

DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

For the development of a photovoltaic solar plant and associated infrastructure
on a portion of the farm Waterloo 992, Registration Division IN, North West



NEAS Reference: DEA/EIA/0001105/2012
DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/506

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environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

(For official use only)

File Reference Number:

Application Number:

Date Received:

Basic assessment report in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010, promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended.

Kindly note that:

1. This **basic assessment report** is a standard report that may be required by a competent authority in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2010 and is meant to streamline applications. Please make sure that it is the report used by the particular competent authority for the activity that is being applied for.
2. The report must be typed within the spaces provided in the form. The size of the spaces provided is not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided. The report is in the form of a table that can extend itself as each space is filled with typing.
3. Where applicable **tick** the boxes that are applicable in the report.
4. An incomplete report may be returned to the applicant for revision.
5. The use of "not applicable" in the report must be done with circumspection because if it is used in respect of material information that is required by the competent authority for assessing the application, it may result in the rejection of the application as provided for in the regulations.
6. This report must be handed in at offices of the relevant competent authority as determined by each authority.
7. No faxed or e-mailed reports will be accepted.
8. The report must be compiled by an independent environmental assessment practitioner.
9. Unless protected by law, all information in the report will become public information on receipt by the competent authority. Any interested and affected party should be provided with the information contained in this report on request, during any stage of the application process.
10. A competent authority may require that for specified types of activities in defined situations only parts of this report need to be completed.
11. Should a specialist report or report on a specialised process be submitted at any stage for any part of this application, the terms of reference for such report must also be submitted.

PROJECT DETAILS

NEAS Reference No. : DEA/EIA/0001105/2012

DEA Reference No. : 14/12/16/3/3/1/506

Project Title : The development of a photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure on a portion of the farm Waterloo 992, Registration Division IN, North West situated within the Naledi Local Municipality area of jurisdiction.

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Soilkraft CC (Geotechnical study)

Client : Bophirima Solar Energy (Pty) Ltd.

Report Status : Draft Basic Assessment Report

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When used as a reference this report should be cited as: Environamics (2012) Draft Basic Assessment Report: Proposed Photovoltaic Solar facility and associated infrastructure on a portion of the farm Waterloo 992, North West Province.

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ACRONYMS

BA	Basic Assessment
BAR	Basic Assessment Report
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DoE	Department of Energy
DWA	Department of Water Affairs
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
EP	Equator Principles
EPFI	Equator Principles Financial Institutions
Environmental impact	Any change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organization's environmental aspects.
GNR	Government Notice Regulation.
I&AP	Interested and affected party.
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IPP	Independent Power Producer
kV	Kilo Volt
Mitigate	Activities designed to compensate for unavoidable environmental damage.
MW	Megawatt
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act No.
NERSA	National Energy Regulator of South Africa
NWA	National Water Act no 36 of 1998.
PPP	Public Participation Process
PV	Photovoltaic
REFIT	Renewable Energy Feed-In Tariff
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Act
SDF	Spatial Development Framework

CONTEXT FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT

According to Eskom, the demand for electricity in South Africa has been growing at approximately 3% per annum. This growing demand, fueled by increasing economic growth and social development, is placing increasing pressure on South Africa's existing power generation capacity. Coupled with this, is the growing awareness of environmental responsible development, the impacts of climate change and the need for sustainable development. The use of renewable energy technologies, as one of a mix of technologies needed to meet future energy consumption requirements is being investigated as part of Eskom's long-term strategic planning and research process.

The primary rationale for the proposed photovoltaic solar facility is to add new generation capacity from renewable energy to the national electricity mix and to aid in achieving the goal of 42% share of all new installed generating capacity being derived from renewable energy forms, as targeted by the Department of Energy (DoE) (Integrated Resource Plan 2010-2030). In terms of the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), approximately 8.4GW of the renewable energy mix is planned to be the new installed capacity generated from solar photovoltaic (PV) technologies over the next thirty years.

To contribute towards this target and to stimulate the renewable energy industry in South Africa, the need to establish an appropriate market mechanism was identified, and Feed-in Tariffs (FIT) for renewable energy was set. FITs are, in essence, guaranteed prices for electricity supply rather than conventional consumer tariffs. The basic economic principle underpinning the FITs is the establishment of a tariff (price) that covers the cost of generation plus a "reasonable profit" to induce developers to invest. The establishment of the Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff (REFIT) in South Africa provides the opportunity for an increased contribution towards the sustained growth of the renewable energy sector in the country, the region and internationally, and promote competitiveness for renewable energy with conventional energies in the medium- and long-term (NERSA, 2009).

In response to the above, Bophirima Solar Energy (Pty) Ltd. is proposing the development of a photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure for the purpose of commercial electricity generation on an identified site located near Vryburg in the North West Province (refer to Appendix A, figure 1 for the locality map). From a regional site selection perspective, this region is preferred for solar energy development due to its annual direct irradiation values.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Like many other small and developing municipalities in the country, Naledi Local Municipality faces a number of developmental challenges, including limited financial resources, high unemployment rate among the communities and poverty (IDP, 2011/12:19). The Naledi Local Municipality's Integrated Development Plan (IDP, 2011/12:27) further reveals that there are still people in some areas of the municipality that use candles, paraffin or wood for heating and lighting. Electricity provision is therefore included in the IDP as a priority need in the local municipality (Naledi IDP, 2011-2012:59-60). In response Bophirima Solar Energy intends to develop a 19.5MW photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure on a portion of the farm Waterloo 992, Registration Division IN, North West situated within the Naledi Local Municipality area of jurisdiction.

The proposed development is located approximately 10 kilometers south east of Vryburg (refer to Appendix A – figure 1 for the locality map). The total footprint of the project will be less than 20 hectares (including supporting infrastructure on site). The site was identified as being highly desirable due to its suitable climatic conditions, topography (i.e. in terms of slope), environmental conditions (i.e. agricultural potential, geology and archaeology), proximity to a grid connection point (i.e. for the purpose of electricity evacuation), as well as site access (i.e. to facilitate the movement of machinery, equipment, infrastructure and people during the construction phase).

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2010 (GN. R.543) determine that an environmental authorisation is required for certain listed activities, which might have detrimental effects on the environment. The following activities have been identified with special reference to the proposed development and are listed in the EIA Regulations, Listing Notice 1 (GN. R. 544):

- Activity 1: *"The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity where: (i) the electricity output is more than 10 megawatts but less than 20 megawatts."*
- Activity 10: *"The construction 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; or (ii) inside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more."*
- Activity 23: *"The transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land to (i) residential, retail, commercial, recreational, industrial or institutional use, inside an urban area, and where the total area to be transformed is 5 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares, or (ii) residential, retail, commercial, recreational, industrial or institutional use, outside an urban area and where the total area to be transformed is bigger than 1 hectare but less than 20 hectares."*

Being listed under Listing Notice 1 (GN. R. 544) implies that the development is considered as potentially having an impact on the environment, and therefore requires a Basic Assessment to be conducted as described in Regulations 21-25. Environamics has been appointed as independent consultants to undertake the EIA on Bophirima Solar Energy's behalf.

Regulation 22 of the EIA Regulations requires that a basic assessment report must include a description and assessment of the significance of any environmental impacts. An impact assessment was conducted to ascertain the level of each identified impact, as well as mitigation measures which may be required. The potential positive and negative impacts associated with the proposed development have been evaluated and rated accordingly. The results of the evaluation have indicated that no fatal flaws exist as a result of the proposed solar facility and its associated infrastructure. The potentially most significant environmental impacts associated with the development are briefly summarised below:

Impacts during the construction phase:

During the construction phase minor negative impacts are foreseen over the short term. The latter refers to a period of months. The potentially most significant impacts relate to the provision of temporary employment and other economic benefits for the duration of the construction phase.

Impacts during the operational phase:

During the operational phase the study area will serve as an electricity generation facility and the negative impacts are generally associated with the potential increase in storm water runoff, the increased consumption of water, visual intrusion, and security risks. The operational phase will have direct positive impacts through the provision of employment opportunities for its duration, the generation of additional electricity and the generation of income to the local municipality.

Impacts during the decommissioning phase:

The physical environment will benefit from the closure of the solar facility since the site will be restored to its natural state. However, the decommissioning phase will result in the loss of employment and the generation of waste that will require management measures.

To address the above mentioned impacts, mitigation and management measures for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases are included in the environmental management programme (EMPr) attached as Appendix F to the report. The assessment suggests that all of the identified impacts can be effectively mitigated. It is the opinion of the independent environmental assessment practitioner that none of the identified impacts could be regarded as significant enough to jeopardise the proposed development and it is recommended that the proposed project be allowed to proceed provided that the mitigation measures are implemented.

SECTION A: ACTIVITY INFORMATION

Has a specialist been consulted to assist with the completion of this section? **YES** **NO**

If YES, please complete the form entitled "Details of specialist and declaration of interest"

for appointment of a specialist for each specialist thus appointed:

Any specialist reports must be contained in Appendix D.

1. ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Describe the activity, which is being applied for, in detail¹:

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The activity entails the development of a photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure on a portion of the farm Waterloo 992, Registration Division IN, North West situated within the Naledi Local Municipality area of jurisdiction. The proposed development is located approximately 10 kilometers south east of Vryburg – the location of the site is illustrated in Appendix A, Figure 1.

The site is surrounded by agricultural land uses (mostly grazing) – refer to Appendix B for photographs of the development area. The topography of the site is gentle with a slope of less than two percent. The site consists of land suitable for grazing.

The project entails the generation of approximately 19.5MW electrical power through photovoltaic (PV) panels. The total footprint of the project will be less than 20 hectares (including supporting infrastructure on site) – refer to table 1 for general site information. The property on which the facility is to be constructed will be leased by Bophirima Solar Energy (Pty) Ltd. from the property owner, the Chris Van Zyl Trust, for the life span of the project (minimum of 20 years).

Table 1: General site information

Description of affected farm portion	The farm Waterloo 992, Registration Division IN, North West
21 Digit Surveyor General code	T0IN0000000099200000
Title Deed	T2995/1998 – refer to Appendix G7
Photographs of the site	Refer to Appendix B
Type of technology	Photovoltaic solar facility with crystalline silicon panels
Structure Height	Approximately 2.75 meters
Surface area to be covered	19.9 hectares
Structure orientation	The PV panels will be tilted at a fixed northern angle in order to capture the most sun
Laydown area dimensions	Less than 19.9 hectares
Generation capacity	19.5MW

PHOTOVOLTAIC TECHNOLOGY

The term photovoltaic describes a solid-state electronic cell that produces direct current electrical energy from the radiant energy of the sun through a process known as the Photovoltaic effect. This

¹ Please note that this description should not be a verbatim repetition of the listed activity as contained in the relevant Government Notice, but should be a brief description of activities to be undertaken as per the project description.

refers to light energy placing electrons into a higher state of energy to create electricity. Each PV cell is made of silicon (i.e. semiconductors) which is positively and negatively charged on either side, with electrical conductors attached to both sides to form a circuit. This circuit captures the released electrons in the form of an electric current (direct current).

