314 IS, PORTION 3 OF THE FARM BRANDWACHT 316 IS, PORTIONS 6, 10 11 AND 13 OF THE FARM BOSJESSPRUIT 291 IS AND PORTIONS 2 AND 12 OF THE FARM TONDERSHOEK 317 IS, SECUNDA, GOVAN MBEKI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.</p> <p>The Department confirms having received the application form and draft Basic Assessment Report for Environmental Authorisation for the above mentioned project on 17 November 2022.</p> <p>The application has been assigned a reference number 1/3/1/16/1G-272. Kindly quote this reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application. The responsible officer is Whitney Tshimbana and all correspondence must be directed to the Environmental Impact Management, Gert Sibande District Officer, marked for the attention of the responsible officer.</p> <p>Please note that you must, within 90 days from 17 November 2022, submit to this office a Final Basic Assessment Report-inclusive of specialist reports and an EMPr- which has already been subjected to a public participation process, and was provided to interested and affected parties for a period of 30 days for comment, and which reflects the incorporation of any comments received, including any comments from this office. In this regard you are referred to the requirements of Regulation 40(3).</p>	<p>registered on the I&amp;AP database (see Appendix F.4 and F.5 for proofs of notifications). A Newspaper advert was placed in one local newspaper, i.e. the Ridge Times, dated 11 November 2022 informing potential I&amp;APs of the release of the Draft Basic Assessment Report and of the opportunity to register as an I&amp;AP and comment on the proposed development. Hard copies of the draft report were also couriered to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mpumalanga DARDLEA;</li> <li>• Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency;</li> <li>• Gert Sibande District Municipality;</li> <li>• Govan Mbeki Local Municipality; and</li> <li>• Secunda Library where it was available for public viewing during the 30-day PP period.</li> </ul> <p>This Comments and Responses report provides the comments received during the 30-day commenting period, and the comments have been incorporated into the Final Basic Assessment report where necessary.</p> <p>The proposed development will not commence prior to the issuance of an Environmental Authorisation from the DARDLEA.</p> <p>We thank you for your comments and contribution to the sustainability of the proposed development.</p>

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**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

Date and Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from CSIR/Applicant/Specialist
	<p>Please note that in terms of the provisions of Regulation 45, this application will lapse, and this office will deem the application to have lapsed, if the applicant fails to submit the Final Basic Assessment Report within the timeframe specified above.</p> <p>Please draw the applicant's attention to the fact that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Yours sincerely,</p> <p>Ms. SB Mbuyane</p>	
<p>13 December 2022 Email Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA): Environmental Impact Management, Gert Sibande District  Ms. Whitney Tshimbana</p>	<p>Good day,</p> <p>Find attached for your attention.</p> <p>Kind regards, Whitney Tshimbana</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The attached comment is received with thanks. Responses to the content of the letter follows below.</p>
<p>13 December 2022 Letter Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA): Environmental Impact Management, Gert Sibande District</p>	<p>Enquiries: Okwethu-kuhle Fakude / Whitney Tshimbana Telephone: (017) 811 4830 Reference: 1/3/1/16/1 G-272 NEAS No.: MPP/EIA/0001128/2022</p> <p>APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 132 KV OVERHEAD POWER LINE AND SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE PROPOSED VHUVHILI SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The Department's comment on the Draft BA Report is received with thanks.</p> <p>A hard copy of the Draft BA report was couriered to MTPA at the commencement of the 30-day commenting period extending from 14 November 2022 to 14 December 2022. The MTPA provided comment on the draft report on 12 December 2022. The MTPA's comment is addressed hereafter.</p>

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**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

<b>Date and Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&amp;AP</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response from CSIR/Applicant/Specialist</b>
Ms. SB Mbuyane	<p>ENERGY (SEF) ON PORTION 20 OF THE FARM GROOTVLEI 293 IS, REMAINING EXTEN OF THE FARM GROOTVLEI 584 IS, REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM VLAKSPRUIT 292 IS, PORTIONS 2, 3, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 AND 19 OF THE FARM VLAKSPRUIT 292, REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM KNOPPIES 314 IS, PORTION 3 OF THE FARM BRANDWACHT 316 IS, PORTIONS 6, 10 11 AND 13 OF THE FARM BOSJESSPRUIT 291 IS AND PORTIONS 2 AND 12 OF THE FARM TONDERSHOEK 317 IS, SECUNDA, GOVAN MBEKI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.</p> <p>The draft basic assessment report which was submitted by you in respect of the abovementioned application and received by the Department on 17 November 2022 refers.</p> <p>After careful consideration of the information contained, the following must be attended to and included in the final basic assessmen report (BAR):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In accordance with Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) must have been provided written notice of the application and must be provided with a period of at least 30 days to submit comments on all reports (where such period is applicable after the submission of an application form as per the requirement of Regulation 40(3)).</li> <li>MTPA's comments on this application are particularly critical given that Portion 20 of the FARM Grootvlei 293 IS fall within Irreplaceable Critical Biodiversity Areas, Portion 12 of the farm Tonderhoek 317 IS and remaining extent of the farm Grootvlei 584 IS fall within Optimal Critical Biodiversity Areas and Portion 2 of the farm Tonderhoek 317 IS falls within Ecological Support Areas that is a Landscape corridor according to the Mpumalanaga Biodiversity Section Plan: ARC GIS Viewer.</li> </ol>	<p>However, in their comment, MPTA “does not object to this proposal”, but provided four points of comment. It should be noted that none of the MPTA’s four commenting points raised any concern about the proposed power line route spanning Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) or Ecological Support Areas (ESAs).</p> <p>It can be noted that the potential impacts of the proposed grid routing alternatives on the mapped CBA and ESA areas were assessed by the Aquatic specialists and the Terrestrial Biodiversity specialists. Following fieldwork, both specialist teams concluded that the site location is acceptable in terms of the specialists’ sensitivity findings due to existing disturbance of the landscape. The specialists delineated and mapped their ground-truthed aquatic ESA features and recommended that the following buffer zones for the wetlands be applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seepage with Artificial Characteristics historical trenches – 42 m</li> <li>Valley Bottom Wetlands – 79m</li> <li>Seepage Wetland – 61 m</li> <li>Seepage Wetland – 31 m</li> <li>Valley Bottom Wetlands – 79m</li> <li>Valley Bottom Wetlands – 61m</li> <li>Seepage Wetland – 37 m</li> <li>Dammed section of Floodplain Wetland – 37 m</li> </ul> <p>These features and corresponding buffers are delineated in the integrated sensitivity mapping in Section D of the Draft and Final BA Report as well as the EMPr. Pylon positioning and associated infrastructure will avoid these sensitive features and respective buffers by aerial spanning across the features or micro-siting within the approved corridor where feasible. This requirement is provided in the Draft and Final BA Report and has been translated into the</p>



