Appendix G1 I&AP Database



## MOTIVATION REPORT APPENDIX G1: INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY DATABASE

Company	Last Name	First Name	
ABO Wind	Juusti	Veera	
ABO Wind	Magnall	Mike	
Agri North West	Du Toit	Р	
Agri North West Farmers Union	van wyk	Eric	
AMDA Developments	Berrington	Charlie	
BioTherm Energy (Pty) Ltd	Joubert	Armandt	
Birdlife South Africa	Gear	Simon	
irdlife South Africa	Goosen	Janine	
CHARMAKOR VRYBURG PTY LTD	Efstratios Apostollesis	George	
Department of Agriculture- North West	Diale	Lebo	
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - AgriLand Liaison office	Buthelezi	Thoko	
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - AgriLand Liaison office	Nhlaka	D	
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - AgriLand Liaison office	Collett	Anneliza	
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - AgriLand Liaison office	Khuthala	D	
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - Delegate of the Ainister (Act 70 of 1970)	Marubini	Mashudu	
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - Land Use and Soil	Buys	H.J	
Department of Communications	The Director		
Department of Labour	Moathlodi	Emilly	
Department of Mineral Resources	Mokoena	Kgauta	
Department of Mineral Resources	Swart	Mr Pieter	
Department of Public Works, Roads & Transport; North West	Mulangaphuma		
Department of Telecommunication & Postal Services	Sibeko	Elliot	
or Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality	Keoagile	0	
	Tlhabanelo	Victor	
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality	Indodneio	VICIOI	
ndangered Wildlife Trust, Wildlife and Energy Programme		l a la va	
SKOM	Geeringh	John Kevin	
SKOM	Kevin Leask		
skom Holdings Limited: Eskom Distribution Western Operating Unit Vestern Operating Unit	Wyngaardt	Justine	
Grasslands Society of Southern Africa	du Toit	Freyni	
łuhudi Public Library			
ndependent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA)	Ruplal	Praneel	
(LONDIKE BELEGGINGS CC	De Jager	Lourens	
(londike Lodge			
eads 2 Business	Miles	Melanie	
Naledi Local Municipality	Macdonald Bloom	Mr Tshepo	
Naledi Local Municipality		<u> </u>	
Ialedi Local Municipality			
Ialedi Local Municipality			
lational Department of Environmental Affairs: Biodiversity and	Lekota	S	
lational Department of Environmental Affairs: Integrated Environmental	Essop	Muhammad	
lational Department of Environmental Affairs: Integrated Environmental	Coenrad	Coenrad	
lational Department of Environmental Affairs: Integrated Environmental Authorisations	Herman	Albert	
lational Department of Environmental Affairs: Integrated Environmental Authorisations	Shubane	Mahlatse	
lational Department of Water and Sanitation	Khosa	Tsunduka	
Jational Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)	Buys	Pieter	
	Suza	Mmoni	
National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)	3020		
National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)	Gxasheka	Andile	

Company	Last Name	First Name
North West Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural		Motshabi
Development (NWREAD)	Mohlalisi	
North West Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural	Boshoff	Tharina
Development (NWREAD)		
North West Department of Rural, Environmental and Agricultural	Skosana	Ouma
North West Department of Rural, Environmental and Agricultural	Mahlangu	Eva
NW Department of Energy	Mosadi	Lesego
NW Department of Energy	Sethosa	Tebogo
NWCA (North West Conservancy and Stewardship Association)		
Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA)	Games	Tony
Private	Van der Merwe	Anna
Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (PHRA) - North West	Mosiane	Motlhabane
Regional Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - North West	Mohlakoana	Bonolo
SAEON Arid Lands Node	Henschel	Dr. Joh R
SAHRA	Redelstorff	Ragna
SAHRA	Higgitt	Natasha
SEIPELO FARMING PROJECTS PTY LTD	Seipelo	Israel
SENTECH		
SKA SA	Tiplady	Adrian
South African Civilian Aviation Authority	Stroh	Lizell
South African Civilian Aviation Authority	Isherwood	Chris
South African National Parks (SANParks) - Snr GM: Policy & Governance Conservation Services Division	Hendricks	Dr. Howard
South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL)	Mashele	Tyiselani
South African Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) Northern Cape (Western	de Kock	Rene
South African Roads Agency Limited (Western Region)	Abrahams	Nicole
The Edinburgh Trust	Oberholzer	Adele
Transnet	Dlamini	Keabetsoe
TV3	Cronje	Chris
Veroniva (PTY) Ltd - Renewable Energy	Bosman	Claude
Veroniva (PTY) Ltd - Renewable Energy	Louw	Etian
Ward 5 Councillor		Kenalemang
Ward 9 Councillor	Lillian Bome Moholo	Lota
Ward 9 Councillor		
WESSA Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA) - Port Elizabeth	Petha Criffitha	Lemson
Office - Environmental Governance Programme	GIIIIINS	Morgan
Tiger Kloof Educational Institution		

Appendix G2 Consultation with I&APs



Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd | Directors: KM Jodas, J Thomas, M Matsabu Company Reg No.: 2006/000127/07 VAT Reg No.: 4780226736

29 October 2020

Dear Stakeholder and Interested and Affected Party,

## APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: VRYBURG SOLAR 1, 2 AND 3 FACILITIES, NORTH WEST (DEA REFs: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1939, 14/12/16/3/3/1/1940 and 14/12/16/3/3/1/1941)

## NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THE MOTIVATION REPORT FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

Vryburg Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd, Vryburg Solar 2 (Pty) Ltd and Vryburg Solar 3 (Pty) Ltd received Environmental Authorisation (EAs) in December 2018 (DEA Ref. Nos. 14/12/16/3/3/1/1939, 14/12/16/3/3/1/1940 and 14/12/16/3/3/1/1941) for the development of three solar energy facilities (including associated infrastructure) near Vryburg within the Naledi Local Municipality and the greater Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality, Northern West Province. The development of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) for each of the solar energy facilities will be developed within the respective authorised development footprints of Vryburg Solar 1, Vryburg Solar 2 and Vryburg Solar 3, within the respective authorised construction compound/laydown areas. Each BESS will have an extent of no more than 5ha and will connect to the respective authorised on-site facility substations via 22kV or 33kV underground cables.

The respective applicants are also proposing a change in the description included in the EA for each on-site substation. The change relates to the addition of collector infrastructure as part of the authorised on-site substation and within the authorised footprint of the substation.

In addition, changes to the EA Holder contact details and specific projects details area being requested for amendment.

In terms of Condition 5 of the Environmental Authorisations dated December 2018 and Regulation 31 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, it is possible for an applicant to apply, in writing, to the competent authority for a change or deviation from the project description to be approved.

In order to verify the potential for a change in the, specialist inputs have been included.

Savannah Environmental has prepared Motivation Reports in support of these Amendment Applications on behalf of the Applicant. The Motivation Reports are available for a 30-day review and comment period from Friday, 30 October 2020 to Monday, 30 November 2020 and can be downloaded from Savannah Environmental's website (<u>https://www.savannahsa.com/public-documents/energy-generation/vryburg-solar-1-2-3-facilities/</u>), and the release code is: **ZY!4pm**. The due date for written comment is Monday, 30 November 2020.

All comments received will be included in the final Motivation Report which will be submitted to the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries for review and decision-making.

Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process. We also welcome you to share this information with any other parties that you feel will have interest in the project and should be part of this process (such as occupiers of directly affected or surrounding properties, interest groups, community groups etc.).

Kind regards,

Nicolene Venter Public Participation and Social Consultant E-mail: <u>publicprocess@savannahsa.com</u>

## PROOF OF EMAIL Vryburg 1 Solar: Notification of availability of the Motivation Report for review and comment

Vryburg Solar 1, 2 & 3 Facilities: Availability of the Motivation Reports for review and comments



### Dear Interested and Affected Party.

Vryburg Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd, Vryburg Solar 2 (Pty) Ltd and Vryburg Solar 3 (Pty) Ltd received Environmental Authorisation (EAs) in December 2018 (DEA Ref. Nos. 14/12/16/3/3/1/1999. 14/12/16/3/3/1/1940) and 14/12/16/3/3/1/1941) for the development of three solar energy facilities (including associated infrastructure) new Yryburg within the Noled Local Municipality and the greater CP & uth Segamatis Mampati District Municipality, northern West Province. The development of a Battery Energy Starage System (BESS) for each of the solar energy facilities will be developed within the respective authorised development for thyburg Solar 1. Vryburg Solar 2 and Vryburg Solar 3, within the respective authorised construction compound/laydown areas. Each BESS will have an extent of no more than 4ha and will connect to the respective authorised on-site facility substolars via C2X or 38K/ underground cables.

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The Molivation Reports are available for your review and comment from Friday. 30 October 2020 until Monday, 30 November 2020 and can be downloaded from our online stakeholder engagement platform at [https://www.savannahsa.com/public-documents/energy-generation/wyburg

The attached notification letter also provides further details regarding the availability of the Motivation Reports.

Kind regards

### Kind Regards,



Savannah Environmental <u>Website Uploads</u>



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## Vryburg Solar 1, 2 & 3 Facilities, North West

(DEA REFs: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1939, 14/12/16/3/3/1/1940 and 14/12/16/3/3/1/1941)

Project Names: Vryburg Solar 1, North West Province

Vryburg Solar 2, North West Province

Vryburg Solar 3, North West Province

Applicants: Vryburg Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd

Vryburg Solar 2 (Pty) Ltd

Vryburg Solar 3 (Pty) Ltd

Proposed Amendments: The inclusion of the construction and operation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) for the authorised Vryburg 1, 2 and 3 Solar facilities, with a capacity of up to 500MW/500MWh into the project description of the Environmental Authorisation (EA). Each BESS will be developed within the authorised development footprint of Vryburg 1, 2 and 3 Solar facilities, within the respective authorised construction compound/laydown area for each solar facility. Each BESS will have an extent of no more than 5ha and will connect to the respective authorised on-site facility substations of the Vryburg 1, 2 and 3 Solar facilities via 22kV or 33kV underground cables.