The key components of the proposed project are described below:

- PV Panel Array - To produce 19.5MW, the proposed facility will require numerous linked cells placed behind a protective glass sheet to form a panel. Multiple panels will be required to form the solar PV arrays which will comprise the PV facility. The PV panels will be tilted at a fixed northern angle in order to capture the most sun.
- Wiring to Central Inverters - Sections of the PV array would be wired to central inverters which have a rated power of 500kW each. The inverter is a pulse width mode inverter that converts DC electricity to alternating current (AC) electricity at grid frequency.
- Connection to the grid - Connecting the array to the electrical grid requires transformation of the voltage from 480V to 22,000V. The normal components and dimensions of a distribution rated electrical substation will be required. Output voltage from the inverter is 480V and this is fed into step up transformers to 22kV. A new substation will not be required, since the power will be evacuated via the existing Woodhouse substation located approximately 4km north of the site (refer to figure 1 for an illustration of the solar photovoltaic electricity generation process).

The electricity generated from the solar panels will be transmitted via either overhead or underground lines to the existing substation. Two options for connecting to the substation exist:

- Option A: construct a 22kV power line of up to 100m in length; or alternatively
- Option B: Construct an 88kV power line of up to 100m in length.

Either of these options would be constructed within a 32m wide servitude (refer to Appendix C for the facility illustrations). These options are evaluated as part of the consideration of feasible and reasonable alternatives in Section A.2. The transmission line will not traverse any additional properties, since it will be aligned with the public road. The exact route will be determined by Eskom once the project proponent has been appointed as a preferred bidder by the Department of Energy.

- Supporting Infrastructure - A control facility with basic services such as water and electricity will be constructed on the site and will have an approximate footprint 400m² or less. Other supporting infrastructure includes voltage and current regulators and protection circuitry. In terms of project maintenance, approximately 450m³ of water would be required per annum for the site.

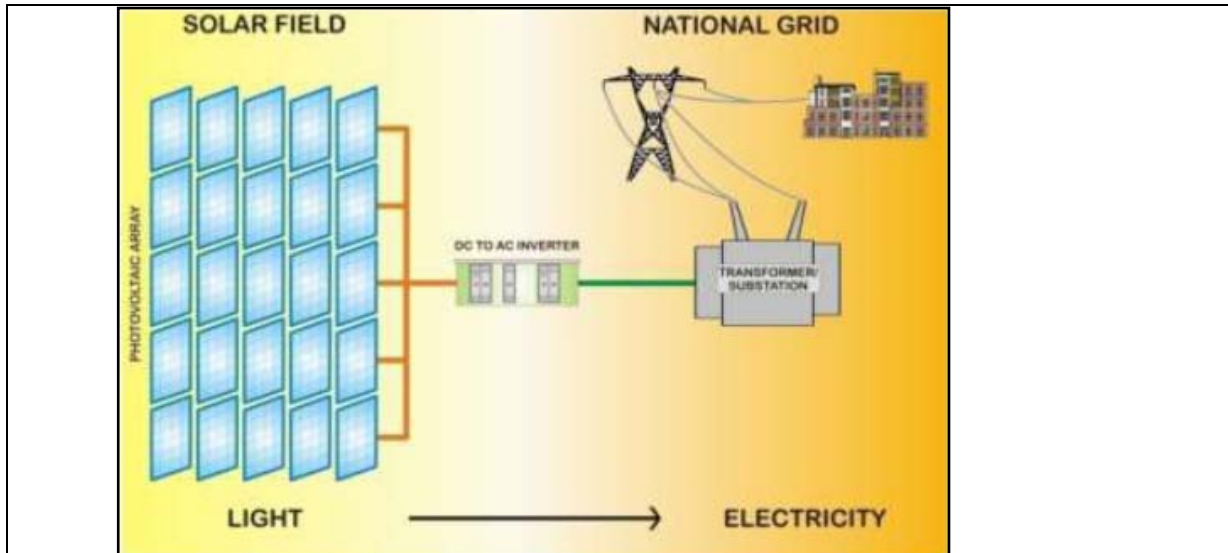


Figure 1: Solar photovoltaic electricity generation process

- **Roads** - An access road with a gravel surface from the national road (N14) onto the site will be required (refer to figure 4 – Appendix A). An internal site road network to provide access to the solar field and associated infrastructure will also be required. Existing roads will be used where possible. All site roads will require a width of approximately 4m. Drainage trenches along the side of the internal road network will be installed.
- **Fencing** - For health, safety and security reasons, the facility will be required to be fenced off from the surrounding farm.

2. FEASIBLE AND REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

“*alternatives*”, in relation to a proposed activity, means different means of meeting the general purpose and requirements of the activity, which may include alternatives to—

- (a) the property on which or location where it is proposed to undertake the activity;
- (b) the type of activity to be undertaken;
- (c) the design or layout of the activity;
- (d) the technology to be used in the activity;
- (e) the operational aspects of the activity; and
- (f) the option of not implementing the activity.

Describe alternatives that are considered in this application. Alternatives should include a consideration of all possible means by which the purpose and need of the proposed activity could be accomplished in the specific instance taking account of the interest of the applicant in the activity. The no-go alternative must in all cases be included in the assessment phase as the baseline against which the impacts of the other alternatives are assessed. The determination of whether site or activity (including different processes etc.) or both is appropriate needs to be informed by the specific circumstances of the activity and its environment. After receipt of this report the competent authority may also request the applicant to assess additional alternatives that could possibly accomplish the purpose and need of the proposed activity if it is clear that realistic alternatives have not been considered to a reasonable extent.

2.1 Site alternatives

No other properties have at this stage been legally secured by Bophirima Solar Energy in the Vryburg area to potentially establish solar facilities. From a local perspective, the farm Waterloo 992 is preferred due to its suitable climatic conditions, topography (i.e. in terms of slope), environmental conditions (i.e. agricultural potential, geology and archaeology), proximity to a grid connection point (i.e. for the purpose of electricity evacuation), as well as site access (i.e. to facilitate the movement of machinery, equipment, infrastructure and people during the construction phase). Therefore no further property alternatives will be considered in this report. The technical, logistical and environmental characteristics of the site are described in more detail below:

- Climatic conditions: The economic viability of a photovoltaic facility is directly dependent on the annual direct solar irradiation values. A study of available radiation data shows that the proposed site is uniformly irradiated by the sun. In addition the site also experiences temperatures which are suitable for PV technology. The site is located in a region with summer and autumn rainfall with very dry winters. The Mean Annual Precipitation is approximately 500mm. Mean monthly maximum and minimum temperatures are 36.6° and -5.5° for December and July, respectively.
- Topography: The topography of the area proposed for the PV facility is predominantly flat, and therefore no shading will be caused by the surrounding topography or vegetation on and around the site.
- Power transmission considerations: An existing distribution line is located north of the site, which feeds into the existing substation approximately 4 kilometers north of the site. The power will therefore be evacuated at the existing substation. The electricity generated from the solar panels will be transmitted via either overhead or underground lines to the existing substation. These transmission lines will not traverse any additional properties, since it will be aligned with the public road.
- Environmental suitability: The development of the proposed PV facility will be constructed within an area less than 20 hectares. The proposed development falls within an area used for grazing and the site is therefore considered to have limited environmental sensitivity as a result. The National Department of Agriculture (2006) classified land capability into two broad categories, namely land suited to cultivation (Classes I – IV) and land with limited use, generally not suited to cultivation (Classes V – VIII). Figure 2 illustrates that the site falls within Class V, indicated by the brown shade covering the entire area. The agricultural potential of the site is therefore limited and the change in land use will not impact on the agricultural production. Furthermore the site is deemed favourable in terms of the geotechnical conditions (refer to Appendix D1 for geotechnical report) and no sites, features or objects of cultural significance were found in the study area (refer to Appendix D2 for heritage impact assessment).

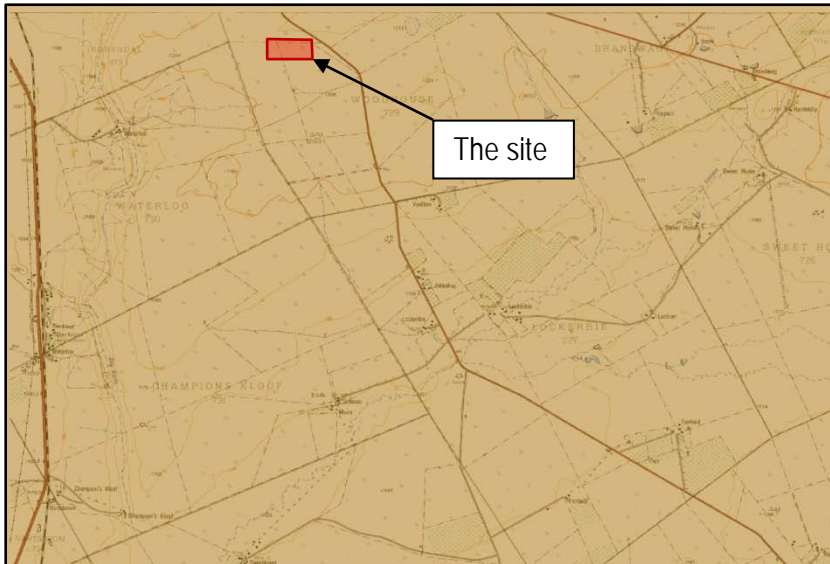


Figure 2: Land capability classification (The National Department of Agriculture, 2006)

2.2 Activity alternatives

Photovoltaic solar facility - Bophirima Solar Energy (Pty) Ltd. is a South African project development company that is focused on developing renewable energy power projects that will produce electricity from clean renewable energy sources, whilst advancing environmental, social and economic upliftment. Bophirima Solar Energy (Pty) Ltd. is of the opinion that solar PV technology is perfectly suited to the site, given the high irradiation values for the Vryburg area. The technology furthermore entails low visual impacts, have low water requirements, is a simple and reliable type of technology and all of the components can be recycled.

Wind energy facility - Due to the local climatic conditions a wind energy facility is not considered suitable as the area does not have the required wind resource. Furthermore the applicant has opted for the generation of electricity via solar power rather than the use of wind turbines. This alternative is therefore regarded as not feasible and will not be evaluated further in this report.

Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) technology - CSP technology requires large volumes of water and this is a major constraint for this type of technology in the proposed project area. While the irradiation values are high enough to generate sufficient solar power, the water constraints render this alternative not feasible. Therefore, this alternative will not be considered further in this report.

Electricity transmission - The electricity generated from the solar panels will be transmitted via either overhead or underground lines to the existing substation. Two options for connecting to the substation exist:

- Option A: construct a 22kV power line of up to 4km in length; or alternatively
- Option B: Construct an 88kV power line of up to 4km in length.

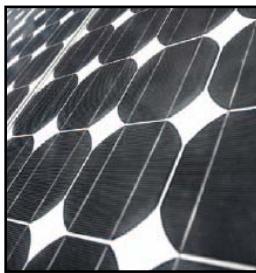
Either of these options would be able to be constructed within the servitude (32m wide) which has been assessed as part of this Basic Assessment Report. The transmission line will be aligned with the public road. The 22kV transmission line is the preferred alternative for the applicant due to its lower costs. However Eskom may request that an 88kV transmission line be constructed.

