

APPENDIX C6
COMMENTS RECEIVED



Comments received on EIA Report to be included
in the Final EIA Report

SCOPING PHASE



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

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

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2277

Enquiries: Ms Olivia Letlalo

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Cell phone Number: 082 775 5628
Email Address: joanne@savannahsa.com.

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Thomas

ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ZIONSHEUVEL SOLAR PV FACILITY AND ITS ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE ON REMAINDER OF FARM LEEUWBERG 79 IN THE RENOSTERBERG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The final Scoping Report (FSR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA) dated February 2023 and received by the Competent Authority (CA) on 27 February 2023, refer.

The CA has evaluated the submitted FSR and the PoSEIA dated February 2023 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the PoSEIA as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR):

a) Listed Activities

- It is noted that certain listed activities applied for will be confirmed during the EIA Phase. Please ensure that only listed activities that are triggered by the proposed development are applied for, in the amended application form and draft EIAR for the proposed development
- It has been noted that the exclusions on the triggered listed activities applied for are not included. Therefore, you are advised to include in the amended application form as well as draft EIAR all the relevant exclusions related to the listed activities applied for. For instance, activity 11 of Listing Notice (LN) 1 have been applied for, however the exclusions have not been quoted in the application form.

- Activity 15 of LN 2 and 12 of LN 3 for the clearance of an area more than 20ha and 300 square metres, (respectively) of indigenous vegetation are applied for without specifying the total amount of vegetation to be cleared. You are advised to include this information in the amended application form and draft EIAr.
- Under activity 56 of LN 1 and 18 of LN 3, the CA acknowledged that the access roads to be widened or upgraded have been provided. However, the length of the aforesaid access roads has not been included in the application form and FSR to determine the applicability of the abovementioned activity. You are advised to include the relevant details to determine if the said activity is triggered by the proposed development or not.
- Activity 19 is hereby applied for, quoting the infilling, or depositing of any material of **more than 5 cubic metres**, however, the Regulations refer to **more than 10 cubic meters**. You are expected to quote the correct activity and indicate how this activity is triggered.
- It has been noted that activities 4, 10, 12, 14, and 18 of LN 3 have been applied for because Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) will be affected by for the proposed development, however, the description of the portion of the proposed project to which the applicable listed activity relates indicated as Ecological Support Areas (ESA) will be affected. The listed activities under Listing Notice 3 does not include ESA for the proposed development to trigger a listed activity. Therefore, you are requested to explain and provide evidence why the above-mentioned listed activities are triggered for the proposed development. In addition, the description of the proposed project must refer to the systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the CA or in bioregional plans and proof of such must be obtained from the relevant CA and be part of the amended application form and draft EIAr.
- Activity 11 of LN 1 has been applied for, however, page 13 of 34 of the application form indicated that **“the switching station forming part of the 132kV collector substation and the new 132kV double circuit will be assessed as part of a separate Environmental Impact Assessment process in support of an application for Environmental Authorisation”**. As such, you are requested to clarify why this activity is triggered for the proposed development.
- The CA has noted that Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) will form part of the proposed development and it is not applied for. However, it is unclear whether BESS will trigger activity 14 of LN 1. Therefore, you are required to explain whether the BESS will trigger or not trigger the listed activity in terms of EIA regulations and confirm whether BESS will be assembled on site or pre-assembled. This information will assist the CA to determine the applicability of activity 14 of LN 1. also ensure the impacts are assessed in the final report.
- The EIAr must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.
- Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. In addition, the onus is thus on the applicant and the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) to ensure that all the applicable listed activities are included in the application. Failure to do so may result in unnecessary delays in the processing of the application.
- If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final EIAr, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department’s application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.

b) Public Participation

- Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAr. This includes but is not limited to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE): Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness Directorate, Biodiversity Planning and Conservation (BCAdmin@environment.gov.za); Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform), Telkom, South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), South African Civil Aviation Authority, Endangered Wildlife Trust, Birdlife South Africa,

Department of Human Settlement, Water and Sanitation, South African National Defence Force, Local interest groups, for example: Councillors and Rate Payers associations; Surrounding landowners, Farmer Organisations, Environmental Groups and NGOs; and Grassroots communities and structures as well as the affected district and local municipalities.

- Please ensure that all issues raised during the draft SR, and comments received during the circulation of the FSR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final EIAr. Please ensure that these concerns and objections are addressed and adequately responded to. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- A Comments and Response trail report (CRR) submitted with the final Scoping Report is hereby acknowledged, however there is repetition in numbering on the points making it difficult to get the flow of issues raised. Please update the numbering for the CRR to be submitted with the final EIAr. The CRR must incorporate all comments for this development. The CRR must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter in chronological order. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP’s comments.
- The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulations 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

c) Alternatives

- The final SR on page 27 indicates that three technologies, i.e., Lithium-ion batteries (LFP/NMC or others) (Li-Ion), Lithium capacitors/Electrochemical capacitors (LiC) or Redox Flow BESS are being considered and that “*three main technologies to be considered, either separately or in combination,*”. You are advised to present a preferred technology in terms of BESS in the final report. The CA does not grant authorisation for three technologies. You are required to further provide clear motivation and reasons as to why the preferred alternative proves to be the preferred compared to other alternatives. This applies to all other alternatives assessed.
- Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist.

d) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:
 - The PV development area;
 - Position of all infrastructure e.g., panels, BESS, on-site substations, etc;
 - Permanent laydown area footprint;
 - All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g., roads (existing and proposed);
 - Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;
 - The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g., CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;
 - Buffer areas; and
 - All “no-go” areas.
- The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the map and infrastructure must not encroach on highly sensitive areas as far as possible.
- Ensure that similar colours are not used to differentiate between infrastructure. i.e., items must be easily distinguishable in the Legend.
- Google maps will not be accepted for decision-making purposes.

e) **Specialist assessments**

- The comments dated 10 February 2023 from this Department still apply and must be addressed in the Environmental Impact Assessment report.
- The following Specialist Assessments will form part of the EIAR:
 - ✓ Soils and Agriculture Potential;
 - ✓ Ecology (Terrestrial, and Freshwater) Assessment;
 - ✓ Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment;
 - ✓ Avifauna Impact Assessment;
 - ✓ Visual Impact Assessment;
 - ✓ Heritage Impact Assessment (Archaeology, Cultural Landscape, and palaeontology);
 - ✓ Social Impact Assessment; and
 - ✓ Traffic Impact Assessment.
- It is brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e., “the Protocols”), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020, have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments (for all environmental themes identified by screening tool) must be conducted in accordance with these protocols unless proof is provided to demonstrate that the specialist assessments were commissioned prior to 50 days after the promulgation of GN 320 and after promulgation of GN1150 (30 October 2020).
- Additionally, the protocols specify that an assessment must be prepared by a specialist who is an expert in the field and is SACNASP registered for e.g.an aquatic assessment must be prepared by a specialist registered with SACNASP, with expertise in the field of aquatics sciences.
- The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies include the following:
 - ✓ A detailed description of the study’s methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations. You are advised to provide a table listing all the specialist studies undertaken with the recommendation for the proposed development.
 - ✓ Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.
 - ✓ Please note that the Department considers a ‘no-go’ area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the ‘no-go’ areas.
 - ✓ Should the specialist definition of ‘no-go’ area differ from the Departments definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the ‘no-go’ area’s buffer.
 - ✓ All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternatives and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.
 - ✓ Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
 - ✓ Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and were necessary, include further expertise advice.
 - ✓ It is the responsibility of the EAP to confirm the list of specialist assessments and to motivate in the assessment report, the reason for not including any of the identified specialist studies including the provision of photographic evidence of the site situation. The site sensitivity verification for each of the recommended studies, as per the protocols, must be compiled and attached.
 - ✓ Please include a table that shows the proposed studies and the relevant specialists carrying out the study. In addition, a summary should be included of the specialist’s recommendations in terms of the alternatives that are preferred based on the findings of their study.
 - ✓ All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.