In addition, the respective applicants are proposing a change in the description included in the Environmental Authorisation for each project pertaining to the on-site substation. The change relates to the addition of collector infrastructure as part of the authorised on-site substation and within the authorised footprint of the substation.

Vryburg Solar 2 (Pty) Ltd is also proposing to correct the wording in the current EA relating to the size in ha of the development footprint. The current EA states that the size in ha of the development footprint is 225ha. This is a typing error that should read 255ha as per the area assessed within the EIA Report.

Project Location: ~10km south-west of Vryburg, within ward 4 of the Naledi Local Municipality and within the greater Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality in the North West Province. The projects fall within the Vryburg Renewable Energy Development Zone (or REDZ 6). Relevant affected properties are as follows:

- The Vryburg Solar 1 facility is located on Portion 2 of Frankfort Farm 672; Remainder of Frankfort Farm 672; Portion 1 of Frankfort Number Farm 672; and Remainder of Rosendal Farm 673. The BESS will be located on Portion 2 of Frankfort Farm 672.
- The Vryburg Solar 2 facility is located on Portion 1 of Retreat Farm 671; Portion 2 of Frankfort Farm 672; Remaining extent of Frankfort Farm 672; Portion 1 of Frankfort Number Farm 672; and The Remainder of Rosendal Farm 673. The BESS will be located on Portion 1 of Retreat Farm 671.
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In terms of Condition 5 of the Environmental Authorisations dated 25 July 2019 and Regulation 31 of the EIA Regulations of December 2014, as amended, it is possible for an Applicant to apply, in writing, to the competent authority for a change or deviation from the project description to be approved. The proposed amendments do not in themselves trigger a listed activity. Therefore, a Part 2 Amendment process as detailed in Regulation 31 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) will be followed.

Motivation Reports available for review and comment: Savannah Environmental has compiled Motivation Reports in support of the applications for the proposed amendments for Vryburg 1,2 and 3 Solar Facilities. The Motivation Reports are available for download, review and comment on the Savannah Environmental website at: https://www.savannahsa.com/public-documents/energy-generation/. The 30-day review and comment period for the Motivation Reports is from 30 October 2020 to 30 November 2020. The final date to submit comments is Monday, 30 November 2020.

To obtain further information and register on the project database, please submit your name, contact information and interest in the project to:

Nicolene Venter PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157 Phone: 011 656 3237 Mobile: 060 978 8396 Fax: 086 680 0547 E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com/ Website: https://www.savannahsa.com/

Documents for public review are available for download.



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## Downloads

Vryburg Solar PV3 Facility

**PV3 Motivation Report** 

Appendix A - Ecological Specialist Letter

Appendix B - Avifaunal Specialist Letter

Appendix C - Soils and Agricultural Potential Specialist Letter

Appendix D - Heritage Specialist Letter

Appendix E - Social Specialist Letter

Appendix F - Visual Specialist Letter

Appendix G - Public Participation Documentation

Appendix H - A3 Maps

Appendix I - Environmental Team CVs

Appendix J - EAP Affirmation

Appendix K - Environmental Management Programme

## Email text for the reminder Notification

## APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: VRYBURG SOLAR 1, 2 AND 3 FACILITIES, NORTH WEST

## (DEA REFs: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1939, 14/12/16/3/3/1/1940 and 14/12/16/3/3/1/1941)

Dear Stakeholder and Interested and Affected Party,

With reference to the attached notification letter sent on Thursday, 29 October 2020 attached to the e-mail notification below, this e-mail serves to inform you that the comment period for the Motivation Report (MR) is ending on **Friday, 30 November 2020.** As you may recall, the review and comment period for the MR was from Friday, 30 October 2020 to Monday, 30 November 2020.

Thank you to those Stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties who submitted their written comments and those who had not yet submitted written comments, we kindly request that you do so before or on **Friday, 30 November 2020**.

Kind regards,

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/ryburg Solar 1, 2 & 3 Facilities: Notification Reminder for the Availability of the Motivation Reports for review and comment period ending soon				
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To Savannah Public Process:  Vicolene Venter				Mon 2020/11/2
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### Kind regards,

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## Appendix G3 Consultation with Organs of State



Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd | Directors: KM Jodas, J Thomas, M Matsabu Company Reg No.: 2006/000127/07 VAT Reg No.: 4780226736

29 October 2020

Dear Key Stakeholder,

## APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: VRYBURG SOLAR 1, 2 AND 3 FACILITIES, NORTH WEST (DEA REFs: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1939, 14/12/16/3/3/1/1940 and 14/12/16/3/3/1/1941)

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Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process. We also welcome you to share this information with any other parties that you feel will have interest in the project and should be part of this process (such as occupiers of directly affected or surrounding properties, interest groups, community groups etc.).

Kind regards,

Nicolene Venter Public Participation and Social Consultant E-mail: <u>publicprocess@savannahsa.com</u>

## PROOF OF EMAIL Vryburg 1 Solar: Notification of availability of the Motivation Report for review and comment

Vryburg Solar 1, 2 & 3 Facilities: Availability of the Motivation Reports for review and comments



### Dear Interested and Affected Party.

Vryburg Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd, Vryburg Solar 2 (Pty) Ltd and Vryburg Solar 3 (Pty) Ltd received Environmental Authorisation (EAs) in December 2018 (DEA Ref. Nos. 14/12/16/3/3/1/1999. 14/12/16/3/3/1/1940) and 14/12/16/3/3/1/1941) for the development of three solar energy facilities (including associated infrastructure) new Yryburg within the Noled Local Municipality and the greater CP & uth Segamatis Mampati District Municipality, northern West Province. The development of a Battery Energy Starage System (BESS) for each of the solar energy facilities will be developed within the respective authorised development for thyburg Solar 1. Vryburg Solar 2 and Vryburg Solar 3, within the respective authorised construction compound/laydown areas. Each BESS will have an extent of no more than 4ha and will connect to the respective authorised on-site facility substolars via C2X or 38K/ underground cables.

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Kind regards

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Savannah Environmental <u>Website Uploads</u>



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## Vryburg Solar 1, 2 & 3 Facilities, North West

(DEA REFs: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1939, 14/12/16/3/3/1/1940 and 14/12/16/3/3/1/1941)

Project Names: Vryburg Solar 1, North West Province

Vryburg Solar 2, North West Province

Vryburg Solar 3, North West Province

Applicants: Vryburg Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd

Vryburg Solar 2 (Pty) Ltd

Vryburg Solar 3 (Pty) Ltd

Proposed Amendments: The inclusion of the construction and operation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) for the authorised Vryburg 1, 2 and 3 Solar facilities, with a capacity of up to 500MW/500MWh into the project description of the Environmental Authorisation (EA). Each BESS will be developed within the authorised development footprint of Vryburg 1, 2 and 3 Solar facilities, within the respective authorised construction compound/laydown area for each solar facility. Each BESS will have an extent of no more than 5ha and will connect to the respective authorised on-site facility substations of the Vryburg 1, 2 and 3 Solar facilities via 22kV or 33kV underground cables.

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Nicolene Venter PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157 Phone: 011 656 3237 Mobile: 060 978 8396 Fax: 086 680 0547 E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com/ Website: https://www.savannahsa.com/

Documents for public review are available for download.



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## Downloads

Vryburg Solar PV3 Facility

**PV3 Motivation Report** 

Appendix A - Ecological Specialist Letter

Appendix B - Avifaunal Specialist Letter

Appendix C - Soils and Agricultural Potential Specialist Letter

Appendix D - Heritage Specialist Letter

Appendix E - Social Specialist Letter

Appendix F - Visual Specialist Letter

Appendix G - Public Participation Documentation

Appendix H - A3 Maps

Appendix I - Environmental Team CVs

Appendix J - EAP Affirmation

Appendix K - Environmental Management Programme

## SAHRIS <u>Website Uploads</u>

	age Cases
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Vrybur	rg Solar 3
Add new cor	mment Subscribe to: This post 1 read
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2. 🛃 Vrybur	rg PV3 Appendix A - Ecological Specialist Letter.pdf
3. 🗹 Vrybur	rg PV3 Appendix B - Avifaunal Specialist Letter.pdf
4. 🗹 Vrybur	rg PV3 Appendix C - Soils and Agricultural Potential Specialist Letter.pdf
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## Email text for the reminder Notification

## APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: VRYBURG SOLAR 1, 2 AND 3 FACILITIES, NORTH WEST

## (DEA REFs: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1939, 14/12/16/3/3/1/1940 and 14/12/16/3/3/1/1941)

Dear Stakeholder and Interested and Affected Party,

With reference to the attached notification letter sent on Thursday, 29 October 2020 attached to the e-mail notification below, this e-mail serves to inform you that the comment period for the Motivation Report (MR) is ending on **Friday, 30 November 2020.** As you may recall, the review and comment period for the MR was from Friday, 30 October 2020 to Monday, 30 November 2020.

Thank you to those Stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties who submitted their written comments and those who had not yet submitted written comments, we kindly request that you do so before or on **Friday, 30 November 2020**.

Kind regards,

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/ryburg Solar 1, 2 & 3 Facilities: Notification Reminder for the Availability of the Motivation Reports for review and comment period ending soon				
Savannah Public Process	← R	eply 4	5 Reply All	→ Forward
To Savannah Public Process:  Vicolene Venter				Mon 2020/11/2
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Thank you to those Stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties who submitted their written comments and those who had not yet submitted written comments, we kindly request that you do so before or on Friday, 30 November 2020.