2.3 Technology alternatives

There are several types of semiconductor technologies currently available and in use for PV solar panels. Two, however, have become the most widely adopted, namely crystalline silicon and thin film. These technologies are discussed in more detail below:

Crystalline (high efficiency technology at higher cost):

Crystalline silicon panels are constructed by first putting a single slice of silicon through a series of processing steps, creating one solar cell. These cells are then assembled together in multiples to make a solar panel. Crystalline silicon, also called wafer silicon, is the oldest and the most widely used material in commercial solar panels. Crystalline silicon modules represent 85-90% of the global annual market today. There are two main types of crystalline silicon panels that can be considered for the solar facility:



- Monocrystalline Silicon - Monocrystalline (also called single crystal) panels use solar cells that are cut from a piece of silicon grown from a single, uniform crystal. Monocrystalline panels are among the most efficient yet most expensive on the market. They require the highest purity silicon and have the most involved manufacturing process.



- Multicrystalline Silicon - Multicrystalline (also called polycrystalline) panels use solar cells that are cut from multifaceted silicon crystals. They are less uniform in appearance than monocrystalline cells, resembling pieces of shattered glass. These are the most common solar panels on the market, being less expensive than monocrystalline silicon. They are also less efficient, though the performance gap has begun to close in recent years (First Solar, 2011).

Thin film (low-cost technology with lower efficiency):

Thin film solar panels are made by placing thin layers of semiconductor material onto various surfaces, usually on glass. The term *thin film* refers to the amount of semiconductor material used. It is applied in a thin film to a surface structure, such as a sheet of glass. Contrary to popular belief, most thin film panels are not flexible. Overall, thin film solar panels offer the lowest manufacturing costs, and are becoming more prevalent in the industry. Thin films currently account for 10-15% of global PV module sales. There are three main types of thin film used:



- Cadmium Telluride (CdTe) - CdTe is a semiconductor compound formed from cadmium and tellurium. CdTe solar panels are manufactured on glass. They are the most common type of thin film solar panel on the market and the most cost-effective to manufacture. CdTe panels perform significantly better in high temperatures and in low-light conditions.



- Amorphous Silicon - Amorphous silicon is the non-crystalline form of silicon and was the first thin film material to yield a commercial product, first used in consumer items such as calculators. It can be deposited in thin layers onto a variety of surfaces and offers lower costs than traditional crystalline silicon, though it is less efficient at converting sunlight into electricity.



- Copper, Indium, Gallium, Selenide (CIGS) - CIGS is a compound semiconductor that can be deposited onto many different materials. CIGS has only recently become available for small commercial applications, and is considered a developing PV technology (First Solar, 2011).

The technology that proved most feasible and reasonable with respect to the proposed solar facility is crystalline silicon panels. Although it is more expensive than thin films it is approximately 10 times more efficient, is non-reflective and has a higher durability than thin-film systems. The active material in thin films tends to be less stable than crystalline causing degradation over time and the lower cost to manufacture some of the module technologies is partially offset by the higher area-related system costs (costs for mounting and the land required) due to their lower conversion efficiency. Furthermore thin film modules have higher visibility and reflections.

2.4 Design and layout alternatives

At this stage of the planning process, a generic site layout has been prepared (refer to Appendix C for the facility illustrations). The layout follows the limitations of the site and aspects such as roads, fencing and servitudes are considered. The total surface area proposed for layout options include the PV panel arrays spaced to avoid shadowing, access and maintenance roads and associated infrastructure (buildings, power inverters, transmission lines and perimeter fences).

2.5 The no-go alternative

The site is currently zoned for agricultural land uses. Should the proposed development not proceed, the site will remain unchanged and will continue to be used for grazing (refer to Appendix B for photographs of the site). However the land is classified by the Department of Agriculture (NDA, 2006) as having limited irrigation potential, generally not suited to cultivation, and therefore has low agricultural potential. If the no-go alternative prevails the land will continue to be used for low density cattle grazing. This alternative is included as a baseline in this report.

Paragraphs 3 – 13 below should be completed for each alternative.

3. ACTIVITY POSITION

Indicate the position of the activity using the latitude and longitude of the centre point of the site for each alternative site. The co-ordinates should be in degrees and decimal minutes. The minutes should have at least three decimals to ensure adequate accuracy. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS84 spheroid in a national or local projection.

List alternative sites, if applicable.

Alternative:

Alternative S1² (preferred or only site alternative)
 Alternative S2 (if any)
 Alternative S3 (if any)

Latitude (S):		Longitude (E):	
27°	00'22.04"	24°	48'05.52"
0	'	0	'
0	'	0	'

In the case of linear activities:

Alternative:

Alternative S1 (preferred or only route alternative)

- Starting point of the activity
- Middle/Additional point of the activity
- End point of the activity

Latitude (S):		Longitude (E):	
0	'	0	'
0	'	0	'
0	'	0	'

Alternative S2 (if any)

- Starting point of the activity
- Middle/Additional point of the activity
- End point of the activity

0	'	0	'
0	'	0	'
0	'	0	'

Alternative S3 (if any)

- Starting point of the activity
- Middle/Additional point of the activity
- End point of the activity

0	'	0	'
0	'	0	'
0	'	0	'

For route alternatives that are longer than 500m, please provide an addendum with co-ordinates taken every 250 meters along the route for each alternative alignment.

4. PHYSICAL SIZE OF THE ACTIVITY

Indicate the physical size of the preferred activity/technology as well as alternative activities/technologies (footprints):

Alternative:

Alternative A1³ (preferred activity alternative)
 Alternative A2 (if any)
 Alternative A3 (if any)
 or, for linear activities:

Size of the activity:

199 000m ²

Length of the activity:

Alternative:

Alternative A1 (preferred activity alternative)
 Alternative A2 (if any)
 Alternative A3 (if any)

Indicate the size of the alternative sites or servitudes (within which the above footprints will occur):

Size of the site/servitude:

Alternative:

Alternative A1 (preferred activity alternative)

--

² "Alternative S.." refer to site alternatives.

³ "Alternative A.." refer to activity, process, technology or other alternatives.

Alternative A2 (if any)
Alternative A3 (if any)

5. SITE ACCESS

Does ready access to the site exist?

YES	NO
------------	-----------

If NO, what is the distance over which a new access road will be built

--

Describe the type of access road planned:

An access road will be required from the dirt road towards Amalia off the national route N14 to Schweizer-Reneke. An internal site road network to provide access to the solar field and associated infrastructure will be required. The location of the access road will be detailed based on the geotechnical information during the detail design phase of the PV facility.

Include the position of the access road on the site plan and required map, as well as an indication of the road in relation to the site.

6. SITE OR ROUTE PLAN

A detailed site or route plan(s) must be prepared for each alternative site or alternative activity. It must be attached as Appendix A to this document.

The site or route plans must indicate the following:

- 6.1 the scale of the plan which must be at least a scale of 1:500;
- 6.2 the property boundaries and numbers of all the properties within 50 metres of the site;
- 6.3 the current land use as well as the land use zoning of each of the properties adjoining the site or sites;
- 6.4 the exact position of each element of the application as well as any other structures on the site;
- 6.5 the position of services, including electricity supply cables (indicate above or underground), water supply pipelines, boreholes, street lights, sewage pipelines, storm water infrastructure and telecommunication infrastructure;
- 6.6 all trees and shrubs taller than 1.8 metres;
- 6.7 walls and fencing including details of the height and construction material;
- 6.8 servitudes indicating the purpose of the servitude;
- 6.9 sensitive environmental elements within 100 metres of the site or sites including (but not limited thereto):
 - rivers;
 - the 1:100 year flood line (where available or where it is required by DWA);
 - ridges;
 - cultural and historical features;
 - areas with indigenous vegetation (even if it is degraded or invested with alien species);
- 6.10 for gentle slopes the 1 metre contour intervals must be indicated on the plan and whenever the slope of the site exceeds 1:10, the 500mm contours must be indicated on the plan; and
- 6.11 the positions from where photographs of the site were taken.

Site plans have been included in Appendix A.

7. SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Colour photographs from the centre of the site must be taken in at least the eight major compass directions with a description of each photograph. Photographs must be attached under Appendix B to this form. It must be supplemented with additional photographs of relevant features on the site, if applicable.

Photographs have been taken of all key features of the site and has been included in Appendix B.

8. FACILITY ILLUSTRATION

A detailed illustration of the activity must be provided at a scale of 1:200 as Appendix C for activities that include structures. The illustrations must be to scale and must represent a realistic image of the planned activity. The illustration must give a representative view of the activity.

Refer to the facility illustration included in Appendix C.

9. ACTIVITY MOTIVATION

9(a) Socio-economic value of the activity

What is the expected capital value of the activity on completion?	R350 million
What is the expected yearly income that will be generated by or as a result of the activity?	R60 million
Will the activity contribute to service infrastructure?	YES NO
Is the activity a public amenity?	YES NO
How many new employment opportunities will be created in the development phase of the activity?	60
What is the expected value of the employment opportunities during the development phase?	R6 million
What percentage of this will accrue to previously disadvantaged individuals?	65%
How many permanent new employment opportunities will be created during the operational phase of the activity?	8
What is the expected current value of the employment opportunities during the first 10 years?	R10 million
What percentage of this will accrue to previously disadvantaged individuals?	80%

9(b) Need and desirability of the activity

Motivate and explain the need and desirability of the activity (including demand for the activity):

NEED:			
1.	Was the relevant provincial planning department involved in the application?	YES	NO
2.	Does the proposed land use fall within the relevant provincial planning framework?	YES	NO
3.	If the answer to questions 1 and / or 2 was NO, please provide further motivation / explanation:		
	Given that renewable energy projects are being supported at a national level (in terms of the REFIT initiative) it can be inferred that such projects will also be supported by provincial		