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**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

Date and Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from CSIR/Applicant/Specialist
	<p>3. The final BAR must contain possible risks and external contingencies relevant to the proposed activities, identifying and determining those that pose risks or threats to the environment and human health.</p>	<p>EMPr for implementation on site during the pre-construction detailed engineering design phase and the construction phase.</p> <p>The Aquatic and Terrestrial Biodiversity specialists provided further mitigation measures to protect and minimise potential impacts on sensitive landscapes (CBAs and ESAs) as contained in their specialists reports and translated into the BA Report and EMPr for on-site implementation. With the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures, the potential impact of the proposed project was rated as low to very low in terms of aquatic biodiversity and terrestrial biodiversity.</p> <p><b>CSIR:</b> Section D of the Final BAR contains the “Assessment of Environmental Risks and Impacts” as informed by the appointed specialists. The specialists recommended mitigation measures suitable to minimise each potential risk and potential impact which the proposed project might impose on the receiving environment. These mitigation measures are contained in the specialists’ reports, the BA report and are translated into the EMPr for implementation on site by the Project Applicant and any persons or entities contracted by the Applicant during the life-cycle of the proposed project (pre-construction, construction, operational and decommissioning phases).</p> <p>It should be noted that no fatal flaws in terms of direct negative impacts and cumulative negative impacts were identified for any of the proposed power line routing alternatives, and all of the specialists have recommended that the proposed project receives EA in terms of the 2014 EIA Regulations promulgated under NEMA (Act 107 of 1998), provided that the recommended mitigation measures are implemented.</p>

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**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

Date and Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from CSIR/Applicant/Specialist
	<p>4. The final layout that will be included on the final BAR must clearly indicate that infrastructure will be repositioned to habitats of low sensitivity and pylons are positioned to avoid wetland and buffer zones.</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The BA process undertaken for the proposed development, including 9 specialist studies, assessed four power line routing alternatives with a 200 m wide assessed corridor (100 m on either side of the centreline). The sensitivities delineated by the specialists team was subjected to integrated sensitivity mapping. The integrated sensitivity mapping (see Section D.2 of the Final BA Report) delineates the habitats and features of high, medium and low sensitivity. As detailed in Section D.2 of the Final BA Report, the Project Applicant must ensure that pylon and associated infrastructure avoid the features of high and medium sensitivity, as well as their respective buffers, identified by the specialists. Section D.2 provides the mapping and coordinates of sensitive features that must be avoided either through (1) placing the pylons on either side of sensitive features and aerial crossing the power line over the sensitive features; OR (2) or micro-siting the power line outside of sensitive features within the approved corridor (should the project receive EA). These requirements have been translated into the EMPr (Appendix G of this Final BA Report) for implementation on site during the pre-construction detailed engineering phase (subsequent to the issuing of EA, should such authorisation be granted for the proposed power line project)</p>
	<p>5. All mitigation measures recommended by the various specialists studies/assessments for the identified impacts must be incorporated on the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> It is confirmed that all mitigation measures for the identified potential impacts contained in the specialists' reports (Appendix D of the Final BA Report) have been incorporated in to the EMPr for implementation on site during the project life cycle (should EA be issued by the Department).</p>
	<p>6. The final BAR must provide proof that all potential and registered I&amp;AP's, including the Organs of State, were provided with access to and an opportunity to comment on the draft BAR following submission of the application form (Regulation 40(3)).</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> In accordance with the Regulations 40 through 44 of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended), the Draft BA Report was subjected to a 30-day public participation process extending from 14 November 2022 to 14 December 2022. Email notifications</p>