### Kind regards,

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Appendix G4 Advertisements and Site Notices

## ADVERTISEMENT

## NOTICE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AMENDMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

## VRYBURG SOLAR 1, 2 AND 3 FACILITIES, NORTH WEST (DEA REFs: 14-12-16-3-3-1-1939, 14-12-16-3-3-1-1940 and 14-12-16-3-3-1-1941 respectively)

Project Names:	Vryburg Solar 1, North West Province
	Vryburg Solar 2, North West Province
	Vryburg Solar 3, North West Province
Applicants:	Vryburg Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd
	Vryburg Solar 2 (Pty) Ltd
	Vryburg Solar 3 (Pty) Ltd

**Proposed Amendments:** The inclusion of the construction and operation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) for the authorised Vryburg 1, 2 and 3 Solar facilities, with a capacity of up to 500MW/500MWh into the project description of the Environmental Authorisation (EA). Each BESS will be developed within the authorised development footprint of Vryburg 1, 2 and 3 Solar facilities, within the respective authorised construction compound/laydown area for each solar facility. Each BESS will have an extent of no more than 5ha and will connect to the respective authorised on-site facility substations of the Vryburg 1, 2 and 3 Solar facilities via 22kV or 33kV underground cables.

In addition, the respective applicants are proposing a change in the description included in the Environmental Authorisation for each project pertaining to the on-site substation. The change relates to the addition of collector infrastructure as part of the authorised on-site substation and within the authorised footprint of the substation.

Vryburg Solar 2 (Pty) Ltd is also proposing to correct the wording in the current EA relating to the size in ha of the development footprint. The current EA states that the size in ha of the development footprint is 225ha. This should read 255ha as per the area assessed within the EIA Report.

**Project Location:** ~10km south-west of Vryburg, within ward 4 of the Naledi Local Municipality and within the greater Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality in the North West Province. The projects fall within the Vryburg Renewable Energy Development Zone (or REDZ 6). Relevant affected properties are as follows:

- The Vryburg Solar 1 facility is located on Portion 2 of Frankfort Farm 672; Remainder of Frankfort Farm 672; Portion 1 of Frankfort Number Farm 672; and Remainder of Rosendal Farm 673. The BESS will be loctaed on Portion 2 of Frankfort Farm 672.
- The Vryburg Solar 2 facility is located on Portion 1 of Retreat Farm 671; Portion 2 of Frankfort Farm 672; Remaining extent of Frankfort Farm 672; Portion 1 of Frankfort Number Farm 672; and The Remainder of Rosendal Farm 673. The BESS will be loctaed on Portion 1 of Retreat Farm 671.
- The Vryburg Solar 3 facility is located on Portion 1 of Retreat Farm 671; Portion 2 of Frankfort Farm 672; Remaining extent of Frankfort Farm 672; Portion 1 of Frankfort Number Farm 672; and The Remainder of Rosendal Farm 673. The BESS will be loctaed on Portion 1 of Retreat Farm 671.

In terms of Condition 5 of the Environmental Authorisations dated 25 July 2019 and Regulation 31 of the EIA Regulations of December 2014, as amended, it is possible for an Applicant to apply, in writing, to the competent authority for a change or deviation from the project description to be approved. The proposed amendments do not in themselves trigger a listed activity. Therefore, a Part 2 Amendment process as detailed in Regulation 31 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) will be followed.

Motivation Reports available for review and comment: Savannah Environmental has compiled Motivation Reports in support of the applications for the proposed amendments for Vryburg 1,2 and 3 Solar Facilities. The Motivation Reports are available for download, review and comment on the Savannah Environmental website at: https://www.savannahsa.com/public-documents/energy-generation/vryburg-solar-1-2-3-facilities/. The 30-day review and comment period for the Motivation Reports is from 30 October 2020 to 30 November 2020. The final date to submit comments is Monday, 30 November 2020.

To obtain further information and register on the project database, please submit your name, contact information and interest in the project to:

## Nicolene Venter

PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157 Phone: 011 656 3237 Mobile: 060 978 8396 Fax: 086 680 0547 E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com Website: https://www.savannahsa.com/



# **Boer wat brand sterk aan**

Stellalander-Schweizer-Reneke – Dit is reeds die derde week van aanhoudende brande wat regoor die Noordwes, Noord-Kaap en die Vrystaat opvlam.

tans mediese behandeling ontvang. Hy het

sowat 55% brandwonde opgedoen. "Dit gaan goed met Wimpie. Hy het bietjie pyn

nadat hy van die teater af kom. Hulle het

dokter baie tevrede. Daar is gelukkig op die stadium geen septiese wonde nie. Ons is dankbaar vir sy goeie vordering. Hy mag dalk nog `n rukkie in die hoë-sorgeenheid wees, maar ons glo en vertrou dat dit elke dag net beter sal gaan. Bid asseblief steeds," het sy vrou Corlize

Koenig Maandag (26 Oktober) tydens

\*Hulp is

gesê.

n opvolg boodskap

Maandagaand (19

Oktober) uitgeroep

na die Tlakgameng-

Vryburg en Ganyesa.

omgewing tussen

Boodskappe wat

op `n noodgroep

in die slag kon

Teen 04:00

Woensdagoggend (21 Oktober) het

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eindelik onder

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terug te keer na hul

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die brand as baie erg

beskryf. Daar is ook genoem dat geboue

wees. "Ons benodig

dringend hulp," het

die boodskap gelui.

Nog `n jong boer, die keer Wimpie Koenig en hy is na Klerksdorp geneem waar hy (36), het tydens `n brand in die Schweizer-Reneke-omgewing op Woensdag (21 Oktober) van `n bakkie afgeval.

Die vuur het buite beheer geraak en reg rondom die bakkie begin brand.

weer al sy wonde skoongemaak en verbind. Alhoewel sy bloeddruk bietjie laag is, is die Nooddienste het Koenig halfpad ontmoet

NOTICE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AMENDMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS VRYBURG SOLAR 1, 2 AND 3 FACILITIES, NORTH WEST DEA REFs: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1939, 14/12/16/3/3/1/1940 and 14/12/16/3/3/1/1941 respectively					
Project Name Applicant Affected properties					
Vryburg Solar 1, North West Province	Vryburg Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd	Portion 2 of Frankfort Farm 672; Remainder of Frankfort Farm 672; Portion 1 of Frankfort Number Farm 672; and Remainder of Rosendal Farm 673			
Vryburg Solar 2, North West Province	Vryburg Solar 2 (Pty) Ltd	Portion 1 of Retreat Farm 671; Portion 2 of Frankfort Farm 672; Remaining extent of Frankfort Farm 672; Portion 1 of Frankfort Number Farm 672; and the Remainder of Rosendal Farm 673			
Vryburg Solar 3, North West Province	Vryburg Solar 3 (Pty) Ltd	Portion 1 of Retreat Farm 671; Portion 2 of Frankfort Farm 672; Remaining extent of Frankfort Farm 672; Portion 1 of Frankfort Number Farm 672; and the Remainder of Rosendal Farm 673			

Proposed Amendments: The inclusion of the construction and operation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) for the authorised Vryburg 1, 2 and 3 Solar facilities, with a capacity of up to 500MW/500MWh into the project description of the Environmental Authorisation (EA). Each BESS will be developed within the authorised development footprint of Vryburg 1, 2 and 3 Solar facilities, within the respective authorised construction compound/laydown areas. Each BESS will have an extent of no more than 5ha and will connect to the respective authorised on-site facility substations of the Vryburg 1, 2 and 3 Solar facilities via 22kV or 33kV underground cables.

In addition, the respective applicants are proposing a change in the description included in the EA for each on-site substation. The change relates to the addition of collector infrastructure as part of the authorised on-site substation and within the authorised footprint of the substation.

Vryburg Solar 2 (Pty) Ltd is also proposing to correct the wording in the current EA relating to the size in ha of the development footprint. The EA currently states that the size in ha of the development footprint is 225ha. This should read 255ha as per the area assessed within the EIA Report.

Project Location: -10km south-west of Vryburg, within ward 4 of the Naledi Local Municipality and within the greater Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality in the North West Province. The projects fall within the Vryburg Renewable Energy Development Zone (or REDZ 6).

In terms of Condition 5 of the Environmental Authorisations dated 25 July 2019 and Regulation 31 of the EIA Regulations of December 2014, as amended, it is possible for an Applicant to apply, in writing, to the competent authority for a change or deviation from the project description to be approved. The proposed amendments do not in themselves trigger a listed activity. Therefore, a Part 2 Amendment process as detailed in Regulation 31 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) will be followed.

Motivation Reports available for review and comment: Savannah Environmental has compiled Motivation Reports in support of the applications for the proposed amendments. The Motivation Reports are available for download, review and comment on the Savannah Environmental website at:

https://www.savannahsa.com/public-documents/energy-generation/vryburg-solar-1-2-3-facilities, The 30-day review and comment period for the Motivation Reports is from 30 October 2020 to 30 November 2020. The final date to submit comments is Monday, 30 November 2020.

To obtain further information and register on the project database, please submit you name, contact information and interest in the project to:

**Nicolene Venter** PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157 Phone: 011 656 3237 Mobile: 060 978 8396 Fax: 086 680 0547 -mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com Website: https://www.savannahsa.com/



Lesekha INVITATION FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

## AND NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT OF THE MINING RIGHTS

REFERENCE NO: NW-00277 MR/102

NOTICE: Notice is hereby given in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998; NEMA (Act No. 107 of 1998) for the amendment of the Environmental Management Programme and the application is done terms of Section 102 of the Mineral Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) (Act 28 of 2002) for the incorporation of Prospecting rights into the existing the Mining Right.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed amendment of the Environmental Management Programme to incorporate the prospecting rights into the existing mining right for Kalgold Mine within the Ratlou Local Municipality, Tswaing Local Municipality and Mafikeng Local Municipality in the North West Province. amendment will entail the following activ



Brande wat verlede week tussen



Show us your Mo,

Stellalander-Vryburg - Your facial hair is the stuff legends are made of. Women want you, and other men would love to be you.