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

	development units.		
	The rezoning for renewable energy facilities is relatively new in South Africa and current planning frameworks do not make provision for a renewable energy zone as such. A rezoning application process is currently being undertaken. The new proposed land use designation will be "special zone".		
DESIRABILITY:			
1.	Does the proposed land use / development fit the surrounding area?	YES	NO
2.	Does the proposed land use / development conform to the relevant structure plans, SDF and planning visions for the area?	YES	NO
3.	Will the benefits of the proposed land use / development outweigh the negative impacts of it?	YES	NO
4.	If the answer to any of the questions 1-3 was NO, please provide further motivation / explanation: Although the surrounding land use is predominantly agriculture, a number of power lines are also located north of the site. Therefore, the proposed land use is not in conflict with the surrounding land use. The Naledi Local Municipality's Integrated Development Plan (Naledi IDP, 2011/12:27) reveals that there are still people in some areas of the municipality that use candles, paraffin or wood for heating and lighting. Electricity provision is therefore included in the IDP as a priority need in the local municipality (Naledi IDP, 2011-2012:59-60). This project if approved will significantly contribute to achieving this objective.		
5.	Will the proposed land use / development impact on the sense of place?	YES	NO
6.	Will the proposed land use / development set a precedent?	YES	NO
7.	Will any person's rights be affected by the proposed land use / development?	YES	NO
8.	Will the proposed land use / development compromise the "urban edge"?	YES	NO
9.	If the answer to any of the question 5-8 was YES, please provide further motivation / explanation. The site is largely transformed with little natural vegetation. However given that a substation and power lines already exist in close proximity to the site, the overall sense of place will not be significantly altered. The project will also be one of the first solar power projects in the province thereby setting precedents for future projects.		
BENEFITS:			
1.	Will the land use / development have any benefits for society in general?	YES	NO
2.	Explain: The development of a solar facility will have several benefits for society in general, some of which are discussed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Security of power supply</u> - The project has the potential of "securing" economic activity by assisting in removing supply constraints if Eskom generation activities result in a supply shortfall. When supply is constrained it represents a limitation to economic growth. When a supply reserve is available, it represents an opportunity for economic growth. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Local employment</u> - The proposed project will contribute to local economic growth by supporting industry development in line with provincial and regional goals and ensuring advanced skills are drawn to the North West Province. The project will likely encounter widespread support from government, civil society and businesses, all of whom see potential opportunities for revenues, employment and business opportunities locally. The promotion and development of photovoltaic solar facilities, which will in turn lead to growth in tax revenues and sales of carbon credits, will result in increased foreign direct investment. • <u>Reduced air pollution, carbon dioxide emissions and water consumption</u> - The additional power supplied through solar energy will reduce the reliance on the combustion of fossil fuels to produce power. The reduction of GHG emissions as a result of the project implementation will be achieved due to reduction of CO2 emissions from combustion of fossil fuel at the existing grid-connected power plants and plants which would likely be built in the absence of the project activity. Coal power also requires high volumes of water, in areas of South Africa where water supply is already over-stretched and water availability is highly variable. • <u>Lower costs of alternative energy</u> - An increase in the number of solar facilities commissioned will eventually reduce the cost of the power generated through solar facilities. This will contribute to the country's objective of utilising more renewable energy and less fossil fuel based power sources. It will assist in achieving the goal to generate 10 000 GWh of electricity from renewable energy by 2013 and the reduction of South Africa's GHG emissions by approximately 34% below the current emissions baseline by 2020. • <u>Increased surety of supply and increased quantity of available power</u> - By diversifying the sources of power in the country, the surety of supply will increase. Additionally, the power demands of South Africa are ever increasing and by adding solar power this demand can be met, even exceeded without increasing pollution in relation to the use of fossil fuels.
3.	<p>Will the land use / development have any benefits for the local communities where it will be located?</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px 10px; border: 1px solid black;">YES</div> <div style="padding: 2px 10px;">NO</div> </div>
4.	<p>Explain:</p> <p>The main benefit of the proposed development operating in the area is that local companies or contractors will be hired for the duration of the construction period (8-10 months). The operational phase will provide permanent job opportunities to the local communities since security guards and general labourers will be required on a full time basis. The additional power supply will also likely result in more reliable power supply and consequently opportunities for business expansion. This will add to the economic output of the local municipality.</p> <p>In addition to the provision of job opportunities, it is required that the applicant donate approximately R700 000 per annum on local socio economic development, and approximately R250 000 per annum on local enterprise development. This will be for the full length of the project (minimum of 20 years). Therefore the local community may be granted the opportunity to improve their social and economic situation.</p>

10. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND/OR GUIDELINES

List all legislation, policies and/or guidelines of any sphere of government that are applicable to the application as contemplated in the EIA regulations, if applicable:

The Environmental Impact Assessment was undertaken in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2010) published in GNR 543, in terms of Section 24(5), 24(M) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No 107 of 1998) as amended; the World Bank EHS Guidelines, the IFC Performance Standards, the Equator Principles and all relevant National legislation and guidelines. Although this report is not written in terms of the Equator Principles (EPs), it fully acknowledges that the EPs will need to be complied with should funding for the project be required.

Title of legislation, policy or guideline:	Administering authority:	Date:
The Constitution of South Africa (108 of 1996)	National Government	1996
The National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998)	National and Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs	1998
The National Water Act (36 of 1998)	Department of Water Affairs (DWA)	1998
The National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999)	South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)	1999
The National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act No. 59 of 2008)	Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)	2008
Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, (85 of 1983)	National and Provincial Government	1983
Guideline 3 – General guide to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations	Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)	2006
Guideline 4 – Public participation in support of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations	Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)	2006
Guideline 5 – Assessment of alternatives and impacts in support of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations	Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)	2006
Guideline 5 – Draft companion to the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2010	Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)	2010
Naledi Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDP)	Naledi Local Municipality	2011 - 2012
Naledi Spatial Development Framework (SDF)	Naledi Local Municipality	2007
Naledi Town Planning Scheme	Naledi Local Municipality	2004
Naledi Local Municipality Bylaws	Naledi Local Municipality	-
Equator principles	Voluntary	2006

World Bank Group Environmental, Health and Safety General Guidelines (EHS Guidelines)	Voluntary	2007
Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines for Electric Power Transmission and Distribution	Voluntary	2007
International Finance Corporation's Policy on Environmental and Social Sustainability	Voluntary	2012

11. WASTE, EFFLUENT, EMISSION AND NOISE MANAGEMENT

11(a) Solid waste management

Will the activity produce solid construction waste during the construction/initiation phase? YES NO

If yes, what estimated quantity will be produced per month? 15m³

How will the construction solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

Construction waste will most likely consist of concrete, scrap metal and general waste. The waste will be collected and stored in suitable receptacles. The waste will then be transported to the nearest registered landfill. If possible and feasible, all waste generated on site during the construction phase must be separated into glass, plastic, paper, metal and wood to be recycled.

Where will the construction solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

The waste will be disposed of at the Vryburg registered municipal landfill by approved contractors.

Will the activity produce solid waste during its operational phase? YES NO

If yes, what estimated quantity will be produced per month? Approximately 200kg per month

How will the solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

Sources of general waste will be waste food, packaging, paper, etc. General waste will be stored on the site and removed on a weekly basis. The waste will be taken to a registered landfill by a contractor employed by the applicant, as the site is located outside of the waste collection route. If possible and feasible, all waste generated on site during the operational phase must be separated into glass, plastic, paper, metal and wood to be recycled.

Where will the solid waste be disposed if it does not feed into a municipal waste stream (describe)?

The waste will be disposed of at the Vryburg registered municipal landfill by approved contractors.

If the solid waste (construction or operational phases) will not be disposed of in a registered landfill site or be taken up in a municipal waste stream, then the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

Can any part of the solid waste be classified as hazardous in terms of the relevant legislation? YES NO

If yes, inform the competent authority and request a change to an application for scoping and EIA.

Is the activity that is being applied for a solid waste handling or treatment facility? YES NO

If yes, then the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

11(b) Liquid effluent

Will the activity produce effluent, other than normal sewage, that will be disposed of in a municipal sewage system? YES NO

If yes, what estimated quantity will be produced per month? m³

Will the activity produce any effluent that will be treated and/or disposed of on site? Yes NO

If yes, the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

Will the activity produce effluent that will be treated and/or disposed of at another facility?

YES	NO
-----	----

If yes, provide the particulars of the facility:

Facility name:			
Contact person:			
Postal address:			
Postal code:			
Telephone:		Cell:	
E-mail:		Fax:	

Describe the measures that will be taken to ensure the optimal reuse or recycling of waste water, if any:

--

11(c) Emissions into the atmosphere

Will the activity release emissions into the atmosphere?

YES	NO
-----	----

If yes, is it controlled by any legislation of any sphere of government?

YES	NO
-----	----

If yes, the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

If no, describe the emissions in terms of type and concentration:

The source of minor emissions will be the construction vehicles accessing and traversing the site, and possibly a diesel generator during construction. PV facilities are characterised by non-consumptive use of natural resources and consume no fuel for its continuing operation. The operational phase of the solar facility will not produce carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, mercury, particulates, or any other type of air pollution.
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11(d) Generation of noise

Will the activity generate noise?

YES	NO
-----	----

If yes, is it controlled by any legislation of any sphere of government?

YES	NO
-----	----

If yes, the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

If no, describe the noise in terms of type and level:

During the construction phase, limited noise will be generated by the construction activities, workers and vehicle on the site, and possibly a diesel generator during construction. The levels of noise are not expected to be very high. During the operational phase there will be no noise generated.

12. WATER USE

Please indicate the source(s) of water that will be used for the activity by ticking the appropriate box(es)

municipal	water board	groundwater	river, stream, dam or lake	other	the activity will not use water
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If water is to be extracted from groundwater, river, stream, dam, lake or any other natural feature, please indicate

the volume that will be extracted per month:

450 000 litres per annum

Does the activity require a water use permit from the Department of Water Affairs?

YES	NO
-----	----

If yes, please submit the necessary application to the Department of Water Affairs and attach proof thereof to this application if it has been submitted.

The estimated maximum amount of water required during construction is 50m³ per month during the 8 months of construction. The estimated maximum amount of water required during the facility's 20 years of production is 450m³ per annum. The majority of this usage is for the cleaning of the solar panels. Each panel requires approximately 2 liters of water for cleaning. Therefore the facility will require approximately 90,000 liter per wash. It is estimated that the panels may only need to be washed twice per annum, but provision is made for quaternary cleaning (March, May, July, and September). This totals approximately 360,000 liters per annum for washing, and allows 90,000 liters per annum (or 246 liter per day) for toilet use; drinking water, etc.

A specialist has been consulted with regards to obtaining the necessary approvals for the water use. It was confirmed that due to the limited amount of water required, the applicant will only need to obtain an approval (letter) from the local municipality to use the water for industrial related uses.

Water saving devices and technologies such as the use of dual flush toilets and low-flow taps, the management of storm water, the capture and use of rainwater from gutters and roofs would be considered by the developer. Furthermore locally indigenous vegetation will be used during landscaping and the staff will be trained to implement good housekeeping techniques.

13. ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Describe the design measures, if any, that have been taken to ensure that the activity is energy efficient:

Electricity use will be limited, and will primarily be related to the lighting of the facility and domestic use like lighting for offices and the control room. Design measures such as the use of energy saving light bulbs would be considered by the developer. Furthermore the design of the PV Arrays takes the position of the optimum solar radiation into account in order to efficiently capture the solar energy.

Describe how alternative energy sources have been taken into account or been built into the design of the activity, if any:

The project itself is an alternative energy source.

SECTION B: SITE/AREA/PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Important notes:

1. For linear activities (pipelines, etc) as well as activities that cover very large sites, it may be necessary to complete this section for each part of the site that has a significantly different environment. In such cases please complete copies of Section C and indicate the area, which is covered by each copy No. on the Site Plan.

Section C Copy No.
(e.g. A):

2. Paragraphs 1 - 6 below must be completed for each alternative.

3. Has a specialist been consulted to assist with the completion of this section?

YES	NO
-----	----

If YES, please complete the form entitled "Details of specialist and declaration of interest" for each specialist thus appointed:

All specialist reports must be contained in Appendix D.

Property description/physical address:

The farm Waterloo 992, Registration Division IN, North West situated within the Naledi Local Municipality area of jurisdiction.

(Farm name, portion etc.) Where a large number of properties are involved (e.g. linear activities), please attach a full list to this application.

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In instances where there is more than one town or district involved, please attach a list of towns or districts to this application.

Current land-use zoning:

The farm Waterloo 992-IN is currently zoned "Agricultural" land uses.

In instances where there is more than one current land-use zoning, please attach a list of current land use zonings that also indicate which portions each use pertains to, to this application.

Is a change of land-use or a consent use application required?

YES	NO
-----	----

 Must a building plan be submitted to the local authority?

YES	NO
-----	----

Locality map: An A3 locality map must be attached to the back of this document, as Appendix A. The scale of the locality map must be relevant to the size of the development (at least 1:50 000. For linear activities of more than 25 kilometres, a smaller scale e.g. 1:250 000 can be used. The scale must be indicated on the map.) The map must indicate the following:

- an indication of the project site position as well as the positions of the alternative sites, if any;
- road access from all major roads in the area;
- road names or numbers of all major roads as well as the roads that provide access to the site(s);
- all roads within a 1km radius of the site or alternative sites; and
- a north arrow;
- a legend; and
- locality GPS co-ordinates (Indicate the position of the activity using the latitude and longitude of the centre point of the site for each alternative site. The co-ordinates should be in degrees and decimal minutes. The minutes should have at least three decimals to ensure adequate accuracy. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS84 spheroid in a national or local projection)

The locality map is included as Appendix A.