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<b>Date and Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&amp;AP</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response from CSIR/Applicant/Specialist</b>
		<p>and SMS notifications were sent to I&amp;APs, Stakeholders and Organs of State registered on the I&amp;AP database (see Appendix F.4 and F.5 for proofs of notifications). A Newspaper advert was placed in one local newspaper, i.e. the Ridge Times, dated 11 November 2022 informing potential I&amp;APs of the release of the Draft Basic Assessment Report and of the opportunity to register as an I&amp;AP and comment on the proposed development. Hard copies of the draft report were also couriered to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mpumalanga DARDLEA;</li> <li>• Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency;</li> <li>• Gert Sibande District Municipality;</li> <li>• Govan Mbeki Local Municipality; and</li> <li>• Secunda Library where it was available for public viewing during the 30-day PP period.</li> </ul>
	<p>7. The final BAR must include an issues and response report, as well as copies of and responses to comments received from all I&amp;AP, including these comments.</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This Comments and Responses report is included as Appendix F.8 of the Final BA report. This report provides the comments received during the 30-day commenting period, and the comments have been incorporated into the Final BA report where necessary. Copies of comments received following the release of the Draft BA Report are included as Appendix F.7 of this Final BA Report.</p>
	<p>You are reminded of the requirements of Regulation 19(1), and that if such requirement is not met, the application will lapse in terms of the provisions of Regulation 45.</p> <p>Please draw the applicant’s attention to the fact that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The requirements of Regulation 19(1) as it pertains to the submission of a Final BA Report within 90 days of receipt (17 November 2022) of the application to the competent authority is noted. It is further required and confirmed that the Final BA Report (inclusive specialists reports and an EMPr), which is hereby submitted to the Mpumalanaga DARDLEA reflects the incorporation of comments received during a 30-day public participation period extending from 14 November 2022 to 14</p>

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<b>Date and Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&amp;AP</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response from CSIR/Applicant/Specialist</b>
	<p>granted by the Department and do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.</p> <p>Yours sincerely, Ms. S.B. Mbuyane</p>	<p>December 2022. The submission of this Final BA Report complies with the Regulation 19(1) requirement to submit the report within 90-days of submission of the application.</p> <p>The proposed development will not commence prior to the issuance of an Environmental Authorisation from the Mpumalanga DARDLEA.</p> <p>We thank you for your comments and contribution to the sustainability of the proposed development.</p>

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## F.8.2 COMMENTS FROM COMMENTING AUTHORITIES AND ORGANS OF STATE

### *F.8.2.i Comments From Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA)*

Date and Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from CSIR/Applicant/Specialist
<p>12 December 2022 Email Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) Enquiries: Mr. Frans Krige  Reference: LUA 22/3285</p>	<p>Good day Ms. Levendal and Mr. Adonis</p> <p>Please find the two attached MTPA's comments on the draft bar for an Overhead power line and the draft EIARR for Vhuvhili solar photovoltaic facility.</p> <p>Reference: LUA 22/3285 LUA 22/3286</p> <p>Warm regards Nokwazi Ngobeni</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> MTPA's attached comments is received with thanks. Responses to the content of the letter follows below.</p>
<p>Received: 12 December 2022 Signed: 9 December 2022 Letter Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) Enquiries: Mr. Frans Krige Letter signed by Mr. M.H. Vilakazi (Acting Chief Executive Officer)  Reference: LUA 22/3285 Unit: LUA/SS</p>	<p>SUBJECT: THE MTPA COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 132 KV OVERHEAD POWER LINE AND SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE PROPOSED VHUVHILI SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ENERGY FACILITY NEAR SECUNDA IN MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.</p> <p>Your correspondence with reference "Vhuvhili Power Line BA" of November 2022 refer.</p> <p>Please register the project with DARDLEA to obtain a reference number.</p> <p>The MTPA does not object to this proposal but has the following comments:</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The comments from MTPA are noted with thanks. The Vhuvhili Power Line BA project has been registered with DARDLEA. DARDLEA assigned the NEAS Reference Number: MPP/EIA/0001128/2022 to the project following receipt of the Application Form and Draft BA Report for comment from the CSIR on 17 November 2022.</p> <p>It is noted that MTPA does not object to the proposed project. The concerns and responses thereto are provided below.</p>

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**Final Basic Assessment Report:** Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Supporting Infrastructure for the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province