f) Cumulative Impact Assessment

- It has been noted on page iii and 1 of the final SR that the proposed project is one (1) of 9 projects (in process application submitted) in batch 1, summing up all 3 batches into a total of 21 projects. Further to this there are other similar projects or renewable projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, therefore, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:
 - Assess the cumulative impacts of the proposed (not yet authorised), authorised (not yet constructed) and existing solar energy facilities.
 - Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
 - The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
 - A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

g) Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

- Page 13 of 34 of the application form indicated that "the switching station forming part of the 132kV collector substation and the new 132kV double circuit will be assessed as part of a separate Environmental Impact Assessment process in support of an application for Environmental Authorisation". However, it is unclear whether the abovementioned infrastructures will form part of the proposed development. Therefore, should these infrastructure form part of the proposed development, ensure that the generic EMPr (for both 132kV collector substation and 132kV double circuit) that complies with the GN 435 of March 2022 is submitted in the final report.
- Ensure that the EMPr in terms of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations includes mitigation and monitoring measures for the Solar PV is submitted with the final EIAR.

General

The EIAR must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions. A sample for the minimum information required is listed under Annexure 2 below.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amendment, regarding the time allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

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 Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Signed by: Mr Mahlatse Shubane

Designation: Acting Deputy Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects

Date: 11 April 2023

cc	Maxime Savinelli	Akuo Energy Afrique	Tel: +33 671 090600	Email: savinelli@akuoenergy.com
	Bryan Fisher	Northern Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism	Tel: 082 270 8323	Email: Bfisher@ncpg.gov.za
	Mr M Hoogbaard, Municipal Manager	Renosterberg Local Municipality	Tel: 053 6630041	Email: email abbek@msn.com

Annexure 1: Format for Comments and Response Trail Report:

Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
27/01/2016 Email Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries: Priority Infrastructure Projects (John Doe)	Please record C&R trail report in this format Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority	EAP: (Noted) The C&R trail report has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form

Annexure 2: Sample of minimum technical details for the proposed facility

Component	Description / dimensions
Area occupied by inverter/transformer stations/substations	
Capacity of on-site substation	
Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas	
Area occupied by buildings	
Length of internal roads	
Width of internal roads	
Proximity to grid connection	
Height of fencing	

Savannah Public Process

From: Francois Strydom <Francois.Strydom@dod.mil.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 07 February 2023 10:26
To: Savannah Public Process
Cc: Directorate Facilities; Etienne van Blerk; dfacmiem@gmail.com
Subject: Re: SE3346: CROSSROADS GREEN ENERGY (PHASE 1) OF RENEWABLE FACILITIES - Scoping Reports review and comment periods ending soon
Attachments: 0.gif; 1.png
Importance: High
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good Day

1. Herewith to respond to your request sent to the Department of Defence (DOD) for clearance.
2. Please note that this office can not respond to your request as there is a Formal and Standard process for Applications in the DOD
3. The correct Application Process:
 - a. Send your request to the following e-mail addresses only.
 - i. clogfac@gmail.com
 - ii. dfacmiem@gmail.com
 - b. Formulate a comprehensive request, with the Project Plan and formal letter with details of the Project. (Not a n e-mail Message with the criteria) It must be on a formal company letterhead, please.
 - c. Include KMZ / KML file for use in Google Earth.
4. Once received by the environments in Par 3, the DOD will request all DOD Stakeholders to respond in writing (Telecoms, Aviation, Environmental, Facilities etc).
5. Once the stakeholders has responded, a single response will be sent to the Applicant with Objection / No -objection.
6. Stakeholders may not correspond directly to the Applicant

Regards,

Lieutenant Colonel Francois P Strydom
Department of Defence
Command and Management Information Systems Division
Directorate CMIS Static Systems
Radio Spectrum & Communication Site Management
Eco Glades 1

Centurion
Rooihuiskraal
Pretoria
South Africa

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From: Savannah Environmental Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 07 February 2023 09:12
To: Francois Strydom
Subject: SE3346: CROSSROADS GREEN ENERGY (PHASE 1) OF RENEWABLE FACILITIES - Scoping Reports review and comment periods ending soon

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF CROSSROADS GREEN ENERGY (PHASE 1) OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES, PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
(DFFE Reference Nos.: Tafelkop Solar PV - 14/12/16/3/3/2/2272; Kopy Solar PV - 14/12/16/3/3/2/2273; Vrede Solar PV - 14/12/16/3/3/2/2274)

Dear Stakeholder and Interested & Affected Party,

A consortium comprising of Akuo Energy Afrique, Africoast Investments and Golden Sunshine Trading propose to develop a cluster of renewable energy facilities and associated electrical infrastructure approximately 20km north of Philipstown and 30km west of Petrusville located in the Renosterberg Local Municipality and within the greater Pixley ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province. The Project is known as Crossroads Green Energy (Phase 1). Phase 1 entails the development of up to nine (9) solar energy facilities and associated infrastructure. The entire development will include up to twenty-one (21) solar energy facilities and associated infrastructure.

With reference to our letter dated 13 January 2023 in which we notified registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) that the Scoping Report for the Tafelkop Solar PV, Kopy Alleen Solar PV and Vrede Solar PV are available for review and comment from 13 January 2023 until 13 February 2023 has reference.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those Stakeholders and I&APs who submitted their written comments on the Scoping Reports and we kindly urge those who have not yet submitted their written comments on the Scoping Reports to please do so before or on 13 February 2023.

The Scoping Reports can be downloaded from our website: CLICK HERE<<https://savannahsa.com/public-documents/energy-generation/hydra-b-cluster/>>.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional information.

Kind regards,
Unsubscribe this type of email<<http://crm1.maxcloudcrm.com/Campaigns/Redirect.aspx?AB=Savannah&ProgId=2113&ActId=1175&ClId=200117250810368580007C&ContNum=0&EmailType=0&Request=unsubscribe&Unsubscribeall=False&URLIndex=0>>

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

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forestry, fisheries & the environment

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Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
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DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2277

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Telephone Number: 011 656 3237
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Email Address: joanne@savannahsa.com

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Thomas

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ZIONSHEUVEL SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY AND ITS ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE ON REMAINDER OF THE FARM LEEUWBERG 79 IN THE RENOSTERBERG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE GREATER PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) and draft Scoping Report (SR) dated January 2023 and received by the Competent Authority (CA) on 13 January 2023, refer.

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

Application form

- Please note that the Minister is the CA for applications for the development of facilities or infrastructure which relates to the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) 2010 - 2030 and any updates thereto, for technologies in which the Applicant will bid the project in the Department of Minerals Resources and Energy (DMRE) IPP bidding rounds. It is noted that page 8 of 34 of the application form mentioned that *"it is the developer's intention to bid the Zionsheugel Solar PV Facility under the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy's (DMRE's) Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement (REIPPP) Programme, or similar renewable energy programme organized by public or private commercial and industrial customers through tenders or bilateral consultations, with the aim of evacuating the generated power into the national grid"*. Therefore, you are advised to be clear on whether this project will bid as part of the DMRE IPP bidding rounds or not.
- In addition, please ensure that the need and desirability of the proposed development are aligned to the abovementioned plan.