1. GRADIENT OF THE SITE

Indicate the general gradient of the site.

Alternative S1:

Flat	1:50	–	1:20	–	1:15 – 1:10	1:10	–	1:7,5 – 1:5	Steeper than
	1:20		1:15			1:7,5			1:5

Alternative S2 (if any):

Flat	1:50 – 1:20	1:20 – 1:15	1:15 – 1:10	1:10 – 1:7,5	1:7,5 – 1:5	Steeper than 1:5
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Alternative S3 (if any):

Flat	1:50 – 1:20	1:20 – 1:15	1:15 – 1:10	1:10 – 1:7,5	1:7,5 – 1:5	Steeper than 1:5
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2. LOCATION IN LANDSCAPE

Indicate the landform(s) that best describes the site:

- 2.1 Ridgeline
- 2.2 Plateau
- 2.3 Side slope of hill/mountain
- 2.4 Closed valley
- 2.5 Open valley
- 2.6 Plain**
- 2.7 Undulating plain / low hills
- 2.8 Dune
- 2.9 Seafront

3. GROUNDWATER, SOIL AND GEOLOGICAL STABILITY OF THE SITE

Is the site(s) located on any of the following (tick the appropriate boxes)?

	Alternative S1:		Alternative S2 (if any):		Alternative S3 (if any):	
Shallow water table (less than 1.5m deep)	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Dolomite, sinkhole or doline areas	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Seasonally wet soils (often close to water bodies)	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Unstable rocky slopes or steep slopes with loose soil	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Dispersive soils (soils that dissolve in water)	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Soils with high clay content (clay fraction more than 40%)	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Any other unstable soil or geological feature	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
An area sensitive to erosion	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO

If you are unsure about any of the above or if you are concerned that any of the above aspects may be an issue of concern in the application, an appropriate specialist should be appointed to assist in the completion of this section. (Information in respect of the above will often be available as part of the project information or at the planning sections of local authorities. Where it exists, the 1:50 000 scale Regional Geotechnical Maps prepared by the Council for Geo Science may also be consulted).

The site is subject to the presence of dolomite. The geotechnical study (refer to Appendix D1), recommends that a dolomitic stability investigation be conducted to determine the feasibility of the site. Mitigation measures are provided in the Environmental Management Programme (refer to Appendix F) to avoid the formation sinkholes and to limit the risks involved should a sinkhole develop.

4. GROUND COVER

Indicate the types of groundcover present on the site:

The location of all identified rare or endangered species or other elements should be accurately indicated on the site plan(s).

Natural veld - good condition ^E	Natural veld with scattered aliens ^E	Natural veld with heavy alien infestation ^E	Veld dominated by alien species ^E	Gardens
Sport field	Cultivated land	Paved surface	Building or other structure	Bare soil

If any of the boxes marked with an “E” is ticked, please consult an appropriate specialist to assist in the completion of this section if the environmental assessment practitioner doesn’t have the necessary expertise.

5. LAND USE CHARACTER OF SURROUNDING AREA

Indicate land uses and/or prominent features that does currently occur within a 500m radius of the site and give description of how this influences the application or may be impacted upon by the application:

- 5.1 Natural area
- 5.2 Low density residential
- 5.3 Medium density residential
- 5.4 High density residential
- 5.5 Informal residential^A
- 5.6 Retail commercial & warehousing
- 5.7 Light industrial
- 5.8 Medium industrial^{AN}
- 5.9 Heavy industrial^{AN}
- 5.10 Power station (Substation)
- 5.11 Office/consulting room
- 5.12 Military or police base/station/compound
- 5.13 Spoil heap or slimes dam^A
- 5.14 Quarry, sand or borrow pit
- 5.15 Dam or reservoir
- 5.16 Hospital/medical centre
- 5.17 School
- 5.18 Tertiary education facility
- 5.19 Church
- 5.20 Old age home
- 5.21 Sewage treatment plant^A
- 5.22 Train station or shunting yard^N
- 5.23 Railway line^N

- 5.24 Major road (4 lanes or more)^N
- 5.25 Airport^N
- 5.26 Harbour
- 5.27 Sport facilities
- 5.28 Golf course
- 5.29 Polo fields
- 5.30 Filling station^H
- 5.31 Landfill or waste treatment site
- 5.32 Plantation

5.33 Agriculture

- 5.34 River, stream or wetland
- 5.35 Nature conservation area
- 5.36 Mountain, koppie or ridge
- 5.37 Museum
- 5.38 Historical building
- 5.39 Protected Area
- 5.40 Graveyard
- 5.41 Archaeological site

5.42 Other land uses (describe) Power lines

If any of the boxes marked with an "N" are ticked, how will this impact / be impacted upon by the proposed activity?

If any of the boxes marked with an "An/A" are ticked, how will this impact / be impacted upon by the proposed activity?

The surrounding rural communities may pose a security risk to the proposed development. For this reason the facility will be fenced and security guards will be present on site.

If YES, specify and explain:

If YES, specify:

If any of the boxes marked with an "H" are ticked, how will this impact / be impacted upon by the proposed activity.

If YES, specify and explain:

If YES, specify:

6. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL FEATURES

Are there any signs of culturally or historically significant elements, as defined in section 2 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999, (Act No. 25 of 1999), including

Archaeological or palaeontological sites, on or close (within 20m) to the site?

YES	NO
-----	----

No.

If YES, explain:

If uncertain, conduct a specialist investigation by a recognised specialist in the field to establish whether there is such a feature(s) present on or close to the site.

Briefly explain the findings of the specialist:

The Heritage Impact Assessment (refer to Appendix D2) did not find any sites, features or objects of cultural significance in the study area. There would therefore be no impact on cultural or historical features as a result of the proposed development. From a heritage point of view it is recommended that the proposed development be allowed to continue, subject to the following condition:

- Should archaeological sites or graves be exposed during construction work, it must immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

Will any building or structure older than 60 years be affected in any way?
Is it necessary to apply for a permit in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999)?

YES	NO
YES	NO

If yes, please submit or, make sure that the applicant or a specialist submits the necessary application to SAHRA or the relevant provincial heritage agency and attach proof thereof to this application if such application has been made.

SECTION C: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. ADVERTISEMENT

The person conducting a public participation process must take into account any guidelines applicable to public participation as contemplated in section 24J of the Act and must give notice to all potential interested and affected parties of the application which is subjected to public participation by—

- (a) fixing a notice board (of a size at least 60cm by 42cm; and must display the required information in lettering and in a format as may be determined by the competent authority) at a place conspicuous to the public at the boundary or on the fence of—
 - (i) the site where the activity to which the application relates is or is to be undertaken; and
 - (ii) any alternative site mentioned in the application;
- (b) giving written notice to—
 - (i) the owner or person in control of that land if the applicant is not the owner or person in control of the land;
 - (ii) the occupiers of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;
 - (iii) owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;
 - (iv) the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site or alternative site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represent the community in the area;
 - (v) the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area;
 - (vi) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and
 - (vii) any other party as required by the competent authority;
- (c) placing an advertisement in—
 - (i) one local newspaper; or
 - (ii) any official *Gazette* that is published specifically for the purpose of providing public notice of applications or other submissions made in terms of these Regulations;
- (d) placing an advertisement in at least one provincial newspaper or national newspaper, if the activity has or may have an impact that extends beyond the boundaries of the metropolitan or

local municipality in which it is or will be undertaken: Provided that this paragraph need not be complied with if an advertisement has been placed in an official *Gazette* referred to in subregulation 54(c)(ii); and

- (e) using reasonable alternative methods, as agreed to by the competent authority, in those instances where a person is desiring of but unable to participate in the process due to—
- (i) illiteracy;
 - (ii) disability; or
 - (iii) any other disadvantage.

- A2 site notices were placed on the eastern boundary of the site.
- Written notices were sent to organs of state, the owner of the farm, the local municipality, the ward councillor and other relevant stakeholders via registered post.
- Written notices/reply forms were distributed via e-mail or registered post to the surrounding land owners and occupiers.
- A notice was placed in Stellalander on 4 April 2012 to advertise the basic assessment process.

A copy of the advertisement, photos of the site notice and proof of the letters that were sent are included as part of Appendix G.

2. CONTENT OF ADVERTISEMENTS AND NOTICES

A notice board, advertisement or notices must:

- (a) indicate the details of the application which is subjected to public participation; and
- (b) state—
 - (i) that the application has been submitted to the competent authority in terms of these Regulations, as the case may be;
 - (ii) whether basic assessment or scoping procedures are being applied to the application, in the case of an application for environmental authorisation;
 - (iii) the nature and location of the activity to which the application relates;
 - (iv) where further information on the application or activity can be obtained; and
 - (iv) the manner in which and the person to whom representations in respect of the application may be made.

The content of the advertisement and site notice is included as part of Appendix G.

3. PLACEMENT OF ADVERTISEMENTS AND NOTICES

Where the proposed activity may have impacts that extend beyond the municipal area where it is located, a notice must be placed in at least one provincial newspaper or national newspaper, indicating that an application will be submitted to the competent authority in terms of these regulations, the nature and location of the activity, where further information on the proposed activity can be obtained and the manner in which representations in respect of the application can be made, unless a notice has been placed in any *Gazette* that is published specifically for the purpose of providing notice to the public of applications made in terms of the EIA regulations.

Advertisements and notices must make provision for all alternatives.

The proposed development is unlikely to result in any impacts that extend beyond the municipal area where it is located. Therefore it was only deemed necessary to advertise in a local newspaper. The advertisement placed detailed the Basic Assessment process, the nature, the location, where further information can be obtained and the manner in which representations could be made.

A copy of the advertisement and a photo of the site notices is included as part of Appendix G.

4. DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE MEASURES

The practitioner must ensure that the public participation is adequate and must determine whether a public meeting or any other additional measure is appropriate or not based on the particular nature of each case. Special attention should be given to the involvement of local community structures such as Ward Committees, ratepayers associations and traditional authorities where appropriate. Please note that public concerns that emerge at a later stage that should have been addressed may cause the competent authority to withdraw any authorisation it may have issued if it becomes apparent that the public participation process was inadequate.

The following three categories of variables were taken into account when deciding the required level of public participation:

- The scale of anticipated impacts
- The sensitivity of the affected environment and the degree of controversy of the project
- The characteristics of the potentially affected parties

Since the scale of anticipated impacts is low, the site already being degraded and the fact that no conflict were foreseen between potentially affected parties, no additional public participation mechanisms were considered.

5. COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT

The practitioner must record all comments and respond to each comment of the public before the application is submitted. The comments and responses must be captured in a comments and response report as prescribed in the EIA regulations and be attached to this application. The comments and response report must be attached under Appendix E.

All comments received to date, as well as responses provided are captured and recorded within the comments and response report attached in Appendix E.

6. AUTHORITY PARTICIPATION

Please note that a complete list of all organs of state and or any other applicable authority with their contact details must be appended to the basic assessment report or scoping report, whichever is applicable.