Date and Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from CSIR/Applicant/Specialist
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The preferred alternative 1 route is supported, with the understanding that the wetland crossings will be developed in a responsible way. The Ecological Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations should be adhered to where structures such as power line pillars or bridges for service roads with these wetlands will affect the natural water flow and vegetation. The necessary water management features to avoid erosion and siltation must be designed and implemented.</li> <li>The MTPA is concerned African bullfrogs, <i>Pyxicephalus adspersus</i>. If present, mitigation methods for the movement of bullfrogs should be implemented. If any Bullfrogs are encountered during or before construction commences the MTPA herpetologist Dr Botha must be Informed.</li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> MTPA’s support for the preferred alternative 1 route is noted. As detailed in Section D of the Draft and Final BA Report and translated into the EMPr requirements and mitigation measures are provided for the Project Applicant to ensure that wetland crossings are undertaken with due responsibility. Among the measures contained in the BA Report and EMPr is avoidance of sensitive aquatic features either through (1) placing the pylons on either side of sensitive features and aerial crossing the power line over the sensitive features; or (2) micro-siting the power line outside of sensitive features within the approved corridor (should the project receive EA). Section D.2 provides the mapping and coordinates of sensitive features that must be avoided. In addition, mitigation measures for the control of eroision and siltation are provided in the EMPr. These requirements have been translated into the EMPr (Appendix G of this Final BA Report) for implementation on site during the pre-construction detailed engineering phase, construction, operational and decomssioning phases of the project (should EA be granted for the proposed power line project)</p> <p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The Environmental Site Officer and ECO will be instructed to record any African bullfrogs, <i>Pyxicephalus adspersus</i>. encountered on site during or before construction commences and will be instructed to contact the herpetologist at the MTPA (Dr Botha or the herpetologist employed at the MTPA at the time) to identify suitable relocation measures, as applicable.</p> <p>In addition, the construction staff will also be made aware of the presence of fauna within the proposed project area and will be instructed not to kill or injure fauna encountered on site.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The mitigation for the prevention of collisions with large birds such as the African Grass Owl, <i>Tyto capensis</i>, must be implemented. Other mitigation methods prescribed by the avifaunal specialists must be adhered to.</li> </ul>	<p>These requirements are contained in Section 7.4 and Section 7.5 of the EMPr (Appendix G of the Final BA Report) for implementation on site.</p> <p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted.</p> <p>The Avifaunal specialists recommended that the entire power line be fitted with Bird Flight Diverters (BFDs) according to the applicable Eskom Engineering Instruction (Eskom Unique Identifier 240 – 93563150: The utilisation of Bird Flight Diverters on Eskom Overhead Lines). The BFDs will mitigate the collision mortality of power line sensitive bird species.</p> <p>Section D.7.6 of the EMPr (Appendix G of the Final BA Report) includes further mitigation measures proposed by the Avifaunal specialist that must be adhered to during construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the project.</p> <p>These include the following:</p> <p><b><u>Construction phase:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A site-specific CEMPr must be implemented, which gives appropriate and detailed description of how construction activities must be conducted. All contractors are to adhere to the CEMPr and should apply good environmental practice during construction. The CEMPr must specifically include the following:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity should be restricted to a working corridor as close as possible to the footprint of the infrastructure.</li> <li>Vegetation clearance should be limited to what is absolutely necessary.</li> <li>Driving restricted to authorised roads;</li> <li>Measures to control noise and dust should be applied according to current best practice in the industry.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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Date and Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from CSIR/Applicant/Specialist
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Maximum use should be made of existing access roads and the construction of new roads should be kept to a minimum as far as practical.</li> <li>○ Access to the rest of the property must be restricted.</li> <li>○ Strict application of all recommendations in the biodiversity specialist report pertaining to the limitation of the footprint.</li> <li>● Entire power line to be fitted with Eskom approved Bird Flight Diverters (BFDs).</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Operational Phase:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Appointment of rehabilitation specialist to develop a Habitat Restoration Plan (HRP) and ensure that it is approved.</li> <li>● Monitor rehabilitation yearly via site audits and site inspections to ensure compliance. Record and report any non-compliance.</li> <li>● Implement adaptive management to ensure HRP goals are met.</li> <li>● Ensure that BFDs are maintained throughout the operational phase.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Decommissioning Phase:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A site-specific Decommissioning EMPr (DEMPr) must be implemented, which gives appropriate and detailed description of how decommissioning activities must be conducted. All contractors are to adhere to the DEMPr and should apply good environmental practice during decommissioning.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Plant specialists should indicate the position of Conservation important plants on site. Wherever some of these plants should be rescued, an application for a permit should be submitted.</li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The comment is noted with thanks.</p> <p>As noted in the Terrestrial Biodiversity specialist report (Appendix D.4 of the BA Report) and in Section B.3.6 of the BA Report, none of the plant Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) highlighted</p>



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<b>Date and Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&amp;AP</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response from CSIR/Applicant/Specialist</b>
	<p>Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.</p> <p>Kind regards, Mr. M.H. Vilakazi Acting Chief Executive Officer</p>	<p>by the screening tool were recorded on site during the field surveys. With reference to the Mpumalanga protected plant species (Schedule 11) and the Mpumalanga Red list (Lötter 2015), none of the SCCs (according to the SCC definition of SANBI) listed for the region were recorded on the Vhuvhili power line site. No threatened or protected species (ToPS listed) under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004) is listed for the Vhuvhili gridline site, and none were found at the site. Therefore, given the absence of plant SCC on the proposed power line corridor the plant specialist (terrestrial biodiversity) cannot and did not indicate the position of such species.</p> <p>Nonetheless, the EMPr does make provision that in the highly unlikely event that plant SCC are encountered on site, plant rescue should be undertaken after obtaining the necessary permits.</p> <p>We thank you for your comments and contribution to the sustainability of the proposed development.</p>

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**F.8.2.ii Interim Comments from the South African Heritage Resources Agency**

Date and Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from CSIR/Applicant/Specialist
<p>14 December 2022 Letter South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Ms. Natasha Higgitt</p>	<p><b>Interim Comment</b></p> <p><b>In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)</b></p> <p><u>Attention:</u> Vhuvhili Solar RF (Pty) Ltd</p> <p>The Project Applicant is proposing the construction of a 132 kV overhead transmission power line and associated EGL to feed the electricity generated by the proposed Vhuvhili SEF to the switching station at the proposed Mukondeleli WEF. The electricity will be transferred from the proposed on-site substation at the proposed Vhuvhili SEF via a 132 kV power line which extends approximately 12 km in length to the proposed switching station at the proposed Mukondeleli WEF.</p> <p>CSIR has been appointed by Vhuvhili Solar RF (Pty) Ltd conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed 132kV overhead powerline and associated infrastructure and associated electrical grid infrastructure to support the Vhuvhili Solar Energy Facility near Secunda, Mpumalanga Province.</p> <p>A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include the construction of a 132kV overhead powerline up to 12 km long (four alternative routes) with a 32 m servitude and service roads.</p> <p>Prof Marion Bamford, ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd and Beyond Heritage have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> SAHRA's Interim Comment was noted with thanks and sent to the Heritage Specialists team for specialist input. The Heritage Specialists, Dr Jayson Orton and Jaco van der Walt (Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Specialists), and Prof. Marion Bamford (Palaeontological Heritage Specialist) compiled a response to SAHRA's Interim Comment which is provided below this table.</p> <p>Following the submission of the Heritage Specialists' response to Natasha Higgitt (SAHRA) on 15 December 2022, a Final Comment for the proposed project was issued on 24 January 2023 which follows in the table below.</p>