Specific comments

- It has been noted that the assessment is focusing on the whole Hydra B development holistically, however the projects have been submitted separately. You are advised to ensure each report adequately address relevant issues of concern considering the environmental sensitivity on each site (in this case Zionsheugel Solar PV Facility), the activities that will take place and provide relevant mitigation measures in the EIAr.

Screening report

- The project title given in the screening report dated 22 March 2023 refers to Zionsheuvel 1, 2 and 3 solar facilities and this is not consistent to the project title given in the application form and scoping report as well as specialist studies. Please make sure that the corrected project title is used in final SR.
- It has been noted that the screening report for the abovementioned application has been included in the draft SR, however, there is no compiler signature on the aforesaid report. Therefore, you are advised to sign the abovementioned report to be submitted with the final SR.

Project Description and Listed Activities

- It has been noted in Section 5 of the application form, on page 8 of 34, that *“the exact location of the development area within the project site for the Zionsheuvel Solar PV Facility is not defined at this stage of the process.”* Therefore, you are advised to ensure that the project description and the exact location is well defined and clear on what is being proposed in the final SR.
- It has been noted that the exclusions on the triggered listed activities applied for are not included. Therefore, you are advised to include in the amended application form as well as final SR all the relevant exclusions related to the listed activities applied for. For instance, activity 11 of Listing Notice (LN) 1 have been applied for, however the exclusions have not been quoted in the application form.
- It has been noted that the words **“may, likely and could”** have been used in the description of activities 12, 19, 24 and 56 of Listing Notice (LN) 1, and activities 18 of LN 3. Please refrain from using such word/s, since it creates an uncertainty regarding the applicability of the listed activity applied for, for the proposed development. In addition, please note that the Project Description and Listed Activities are not based on a precautionary approach.
- Activity 15 of LN 2 and 12 of LN 3 for the clearance of an area more than 20ha and 300 square metres, (respectively) of indigenous vegetation are applied for without specifying the total amount of vegetation to be cleared. You are advised to include this information in the amended application form and final SR.
- Under activity 56 of LN 1 and 4 of LN 3, the CA acknowledged that the access roads to be widened or upgraded have been provided. However, the length of the aforesaid access roads has not been included in the application form and draft SR to determine the applicability of the abovementioned activity. You are advised to include the relevant details to determine if the said activity is triggered by the proposed development or not.
- It has been noted that activities 4, 10, 12, 14, and 18 of LN 3 have been applied for. Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) has been indicated as the area to be affected by the proposed development and the description of the portion of the proposed project to which the applicable listed activity relates refers to the Ecological Support Areas (ESA). However, the listed activities under Listing Notice 3 does not include ESA in order for the development to trigger a listed activity. Therefore, you are requested to explain and provide evidence why the above-mentioned listed activities are triggered for the proposed development. In addition, the description of the proposed project must make reference to the systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the CA or in bioregional plans and proof of such must be obtained from the relevant CA and be part of the amended application form and final SR.
- Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. In addition, the onus is on the applicant and the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to ensure that all the applicable listed activities are included in the application and the final SR. Failure to do so may result in unnecessary delays in the processing of the application.
- If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the draft SR, an amended application form must be submitted with the final SR. Please note that the Department’s application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.

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Alternatives

- It has been indicated on page 24 of the draft SR that “*the project could include Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The BESS capacity will depend on technology to be used and total installed capacity of solar, and it is expected to be up to 1MWh per MW of solar PV facility*”. Please be informed that the above statement shows uncertainty regarding the BESS been part of the proposed development, therefore, it is expected that this be clarified in the amended application form and the final SR.
- It has been noted on page 27 of the draft SR that three BESS technologies will be considered for the proposed development. You are advised to indicate if the abovementioned technologies would or not trigger any listed activity and ensure the impacts that might be generated by the technologies are adequately assessed in the final report.
- You are further required to provide details of all the alternatives considered for this development and indicate the preferred alternatives as per Appendix 2 (2) (1) (g) (i) (v) (vi) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended in the final report.
- Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2.

Cumulative Impact

- It has been noted on page iii and 1 in the draft SR that the proposed project is one (1) of 9 projects (in-process application submitted) in batch 1, summing up all 3 batches into a total of 21 projects. Further to this there are other similar projects or renewable projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, therefore, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:
 - Assess the cumulative impacts of the proposed (not yet authorised), authorised (not yet constructed) and existing solar energy facilities.
 - Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
 - The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
 - A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

Specialist Assessments

- According to the screening report, the aquatic, terrestrial biodiversity and landscape themes are very high, palaeontology and agriculture themes have high sensitivities while animal and RFI have medium sensitivity as well as low sensitivities on archaeological, and cultural heritage, avian, civil aviation, defense, and plant species themes. Therefore, you are advised to submit a site verification report and motivation for the exclusions of any specialist studies identified by the screening tool.
- The specialists' reports submitted refers to Hydra B, which is the umbrella body of the entire development, this helps in giving the full scope of what is proposed and its associated developments. However, for ease of reference you are advised to make sure that the maps provided in the reports clearly name and highlight the individual projects.
- The Terrestrial Ecology scoping report states on page 18 that “*Ecological Support Areas (ESAs) are not essential for meeting biodiversity targets but play an important role in supporting the ecological functioning of Critical Biodiversity Areas and/or in delivering ecosystem services*”. As such you are expected to elaborate on why the ESA is deemed suitable for this project, since ESAs play an important role in supporting the ecological functioning of the CBAs. In addition, elaborate on why ESAs are not important for meeting biodiversity targets whereas ESAs *play an important role in supporting the ecological functioning of Critical Biodiversity Areas*.
- It is also noted on figure 5.4 on page 20 of the Terrestrial Ecology scoping report that the whole site falls within the Platberg–Karoo Conservancy Important Bird Areas (IBA) and on page 19 of the Terrestrial Ecology

scoping report, it is stated that “*this IBA is important because it contributes significantly to the conservation of large terrestrial birds as well as raptors. These birds include Blue Crane (Anthropoides paradiseus), Ludwig’s Bustard (Neotis ludwigii), Kori Bustard (Ardeotis kori), Blue Korhaan (Eupodotis caerulescens), Black Stork (Ciconia nigra), Secretarybird (Sagittarius serpentarius), Martial Eagle (Polemaetus bellicosus), Verreaux’s Eagle (Aquila verreauxii) and Tawny Eagle (A. rapax) (Birdlife South Africa, 2015)*”. Based on the above, you are advised to undertake the assessment of the above-mentioned species, cumulative impacts and indicate the practical mitigation measures based on the findings of the specialist. In addition, you are advised to include in the final report the development layout map overlaid by the sensitive features.