- Drill rig (RC rigs, Diamond rigs, Augers, Percussion rigs)
- Sump for water reticulation required for drill rig
- Core samples will collect core (Diamond drilling), rock chips (RC and Percussion drilling) and soil samples (auger drilling)
- Access roads
- Clearance of vegetation
- Water kept in circulation or closed loop system
- · Mobile kitchen/toilets/overnight huts for security guards.

The EMPr will be amended and submitted to the Department of Mineral Resource North West (NW DMR) in Klerksdorp in order to obtain the authorization.

PROJECT PROPONENT: Kalahari Goldridge Mining Company (Kalgold) PROJECT CONSULTANT: Lesego Senna of Lesekha Consulting ADDRESS: No. 25 Caroline Close, Rowlands Estate, Mafikeng, 2745. TEL: (018) 011 0002/083 763 7854 FAX: 086 541 6369; E-mail: lesego@lesekha.co.za

Date of advertisement: 28 October 2020

Lesekha Consulting has been appointed as independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the amendment process as well as public participation for the above-mentioned project. In order to ensure that you are identified as an interested and/or affected party or have any comments and objections please submit your name, contact information and interest in the matter to the contact person given above within 30 days of publication of this advertisement.

You are proud of what your upper lip has accomplished - and you don't shy away from showing that magnificent moustache off.

> If this fits you to a tee, we would like to hear from you. Share your photo with us - and you could be R1000 richer. To enter, simply send us your photo and details (name and surname, address and age) to 071 533 4058. Your photo will be published on our Facebook page and the public will get the chance to vote for you. Besides the prize money up for grabs, you will also be the star of our Movember feature on 13 November. Voting on Facebook will close on Monday (9 November) at 12:00 midday. Put on your Big Boy Pants and enter now! (And if you're a bit short on facial hair, our sincere condolences.)

## SITE NOTICES

## NOTICE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AMENDMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

## VRYBURG SOLAR 3 FACILITY (DEA REF: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1941)

Project Name: Vryburg Solar 3 Facility Part 2 Amendment, Northern Cape Province

Applicant: Vryburg Solar 3 (Pty) Ltd

**Proposed Amendments:** The inclusion of the construction and operation of a Battery Energy Storage (BESS) for the authorised Vryburg Solar 3 Facility, with a contracted capacity of up to 500MW/500MWh into the project description of the Environmental Authorisation (EA). The BESS will be developed within the authorised development footprint of the Vryburg Solar 3 Facility, within the authorised laydown area, and with an extent of no more than 5ha. The BESS will connect to the authorised on-site facility substation of the Vryburg Solar 3 Facility via underground cables.

Vryburg Solar 3 (Pty) Ltd is requesting the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) to amend the project description of the EA (dated 7 December 2018) as follows:

Battery Energy Storage System	Consisting of the following components:
	- Electrochecmical battery storage systems with a maximum height of
	3.5m; and
	- Multi-core 22kV or 33kV underground cables, to follow internal
	access roads of the PV facility, to connect the battery storage area
	to the on-site facility substation.

**Project Location:** ~ 10km north-west of Vryburg, under the jurisdiction of the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality and Naledi Local Municipality, on the following farm portions:

- Portion 1 of Retreat Farm 671,
- Portion 2 of Frankfort Farm 672,
- Remaining extent of Frankfort Farm 672,
- Portion 1 of Frankfort Number Farm 672, and
- > The Remainder of Rosendal Farm 673

In terms of Condition 5 of the Environmental Authorisation dated 7 December 2018 and Regulation 31 of the EIA Regulations of December 2014, as amended, it is possible for an Applicant to apply, in writing, to the competent authority for a change or deviation from the project description to be approved.

In terms of Regulation 32 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2014, as amended, opportunity is being provided to the public to submit comments on the proposed amendments. Interested and Affected Parties can request further information from, or submit comments to the contact person below.

Nicolene Venter of Savannah Environmental Post: P.O. Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157 Tel: 011 656 3237 Mobile: 060 978 8396 Fax: 086 684 0547 Email: publicprocess@savannahsa.com Website: www.savannahsa.com



October 2020

## Proof of Site Notices (placed on 16 October 2020)



Appendix G5 Comments Received DEFF



## environment, forestry & fisheries

Department: Environment, Forestry and Fisheries REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1939, 14/12/16/3/3/1/1940 & 14/12/16/3/3/1/1941 Enquiries: Ms Mmatlala Rabothata Telephone: (012) 399 9174 E-mail: <u>MRabothata@environment.gov.za</u>

Ms Nicolene Venter Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd PO Box 148 SUNNINGHILL 2157

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

### PER E-MAIL

Dear Ms. Venter

## COMMENTS ON MOTIVATION FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE AUTHORISED VRYBURG SOLAR 1, 2, AND 3 ENERGY FACILITIES NEAR VRYBURG IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE.

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation reviewed and evaluated the aforementioned draft report. Based on the information provided in the specialist report. The project falls within the Vryburg Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ 6). The Applicant wishes to add a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) within the footprint authorised for development, with no further increase in the significance of those impacts originally identified and assessed in the Basic Assessment (BA) Report or lead to any additional impacts that cannot be mitigated to a low significance following the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures. Furthermore, the mitigation measures recommended in the BA Report and in the Motivation Report are adequate to manage the expected impacts as a result of the proposed amendment.

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

- Permits from relevant authorities must be obtained for the removal or disturbance of any TOPs, Red Data listed or provincially protected species.
- Sensitive areas in close proximity to the development footprint must be demarcated as no-go area i.e. watercourses.



## COMMENTS ON MOTIVATION FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE AUTHORISED VRYBURG SOLAR 1, 2, AND 3 ENERGY FACILITIES NEAR VRYBURG IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE.

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

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

Yours faithfully

Mr. Seoka Lekota Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation Department of Environment, Forestry & Fisheries Date: 28/11/2020

Proposed amendment of the authorised Vryburg Solar 1, 2, and 3 Energy Facilities near Vryburg in the North West Province.



environment, forestry & fisheries

Department: Environment, Forestry and Fisheries REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1941/AM1 Enquiries: Mr Kevin Mathebula Telephone: (012) 399 9216 E-mail: <u>KLMathebula@environment.gov.za</u>

Ms. Jo-Anne Thomas Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd P.O Box 148 **SUNNINGHILL** 2157

Telephone Number: 011 656 3237Cellphone Number: 082 684 5628Email Address: joanne@savannahsa.com

## PER MAIL / EMAIL

## Dear Ms. Thomas

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT MOTIVATION REPORT FOR THE APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 07 DECEMBER 2018 FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 115MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY VRYBURG SOLAR 3 AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN VRYBURG, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the above-mentioned project dated 07 December 2018, the application for amendment of the EA and the draft motivation report received by the Department on 30 October 2020, and the acknowledgement letter dated 04 November 2020, refer.

The Department has the following comments on the abovementioned amendment application:

## Application form

- 1. The EAP must ensure that the amendment applied for does not trigger any listed or specified activity as outlined in Regulation 31 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
- 2. The EAP is required to provide a detailed list of all potential amendments to the EA, which should *inter alia* recommend additional conditions that must be incorporated into the EA, provide amendments to the existing conditions of the EA by way of either removal and/or amendments as informed by the specialist's recommendations.

## Motivation Report (MR)

- 3. The applicant is required to provide the technical details of supplementary infrastructure of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).
- 4. You are required to provide coordinates of the BESS, in the final Motivation Report.
- 5. The Department acknowledged that the Risk Assessment formed part of the Draft Motivation Report, however, you are advised to include the preferred battery storage technology and its risk assessment in the final MR.
- 6. The Department acknowledged that Mitigation/Management of Risk formed part of the draft motivation report, however the most significant hazard with battery units is the possibility of flammable gases which may burst into flames. Therefore you are required to include a detailed fire management and protection plan in the final MR.

- 7. An "End-of-Life Plan" needs to be in place for the handling, repurposing or disposal of dysfunctional, severely damaged batteries, module and containers. This information must be included in the final MR.
- 8. An Emergency Response Plan needs to be in place that will be applicable for the life cycle of the project. The Emergency Response Plan must include details of the most appropriate emergency response to fires, both while the units are in transit and once they are installed and operating.

## Environmental Management Programme

- 9. The approved EMPr and layout map to be submitted with the final motivation report must be updated to include and incorporate additional risks and all mitigation measures recommended by the specialists.
- 10. Please ensure that all mitigation recommendations are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines.

## Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- 11. The final motivation report (MR) must include an environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas, buffer areas and features identified during the assessment process.
- 12. A copy of the layout map must be submitted with the final MR. All available biodiversity information must be used in the layout map. The layout map must indicate the following:
  - a) The location of the BESS, taking into consideration that the units must be placed far apart to prevent propagation from one unit to another and large external fires.
  - b) The distance of the units must be clearly indicated in metres on the legend of the layout map:
  - c) All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed);
  - d) The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. drainage lines etc. that will be affected;
  - e) Buffer areas; and
  - f) All "no-go" areas.