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Date and Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from CSIR/Applicant/Specialist
	<p>as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).</p> <p><i>Bamford, M. 2022. Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Associated Electrical Grid Infrastructure to support the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda, Mpumalanga Province</i></p> <p>The proposed development is underlain by the Vryheid Formation that may contain fossils of the Glossopteris flora. No site visit was undertaken.</p> <p>Recommendations provided in the report include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Fossil Chance Finds Protocol is to be implemented;</li> <li>• When the final grid connection route has been determined based on other specialist inputs, and excavations for pole foundations have commenced, and only if fossils are found, then the Vhuvhili substation site grid route should be visited by a palaeontologist and any fossils found should be removed.</li> </ul> <p><i>Orton, J and Van der Walt, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: Basic Assessment for a Proposed 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Associated Electrical Grid Infrastructure to support the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Energy Facility near Secunda, Mpumalanga</i></p> <p>No specific site visit was conducted for the proposed powerline route. Data from previous surveys of adjacent development areas and satellite imagery was used. A total of five (5) heritage resources are located in the development footprint. These include</p>	

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Date and Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from CSIR/Applicant/Specialist
	<p>one stone feature and historical ruins of low heritage significance and two burial grounds of high heritage significance.</p> <p>Recommendations provided in the report include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The graves in the Alternative 3 (waypoint 179) and Alternative 4 (waypoint 182) corridors must be avoided and protected if either of these corridors are used. The powerline and associated service track must be located at least 50 m from the graves;</li> <li>• If Alternatives 3 or 4 are used, before construction starts, the relevant graveyard must be fenced with a farm-style wire fence with a pedestrian gate to facilitate public access. The fence must be placed a minimum of 5 m away from all graves;</li> <li>• A pre-construction survey of the final alignment must be carried out once the design is completed as to determine whether there are any further areas requiring intervention;</li> <li>• A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.</li> </ul> <p><b>Interim Comment</b></p> <p>The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that an archaeological field assessment of the powerline routes be conducted as part of the EA process. The HIA must be revised based on the results of the field assessment.</p> <p>The applicant is advised to extend the EA process in terms of section 19(1)b of the NEMA EIA Regulations in order to address this comment. Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above revised HIA and a revised DBAR that incorporates the results of the revised HIA.</p>	

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<b>Date and Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&amp;AP</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response from CSIR/Applicant/Specialist</b>
	Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.  Yours faithfully Natasha Higgitt	

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### **F.8.2.iii Response from Heritage Specialists to SAHRA's Interim Comment, Submitted to SAHRA on 15 December 2022**



ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd

40 Brassie Street

Lakeside

7945

15 December 2022

Natasha Higgitt

**SAHRA**

P.O. Box 4637

Cape Town

8001

#### **PROPOSED VHUVHILI GRID CONNECTION: RESPONSE TO SAHRA INTERIM COMMENT CASE ID: 20125**

Dear Natasha

Thank you for supplying the interim comment regarding the above project. The heritage team wishes to respond to the comment as below and request that a final comment be issued for the project.

#### Impact assessment process

It is required that specialists establish the likelihood of impacts occurring with a reasonable degree of confidence. While it is true that the currently proposed powerline route was not specifically surveyed, there is more than enough information available from adjacent surveys (which covered parts of the powerline corridor) and historical and modern aerial photography to (1) confirm the sensitivity, (2) predict the significance of impacts and (3) devise appropriate mitigation measures, all with a high degree of confidence. It is argued here that the requirements of the impact assessment process have been met.

#### Archaeology

The landscape is flat and sandy with no rock outcrops. While it is true that isolated rocks do occur on the surface in places (see Figure 4 of the HIA report), there is far too little rock for any sort of construction which means that prior to historical transport methods (ox wagons) it was not possible to obtain enough stone for building. This, effectively, precludes the presence of Iron Age stone-walled sites. Historical stone-walled sites are visible on historical or modern aerial photography (as demonstrated in the HIA report) and relevant sites in the unsurveyed section were listed. The southern part of the powerline runs along a road (which was driven during the Mukondeleli WEF survey) and is often within ploughed land. Archaeological materials will not be present in ploughed areas. The remaining distance for which a pre-construction survey of the final, approved alignment was recommended totals about 5 km long. Surveying that area now would be pointless due to the very large amount of rainfall the area has received. One of us (JvdW) was in the immediate area last week and access was found to be challenging due to excessive mud. In addition, the grass in the area is currently very dense with some areas rowing to waist height which means that, even if dry, a survey would be unlikely to find anything at ground level (Figures 1 to 3). Accordingly, the assertion that a survey of the

ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd

Reg. no.: 2013/220482/07 | Directors: Jayson Orton & Carol Orton

40 Brassie Street, Lakeside, 7945 | T: 021 788 1025 | C: 083 272 3225

Jayson@asha-consulting.co.za | Carol@asha-consulting.co.za | www.asha-consulting.co.za

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final approved alignment should be undertaken remains our recommendation. Such a survey will be able to focus on the actual line rather than the entire corridor and alternatives.



**Figures 1 to 3:** Photographs showing the current condition of the landscape in areas a few tens of km to the northeast of Secunda.