- According to the heritage assessment, there is the potential for the cumulative impact of proposed solar energy facilities to negatively impact the cultural landscape due to a change in the landscape character from rural and mining to semi-industrial. However, due to the density of mining activities in the area, the impact on the experience of the cultural landscape is not foreseen to be significant. You are expected to ensure that this is assessed and included in the final SR.
- In addition to the above, you are hereby drawn to the following:
 - Specialist declaration of interest forms must be attached for all specialist studies to be conducted in the final SR. The forms are available on Department’s website (please use the Department’s template).
 - Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of proposed rehabilitation, and all other proposed structures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.
 - The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.
 - Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
 - Ensure that specialist studies as identified in the screening tool, comply with the requirements of GN 320 of 20 March 2020 and GN 1150 of 30 October 2020, unless proof is provided that indicates that the specialist study was commissioned within 50 days after the date of gazetting of the notice i.e., 20 March 2020 and was commissioned prior to 30 October 2020 respectively. Failure to comply with the abovementioned notices presents a risk to this application.
 - Please note further that the protocols require certain specialists’ to be registered with SACNASP. Refer to the relevant protocols in this regard.
 - Please include a table in the final SR summarising the specialist studies required by the Screening Tool, a column indicating whether these studies will be conducted or not, and a column with motivation for any studies that will not be undertaken. Please note that if any of the specialists’ studies and requirements recommended in the Department’s Screening Tool are not commissioned, motivation for such must be provided in the report, as per the requirements of the Protocols.
 - Please also ensure that the final SR includes the **Site Verification Report** as required by the relevant environmental themes and assessments.
 - Should it be determined that there is a need for additional specialist studies to be undertaken based on the outcome of public participation, these must be commissioned and be included in the draft EIA reports for public comment.

Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- Figure 5.12 on page 28 of the Terrestrial Ecology scoping report shows the respective farm portions in consideration of the ecological features. However, this refers to Hydra B project and projects are not named making it difficult to identify projects individually. You are advised to make sure that individual Hydra B developments are named while making sure that the specific development (Zionsheuvel Solar PV) is highlighted preferably in a different colour to other proposed PVs that form part of Hydra B.
- You are advised to submit a layout map that indicates the following (but not limited to the below, however, the findings of the specialists must advise on what needs to be incorporated in the layout).

LO

- The PV development area.
- Position of all infrastructure e.g., panels, BESS, substations, grid connection etc.
- Permanent laydown area footprint.
- All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g., roads (existing and proposed).
- Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint.
- Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network.
- All existing infrastructure on the site.
- The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g., CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected.
- Buffer areas of the above sensitive areas; and
- All “no-go” areas.
- Please ensure that the above map has a clear legend that communicate with details of the map.
- The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows all Hydra B development as well as neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the map and infrastructure must not encroach on highly sensitive areas as far as possible.
- Ensure that similar colours are not used to differentiate between infrastructure. i.e., items must be easily distinguishable in the legend.
- Google maps will not be accepted for decision-making purposes.

Generic EMPr

- The on-site substation has been mentioned as part of the infrastructure to form part of the proposed development in activity 11 of LN 1. Therefore, ensure that the generic EMPr that complies with the GN 435 of March 2022 is submitted in the final report.
- The EMPr that complies with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, as amended, for the facility must be submitted with the final report.

Public Participation Process

- Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the final SR. This includes but not limited to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE): Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness Directorate, **Biodiversity Planning and Conservation** (BCAdmin@environment.gov.za); Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform), Telkom, South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), South African Civil Aviation Authority, Endangered Wildlife Trust, Birdlife South Africa, Department of Human Settlement, Water and Sanitation, South African National Defence Force, Local interest groups, for example: Councillors and Rate Payers associations; Surrounding landowners, Farmer Organisations, Environmental Groups and NGOs; and Grassroots communities and structures as well as the affected district and local municipalities.
- Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulations 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended and the approved Public Participation Plan.
- The comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the Final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter.
- Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department’s comments) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed. Comments made by I&APs must be comprehensively captured (copy verbatim if required) and responded to clearly and fully. Please note that a response such as “Noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP’s comments.

LO

General

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

“If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority”

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

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

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

Yours sincerely



Ms Milicent Solomons

Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment

Letter signed by: Olivia Letlalo

Designation: Deputy Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects

Date: 10/02/2023

cc	Maxime Savinelli	Akuo Energy Afrique	Tel: +33 671 090600	Email: savinelli@akuoenergy.com
	Bryan Fisher	Northern Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism	Tel: 083 270 8323	Email: Bfisher@ncpg.gov.za
	Mr M Hoogbaard, Municipal Manager	Renosterberg Local Municipality	Tel: 053 6630041	Email: email abbek@msn.com

Annexure 1

Format for Comments and Response Report:

Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&AP,	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
27/03/2021 Email Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment: Priority Infrastructure Projects (Joe Soap)	Please record C&R trail report in this format. Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority.	EAP: (Noted)The C&R trail report has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K. EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form.



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

26 Olien Street, Louisvaleroad, Upington, 8801 Contact Number: 060 973 1660
Enquiries: Ms. J. Mans, Cell 060 973 1660, E-mail: Jmans@dffe.gov.za

COMMENTS-NC-PX-0007-2022-23

RE: COMMENTS ON DRAFT SCOPING REPORTS – PROPOSED CROSSROADS GREEN ENERGY CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES, PIXELY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE (DFFE REF: NOT SUPPLIED)

DATE: 8 February 2023

Savannah Environmental
P.O. Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

PER E-MAIL: Nicolene Venter (nicolene@savannahsa.com; publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

Dear Ms. N. Venter

The virtual meeting on 31 January 2023 at 14h00 and the Scoping Reports accessed from the Savannah Environmental website on 8 February 2023 (due date for comments 13 February 2023), refers. Thank you for notifying the Forestry Branch in the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) of the proposed development(s).

The mandate of the Forestry Branch in the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), as an EIA commenting authority, is to ensure control over developments that affect State forests, natural forests, forest nature reserves and protected trees.

1. The applicant must assess the site for the presence of protected trees [section 12 of the National Forests Act, Act No. 84 of 1998 (NFA)] and the potential risk and impact on such tree species. See Government Notice (GN) 2984, Government Gazette No. 47927 of 27 January 2023 for the list of protected tree species. Protected species such as *Vachellia erioloba*, *Vachellia haematoxylon* and *Boscia albitrunca* might occur on site.
2. Section 15(1) of the NFA stated that no person may cut, disturb, damage or destroy any protected tree; or possess, collect, remove, transport, export, purchase, sell, donate or in any other manner acquire or dispose of any protected tree, or any forest product derived from a protected tree, except under a licence granted by the Minister; or in terms of an exemption published by the Minister.
3. The prohibition on protected trees applies to all trees, alive and dead. It also applies to all size classes of the species listed as protected.



Batho pele - putting people first

The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and / or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.

Draft Scoping Report (DSR) (Comments):

4. The applicant is Akuo Energy Afrique and Phase 1 of the proposed Crossroads Green Energy entails the development of nine (9) solar energy facilities, 20 km north of Philipstown and 30 km west of Petrusville. These comments are generic and applicable to all nine (9) projects, namely Tafelkop Solar PV, Kopy Alleen Solar PV, Vrede Solar PV, Zionsheuwel Solar PV, Amper Daar Solar PV, Wag-'n-Bietjie Solar PV, Ruspoort Solar PV1, Ruspoort Solar PV2 and Middelpaas Solar PV. As indicated above, the project sites must be assessed for the presence of NFA listed protected trees in the proposed development footprints. If found on site, Forestry strongly recommends that the specialist(s) doing the fauna and flora (terrestrial biodiversity or ecological) specialist reports also determine the density of the protected trees per project, to get an accurate estimation of the number of protected trees that would be destroyed per project. This information cannot be gathered through desktop studies, fieldwork is required. Protected tree density and numbers of trees to be destroyed is required for processing of Forest Act Licence applications. If accurate information is gathered during the EIA phase, it can be used when applying for a Forest Act Licence, thus saving time and money. Otherwise, it might be necessary to appoint another specialist prior to submitting the applications for the Forest Act Licence and/or Fauna and Flora Permits, before construction and commencement of vegetation clearance.
5. It is important to assess the cumulative impacts on protected trees because this is phase 1, implying further phases are planned. If there are significant impacts on protected trees and/or Critical Biodiversity Areas which cannot be avoided or mitigated to acceptable levels, a biodiversity offset may be triggered, causing delays in the processing of a Forest Act Licence and Flora Permits. If evident that there might be significant impacts, it is advisable to appoint an offset specialist to do an offset investigation during the EIA phase (see the National Guidelines on Biodiversity Offsets) and present the findings and/or recommendations to the Forestry Branch of the DFFE and the provincial Conservation Authority in the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (DAERL).