## Public Participation

- 13. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- 14. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft motivation report (MR), from registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and organs of state, as listed in your I&APs Database, and others that have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the final MR.
- 15. Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are submitted to the Department with the Final MR.
- 16. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final MR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. In terms of Regulation 41(2)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, please provide proof of written notice for the availability of the draft MR for comment.
- 17. All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft MR from I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final MR, including comments from this Department, and must be incorporated into the Comments and Response Report (CRR) (Appendix G6).
- 18. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to an I&AP's comments.

## <u>General</u>

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 32(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that: "The applicant must within 90 days of receipt by the competent authority of the application made in terms of regulation 31, submit to the competent authority -

(a) a report, reflecting-

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1941/AM1

- (i) an assessment of all impacts related to the proposed change;
- (ii) advantages and disadvantages associated with the proposed change; and
- (iii) measures to ensure avoidance, management and mitigation of impacts associated with such proposed change; and
- (iv) any changes to the EMPr;

which report-

(aa) had been subjected to a public participation process, which had been agreed to by the competent authority, and which was appropriate to bring the proposed change to the attention of potential and registered interested and affected parties, including organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the relevant activity, and the competent authority, and

(bb) reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority."

Should there be significant changes or new information that has been added to the motivation report or EMPr which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process, you are required to comply with Regulation 32(1)(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states: "the applicant must, within 90 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority – (b) a notification in writing that the report will be submitted within 140 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the report, which changes or information was not contained in the report consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in subregulation (1)(a) and that the revised report will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days".

In the event where subregulation (1)(b) applies, the report which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority, must be submitted to the competent authority within 140 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority.

Should you fail to meet any of the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 32 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, your application will lapse.

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

Yours faithfully

Mr Sabelo Malaza Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Signed by: Ms Masina Litsoane Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Infras

Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Infrastructure Projects Date: 27/11/2020

CC:	Mr Robert Wagener	Vryburg Solar 3 (Pty) Ltd	Email: capetown@abo-wind.com
		· - · · · ·	Robert.wagener@abo-wind.com
	Ms Eva Mahlangu	North West (READ)	Email: emahlangu@nwpg.gov.za
	Mr Tshepo Bloom	Naledi Local Municipality	Email: strydomr@naledi.local.gov.za

3

SAHRA

Vryburg Solar 3

Our Ref:



an agency of the Department of Arts and Culture

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

Enquiries: Elijah Dumisani Katsetse Tel: 0214624502 Email: ekatsetse@sahra.org.za CaseID: 15704 Date: Thursday November 05, 2020 Page No: 1

## **Final Comment**

## In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Vryburg Solar 3 (Pty) Ltd

#### **PV3 Facility**

Savannah Environmental has been appointed by Vryberg Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd in terms of regulation 29 of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment regulation to motivate for the amendment of an Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the authorised development of the Vryburg solar 1 energy facility North West Province.

The project has been authorised by the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The EA is for the development of a solar PV facility with a contracted capacity of up to 115MV and associated infrastructure.

A draft Motivation Report has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed amendment will include the installation of a battery energy storage system (BESS) within the authorised laydown footprint.

A previous SAHRIS Case ID 12804 has reference

(https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/basic-assessment-proposed-development-...). In the Final Comment issued on 19/09/2018, SAHRA noted no objections to the original EA application and provided conditions for the development.

CTS Heritage has been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA Amendment application report as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Levin, J. 2020. Heritage Screening Assessment for the proposed amendment to the Vryburg 1 Solar facility, North West Province.

Heritage Comments:

-No archaeological resources were identified in the project area identified for the development of the BESS

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

Enquiries: Elijah Dumisani Katsetse Tel: 0214624502 Email: ekatsetse@sahra.org.za CaseID: 15704 Date: Thursday November 05, 2020 Page No: 2

-No graves graves and burial grounds were identified in the project area identified for the development of the BESS. However, graves are subterranean in nature and may not have been identified during the initial site visit and survey.

#### Palaeontological Comments:

- The project area for the development of the BESS falls within the area of high palaeosensitivity and although no fossils were identified during site visit and survey, a chance find is outlined and recommended.

#### Overall Recommendation(s)

The heritage resources in the area of the proposed development are sufficiently recorded - The surveys undertaken in the area adequately captured the heritage resources. There are no known sites which require mitigation or management plans. No further heritage work is recommended for the proposed development.

#### **Final Comment**

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

- 38(4)a The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed amendment;
- 38(4)b The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows:
- The conditions provided in the Final Comment issued on the 16/03/2018 still apply and must be adhered to (<u>https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/488706</u>);
- 38(4)c(i) If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Elijah Katsetse/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;

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Enquiries: Elijah Dumisani Katsetse Tel: 0214624502 Email: ekatsetse@sahra.org.za CaseID: 15704 Date: Thursday November 05, 2020 Page No: 3

- 38(4)d See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
- i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
- The Final Amendment Report and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA Amendment Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case

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

Yours faithfully

Elijah Dumisani Katsetse Heritage Officer South African Heritage Resources Agency

Amo

Our Ref:



an agency of the Department of Arts and Culture

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

Enquiries: Elijah Dumisani Katsetse Tel: 0214624502 Email: ekatsetse@sahra.org.za CaseID: 15704 Date: Thursday November 05, 2020 Page No: 4

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

#### ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: http://www.sahra.org.za/node/543871 (, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1941)

#### Terms & Conditions:

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

# APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: VRYBURG SOLAR 3, NORTH WEST PROVINCE (DEA REFs: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1941/AM1)

## **COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

## 

The Vryburg Solar 3 facility application for amendment to the Environmental Authorisation and availability of the Motivation Report (MR) was announced on Thursday, 29 October 2020. The notification letter served to invite registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to submit any comments / queries that they might have on the application for amendment to the Environmental Authorisation.

The Motivation Report was made available for a 30-day review and comment period from **Friday**, **30 October** until **Monday**, **30 November 2020**. The Comments and Responses Report (C&RR) has been updated with comments received during the review and comment period and included in **Appendix G6** of the final Motivation Report for submission to the DEFF for review and decision-making.

#### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS

APM	Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit	BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BGG	Burial Grounds and Graves	C&RR	Comments and Responses Report
DEFF	Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries	EA	Environmental Authorisation
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
GPS	Global Position System	NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act
PPP	Public Participation Process	SAHRIS	South African Heritage Resources Information System
Sahra	South African Heritage Resources Agency	SANRAL	South African National Roads Agency Limited
TOPs	Threatened or Protected Species		

#### 1. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING MOTIVATION REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

NO	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
1.	The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final Amendment Report and EMPr:	Elijah Dumisani Katsetse Case Officer and Phillip Hine Manager: Archaeology,	It is noted that SAHRA has no objection to the amendment.
	<ul> <li>38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed amendment;</li> </ul>	Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit SAHRA	
	<ul> <li>38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows:</li> </ul>	Letter: 05 November 2020	The need to comply with the recommendations of the specialists and the conditions of the Final comment are noted and will be adhered to by the applicant.
	The conditions provided in the Final Comment issued on the 16/03/2018 still apply and must be adhered to (https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/512059);		The need to comply with the recommendations of the specialists and the conditions of the Final comment are noted and will be adhered to by the applicant.
	<ul> <li>38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Elijah Katsetse/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;</li> </ul>		The requirement is noted. The mitigation measure is included under Objective A.4. HERITAGE IMPACTS (PALAEONTOLOGY, ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE), mitigation number 13.4.5 on page 100 of the EMPr ( <b>Appendix K</b> of the final Motivation Report).

NO	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	• 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are		The requirement is noted. The mitigation measure is included under Objective A.4.
	uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves		HERITAGE IMPACTS (PALAEONTOLOGY, ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL
	(BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo		LANDSCAPE), mitigation number 13.4.5 on page 101 of the EMPr (Appendix K of the
	012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per		final Motivation Report).
	section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with		
	section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section		
	51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;		
	<ul> <li>38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;</li> </ul>		Section 51(1) of the NHRA is noted. No further response is required
	• 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with		The requirement is noted. The mitigation measure is included under Objective A.4.
	regards to the appointment of specialists:		HERITAGE IMPACTS (PALAEONTOLOGY, ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL
	i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the		LANDSCAPE), mitigation number 13.4.5 on page 101 of the EMPr (Appendix K of the
	course of the development, a professional		final Motivation Report).
	archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on		
	the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon		
	as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the		
	newly discovered heritage resources prove to be		
	of archaeological or palaeontological		
	significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be		
	required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;		
	• The Final Amendment Report and EMPr must be		The final Motivation Report and EMPr has been uploaded onto SAHRIS under
	submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;		CaselD 15704.
	• The decision regarding the EA Amendment		The EA, when issued by the DEFF, will be uploaded onto SAHRIS under CaseID 15704.
	Application must be communicated to SAHRA and		
	uploaded to the SAHRIS Case		
2.	The Department has the following comments on the	Kevin Mathebula	The requirement is noted. The amendment does not trigger any listed or specified
	abovementioned amendment application:	Case Officer	activity as outlined in Regulation 31 of the E1A Regulations, 2014 as amended.
	Amendment Report	DEFF	Additionally, all amendments and the motivations for the proposed amendments
	• The EAP must ensure that the amendment		are discussed in detail section 3 of the final Motivation Report. No further additional
	applied for does not trigger any listed or	Letter: 27 November	conditions or amendments to the existing conditions are required to be included in
	specified activity as outlined in Regulation 31	2020	the EA. This is based on the assessment of the proposed amendments.
	of the E1A Regulations, 2014 as amended.		