### Palaeontology

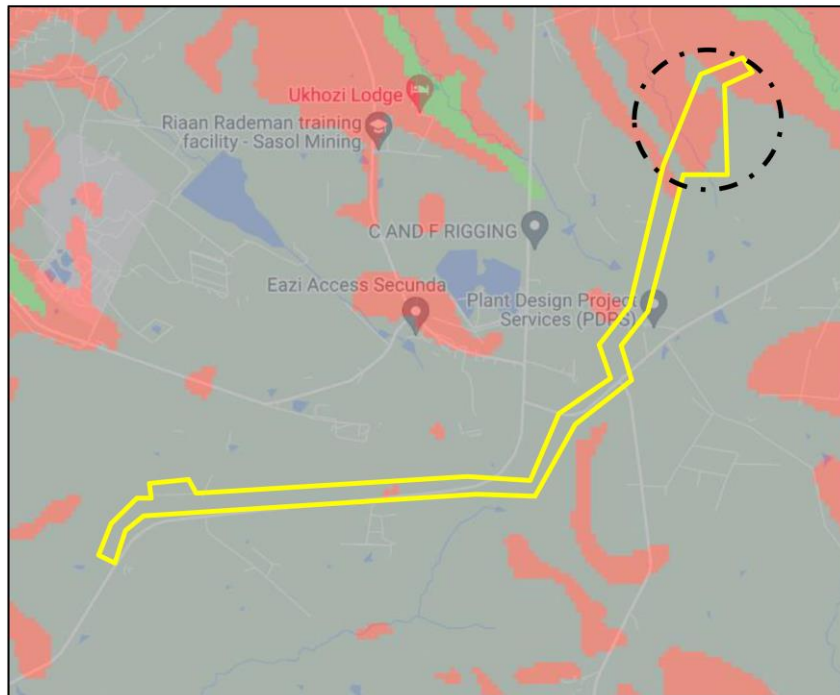
As shown by the SAHRIS Palaeosensitivity map (Figure 4), almost the entire site lies over geology of zero sensitivity which requires no assessment. This is Jurassic dolerite. The very small section in the northeast lies within the area of the proposed Vhuvhili PV project which has been approved by SAHRA. The same comment was raised by SAHRA for that project but, based on the complete lack of rock outcrops on the sandy surface with estimated palaeosensitivity being based solely on drill cores, SAHRA accepted that a specialist field survey was pointless. Given that the relevant area was assessed in the Vhuvhili PV reporting there seems no reason for SAHRA to offer a different opinion now.

### **ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd**

Reg. no.: 2013/220482/07 | Directors: Jayson Orton & Carol Orton  
40 Brassie Street, Lakeside, 7945 | T: 021 788 1025 | C: 083 272 3225  
Jayson@asha-consulting.co.za | Carol@asha-consulting.co.za | www.asha-consulting.co.za

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**Figure 4:** SAHRIS Palaeosensitivity map showing the sensitivity based on geology to be zero over almost all of the project area. The remaining portion (inside black dashed circle) lies within the Vhuvhili PV project site which has already been approved by SAHRA.

### Conclusion

Based on the arguments above, we would like to request that SAHRA accept the recommendations in the HIA and palaeontological specialist study and issue a final comment for this project. Should SAHRA which to add a stipulation that the archaeological pre-construction survey must be undertaken during the dry season then that is completely acceptable and would certainly add value.

Yours sincerely

  
Jayson Orton

  
Jaco van der Walt

  
Marion Bamford

**ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd**

Reg. no.: 2013/220482/07 | Directors: Jayson Orton & Carol Orton  
40 Brassie Street, Lakeside, 7945 | T: 021 788 1025 | C: 083 272 3225  
Jayson@asha-consulting.co.za | Carol@asha-consulting.co.za | www.asha-consulting.co.za



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**F.8.2.iv Final Comments from the South African Heritage Resources Agency**

Date and Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from CSIR/Applicant/Specialist
<p>24 January 2023 Letter South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Ms. Natasha Higgit</p>	<p><b>Final Comment</b></p> <p><b>In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)</b></p> <p><u>Attention:</u> Vhuvhili Solar RF (Pty) Ltd</p> <p><b>The Project Applicant is proposing the construction of a 132 kV overhead transmission power line and associated EGI to feed the electricity generated by the proposed Vhuvhili SEF to the switching station at the proposed Mukondeleli WEF. The electricity will be transferred from the proposed on-site substation at the proposed Vhuvhili SEF via a 132 kV power line which extends approximately 12 km in length to the proposed switching station at the proposed Mukondeleli WEF.</b></p> <p>CSIR has been appointed by Vhuvhili Solar RF (Pty) Ltd conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed 132kV overhead powerline and associated infrastructure and associated electrical grid infrastructure to support the Vhuvhili Solar Energy Facility near Secunda, Mpumalanga Province.</p> <p>A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include the construction of a 132kV overhead powerline up to 12 km long (four alternative routes) with a 32 m servitude and service roads.</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> SAHRA's Final Comment is noted with thanks.</p>

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<b>Date and Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&amp;AP</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response from CSIR/Applicant/Specialist</b>
	<p>Prof Marion Bamford, ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd and Beyond Heritage have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).</p> <p><i>Bamford, M. 2022. Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Proposed Development of a 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Associated Electrical Grid Infrastructure to support the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, near Secunda, Mpumalanga Province</i></p> <p>The proposed development is underlain by the Vryheid Formation that may contain fossils of the Glossopteris flora. No site visit was undertaken.</p> <p>Recommendations provided in the report include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Fossil Chance Finds Protocol is to be implemented;</li> <li>• When the final grid connection route has been determined based on other specialist inputs, and excavations for pole foundations have commenced, and only if fossils are found, then the Vhuvhili substation site grid route should be visited by a palaeontologist and any fossils found should be removed.</li> </ul> <p><i>Orton, J and Van der Walt, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: Basic Assessment for a Proposed 132 kV Overhead Power Line and Associated Electrical Grid Infrastructure to support the Proposed Vhuvhili Solar Energy Facility near Secunda, Mpumalanga</i></p> <p>No specific site visit was conducted for the proposed powerline route. Data from previous surveys of adjacent development areas</p>	