Additional information

6. The Department is kindly requesting an accurate indication of the number of protected trees to be destroyed to facilitate construction of the nine (9) PV facilities and associated infrastructure.
7. Electronic copies of the Specialist Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessments (once available).

NOTE: The Department may request to do site inspections to confirm the findings in the reports or when processing Forest Act Licence applications and/or request a virtual meeting to discuss the findings in relation to protected tree impacts and/or biodiversity offsets.

Should you require further information and/or clarification on the matter, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Jacoline Mans at Jmans@dffe.gov.za, Cell 060 973 1660.



**Ms Nomfundo Tshabalala
Director-General
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Letter signed by: Jacoline Mans
Designation: Chief Forester
Branch: Forestry Management
Date: 8 February 2023**



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Private Bag X 447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: +27 86 625 1042

Reference: Crossroads Green Energy Phase 1

Enquiries: Ms. Portia Makitla

Telephone: 012 399 9411 **E-mail:** pmakitla@dfpe.gov.za

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

Telephone Number: (+27) 11-656-3237

Email Address: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

PER E-MAIL

Dear Ms Venter

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORTS FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF CROSSROADS GREEN ENERGY (PHASE 1) OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES, PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the reports and does not have any objection to the Scoping Report and the Plan of Study, however, final report must comply with the procedures for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of sections 24(5)(A) and (H) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.

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

In conclusion, the Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries should be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email; BCAdmin@dfpe.gov.za for the attention of Mr. Seoka Lekota.

Yours faithfully

Mr. Seoka Lekota
Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment
Date: 13/02/2023



Batho pele- putting people first.

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 202 8660
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 20506

Date: Tuesday February 14, 2023
Page No: 1

Interim Comment

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

Attention: Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

Zionsheuvel Solar PV Facility, Northern Cape Province application by Akuo Energy Afrique. A consortium consisting of Akuo Energy Afrique, Africoast Investments and Golden Sunshine Trading propose to develop the Zionsheuvel Solar PV Facility and its associated electrical infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Leeuwberg 79 in the Renosterberg Local Municipality in the greater Pixley ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. The project site is located approximately 20km north of Philipstown and 30km west of Petrusville and within the Central Transmission Corridor. The Project (Zionsheuvel Solar PV Facility) is part of a cluster known as the Hydra B Renewable Energy Cluster. The Cluster entails the development of up to twenty-one (21) solar energy facilities. A technically suitable project site of ~2964ha has been identified by Akuo Energy Afrique for the establishment of the PV facility. The proposed facility will have a contracted capacity of 240MW.

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Akuo Energy Afrique to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Zionheuvel Solar PV Facility, near Petrusville, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) was submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA EIA Regulations (As amended). The proposed development will include the construction of PV panels, transformers and inverters, cabling between the project components, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), on-site substation and powerline (separate EA process), site offices, security office, operations and control buildings, maintenance and storage laydown areas, access roads and internal distribution roads within an application area of 498 ha.

CTS Heritage has been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process in terms of section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Lavin, J. 2022. Desktop Heritage Screening Assessment for the Proposed Zionheuvel Solar PV Facility near

**PROPOSED ZIONSHEUVEL SOLAR PV FACILITY NEAR PETRUSVILLE, DE AAR
& PHILLIPSTOWN IN THE NORTHERN CAPE**

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 202 8660
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 20506

Date: Tuesday February 14, 2023
Page No: 2

Petrusville, De Aar & Phillipstown in the Northern Cape

The screening assessment recommends that a field-based archaeological impact assessment be conducted due to the likelihood of heritage resources present within the development footprint. Additionally, it is recommended that a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment be conducted as part of the HIA.

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

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Manager: Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/611864>



Mvelaphande Trading
P/A C Schutte
3 La Motte Street
Bayswater
Bloemfontein
9301

Enquiries: Chris Schutte
Telephone: 078 741 5862
E-mail: Schutce5@telkom.co.za

Our Ref no: CPLT0021-23

Your Ref: **Zionsheuvel Solar PV**

05 February 2023

Savannah Environmentals
P.O. Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

FOR ATTENTION: Nicolene Venter

LIMESTONE SOLAR PV1 AND LIMESTONE SOLAR PV2 FACILITIES NEAR DANIELSKUIL, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

With reference to your above- mentioned application, I hereby confirm that the proposed work installation is approved in terms of Section 29 of the Electronic Communications Act No. 36 of 2005 as amended.

No infrastructure of our Client (Openserve) will be affected by this proposal. **We did our utmost to ensure that we indicate our route as accurate as possible and should you discover any of our cables that is not on the sketch please stop and contact us immediately to arrange a site meeting. In the event that our cables are exposed and damaged/stolen by a third party the damages will be repaired at the customer's account. Please make use of pilot holes in order not to damage our infrastructure.** Therefore any damages occurred during construction of work will be repaired at the customer's account.

Although we are not affected by this proposal, Mr Vivian Groenewald must be contacted at telephone number 081 362 6738 from our Network Field Services. Two (2) weeks prior to commencement of proposed work.

Approval of the proposed route is valid for six months. If construction has not yet commenced within this period, then the file must be resubmitted for approval.

Any changes/deviations from the original planning during or prior to construction must immediately be communicated to this office.

On completion of this project, please certify that all requirements as stipulated in this letter have been met. Please note that should any of our Client (Openserve) infrastructure has to be relocated or altered as a result of your activities the cost for such alteration or relocation will be for your account in terms of section 25 of the Electronic Communication Act.


Mr Vivian Groenewald must be contacted at telephone number 081 362 6738. Two (2) weeks prior to commencement of proposed work. It's important that all services are shown on site before construction starts.

Approval of the proposed route is valid for six months. If construction has not yet commenced within this period, then the file must be resubmitted for approval. Any changes / deviations from the original planning during or prior to construction must immediately be communicated to this office.

Please notify this office and forward an as built plan, within 30 days of completion of construction.

Mr Vivian Groenewald must be contacted at telephone number 081 362 6738. Two (2) weeks prior to commencement of proposed work. It's important that all services are shown on site before construction starts.