Authorities are key interested and affected parties in each application and no decision on any application will be made before the relevant local authority is provided with the opportunity to give input.

List of authorities informed:

The following authorities were informed of the Basic Assessment process:

- North West Dept. of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism
- The Department of Energy
- The Department of Water Affairs
- The North West Department of Agriculture
- The National Department of Agriculture
- The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)
- ESKOM
- National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)
- The Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA)
- The Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality
- The Naledi Local Municipality
- The Local Councilor
- The Civil Aviation Authority

List of authorities from whom comments have been received:

The authorities who have responded and/or submitted comments to date include:

- The National Department of Agriculture
- SAHRA

All comments received to date, as well as responses provided, are captured and recorded within the comments and response report in Appendix E.

7. CONSULTATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Note that, for linear activities, or where deviation from the public participation requirements may be appropriate, the person conducting the public participation process may deviate from the requirements of that subregulation to the extent and in the manner as may be agreed to by the competent authority. Proof of any such agreement must be provided, where applicable.

YES	NO
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Has any comment been received from stakeholders?

If "YES", briefly describe the feedback below (also attach copies of any correspondence to and from the stakeholders to this application):

- The Director Land Use and Soil Management: Ms. H.J. Buys from the Department of Agriculture confirmed receipt of documents in letter dated 13 April 2012.
- The Chief executive officer: Ms. Colette Scheermeyer from SAHRA acknowledged receipt of our notice and set out the requirements for a heritage impact assessment in a letter dated 18 April 2012.

Copies of the correspondence are included in Appendix E.

SECTION D: IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The assessment of impacts must adhere to the minimum requirements in the EIA Regulations, 2010, and should take applicable official guidelines into account. The issues raised by interested and affected parties should also be addressed in the assessment of impacts.

1. ISSUES RAISED BY INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

List the main issues raised by interested and affected parties.

No issues were raised by interested and affected parties.

Response from the practitioner to the issues raised by the interested and affected parties (A full response must be given in the Comments and Response Report that must be attached to this report as Appendix E):

No response was provided since no issues were raised by interested and affected parties.

2. IMPACTS THAT MAY RESULT FROM THE PLANNING AND DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATIONAL, DECOMMISSIONING AND CLOSURE PHASES AS WELL AS PROPOSED MANAGEMENT OF IDENTIFIED IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

List the potential direct, indirect and cumulative property/activity/design/technology/operational alternative related impacts (as appropriate) that are likely to occur as a result of the planning and design phase, construction phase, operational phase, decommissioning and closure phase, including impacts relating to the choice of site/activity/technology alternatives as well as the mitigation measures that may eliminate or reduce the potential impacts listed.

NOTE - For the assessment methodology refer to Appendix G.

IMPACTS THAT MAY RESULT FROM THE PLANNING AND DESIGN PHASE

Alternative (preferred alternative)

No impacts are anticipated from the planning and design phase of the proposed development. However, potential impacts will be dealt with through the implementation of an EMPr included as Appendix F.

IMPACTS THAT MAY RESULT FROM THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE

List the potential site alternative related impacts (as appropriate) that are likely to occur as a result of the construction phase:

Alternative S1 (preferred alternative)

Direct impacts: During the construction phase minor negative impacts are foreseen over the short term. The latter refers to a period of months. The installation of services will inevitably result in the removal of fauna, flora and top soil with a degree of dust being created in the process, noise disturbance, and the potential for soil erosion increasing. The disposal of waste during construction will additionally require certain management measures. It is obvious that the construction phase will also have a direct positive impact through the provision of employment opportunities for its duration. The

abovementioned impacts are discussed in more detail below:

- Loss of vegetation - In terms of vegetation type the site falls within the Ghaap Plateau Vaalbosveld vegetation type (Mucina and Rutherford, 2006). Ghaap Plateau Vaalbosveld vegetation covers areas of the Northern Cape and North West Provinces. The conservation status of this vegetation type is described by Mucina and Rutherford (2006) as 'least threatened'. The vegetation and landscape features are described as flat plateau with well-developed shrub layer with *Tarchonanthus camphorates* and *Acacia karroo*. It is indicated that *Acacia erioloba* may be present in this vegetation type. Although no *Acacia erioloba* were observed during the site visit, a limited number of *Acacia erioloba* (commonly known as camel thorn) may be present on site. In terms of the National Forests Act of 1998, *A. erioloba* has protected status due to concerns over the large volumes of *A. erioloba* wood being removed for commercial sale of firewood. Many trees are also killed as a result of bush encroachment control through pesticides. In terms of the National Forests Act of 1998 protected tree species may not be cut, disturbed, damaged or destroyed except under license granted by the Department of Forestry (or a delegated authority). Should the proponent need to remove a number of *Acacia erioloba*, authorization will have to be obtained from the relevant authority. The insignificant negative impact as a result of the removal of a number of *Acacia erioloba* is outweighed by the positive impacts associated with the proposed development.

Loss of vegetation	Pre-mitigation impact rating	Post mitigation impact rating
Status (positive or negative)	Negative	Negative
Extent	Site (1)	Site (1)
Probability	Definite (4)	Definite (4)
Duration	Short term (1)	Short term (1)
Magnitude	Low (1)	Low (1)
Reversibility	Completely reversible (1)	Completely reversible (1)
Irreplaceable loss of resources	No loss of resource (1)	No loss of resource (1)
Cumulative impact	Negligible cumulative impacts (1)	
Significance	Negative low (9)	Negative low (9)
Can impacts be mitigated?	No mitigation required.	

- Dust and soil erosion -Although the site will need to be cleared or graded to a limited extent, some amount of bare soil will still be exposed, which may potentially result in a degree of dust being created, increased runoff and potentially soil erosion. The time that these areas are left bare will be limited to the construction phase, since vegetation will be allowed to grow back after construction. Therefore dust and soil erosion is unlikely to be a significant impact. However proper planning in terms of storm water management and erosion control will be required.

Dust and soil erosion	Pre-mitigation impact rating	Post mitigation impact rating
Status (positive or negative)	Negative	Negative
Extent	Local/Regional (2)	Local/Regional (2)
Probability	Probable (3)	Unlikely (1)
Duration	Short term (1)	Short term (1)
Magnitude	Medium (2)	Low (1)
Reversibility	Completely reversible (1)	Completely reversible (1)

Irreplaceable loss of resources	No loss of resource (1)	No loss of resource (1)
Cumulative impact	Medium cumulative impact (3). Should these impacts occur, there will be a cumulative impact on the air and water resources in the study area in terms of pollution.	
Significance	Negative low (22)	Negative low (9)
Can impacts be mitigated?	Yes, it is therefore important that all mitigation measures are implemented to ensure that these impacts do not occur.	

- Loss of habitat for fauna – The proposed development will occupy an area of approximately 19.9 hectares. Since the site is surrounded by agricultural land uses, the loss of habitat for fauna is unlikely to be a significant impact. No mitigation is proposed.

Loss of habitat for fauna	Pre-mitigation impact rating	Post mitigation impact rating
Status (positive or negative)	Negative	Negative
Extent	Site (1)	Site (1)
Probability	Definite (4)	Definite (4)
Duration	Short term (1)	Short term (1)
Magnitude	Low (1)	Low (1)
Reversibility	Completely reversible (1)	Completely reversible (1)
Irreplaceable loss of resources	No loss of resource (1)	No loss of resource (1)
Cumulative impact	Negligible cumulative impacts (1)	
Significance	Negative low (9)	Negative low (9)
Can impacts be mitigated?	No mitigation required.	

- Generation of waste - general waste, construction waste, sewage and grey water - The workers on site are likely to generate general waste such as food wastes, packaging, bottles, etc. Construction waste is likely to consist of packaging, scrap metals, waste cement, etc. The applicant will need to ensure that general and construction waste is appropriately disposed of i.e. taken to the nearest registered landfill. Sufficient ablution facilities will have to be provided, in the form of portable/VIP toilets. No pit latrines, French drain systems or soak away systems shall be allowed.

Generation of waste	Pre-mitigation impact rating	Post mitigation impact rating
Status (positive or negative)	Negative	Negative
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Probability	Definite (4)	Unlikely (1)
Duration	Short term (1)	Short term (1)
Magnitude	Medium (2)	Low (1)
Reversibility	Partly reversible (2)	Partly reversible (2)
Irreplaceable loss of resources	No loss of resource (1)	No loss of resource (1)
Cumulative impact	Medium cumulative impact (3) - An additional demand on municipal services could result in significant cumulative impacts if services become unstable or unavailable, which in turn would impact on permanent residents.	
Significance	Negative low (26)	Negative low (13)

Can impacts be mitigated?	Yes.
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- Temporary noise disturbance - Construction activities will result in the generation of noise over a period of months. Sources of noise are likely to include vehicles, the use of machinery such as drills and people working on the site. The noise impact is unlikely to be significant; but construction activities should be limited to normal working days and hours.

Temporary noise disturbance	Pre-mitigation impact rating	Post mitigation impact rating
Status (positive or negative)	Negative	Negative
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Probability	Definite (4)	Probable (3)
Duration	Short term (1)	Short term (1)
Magnitude	Medium (2)	Low (1)
Reversibility	Completely reversible (1)	Completely reversible (1)
Irreplaceable loss of resources	No loss of resource (1)	No loss of resource (1)
Cumulative impact	The impact would result in negligible to no cumulative effects (1)	
Significance	Negative low (20)	Negative low (9)
Can impacts be mitigated?	Yes.	

- Temporary employment and other economic benefits – A number of temporary job opportunities will be created to undertake the construction activities. It is likely that local construction companies with the necessary expertise to construct solar facilities will be partnered with. The construction period is estimated to take 8-10 months. During this period security personnel will also be required to work at the site particularly after working hours. It is also likely that some materials such as fencing, and other construction related consumables will be sourced locally.

Temporary employment and other economic benefits	Pre-mitigation impact rating	Post mitigation impact rating
Status (positive or negative)	Positive	Positive
Extent	Province (3)	Province (3)
Probability	Definite (4)	Definite (4)
Duration	Short term (1)	Short term (1)
Magnitude	Medium (2)	Medium (2)
Reversibility	Irreversible (4)	Irreversible (4)
Irreplaceable loss of resources	N/A	N/A
Cumulative impact	Medium cumulative impact (3) - The community would be uplifted through certain interventions, which means that they are more able to find employment and gain skills, which in turn could impact positively on the individual and families, concerned.	
Significance	Positive Medium (30)	Positive Medium (30)
Can impacts be mitigated?	No mitigation measures required.	

Indirect impacts: The nuisance aspects generally associated with the installation of infrastructure will also be applicable to this development, which relates primarily to the increase in construction vehicle traffic.

- Increase in construction vehicle traffic – Building materials will be transported to site on a daily basis and there will be an increase in construction vehicles on access roads. Mitigation measures are available to effectively manage the impacts.

Increase in construction vehicle traffic	Pre-mitigation impact rating	Post mitigation impact rating
Status (positive or negative)	Negative	Negative
Extent	Local/Regional (2)	Local/Regional (2)
Probability	Definite (4)	Definite (4)
Duration	Short term (1)	Short term (1)
Magnitude	Medium (2)	Low (1)
Reversibility	Completely reversible (1)	Completely reversible (1)
Irreplaceable loss of resources	No loss of resource (1)	No loss of resource (1)
Cumulative impact	The impact would result in negligible to no cumulative effects (1)	
Significance	Negative low (20)	Negative low (10)
Can impacts be mitigated?	Yes.	