NO	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<ul> <li>The EAP is required to provide a detailed list of all potential amendments to the EA, which should inter alia recommend additional conditions that must be incorporated into the EA, provide amendments to the existing conditions of the EA by way of either removal and/or amendments as informed by the specialist's recommendations</li> </ul>		
	Motivation Report     The applicant is required to provide the technical details of supplementary infrastructure of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).		Technical details of supplementary infrastructure of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) have been included section 2.2 of the final Motivation Report. No other infrastructure will be associated with the development of the BESS and it can therefore be confirmed that no further technical details are outstanding.
	• You are required to provide coordinates of the BESS, in the final Motivation Report.		The co-ordinates for the BESS position have been included section 2.2 of the final Motivation Report.
	The Department acknowledged that the Risk Assessment formed part of the Draft Motivation Report, however, you are advised to include the preferred battery storage		The requirement is noted. A "High Level Risk Assessment" has been drafted and included in the final Motivation report in section 7 " <b>RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS</b> ", on page 19-20.
	technology and its risk assessment in the final MR.		The preferred battery storage technology is specified in section 2.2 which states that the use of an electrochemical battery system is proposed to be development and is therefore the preferred battery storage technology proposed. The risk assessment included in section 7 is therefore based on the technology proposed.
	• The Department acknowledged that Mitigation/Management of Risk formed part of the draft motivation report, however the most significant hazard with battery units is the possibility of flammable gases which may burst into flames. Therefore you are required to include a detailed fire management and protection plan in the final MR		The Environmental Management Plan (EMPr) of the solar PV facility was updated to include specific measures for the management, maintenance and operation of the BESS, and was attached to the Motivation Report and made available to the Department for review. An Environmental Awareness and Fire Management Plan is included as Section 12 of the EMPr, which was also updated to include specific measures for fire management of the BESS which includes the requirements for emergency response measures and the availability of foam pourers and fire fighting systems.

NO	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<ul> <li>An "End-of-Life Plan" needs to be in place for the handling, repurposing or disposal of dysfunctional, severely damaged batteries, module and containers. This information must be included in the final MR.</li> </ul>		The handling, repurposing or disposal of spent batteries, modules and containers has been considered in the EMPr within section B "Construction Phase" in mitigation action number 6.12.5 and 6.26.6 as well as, in section C "Operation Phase" in mitigation action number 12.8. An "End-of-Life plan" will be available once the specific BESS supplier has been identified and has provided the specifics of the BESS to be used. Therefore, a formal "End of Life plan" will be available at the relevant stage of the project lifecycle prior to construction commencing.
	<ul> <li>An Emergency Response Plan needs to be in place that will be applicable for the life cycle of the project. The Emergency Response Plan must include details of the most appropriate emergency response to fires, both while the units are in transit and once they are installed and operating</li> </ul>		The EMPr includes emergency response procedures which have been included in Appendix C of the Final EMPr.
	<ul> <li>Environmental Management Programme</li> <li>The approved EMPr and layout map to be submitted with the final motivation report must be updated to include and incorporate additional risks and all mitigation measures recommended by the specialists.</li> <li>Please ensure that all mitigation recommendations are in line with applicable</li> </ul>		The requirement is noted. The EMPr submitted with the final Motivation Report incorporates all mitigation measures recommended by the soils specialist. These recommendations were available in the EMPr that was made available for the 30-day review and comment period. These include general management measures and do not impact on the layout map. It is confirmed that the mitigation measures and recommendations are in line with the relevant guidelines.
	and most recent guidelines           Layout & Sensitivity Maps           • The final amendment report must include an environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas, buffer areas and features identified during the assessment process.		The requirement is noted. An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas, buffer areas and features identified during the assessment has been included as Figure 10.1 of the Final Motivation report.

NO	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<ul> <li>A copy of the layout map must be submitted with the final amendment report. All available biodiversity information must be used in the layout map. The layout map must indicate the following:</li> <li>The location of the BESS, taking into consideration that the units must be placed far apart to prevent propagation from one unit to another and large external fires.</li> <li>The distance of the units must be clearly indicated in metres on the legend of the layout map</li> <li>All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed);</li> <li>The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. drainage lines etc. that will be affected;</li> <li>Buffer areas; and</li> <li>All "no-go" areas.</li> </ul>		An environmental sensitivity and layout map indicating environmental sensitive areas, buffer areas and features identified during the assessment has been included as Figure 10.1 of the Final Motivation report, as well as <b>Appendix H</b> . The map also includes the location of the BESS proposed to be located within the authorised laydown area of the PV facility. The location of the BESS within the authorised solar PV laydown area. The placement of the system in the laydown area will consider propagation from one unit to another and large external fires. The distance of the units is not available at this stage and will only become available once the specific BESS supplier has been identified and has provided the specifics of the BESS to be used. Therefore, this specific information will be available at the relevant stage of the project lifecycle prior to construction commencing.
	<ul> <li>Public participation</li> <li>The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 &amp; 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>The Public Participation Process has been conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 &amp; 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended (GNR 326), as well as in accordance with the approved Public Participation Plan (Appendix G7).</li> <li>The Motivation Report was made available for a 30-day review and comment period from 30 October 2020 to 30 November 2020. Opportunity for consultation was provided during the 30-day review and comment period. The availability of the report was announced as follows:</li> <li>The details of the availability of the report was included in the advertisement placed in the Stellalander newspaper on 28 October 2020 (tearsheet included in Appendix G4 of the final Motivation Report).</li> </ul>

NO	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
			A notification letter was sent to all registered I&APs and Organs of State on the project database (Appendix G1 of the final Motivation Report) informing them of the availability of the Motivation Report for review and comment and the details of where the report could be accessed for review.
			The Motivation Report was also made available for download from Savannah Environmental's website and could also be sent via other file transfer services i.e. We Transfer, Dropbox, etc. or on CD, on request.
			Site notices were placed at the proposed development site and proof of the placement of the site notices are included in <b>Appendix G4</b> of the final Motivation Report.
	<ul> <li>Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft motivation report (MR), from registered Interested and Affected Parties</li> </ul>		All written comments received during the Motivation Report 30-day review and comment period have been included within this Comments and Responses Report (C&RR), and have been responded to, as required.
	(I&APs) and organs of state, as listed in your I&APs Database, and others that have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity		Copies of all written comments received from registered I&APs and Organs of State are included in <b>Appendix G5</b> of the final Motivation Report.
	are adequately addressed and included in the final MR		All comments have been considered in the Final Motivation Report and the relevant changes have been made and indicated in the Final Motivation Report.
	<ul> <li>Copies of original comments received from I&amp;APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are submitted to the Department with the Final MR</li> </ul>		Copies of all written comments received from registered I&APs and Organs of State are included in <b>Appendix G5</b> of the final Motivation Report.
	<ul> <li>Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final MR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain</li> </ul>		Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders, including notifying them of the availability of the Motivation Report for review and comment and proof of attempts to obtain comments from the stakeholders on the project database are included in <b>Appendix G2</b> of the final Motivation Report.

NO	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	comments. In terms of Regulation 41(2)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, please provide <u>proof</u> of written notice for the availability of the draft MR for comment		Proof of correspondence with organs of state and proof of attempts to obtain comments are included in <b>Appendix G3</b> of the final Motivation Report.
	<ul> <li>All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft MR from I&amp;APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final MR, including comments from this Department, and must be incorporated into the Comments and Response Report (CRR) (Appendix G6).</li> </ul>		All written comments received have been included in the Comments and Response Report. Appropriate responses have been included for all comments submitted and have been adequately addressed in the final Motivation Report.
	<ul> <li>Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&amp;APs. All comments from I&amp;APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as 'noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to an I&amp;AP's comments.</li> </ul>		All comments included in the comments and responses report has been included verbatim. Appropriate responses have been included for all comments submitted and have been adequately addressed in the final Motivation Report.
	General         You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 32(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that: "The applicant must within 90 days of receipt by the competent authority of the application made in terms of regulation 31, submit to the competent authority - <ul> <li>(a) a report, reflecting—</li></ul>		The final Motivation Report submitted to the Department complies with Regulation 32(1)(a). The prescribed timeframes for submission of the final Motivation Report have been adhered to.

NO	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	(iii) measures to ensure avoidance,		
	management and mitigation of impacts		
	associated with such proposed change;		
	and		
	(iv) any changes to the EMPr;		
	which report-		
	(aa) had been subjected to a public participation		
	process, which had been agreed to by the competent		
	authority, and which was appropriate to bring the		
	proposed change to the attention of potential and		
	registered interested and affected parties, including		
	organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of		
	any aspect of the relevant activity, and the competent		
	authority, and		
	(bb) reflects the incorporation of comments received,		
	including any comments of the competent authority."		