Yours sincerely



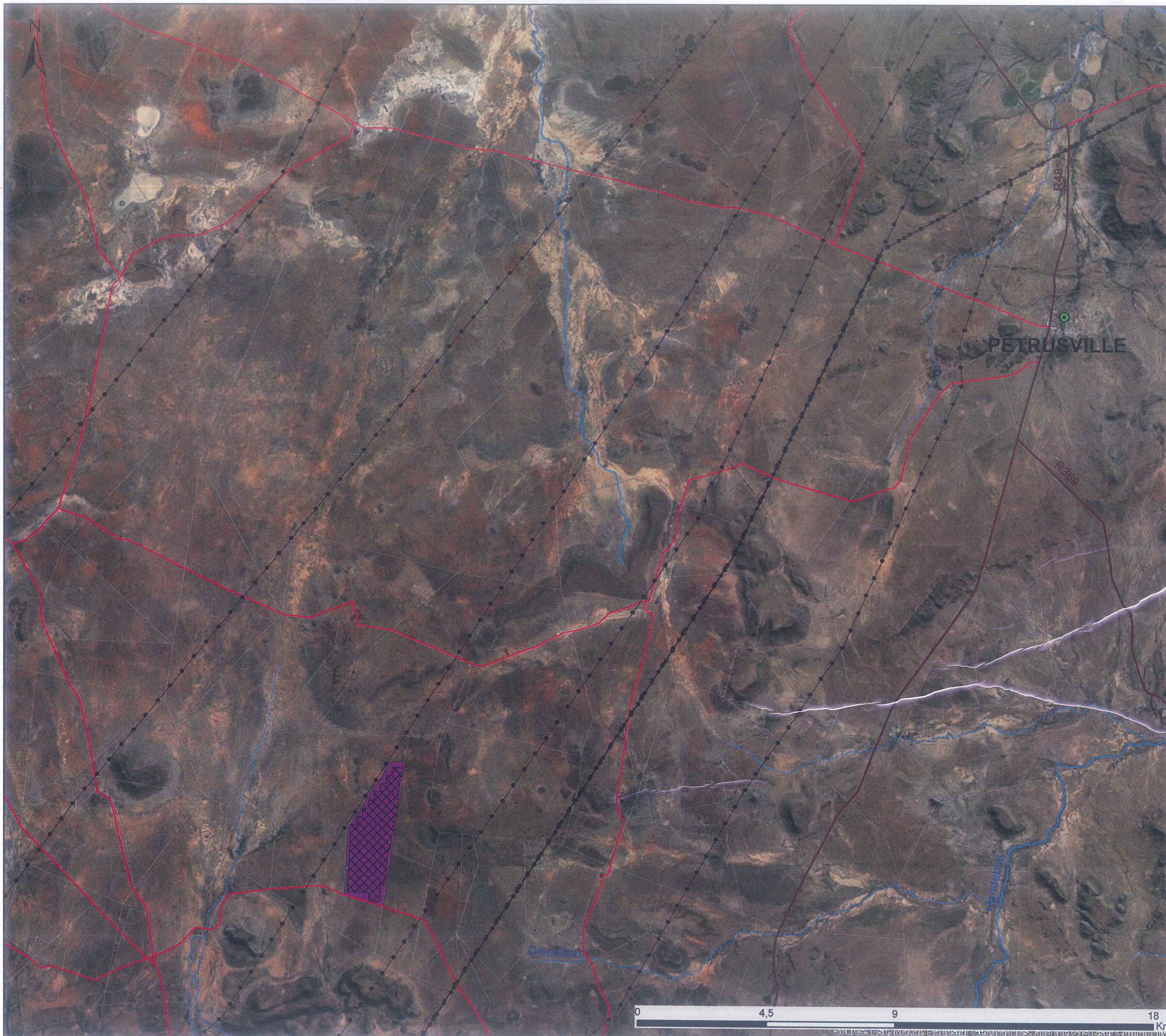
CHRIS SCHUTTE

Zionsheuvcl Solar PV Facility Crossroads Green Energy Cluster Northern Cape Province

Locality Map

Legend

-  Town
-  Eskom Substation
-  Existing Power Line
-  National Road
-  Regional Road
-  Main Road
-  Non-perennial River
-  Perennial River
-  Zionsheuvcl Solar PV Facility Proposed Footprint
-  Zionsheuvcl Solar PV Facility Development Area
-  Farm Portions



EXISTING / COMPANY PLANT / NOT APPROVED

INFO AND LEGEND PROVIDED BY
C. Schutte
 PLANNER
 DATE 05/02/2023

I.D. Mokone
 SUPERVISOR
 DATE 05/02/2023

TELKOM SA. LIMITED DECLARATION
 NO COMPANY PLANT IS AFFECTED BY
 THIS PROPOSAL.



Scale: 125 000
 Projection: GCS_WGS_1984
 Map Ref: Crossroads Green Energy Cluster





Environmental Research and Development (ERD)

90 Long Street, Kimberley, Northern Cape, South Africa, 8300, Tel: (053) 807 7300

E-mail: nuys.denc@gmail.com, web: www.agrinc.gov.za

Date:	6 July 2022	File:	
To:	publicprocess@savannahsa.com	From:	N Uys
Subject: RE: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESMENT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE OF THE HYDRA B CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES AND GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE, PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE (DFFE Reference Nos.: To be Issued)			

Nicolene Venter

Savannah Environmental

tel: 011 656 3237

fax: 086 684 0547

e-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

cell: +27 (0) 60 978 8396

RE: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESMENT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE OF THE HYDRA B CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES AND GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE, PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE (DFFE Reference Nos.: To be Issued)

Your Background Information Document (BID) dated June 2022 has reference.

1. The biggest concern is that the project falls in an Important Bird Areas and proper avifauna surveys must be conducted in order to mitigate the impacts on birds, as there is already a lot of power lines in the area.
2. Please incorporate into the assessment the ESKOM maintenance roads under power line(s) for maintenance and fire breaks (there is specific sizes for specific line sizes).
3. Please note the area is also an arid landscape and temporary roads leave scars in the landscape for years.
4. Please include under cumulative impacts assessed other developments such as agriculture and mining. Also include in the assessment the other renewable energy projects in the area and their associated power lines, especially the Kudu Solar PV and EGI that is located adjacent to this development.
5. This is a massive project and the cumulative impact of the project size should also be assessed.
6. It is recommended that all Environmental Authorisations for Renewable Energy (RE) projects as well as power lines must be re-evaluated if there are any changes in the way RE projects are approved for the De Aar area.
7. Fauna and flora permits will be needed for removal of flora and fauna for both the power line(s) and the renewable energy facilities.



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N UYS', written in a cursive style.

N UYS

PRODUCTION SCIENTIST GRADE A: BOTANIST

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Swart', written in a cursive style.

E. SWART

SCIENTIFIC MANAGER GR B: RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT



Mvelaphande Trading

Mvelaphande Trading
P O Box 12534
Brandhof
9324

Enquiries: Mantwa Gabaitumele
Telephone: 0825216813/ 0796937401

E-mail: GabaiMA2@telkom.co.za

Our reference: **CPLT0414-22**

Your reference: SE3346

14 July 2022

Savannah Environmental

P O Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
2157

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE HYDRA B CLUSTER OF RENEABLE ENERGY FACILITIES AND GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE –KOPPY ALLEN SOLAR FACILITY

With reference to your letter dated 30 June 2022.

With reference to your above-mentioned application, I hereby inform you that our Client (OPENSERVE) approves the proposed work indicated on your drawings in terms Section 29 of the Electronic Communications Act 36 of 2005 as amended.

Any changes/deviations from the original planning during or prior to construction must immediately be communicated to this office.