Indicate mitigation measures that may eliminate or reduce the potential impacts listed above:

Alternative S1

All the construction impacts will be dealt with through the implementation of an EMPr included as Appendix F to the report.

IMPACTS THAT MAY RESULT FROM THE OPERATIONAL PHASE

List the potential site alternative related impacts (as appropriate) that are likely to occur as a result of the operational phase:

Alternative S1 (preferred alternative)

Direct impacts: During the operational phase the study area will serve as an electricity generation facility and the impacts are generally associated with the change of land use, increase in storm water runoff, increased consumption of water, visual intrusion, the generation of general waste, and security. The operational phase will also have a direct positive impact through the provision of permanent employment opportunities, the generation of additional electricity and the generation of income to the Local Municipality. The abovementioned impacts are discussed in more detail below:

- Change in land-use - The site is currently zoned for agricultural land uses. Should the site remain unchanged it will most likely continue to be used for grazing purposes. The National Department of Agriculture (2006) classified the site as land with limited use, generally not suited to cultivation (Class V). The agricultural potential of the site is therefore low and the change in land use will not impact on agricultural production.

Change in land use	Pre-mitigation impact rating	Post mitigation impact rating
Status (positive or negative)	Negative	Negative
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Probability	Definite (4)	Definite (4)
Duration	Long term (3)	Long term (3)
Magnitude	Medium (2)	Medium (2)

Reversibility	Completely reversible (1)	Completely reversible (1)
Irreplaceable loss of resources	Marginal loss of resource (2)	Marginal loss of resource (2)
Cumulative impact	Low cumulative impacts (2) - The presence of the PV facility can set an unintended precedent for land use change, which in future can lead to cumulative impacts.	
Significance	Negative low (28)	Negative low (28)
Can impacts be mitigated?	No mitigation measures required.	

- Increase in storm water runoff – The development will potentially result in an increase in storm water run-off that needs to be managed to prevent soil erosion, especially where vegetation will be cleared. Run-off from solar panels will be led into water furrows that traverse the site. Vegetation corridors should be maintained within the subject area.

Increase in storm water runoff	Pre-mitigation impact rating	Post mitigation impact rating
Status (positive or negative)	Negative	Negative
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Probability	Probable (3)	Unlikely (1)
Duration	Long term (3)	Long term (3)
Magnitude	Medium (2)	Low (1)
Reversibility	Partly reversible (2)	Partly reversible (2)
Irreplaceable loss of resources	Marginal loss of resource (2)	Marginal loss of resource (2)
Cumulative impact	Medium cumulative impact (3) - Should these impacts occur, there will be a cumulative impact on the surface water in the study area. It is therefore critical that all mitigation measures are implemented to ensure that these impacts do not occur.	
Significance	Negative medium (30)	Negative low (13)
Can impacts be mitigated?	Yes.	

- Increased consumption of water - Approximately 450m³ of water will be required per annum for the operation of the solar facility. Cleaning will take place once every quarter (providing job creation). Water will be sourced from the municipality and the necessary authorisation for the water use must be obtained from the local authority.

Increased consumption of water	Pre-mitigation impact rating	Post mitigation impact rating
Status (positive or negative)	Negative	Negative
Extent	Region (3)	Region (3)
Probability	Definite (4)	Definite (4)
Duration	Long term (3)	Long term (3)
Magnitude	Low (1)	Low (1)
Reversibility	Irreversible (4)	Partly reversible (3)
Irreplaceable loss of resources	Marginal loss of	Marginal loss of

	resources (2)	resources (2)
Cumulative impact	Medium cumulative impacts (3) - An additional demand on water sources could result in medium cumulative impacts if water sources become unstable or unavailable.	
Significance	Negative medium (38)	Negative medium (36)
Can impacts be mitigated?	Yes.	

- Visual intrusion - The establishment of a solar facility on the site is not expected to have a significant visual effect, given that the number of sensitive receptors is very low, electrical infrastructure such as a substation and power lines are already located in close proximity to the site and the polycrystalline panels considered for this development are non-reflective. Furthermore the lighting of the facility will be restricted to low level, downward facing lights to reduce light spill. Therefore, the visual impact of a low-lying PV facility is not expected to be significant.

Visual intrusion	Pre-mitigation impact rating	Post mitigation impact rating
Status (positive or negative)	Negative	Negative
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Probability	Definite (4)	Definite (4)
Duration	Long term (3)	Long term (3)
Magnitude	High (3)	Medium (2)
Reversibility	Completely reversible (1)	Completely reversible (1)
Irreplaceable loss of resources	No loss of resources (1)	No loss of resources (1)
Cumulative impact	Negligible cumulative impact (1)	
Significance	Negative medium (36)	Negative low (24)
Can impacts be mitigated?	Yes.	

- Generation of waste - Security guards will be stationed at the solar facility 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Sources of general waste will be waste food, packaging, paper, etc. General waste will be stored on the site and removed on a weekly basis. Since the site is located outside of the waste collection route, the waste will be taken to a registered landfill by a contractor employed by the applicant.

Generation of waste	Pre-mitigation impact rating	Post mitigation impact rating
Status (positive or negative)	Negative	Negative
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Probability	Definite (4)	Definite (4)
Duration	Long term (3)	Long term (3)
Magnitude	Low (1)	Low (1)
Reversibility	Partly reversible (2)	Partly reversible (2)
Irreplaceable loss of resources	No loss of resource (1)	No loss of resource (1)
Cumulative impact	Medium cumulative impact (3) - An additional demand for landfill space could result in significant cumulative impacts if services become unstable or	

	unavailable, which in turn would impact on permanent residents.	
Significance	Negative low (15)	Negative low (15)
Can impacts be mitigated?	Yes.	

- Security risk –Due to the location of the site in close proximity to a low income residential development to the northeast and the N14 adjacent the southern border of the farm the proposed solar facility may be subject to theft. The solar facility will need to be fenced with security personnel securing the site 24 hours every day of the week.

Security risk	Pre-mitigation impact rating	Post mitigation impact rating
Status (positive or negative)	Negative	Negative
Extent	Site (1)	Site (1)
Probability	Probable (3)	Possible (2)
Duration	Long term (3)	Long term (3)
Magnitude	High (3)	High (3)
Reversibility	Completely reversible (1)	Completely reversible (1)
Irreplaceable loss of resources	Marginal loss of resource (2)	Marginal loss of resource (2)
Cumulative impact	The impact would result in negligible to no cumulative effects (1)	
Significance	Negative medium (33)	Negative medium (30)
Can impacts be mitigated?	Yes.	

- Permanent employment - Security guards will be required for 24 hours every day of the week. It is envisaged that two security guards will be required per shift (each of 12 hours). This will assure work for at least four people on an ongoing basis. In addition general labourers will also be required for the cleaning of the panels.

Permanent employment	Pre-mitigation impact rating	Post mitigation impact rating
Status (positive or negative)	Positive	Positive
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Probability	Definite (4)	Definite (4)
Duration	Long term (3)	Long term (3)
Magnitude	Medium (2)	Medium (2)
Reversibility	Irreversible (4)	Irreversible (4)
Irreplaceable loss of resources	N/A	N/A
Cumulative impact	Low cumulative impact (2) – Increased local spending.	
Significance	Negative Medium (30)	Negative Medium (30)
Can impacts be mitigated?	No mitigation measures required.	

- Generation of additional electricity - The photovoltaic effect of the panels will generate electricity that will be fed directly into the 22/88kV power lines that lead toward the existing substation. The evacuation of generated electricity into the Eskom grid will strengthen and stabilize the grid (especially in the local area).

Generation of additional electricity	Pre-mitigation impact rating	Post mitigation impact rating
Status (positive or negative)	Positive	Positive
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Probability	Definite (4)	Definite (4)
Duration	Long term (3)	Long term (3)
Magnitude	Medium (2)	Medium (2)
Reversibility	Irreversible (4)	Irreversible (4)
Irreplaceable loss of resources	N/A	N/A
Cumulative impact	Low cumulative impact (2) - The evacuation of generated electricity into the Eskom grid will strengthen and stabilize the grid (especially in the local area).	
Significance	Positive medium (30)	Positive medium (30)
Can impacts be mitigated?	No mitigation measure required.	

- Generation of income to the Local Municipality – Like many other small and developing municipalities in the country, the Naledi Local Municipality faces a number of developmental challenges, including limited financial resources, high unemployment rate among the communities and poverty (IDP, 2011/12:19). As a result of the proposed development an amount of approximately R700 000 will be donated to the Local Municipality per annum for local socio economic development. In addition to this it is also required that the applicant donate approximately R250 000 per annum on local enterprise development. This will be for the full length of the project (minimum of 20 years). Therefore the local community may be granted the opportunity to improve their social and economic situation.

Generation of additional electricity	Pre-mitigation impact rating	Post mitigation impact rating
Status (positive or negative)	Positive	Positive
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Probability	Definite (4)	Definite (4)
Duration	Long term (3)	Long term (3)
Magnitude	Medium (2)	Medium (2)
Reversibility	Irreversible (4)	Irreversible (4)
Irreplaceable loss of resources	N/A	N/A
Cumulative impact	Low cumulative impact (2) - The donations may improve the social and economic situation of the local community.	
Significance	Positive medium (30)	Positive medium (30)
Can impacts be mitigated?	No mitigation measure required.	

Indirect impacts: The operational phase will have an indirect negative impact through the change in the sense of place and an indirect positive impact through the provision of additional electrical infrastructure.

- Change in the sense of place – The site is characterized by open veldt with a rural agricultural sense of place. The surrounding area has already been subject to transformation in terms of the substation and power lines located in close proximity to the site. Since the number of sensitive receptors is also very low, the impact of a low-lying PV facility on the sense of place

is expected to be insignificant. No mitigation measures are required.

Change in sense of place	Pre-mitigation impact rating	Post mitigation impact rating
Status (positive or negative)	Negative	Negative
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Probability	Definite (4)	Definite (4)
Duration	Long term (3)	Long term (3)
Magnitude	Medium (2)	Medium (2)
Reversibility	Partly reversible (2)	Partly reversible (2)
Irreplaceable loss of resources	No loss of resource (1)	No loss of resource (1)
Cumulative impact	The impact would result in negligible to no cumulative effects (1)	
Significance	Negative low (26)	Negative low (26)
Can impacts be mitigated?	No mitigation measures required.	

- Additional electrical infrastructure - The proposed solar facility will add to the existing electrical infrastructure in the immediate area and aid to lessen the reliance of electricity generation from coal-fired power stations. Due to the small scale of the project, the significance of this positive impact is low.

Additional Electrical Infrastructure	Pre-mitigation impact rating	Post mitigation impact rating
Status (positive or negative)	Positive	Positive
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Probability	Probable (2)	Probable (2)
Duration	Long term (3)	Long term (3)
Magnitude	Low (1)	Low (1)
Reversibility	Irreversible (4)	Irreversible (4)
Irreplaceable loss of resources	N/A	N/A
Cumulative impact	Medium cumulative impact (3)	
Significance	Positive low (14)	Positive low (14)
Can impacts be mitigated?	In order to maximise the benefits of the proposed project Bophirima Solar Energy should use the project to promote and increase the contribution of renewable energy to the national energy supply.	