NO	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	Should there be significant changes or new information		It is confirmed that no significant changes or new information has been added to
	that has been added to the motivation report or EMPr		the final Motivation Report or EMPr. Therefore Regulation 32 (1)(b) will not be
	which changes or information was not contained in the		applicable.
	reports or plans consulted on during the initial public		
	participation process, you are required to comply with		
	Regulation 32(1)(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014,		
	as amended, which states: "the applicant must, within		
	90 days of receipt of the application by the competent		
	authority, submit to the competent authority — (b) a		
	notification in writing that the report will be submitted		
	within 140 days of receipt of the application by the		
	competent authority, as significant changes have		
	been made or significant new information has been		
	added to the report, which changes or information		
	was not contained in the report consulted on during		
	the initial public participation process contemplated in		
	subregulation (1)(a) and that the revised report will be		
	subjected to another public participation process of at		
	least 30 days'.		
	In the event where subregulation (1)(b) applies, the		
	report which reflects the incorporation of comments		
	received, including any comments of the competent		
	authority, must be submitted to the competent		
	authority within 140 days of receipt of the application		
	by the competent authority.		
	Should you fail to meet any of the timeframes		It is confirmed that the project complies with the prescribed timeframes.
	stipulated in Regulation 32 of the NEMA EIA		
	Regulations, 2014, as amended, your application will		
	lapse.		
	You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National		The Applicant acknowledges that no activity may commence prior to receipt of
	Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998,		the Environmental Authorisation.
	as amended, that no activity may commence prior to		

NO	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	an environmental authorisation being granted by the		
	Department.		
3.	The following recommendations must be considered in	Mmatlala Rabothata	The EMPr has considered the needs for biodiversity permits under sections B
	the final report:	Case Officer	mitigation numbers 6.6, 6.7 and 6.8 ( <b>Appendix K</b> of the final Motivation Report).
		DEFF: Biodiversity	
	Permits from relevant authorities must be obtained	Conservation	
	for the removal or disturbance of any TOPs, Red	Letter: 28 November	
	Data listed or provincially protected species.	2020	
	• Sensitive areas in close proximity to the		The final Motivation Report has considered all sensitive areas which are included in
	development footprint must be demarcated as		the Environmental Sensitivity Map, included as Appendix B(2) of the EMPr, as well
	no-go area i.e. watercourses.		as included as Figure 10.1 in the Final Motivation Report. As per this map, there are
			no sensitive areas present within the proposed BESS footprint.
	The final report must comply with all the requirements		The project is for an Amendment of the Environmental Authorisation of the project.
	as outlined in the Environmental Impact Assessment		The guidelines listed are relevant to a new Application for Environmental
	(EIA) guideline for renewable energy projects and the		Authorisation and therefore not applicable.
	Revised Best Practice Guideline for Birds & Solar Energy		
	for assessing and monitoring the impact of solar energy		The Basic Assessment report, which assessed the development of the PV facility,
	facilities on birds in Southern Africa.		was undertaken in line with all the relevant guidelines and regulations at the time
	NB: Please not that all Public Participation Process		The process as requested by the DEFF: Biodiversity Conservation Unit is
	documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any		acknowledged and will be adhered to for all future public participation
	other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the		communications. It is also herewith confirmed that the e-mail address has ben
	Directorate: Biodiversity conservation at Email:		changed on the project database as requested.
	<b><u>BCAdmin@environment.gov.za</u></b> for attention of Mr.		
	Seoka Lekota.		

Appendix G7 Public Participation Plan

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN IN TERMS OF THE DIRECTIONS REGARDING MEASURES TO ADDRESS, PREVENT AND COMBAT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 RELATING TO NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PERMITS AND LICENCES DURING COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL 1

## VRYBURG SOLAR 1, VRYBURG SOLAR 2 AND VRYBURG SOLAR 3 PART 2 AMENDMENT, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

#### OCTOBER 2020

The restrictions enforced in terms of Government Gazette 43096, dated 15 March 2020 which placed the country in a national state of disaster limiting the movement of people to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus has placed some limitations on the commencement and continuation of the public consultation as part of an amendment process. Considering these limitations, the following consultation process has been designed and will be implemented, on approval by the DEFF, to cater for the conducting of the public participation process which includes I&APs, the competent authority, directly impacted landowners/occupiers, adjacent landowners/occupiers, relevant Organs of State departments, Municipalities, ward councillors and other key stakeholders.

#### **Projects Details:**

**Proposed Activity:** Vryburg Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd, Vryburg Solar 2 (Pty) Ltd and Vryburg Solar 3 (Pty) Ltd are proposing the construction and operation of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) at each of the authorised Vryburg Solar 1<sup>1</sup>, Vryburg Solar 2<sup>2</sup> and Vryburg Solar 3<sup>3</sup> facilities. Each BESS is proposed with a capacity of up to 500MW/500MWh, to have a footprint of up to 5ha and to be developed within the authorised development footprint of the facilities. Each BESS will connect to the authorised on-site facility substations of the Vryburg Solar 1, 2 and 3 solar energy facilities respectively via underground cables.

In addition, Vryburg Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd Vryburg Solar 2 (Pty) Ltd and Vryburg Solar 3 (Pty) are also proposing a change in the description included in the Environmental Authorisation for each project pertaining to the on-site substation. The change relates to the addition of collector infrastructure as part of the authorised on-site substation and within the authorised footprint of the substation.

Vryburg Solar 2 (Pty) Ltd is also proposing to correct the wording in the current EA relating to the size in ha of the development footprint. The current EA states that the size in ha of the development footprint is 225ha. This is a typing error that should read 255ha as per the area assessed within the EIA Report.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> DEA Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1939

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> DEA Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1940

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> DEA Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1941

**Location:** ~10km south-west of Vryburg, within ward 4 of the Naledi Local Municipality and within the greater Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality in the North West Province. The projects fall within the Vryburg Renewable Energy Development Zone (or REDZ 6).

The following table summarises the affected farm portions for the Vryburg Solar 1, 2 and 3 solar energy facilities, as well as the farm portion where each BESS will be located within the energy facilities.

Solar Energy Facility	Affected Farm Portions	BESS Location
Vryburg Solar 1	» Portion 2 of Frankfort Farm 672;	Portion 2 of Frankfort Farm 672
	» Remainder of Frankfort Farm 672;	
	» Portion 1 of Frankfort Number Farm 672;	
	and	
	» Remainder of Rosendal Farm 673.	
Vryburg Solar 2	» Portion 1 of Retreat Farm 671;	Portion 1 of Retreat Farm 671.
	» Portion 2 of Frankfort Farm 672;	
	» Remaining extent of Frankfort Farm 672;	
	» Portion 1 of Frankfort Number Farm 672;	
	and	
	» The Remainder of Rosendal Farm 673.	
Vryburg Solar 3	» Portion 1 of Retreat Farm 671;	Portion 1 of Retreat Farm 671.
	» Portion 2 of Frankfort Farm 672;	
	» Remaining extent of Frankfort Farm 672;	
	» Portion 1 of Frankfort Number Farm 672;	
	and	
	» The Remainder of Rosendal Farm 673.	

Table 1.1. Affected farm portions and BESS location for the Vryburg Solar 1, 2 and 3 solar energy
facilities.

The following infrastructure will be developed for the BESS:

- Electrochemical battery storage systems with a maximum height of 3.5m; and
- Multi-core 22kV or 33kV underground cables, to follow internal access roads of the PV facility, to connect the battery storage area to the respective on-site facility substation.

The BESS proposed at each facility, and the other amendments proposed do not in themselves trigger a listed activity. Therefore, a Part 2 Amendment process as detailed in Regulation 31 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) will be followed.

#### Public Participation Plan:

The public participation (PP) process will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Regulations 39 to 44 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, (GNR 326). The aim of the public participation process is primarily to ensure that:

- » information containing all relevant facts in respect of the proposed amendments is made available to potential stakeholders and I&APs;
- » participation by I&APs is facilitated in such a manner that all potential stakeholders and I&APs are provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments; and

» comments received from potential stakeholders and I&APs are recorded and incorporated into the amendment process.

The traditional means and opportunities available for the undertaking of public participation is still covered and implemented as part of this plan considering the current limitations. Alternative means of undertaking consultation has been designed and will be implemented by Savannah Environmental to ensure that I&APs are afforded sufficient opportunity to raise comments on the projects through an interactive web-based platform readily available and accessible to any person illustrating interest in the projects and enables the public participation process to be undertaken in line with Regulations 41 to 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. This online stakeholder engagement platform, which can be accessed via desktop and mobile with internet access, allows the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to visually present details regarding the projects and our consultation documentation, including project maps and plans regarding the projects, and reports available for review. The use of online tools enables stakeholders and I&APs to explore the project-specific content in their own time and allow them to participate in a meaningful way in the consultation process. The online platform allows for feedback and comments to be submitted by I&APs, in so doing saving time for the stakeholder and also giving the assurance that their comments have been submitted for inclusion in the project's reporting. The online stakeholder engagement platform considers the limitations applied by the Disaster Management Act Regulations prohibiting the gathering of people, as well as limitations which certain I&APs may have in terms of access to computers and internet as well as access to public spaces not open for operation or which have restricted access.

The benefits of the online stakeholder engagement platform include:

- Ability to create a dedicated project-specific online platform to enable easy access to project-related information.
- Ability to reach a wider audience, allowing more widespread consultation for major infrastructure projects.
- Allowing stakeholders and I&APs the opportunity to engage on a project without leaving their office or home.
- Enabling stakeholders and I&APs to register their interest in a project (for inclusion on the projects database), and automatically gaining access to comprehensive projects documentation.
- Enabling the PP team to maintain a complete database of I&APs through maintaining a record of persons accessing the online stakeholder consultation platform.
- Enabling the EAP and stakeholders/I&APs to meet virtually.
- Provides a resilient solution to a public consultation process.

Where I&APs do not have the applicable facilities (i.e. access to internet, mobile phones, or computers), provision has been made to include these I&APs in the consultation process by consulting with the Ward Councillor, the ward committee members, community representatives and local community forum members.

The schematic illustration below provides an overview of the tools that are available to I&APs and stakeholders to access project information and interact with the public participation team

to obtain project information and resolve any queries that may arise, and to meet the requirements for public participation.

i. Stakeholder identification and register of I&APs	<ul> <li>Register as an I&amp;AP on the online platfrom, via completion of a form and provison of contact information, by responding to an advert, or sending a 'please call me' which will be responded to</li> <li>State interest in the project</li> <li>Receive all project related information</li> </ul>
ii. Advertisments and notifications	<ul> <li>Advertisements, site notices and notifications provide information and details on where to access project information</li> <li>Notifications regarding the amendment process and availability of motivation reports for public review to be sent via email, post or SMS notifications</li> </ul>
iii. Public Involvement and consultation	<ul> <li>Submission of comments or queries via email, post or the online platform to the PP team</li> <li>Virtual presentations available via the online platform</li> <li>Availability of project information via email, post and/or the online platform</li> </ul>
iv. Comment on the Motivation Report	<ul> <li>Availability of the project report via the online platform or other appropriate means for 30-day period. Hard copies to be available only where sanitary conditions can be assured</li> <li>Submission of comments via the online platform, email or post to the PP team</li> <li>Comments recorded and responded to as part of the process</li> </ul>
v. Identification and recording of comments	<ul> <li>Comments and Responses Report, including all comments received to be included in the reporting.</li> <li>Comments received prior to report release for review to be included in draft reports.</li> <li>Comments received during full process to be included within the final Report for decision-making.</li> </ul>

The PP plan, as set out in the table below, has been drafted for the above-mentioned projects to ensure compliance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations and that reasonable opportunity is provided to I&APs and that all administrative actions are reasonable. Proof of all notifications will be included in the public participation appendix included in the Motivation Report. The public participation processes for all three solar facilities will run concurrently.