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<b>Date and Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&amp;AP</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response from CSIR/Applicant/Specialist</b>
	<p>and satellite imagery was used. A total of five (5) heritage resources are located in the development footprint. These include one stone feature and historical ruins of low heritage significance and two burial grounds of high heritage significance.</p> <p>Recommendations provided in the report include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The graves in the Alternative 3 (waypoint 179) and Alternative 4 (waypoint 182) corridors must be avoided and protected if either of these corridors are used. The powerline and associated service track must be located at least 50 m from the graves;</li> <li>• If Alternatives 3 or 4 are used, before construction starts, the relevant graveyard must be fenced with a farm-style wire fence with a pedestrian gate to facilitate public access. The fence must be placed a minimum of 5 m away from all graves;</li> <li>• A pre-construction survey of the final alignment must be carried out once the design is completed as to determine whether there are any further areas requiring intervention;</li> <li>• A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.</li> </ul> <p>In an Interim Comment issued on the 14/12/2022, SAHRA requested that an archaeological field assessment of the powerline routes be conducted as part of the EA process. The HIA must be revised based on the results of the field assessment.</p> <p>In a response to the SAHRA comment, the heritage specialist argued that there is enough evidence to confirm the sensitivity, predict the impacts and devise appropriate mitigation measures. Additionally, the conditions on site do not allow for a survey to be conducted (heavy rains). The specialist has requested that the</p>	

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	heritage reports be accepted and that a pre-construction survey should be conducted in the dry season.	
	<p><b>Final Comment</b></p> <p>The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final BAR and EMPr:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit and Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;</li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> SAHRA’s final comment and its conditions are included in the Final BA Report and EMPr (Appendix G of the Final BA report) in the respective sections as noted below.</p> <p>SAHRA’s APM and BGG unit’s no objection to the proposed development is noted with thanks.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development:</li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The recommendations of the heritage specialists are included in Sections D.2.3 and D.2.4 of the Final BA Report which is translated into Section 7.3 of the EMPr (Appendix G of the Final BA report) for implementation on site (should the proposed project receive EA).</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The preconstruction survey must be conducted prior to any ground clearance. The report of the survey must be submitted to SAHRA for comment prior to any ground clearance. No ground clearance of construction may occur on site without comments from SAHRA;</li> <li>• SAHRA reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions, layout changes or object to the development based on the results of the preconstruction survey;</li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This recommendation is included in Sections D.2.3 and D.2.4 of the Final BA Report which is translated into Section 7.3 of the EMPr (Appendix G of the Final BA report) for implementation on site (should the proposed project receive EA).</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BGG Unit conditions: The development footprint must avoid sites 179 and 182 with a buffer-zone of 50m as suggested in the HIA. Should the developer wish to utilize the said sites, a grave exhumation/relocation process which includes public</li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> As recommended by the heritage specialists and reiterated by SAHRA’s BGG Unit, the proposed development will avoid sites 179 and 182 with a buffer-zone of 50 m. As applicable to power line routings Alternative 3 and Alternative 4, the HIA recommended</p>

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	<p>participation as outlined under Chapter XI of the NHRA regulations of 2000 must be initiated to obtain family consent. The exhumation must then be conducted by a qualified Archaeologist after obtaining a section 36 permit;</p>	<p>that the graveyard must be fenced with a farm-style wire fence with a pedestrian gate to facilitate public access. The fence must be placed a minimum of 5 m away from all graves. The power line and associated service track must be located at least 50 m from the graves.</p> <p>This recommendation is included in Sections D.2.3 and D.2.4 of the Final BA Report which is translated into Section 7.3 of the EMPr (Appendix G of the Final BA report) for implementation on site (should the proposed project receive EA).</p> <p>SAHRA's comment regarding the requirements for a grave exhumation/relocation process is noted, but the developer/applicant will implement the 50 m buffer and associated mitigation measures as recommended in the HIA.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;</li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This recommendation is included in Sections D.2.3 and D.2.4 of the Final BA Report which is translated into Section 7.3 of the EMPr (Appendix G of the Final BA report) for implementation on site (should the proposed project receive EA).</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Ngqabutho Madida 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an</li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This recommendation is included in Sections D.2.3 and D.2.4 of the Final BA Report which is translated into Section 7.3 of the EMPr (Appendix G of the Final BA report) for implementation on site (should the proposed project receive EA).</p>

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	<p>offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 38(4)d – See section 51 of the NHRA regarding offences;</li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The provisions of section 51 of the NHRA are noted. In Section 7.3 of the EMPr, the Project Applicant (and subsequent EA holder, should EA be received) and any person acting on its behalf are alerted to non-compliances and offences in terms section 51 of the NHRA.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:</li> <li>• With reference to the mitigation work noted above, a qualified archaeologist must be appointed to undertake the work in terms of the permit applied for as noted above;</li> <li>• If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;</li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This recommendation is included in Sections D.2.3 and D.2.4 of the Final BA Report which is translated into Section 7.3 of the EMPr (Appendix G of the Final BA report) for implementation on site (should the proposed project receive EA).</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Final BAR and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;</li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The Final BA report will be submitted to SAHRA via an upload to the South African Heritage Resources Information System in respect of Case application 20125.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.</li> </ul>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> In accordance with Regulation 4(2) of the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended, SAHRA will be informed of the decision regarding the EA Application within 14 days of the date of the decision, and the decision will be uploaded to SAHRIS as requested.</p>