Our Client (OPENSERVE)'s infrastructure is affected by this proposal and the routes are marked in PINK on attached sketch as accurately as possible. **We did our utmost to ensure that we indicate our route as accurate as possible and should you discover any of our cables that are not on the sketch please stop and contact us immediately to arrange a site meeting. Please make use of pilot holes in order not to damage our infrastructure.** Therefore, any damages occurred during construction of work will be repaired at the customer's account. Consequently, the following conditions apply:

Aerial Plant - At points of crossing, the overhead power lines should cross above the communications lines in accordance with and clearances stipulated in the Occupational Health and safety Act no 85 of 1993, Machinery regulations 20 – Crossings, and Electrical Machinery Regulations 15 – Clearance of Power Lines. If the specifications could not be met, all deviation costs will be for the applicant's account. We also refer to section 25 of Electronic Communication Act 36 of 2005.

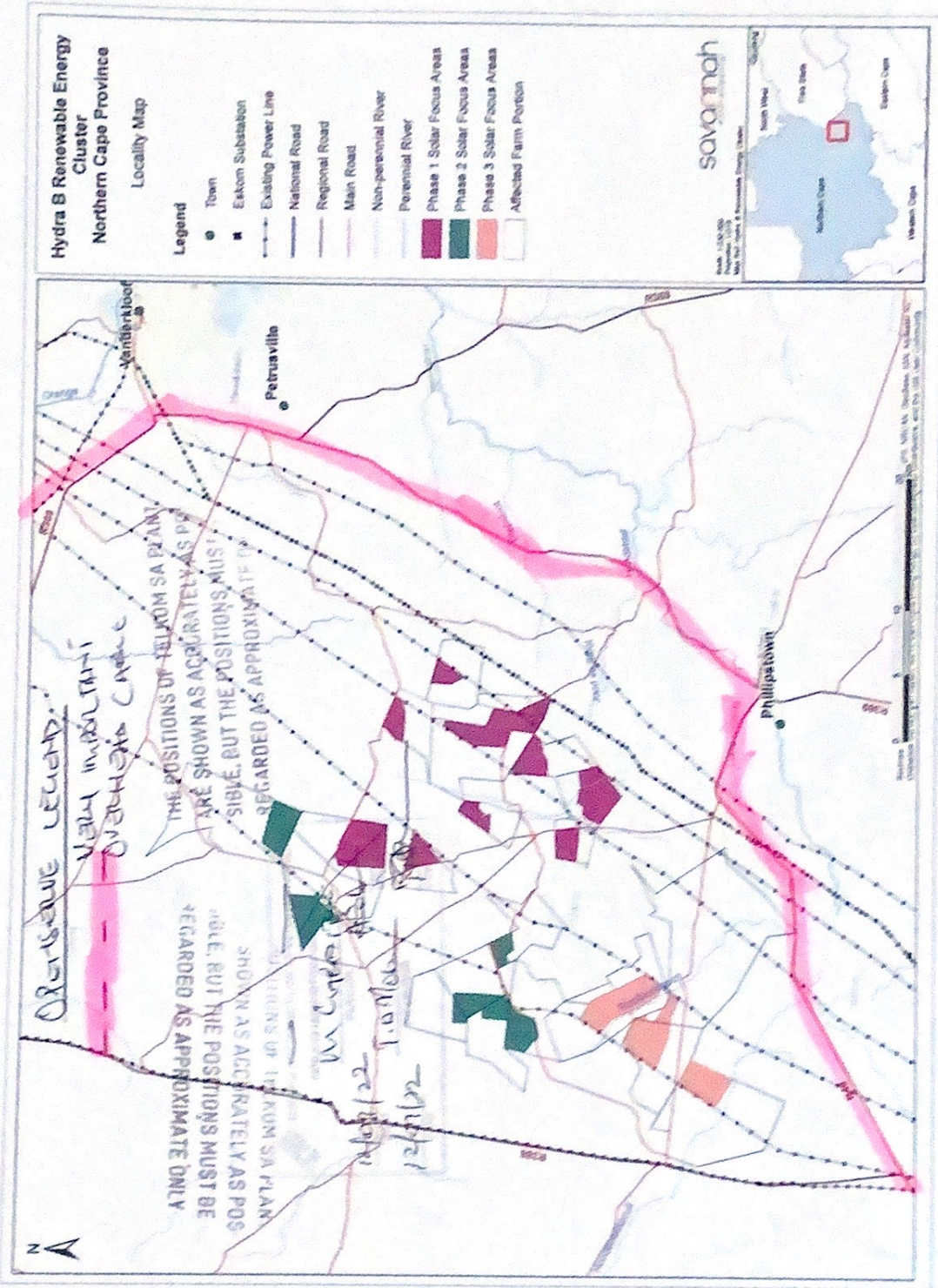
At points of crossing, the overhead power line should cross over the overhead communication lines with a minimum vertical separation of **0.8** meters.

Suitable protection as laid down in section 5 of the Code of Practice should be provided at all important crossings.

The crossing of supply lines or overhead service mains directly above or adjacent to communication poles must be avoided if possible. If not clearance of **3** meters must be provided.

In order to minimize noise induction into the telecommunication systems, the angle of crossing between the overhead power line and all communication lines, should be as near to a right angle as possible – the following deviation from the right angle being permitted at:

Figure 1: Locality map of the Hydra B Renewable Energy Cluster



- Power voltage of 48 kV and higher - 30 degrees
 - Power voltage of lower than 48 kV - 45 degrees
-SWER must be as near as 90 degrees as possible

Approved on condition that, should it later be found necessary to deviate the existing communication line due to existing noise interference or any other reason whatsoever, the cost of such remedial action shall be repayable.

Paragraph 2.4.1 of the Code of Practice stipulates the minimum acceptable horizontal separation between power and the communication lines and where this cannot be met, the design of the power line is also stipulated. This could apply between the attached plans and these requirements should strictly be adhered to.

In cases where an underground power cable will run parallel with an existing underground communication cable, a separation as great as possible should be maintained with a minimum separation of 600mm. should the separation be less than 600mm and the power cable are not enclosed in a suitable pipe, a concrete slab must be provided immediately above the power cable for the length of parallelism. If the separation is less than 300mm, additional protection is required by placing concrete slabs between our Client (OPENSERVE) cables/pipes and the power cables.

Underground Crossings - At the points where our Client (OPENSERVE)'s existing underground communication cable will be crossed by an underground cable; the latter should be laid a depth of at least 300mm below the communication cable – normally laid at a depth of 600mm. If the power cable is not enclosed in a suitable pipe, protection in the form of a concrete slab should be provided immediately above the power cable for a minimum of 2 (Two) metres on either side of crossing.

Calculations have shown that an earth fault on the high voltage Power lines will induce excessive low frequency induction into the Communication lines. As a result of this, the cost to deviate / alter the communication lines to prevent this induction will be for the power provider.

Relocations of our Client (OPENSERVE) plant will be done at customer's request and will be a repayable project.

Please notify the office within 21 working days from date of this letter of acceptance and if any alternative proposal is available of if a recoverable work should commence, the liaison officer is **Mantwa Gabaitumele** at tel. no. **0825216813**.

As important cables are affected, **Mr Vivian Groenewald must be contacted at 054 338 6501 /081 362 6738, (2) two weeks' prior of commencement on construction work. It would be appreciated if this office can be notified within 30 days on completion of construction work.** Confirmation is required on completion of construction as per agreed requirements.

On completion of this project please certify that all requirements as stipulated in this letter have been met. Please note that should any of our Client (OPENSERVE) infrastructure has to be relocated or altered as a result of your activities the cost for such alterations or relocations will be for your account in terms of section 25 of the Electronic Communications Act.

This approval is valid for 6 months only, after which re-application must be made if the work has not been completed.