Indicate mitigation measures that may eliminate or reduce the potential impacts listed above:
These measures are the same for each of the site alternatives and are given once only.

Alternative S1

All the operational impacts will be dealt with through the implementation of an EMPr included as Appendix F to the report.

5. IMPACTS THAT MAY RESULT FROM THE DECOMMISSIONING AND CLOSURE PHASE

List the potential site alternative related impacts (as appropriate) that are likely to occur as a result of the decommissioning or closure phase:

Alternative S1 (preferred alternative)

Direct impacts: The physical environment will benefit from the closure of the solar facility since the site will be restored to its natural state. However, the decommissioning phase will result in the loss of employment and the generation of waste that will require management measures.

- Rehabilitation of the physical environment – The physical environment will benefit from the closure of the solar facility since the site will be restored to its natural state.

Rehabilitation of the physical environment	Pre-mitigation impact rating	Post mitigation impact rating
Status (positive or negative)	Positive	Positive
Extent	Site (1)	Site (1)
Probability	Possible (2)	Probable (3)
Duration	Long term (3)	Long term (3)
Magnitude	Low (1)	Medium (2)
Reversibility	N/A	N/A
Irreplaceable loss of resources	N/A	N/A
Cumulative impact	The impact would result in negligible to no cumulative effects (1)	
Significance	Negative low (7)	Negative low (16)
Can impacts be mitigated?	No mitigation measures required.	

- Generation of waste - The panels contain material that may be hazardous in nature if released into the environment. If the panels are intact, there will be no risk of exposure. The removal of the supporting infrastructure such as the concrete foundations, cabling, fencing and control rooms, etc. will generate waste. Some of the waste will where possible be recycled, for example steel support structures can be re-used elsewhere or melted down to form new products. The amount of waste will be limited and is not expected to significantly reduce the capacity of the local landfill. However, the project is estimated to last for 20-25 years and the current landfill site at Vryburg may at that stage (or sooner) reach its capacity. The applicant will need to assess the project lifespan and make suitable arrangements for waste disposal when the site is decommissioned.

Generation of waste	Pre-mitigation impact rating	Post mitigation impact rating
Status (positive or negative)	Negative	Negative
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Probability	Definite (4)	Definite (4)
Duration	Short term (1)	Short term (1)
Magnitude	High (3)	Medium (2)
Reversibility	Partly reversible (2)	Partly reversible (2)
Irreplaceable loss of resources	No loss of resource (1)	No loss of resource (1)
Cumulative impact	Medium cumulative impact (3) - An additional demand on municipal services could result in	

	significant cumulative impacts if services become unstable or unavailable.	
Significance	Negative medium (39)	Negative low (26)
Can impacts be mitigated?	Yes.	

- Loss of employment - It is a general trend that over time there will be people leaving one job for another and so it is expected that there will periodically be staff turnover. At the stage where decommissioning becomes the next logical step, any staff employed at that time must be given adequate notice so that they may seek alternative employment.

Loss of employment	Pre-mitigation impact rating	Post mitigation impact rating
Status (positive or negative)	Negative	Negative
Extent	Local (2)	Local (2)
Probability	Definite (4)	Definite (4)
Duration	Short term (1)	Short term (1)
Magnitude	High (3)	Medium (2)
Reversibility	Partly reversible (2)	Partly reversible (2)
Irreplaceable loss of resources	No loss of resource (1)	No loss of resource (1)
Cumulative impact	The impact would result in negligible to no cumulative effects (1)	
Significance	Negative medium (33)	Negative medium (22)
Can impacts be mitigated?	Yes	

Indirect impacts: No indirect impacts are anticipated from the decommissioning phase of the proposed development.

Indicate mitigation measures that may eliminate or reduce the potential impacts listed above:

Alternative S1

All the decommissioning impacts will be dealt with through the implementation of an EMPr included as Appendix F to the report.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Taking the assessment of potential impacts into account, please provide an environmental impact statement that summarises the impact that the proposed activity and its alternatives may have on the environment after the management and mitigation of impacts have been taken into account, with specific reference to types of impact, duration of impacts, likelihood of potential impacts actually occurring and the significance of impacts.

Global dependence on fossil fuels and the impacts of climate change is of global concern. South Africa’s energy is largely fossil fuel dependent and government therefore aims to incorporate more renewable energy into the energy mix and reduce carbon dioxide emission. The proposed solar facility is a step in this direction as this form of energy is considered to be a clean fuel which has not only local but also global benefits. The benefits of this proposed development with respect to biodiversity, social and economic factors outweigh the negative impacts.

The assessment suggests that all of the identified impacts can be effectively mitigated. It is the opinion of the independent environmental assessment practitioner that none of the identified impacts could be

regarded as significant enough to jeopardise the proposed development. Ultimately the mitigation and management of potential impacts needs to focus only on the most significant issues identified during the assessment. It can be concluded that the potentially most significant environmental impacts associated with the development relate to the following:

During the construction phase -

- Temporary employment and other economic benefits

During the operational phase -

- Increase in storm water runoff
- Increase in consumption of water
- Visual intrusion
- Security risks
- Permanent employment opportunities
- Generation of additional electricity
- Generation of income to the Local Municipality

During the decommissioning phase -

- Generation of waste
- Loss of employment

To address these impacts, an environmental management programme (EMPr) is included under Appendix F. It is concluded that the overall impact of this development is low. For a detailed description of the assessment methodology and results refer to Appendix H.

SECTION E. RECOMMENDATION OF PRACTITIONER

Is the information contained in this report and the documentation attached hereto sufficient to make a decision in respect of the activity applied for (in the view of the environmental assessment practitioner)?

YES	NO
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If "NO", indicate the aspects that should be assessed further as part of a Scoping and EIA process before a decision can be made (list the aspects that require further assessment):

Not applicable.

If "YES", please list any recommended conditions, including mitigation measures that should be considered for inclusion in any authorisation that may be granted by the competent authority in respect of the application:

The Basic Assessment Report aimed at identifying significant environmental impacts and reasonable mitigation measures in order to facilitate sustainable and responsible development. It is the opinion of the independent environmental assessment practitioner that the proposed development will have a net positive impact for the area and will subsequently ensure the optimal utilisation of resources. All negative environmental impacts can further be effectively mitigated through the proposed mitigation measures. The following conclusions are made:

- The Basic Assessment Report complied with the specification set out in the EIA Regulations.
- The proposed mitigation measures will be sufficient to mitigate the identified impacts to an acceptable level.

- No additional specialist studies are proposed on any environmental issue raised and thus, no terms of reference are provided for such studies.

Based on the contents of the report it is proposed that an environmental authorisation be issued for consideration by the Department of Environmental Affairs, which states (amongst other general conditions) that the photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure on a portion of the farm Waterloo 992-IN be approved subject to the following conditions:

- Implementation of the proposed mitigation measures set out in the EMPr.
- Implementation of the recommendations made in the geotechnical report.
- The proposed solar facility must comply with all relevant national environmental laws and regulations.
- The proposed solar facility must conform to all relevant International and national environmental guidelines and standards.

Is an EMPr attached?

YES NO

The EMPr must be attached as Appendix F.

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Appendix A

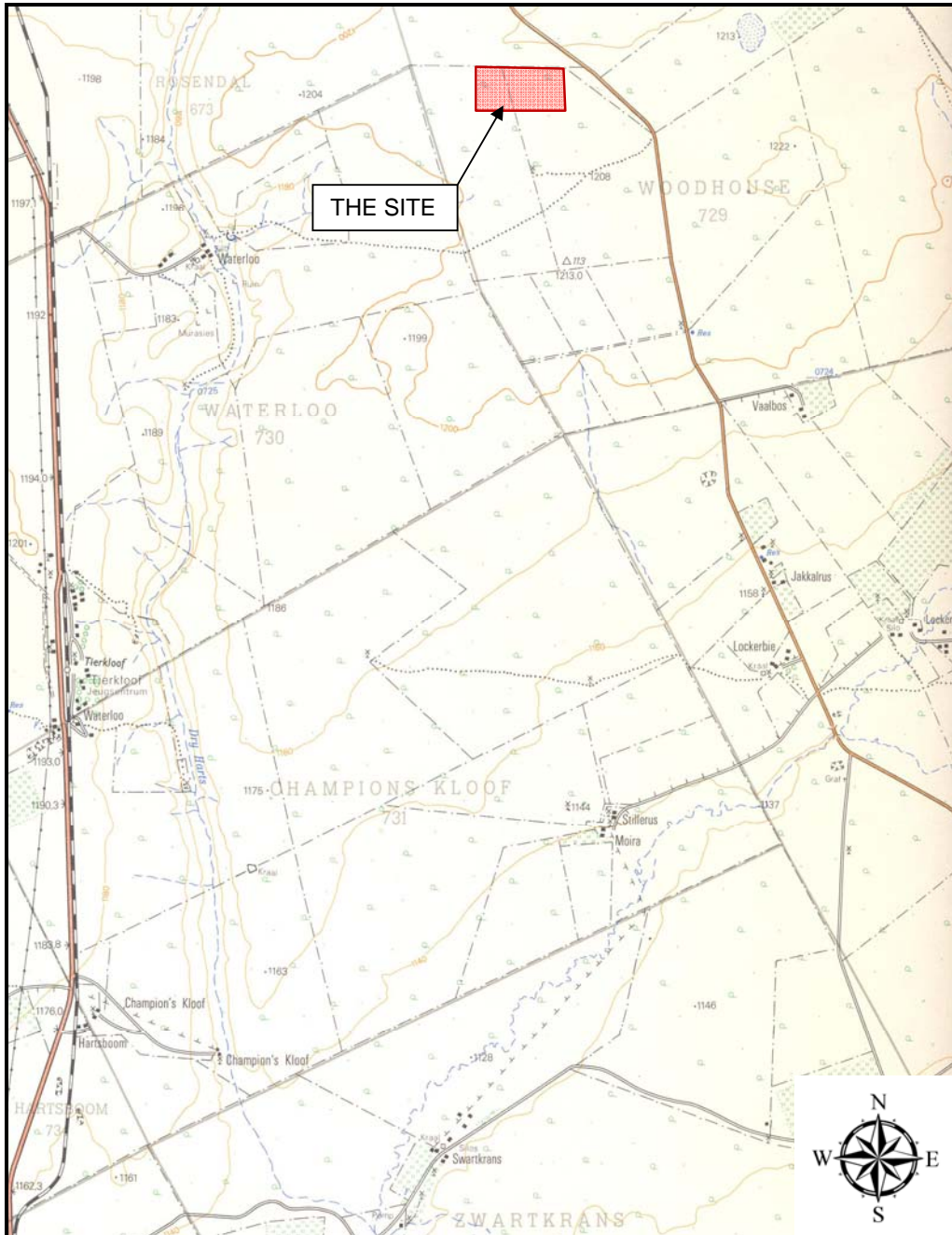
Site Plans

Figure 1 – Locality Map

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF A 19.5MW PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR PLANT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON A PORTION OF THE FARM WATERLOO 992, REGISTRATION DIVISION IN, SITUATED WITHIN THE NALEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AREA OF JURISDICTION

1:50 000 Topographical Map – 2724BB Lefton



Environamics
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INFRASTRUCTURE ON A PORTION OF THE FARM WATERLOO 992, REGISTRATION DIVISION IN,
SITUATED WITHIN THE NALEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AREA OF JURISDICTION**

Google Earth Spot Image (2012)