The PP plan is submitted to the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF), for discussion and agreement before the PP process is undertaken for the proposed amendments.

#### Public Participation Plan: Discussion of approach and methodology to meet the requirements of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended)

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
Regulation 40(1), Regulation 40(3) & Regulation 43 -	Notification of the Part 2 Amendment process to be undertaken for the application
provide all potential or registered interested and	for Environmental Authorisation (EA) to be distributed using the following means:
affected parties, including the competent authority,	• E-mail
access to projects related information, access to the	• Dedicated project page on the Savannah Environmental online stakeholder
Motivation Report which will be made available for a	engagement platform
period of at least 30 days to submit comments on draft	• Post
reports prior to submission of the final report for decision-	Process notices placed on site and at locations that are accessible to I&APs
making.	Advertisement in the printed media.
	<ul> <li>Notification of availability of report and period for review using the following means:</li> <li>Newspaper advert, including details of where the report can be accessed and details of the Savannah Environmental website.</li> <li>Notification letter (to be sent via email, fax or post) to registered I&amp;APs.</li> <li>Notifications to communities via Ward Councillor, ward committee members, identified and confirmed community representatives, and local community forum members.</li> <li>SMS and/ or WhatsApp notifications where no other means are available.</li> </ul>
	Availability of the report for review and comment:
	Report available on the Savannah Environmental website for download.
	Electronic copies can be made available to parties via a secure Dropbox link (or     other magne) that will be amailed upon request for the decumentation
	<ul><li>other means) that will be emailed upon request for the documentation.</li><li>CDs to be posted, if requested.</li></ul>
	<ul> <li>CDs to be posted, it requested.</li> <li>Hard copy report to be available only where appropriate sanitary conditions can</li> </ul>
	be maintained.
	<ul> <li>Report will be submitted to the DEFF using the DEA online portal.</li> </ul>

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	<ul> <li>Report will be submitted to Organs of State and commenting authorities via an agreed electronic platform (such as on CD, or via a secure Dropbox link or WeTransfer, etc).</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li><u>Submission of comments to PP team:</u></li> <li>Comments can be submitted directly to the PP team using the Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform. A customised reply form is available on this webpage.</li> <li>The online platform allows for feedback and comments to be submitted by I&amp;APs, in so doing saving time for the stakeholder and also giving the assurance that comments have been submitted for inclusion in the project's reporting.</li> <li>Written comments can also be submitted via email, post or fax.</li> <li>Any comments provided telephonically or via instant message will be transcribed and recorded as formal comments.</li> </ul>
	Opportunity and means of consultation where applicable facilities are not available to I&APs: • Post.
	Placement of site Notices on all affected properties.
	Advertisement in printed media (local newspaper).
	<ul> <li>Consultation and communication through the ward councillor, ward committee members and confirmed community representatives and local community forum members.</li> <li>SMS or WhatsApp notification.</li> <li>CDs to be posted, if requested (and where a computer is available).</li> <li>Hard copy report where sanitary conditions can be maintained.</li> </ul>
Regulation 40(2) - Provide access to all projects	Provision of project information and consultation via various means including:
information that has the potential to influence any	Telephonic consultation.
decision regarding the application, unless protected by	Email correspondence.

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
law, and must include <b>consultation</b> with Competent Authority, Organs of State & registered I&APs.	<ul> <li>Correspondence sent via post.</li> <li>SMS and/or WhatsApp.</li> <li>The Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform will</li> </ul>
Regulation 41(6) - Relevant information available and accessible	<ul> <li>The solution Environmental online stateholder engagement platform will ensure that I&amp;APs are afforded sufficient opportunity to participate in the projects and raise comments on the projects to any person with interest in the Part 2 Amendment process for these projects. This online stakeholder engagement platform which will include the following: <ul> <li>A means to register on the project database and provide details of their interest in the projects.</li> <li>Background information on the projects.</li> <li>Project maps (including locality map, layout map, sensitivity map, etc).</li> <li>Presentation providing a summary of the details and the findings of the Part 2 Amendment Processes.</li> <li>A means of submitting written comment or queries.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Communities will be consulted via the relevant Ward Councillor, ward committee members, community representative or local community forum members, as determined and confirmed during the consultation process.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Opportunity and means of consultation where applicable facilities are not available to I&amp;APs:</li> <li>Telephonic consultation</li> <li>Post</li> <li>SMS and/or WhatsApp</li> <li>Consultation and communication through the ward councillor, ward committee members and confirmed community representatives and local community forum members.</li> </ul>
Regulation 41(2)(a) – <b>Site notice</b>	Site notices will be placed at the BESS affected properties by the EAP (the BESS for Vryburg Solar 2 and 3 will be located on the same affected property, which

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	<ul> <li>is Portion 1 of Retreat Farm 671). The site notice for the BESS for Vryburg 1 will be placed on Portion 2 of Frankfort Farm 672.</li> <li>Size and content will be in accordance with Regulation 41(3) &amp; 41(4).</li> </ul>
Regulation 41(2)(b) – Written notification to affected and neighbouring landowners and occupiers; municipality; ward councillors; Organs of State & other parties required by the CA	<ul> <li>Notification letter to be sent via email, fax or post.</li> <li><u>Opportunity and means of consultation where applicable facilities are not available to I&amp;APs:</u></li> <li>Post.</li> <li>SMS or WhatsApp notification.</li> </ul>
Regulation 41(2)(c) – (e) – Advertisements	Advert to be placed in a local newspaper.
Regulation 42 – <b>Project database</b>	<ul> <li>The project database from the Basic Assessment process for the Vryburg 1, 2 and 3 solar energy facilities will be used for the amendments processes. I&amp;APs details will be verified and updated where necessary. Other stakeholders will be required to formally register their interest in the projects through either directly contacting the Savannah Environmental Public Participation team via email, fax, telephone or use of the Savannah Environmental website.</li> <li>Additional I&amp;APs who register through the amendment process will be included on the database.</li> <li>In order to access the Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform for a specific project, I&amp;APs will be required to provide their details such that they are automatically registered on the project's database.</li> <li>The register of I&amp;APs will contain the names of: <ul> <li>all persons who requested to be registered on the database through the use of the Savannah Environmental website, or in writing and disclosed their interest in the project;</li> <li>all Organs of State which hold jurisdiction in respect of the activity to which the application relates; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	<ul> <li>all persons who submitted written comments and viewed virtual presentations on the Savannah Environmental website during the public participation process.</li> <li>The information captured on the project's database will contain the names, organisation and contact details, as required. In accordance with the POPI Act, contact details will not be made available to the public.</li> </ul>
	Opportunity and means of consultation where applicable facilities are not available to I&APs: Process of networking and referral Telephonic registration SMS and/or WhatsApp Fax or post
Regulation 44 – <b>Comments</b> to be recorded	<ul> <li>Comments can be submitted directly to the PP team using the Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform. A customised reply form is available on this webpage.</li> <li>The Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform includes: <ul> <li>A means to register on the project's database and provide details of the interest in the project</li> <li>A means of submitting written comment or queries.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The online platform allows for feedback and comments to be submitted by I&amp;APs, in so doing saving time for the stakeholder and also giving the assurance that their comments have been submitted for inclusion in the project's reporting.</li> <li>Written comments can also be submitted via email, post or fax.</li> <li>Any comments provided telephonically or via instant message will be transcribed and recorded as formal comments.</li> <li>I&amp;APs without the applicable electronic facilities to access the Savannah Environmental website will be provided with the opportunity to submit their comments and communicate with the public participation team via SMS,</li> </ul>

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	<ul> <li>WhatsApp or by sending a Please-call-me notification. These comments will be transcribed and recorded as formal comments.</li> <li>All comments received throughout the amendment process will be acknowledged and captured in the comments and responses report (C&amp;RR) with a relevant response.</li> <li>The C&amp;RR and all comments received will be included in the final report submitted to the competent authority.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li><u>Opportunity and means of consultation where applicable facilities are not available to I&amp;APs:</u></li> <li>Written comments via post or fax</li> <li>Comment submission telephonically and instant messaging (SMS and/or WhatsApp)</li> <li>Sending a Please-call-me notification to the Public Participation team so that contact can be made.</li> </ul>
Regulation 4(2) – Notification of <b>decision</b> on application	<ul> <li>Notification of Environmental Authorisation (EA) using the following means:</li> <li>Notification letter with details as outlined in the EA amendment issued will be sent via email, fax or post.</li> <li>Notifications that the EA amendment has been issued and where to download and/or obtain a copy to communities via Ward Councillor and his/her ward committee members and identified and confirmed community representatives.</li> <li>SMS or WhatsApp notification.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li><u>Opportunity and means of consultation where applicable facilities are not available to I&amp;APs:</u></li> <li>Post</li> <li>Communication through the ward councillor, ward committee members and confirmed community representatives and local community forum members.</li> <li>SMS and/or WhatsApp</li> </ul>