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<b>Date and Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&amp;AP</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response from CSIR/Applicant/Specialist</b>
	<p>Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.</p> <p>Yours faithfully Natasha Higgitt Heritage Officer</p> <p>Phillip Hine Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit</p>	
	<p>Terms &amp; Conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.</li> <li>2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.</li> <li>3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.</li> </ol>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> The terms and conditions of the comment are noted.</p> <p>The Applicant will ensure that all necessary approvals from applicable authorities are obtained.</p> <p>Should any heritage resources be encountered, they will be reported to SAHRA immediately. This recommendation is included in Sections D.2.3 and D.2.4 of the Final BA Report which is translated into Section 7.3 of the EMPr (Appendix G of the Final BA report) for implementation on site (should the proposed project receive EA).</p> <p>We thank you for your comments and contribution to the sustainability of the proposed development.</p>

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**F.8.2.v Comments from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE): Biodiversity Mainstreaming & EIA**

<b>Date and Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&amp;AP</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response from CSIR/Applicant/Specialist</b>
<p>12 December 2022 Email Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE): Biodiversity Mainstreaming &amp; EIA Ms Mashudu Mudau</p>	<p>Subject: RE: REMINDER: RELEASE OF DRAFT BA REPORT FOR COMMENT FOR THE PROPOSED VHUVHILI 132 KV POWER LINE PROJECT NEAR SECUNDA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE</p> <p>Thank you for the reminder, however, Kindly note we did not receive the aforementioned project.</p> <p>Regards, Mashudu Mudau</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The Biodiversity Conservation Directorate of DFFE has been included on the project database from the start of the proposed Vhuvhili SEF Scoping and EIA process as well as the proposed Vhuvhili 132 kV Power Line process. Proof of email notification regarding the “Release of the Draft BA Report for a 30-day Commenting Period” to the Biodiversity Conservation Directorate of DFFE (including all other I&amp;APs registered on the I&amp;AP database) is provided in Appendix F.4 of this Final BA Report. The “Reminder” email on 9 December 2022 was sent as a “reply” (i.e., “RE:”) to the recipients of the initial email notification on 11 November 2022 (see Appendix F.4). It is, therefore, unclear how the Biodiversity Conservation Directorate of DFFE received the Reminder email but not the Initial Draft BA Report Release email.</p> <p>It can be noted that Mr Mashudu Mudau was forwarded the Reminder email from Mr Seoka Lekota who had been forwarded the email from Mukondi Matshusa (see copy of email trail in Appendix F.7 of the Final BA Report). The CSIR submits that it could be that the initial email notifying the Directorate of the release of the Draft BA Report was not afforded the same line of communication.</p>



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**F.8.2.vi      Comments from Eskom**

<b>Date and Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&amp;AP</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response from CSIR/Applicant/Specialist</b>
<p>15 November 2022 Email Lerato Mokgwatheng Senior Environmental Advisor Grid Planning &amp; Development: Land Rights Transmission Division</p>	<p>Dear CSIR BA Project Team,</p> <p>Could you kindly send us the kmz files of your proposed project. We would like to over-lay your project with that of Eskom, to enable us to provide the comments thereafter.</p> <p>Regards, Lerato Mokgwatheng</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The requested kmz file was provided to Ms. Lerato Mokgwatheng via email on 16 November 2022.</p>
<p>17 November 2022 Email Lerato Mokgwatheng Senior Environmental Advisor Grid Planning &amp; Development: Land Rights Transmission Division</p>	<p>Dear CSIR BA Project Team</p> <p>Thanks for the information. Regarding this project going forward, please be informed that the Eskom's officials who will engage you are Ms Grace Mashabela (Senior Environmental Advisor) and Mr Terence Malapane (Senior Advisor – Negotiation/Acquisition Land &amp; Rights).</p> <p>Regards, Ms Lerato Mokgwatheng</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted with thanks. Ms Grace Mashabela (Senior Environmental Advisor) and Mr Terence Malapane (Senior Advisor – Negotiation/Acquisition Land &amp; Rights) have subsequently been registered on the I&amp;AP database with their email addresses as cc'd by Ms Lerato Mokgwatheng.</p>

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### F.8.3 COMMENTS FROM OTHER INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

Date and Format of Comment, Name of Organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from CSIR/Applicant/Specialist
<p>14 November 2022 Email Falcon Oil and Gas Anne Flynn</p>	<p>Good evening,</p> <p>Can you please provide me with the shape files for this project, on a review of the Draft BA report, I suspect it is outside Falcon's TCP area but would like to confirm.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Kind regards, Anne.</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. The kmz file of the proposed Vhuvhili Power Line was provided to Ms Flynn via email on 17 November 2022.</p>
	<p>Good morning,</p> <p>Thank you for the below. I have confirmed with our geologist that there is no overlap with the projects for Vhuvhili, therefore we are not an I&amp;AP, can we please be removed from the mailing list for this project.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Kind regards, Anne.</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted with thanks. Ms Flynn has subsequently been removed from the I&amp;AP database of the Vhuvhili Power Line project.</p>
<p>12 December 2022 Email AgriSA</p>	<p>Good morning</p> <p>Please send notifications of this nature to janse@agrisa.co.za and remove this address from your mailing list.</p>	<p><b>CSIR:</b> This comment is noted. All future notifications on this project will be send to janse@agrisa.co.za and the current email address for AgriSA (agrisa@agrisa.co.za) has been removed from the project mailing list.</p>