Should our Client (OPENSERVE) infrastructure be damaged while work is undertaken, kindly call the Toll-free number **0800203951** immediately

All of our Client (OPENSERVE) rights remain reserved.

Mr Vivian Groenewald must be contacted at 054 338 6501 /081 362 6738, Two weeks before any commencement of proposed work.

Yours faithfully

MANTWA GABAITUMELE

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE OF THE HYDRA 8 CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES AND GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE, FOXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Registration & Comment Form

June 2022

Return completed registration and comment form to: Nicolene Verste of Savannah Developments

Phone: 011 636 3237 / Mobile (incl. please call me): 083 778 8386 / Fax: 083-664 0547

E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com Postal Address: PO Box 148, Sunningdale, 2137

Your registration as an interested and/or affected party will be applicable for this project only and your contact details provided are protected by the POPI Act of 2013

Please provide your complete contact details:

Name & Surname:	EDUARD JOHANNES HAUMANN	
Organisation:	HAUMANN FAMILY TRUST	
Designation:	REPRESENTATIVE TRUSTEE	
Postal Address:	P.O. Box 43016	
	HEILWELDIG ; 9332	
Telephone:	083 7786421	Fax:
Mobile:	083 7786421	
E-mail:	mhaumann@mweb.co.za	

I would you like to register as an interested and affected party (I&AP) on the following Hydra 8 project/s database (please tick the relevant box)

Phase 1: Cluster of 12 Solar PV Facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Phase 2: Cluster of 6 Solar PV Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Phase 3: Cluster of 4 Solar PV Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>
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In terms of EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, Regulation 43(1), you are required to register as an I&AP to receive further correspondence regarding the EIA process for the project and to disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application (add additional pages if necessary):

THE HAUMANN FAMILY TRUST IS THE OWNER OF PORTION 4 OF THE FARM GRASS PAK 40, ON WHICH THE MIDDELPLAAS SOLAR PV FACILITY IS PROPOSED TO BE DEVELOPED

Please list your comments regarding your project selection above (add additional pages if necessary):

THE HAUMANN FAMILY TRUST IS IN FAVOUR OF THE RELEVANT DEVELOPMENTS PROPOSED

Please provide contact details of any other persons who you regard as a potential interested or affected party:

Name & Surname:	
Postal Address:	
Telephone:	
Mobile:	
E-mail:	

Thank you for your registration

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE OF THE HYDRA B CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES AND GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE, PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Registration & Comment Form

June 2022

Return completed registration and comment form to: **Nicolene Vente** of **Savannah Environmental**

Phone: 011 656 3237 / Mobile (incl. 'please call me'): 060 978 8396 / Fax: 086 684 0547

E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com Postal Address: PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157

Your registration as an interested and/or affected party will be applicable for this project only and your contact details provided are protected by the POPI Act of 2013

Please provide your complete contact details:

Name & Surname:	J.W. DE VILLIERS		
Organisation:	BESIT EIENDOM IN DIE GEAFFEKTEERDE GEBIED		
Designation:			
Postal Address:	POSBUS 16 KTRUSVILLE		
Telephone:		Fax:	
Mobile:	083 2366 816		
E-mail:	karookobuse@hotmail.com		

I would you like to register as an interested and affected party (I&AP) on the following Hydra B project/s database (please tick the relevant box)

Phase 1: Cluster of 12 Solar PV Facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Phase 2: Cluster of 6 Solar PV Facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Phase 3: Cluster of 4 Solar PV Facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
---	-------------------------------------	--	-------------------------------------	--	-------------------------------------

In terms of EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, Regulation 43(1), you are required to register as an I&AP to receive further correspondence regarding the EIA process for the project and to disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application (add additional pages if necessary):

Please list your comments regarding your project selection above (add additional pages if necessary):

EK BESIT EIENDOM NAASLIGGENDE EN IN DIE GE-AFFEKTEERDE AREAS VAN FASE 1 + 2 + 3.

Please provide contact details of any other persons who you regard as a potential interested or affected party:

Name & Surname:	
Postal Address:	
Telephone:	
Mobile:	
E-mail:	

Thank you for your registration

Savannah Public Process

From: Savannah Public Process
Sent: Friday, 21 October 2022 04:31
To: Rohaida Abed
Cc: Helen Antonopoulos
Subject: RE: Hydra B Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities - Stakeholder Registration

Dear Rohaida,

Thank you for following up – I believe the team is nearly done with the .KMZ.

I will share with you as soon as I receive the clients OK.

Kind regards,



t: +27 (0)11 656 3237
f: +27 (0) 86 684 0547

Nicolene Venter

Public Participation and Social
Consultant

e: publicprocess@savannahsa.com
c: +27 (0)60 978 8396

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

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From: Rohaida Abed <RAbed@csir.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 20 October 2022 19:30
To: Savannah Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
Cc: Helen Antonopoulos <HAntonopoulos@csir.co.za>
Subject: RE: Hydra B Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities - Stakeholder Registration

Dear Nicolene

I hope that you are well. I am kindly following up on the KMZ for the Hydra B Cluster of RE Facilities please.

Please could you kindly share it with us?

Thanks
Rohaida

From: Savannah Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 02:09

To: Rohaida Abed <RAbed@csir.co.za>
Cc: Helen Antonopoulos <HAntonopoulos@csir.co.za>
Subject: RE: Hydra B Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities - Stakeholder Registration

Dear Rohaida,

Apologies for responding only now.

The .KMZ has not yet been finalised. As soon as the .KMZ has been finalised, I will forward it to you.

Thank you for following up.

Kind regards,



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f: +27 (0) 86 684 0547

Nicolene Venter

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Consultant

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From: Rohaida Abed <RAbed@csir.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 07 September 2022 17:39
To: Savannah Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
Cc: Helen Antonopoulos <HAntonopoulos@csir.co.za>
Subject: RE: Hydra B Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities - Stakeholder Registration

Dear Nicolene

I hope that you are well. Apologies for the follow up, we just kindly enquiring on the KMZ file and status of the proposed Hydra B Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities, and if you have any information on the proposed Hydra B substation (such as proposed location etc.).

We look forward to your feedback.

Thanks and kind regards,
Rohaida

From: Rohaida Abed
Sent: Sunday, 04 September 2022 10:37
To: Savannah Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>

Cc: Helen Antonopoulos <HAntonopoulos@csir.co.za>

Subject: RE: Hydra B Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities - Stakeholder Registration

Dear Nicolene

I hope that you are well. Thank you for registering us on the database for the proposed Hydra B Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities.

Would it be possible to please send us a KMZ file of the affected properties of the proposed Hydra B Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities? Please also kindly let us know what the status of the project is?

We have responded on your request to register on the Kudu Solar PV project also.

Thanks and kind regards,
Rohaida

From: Savannah Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>

Sent: Saturday, 03 September 2022 13:16

To: Rohaida Abed <RAbed@csir.co.za>

Cc: Helen Antonopoulos <HAntonopoulos@csir.co.za>

Subject: RE: Hydra B Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities - Stakeholder Registration

Dear Rohaida,

Please receive herewith confirmation that you and Ms Helen Antonopoulos have been registered on the above projects database.

Thank you for acknowledging our request to register and the .KMZ submitted on 30 August 2022 – we eagerly awaits the .KMZ file.

Kind regards,



t: +27 (0)11 656 3237
f: +27 (0) 86 684 0547

Nicolene Venter

Public Participation and Social
Consultant

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c: +27 (0)60 978 8396

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From: Rohaida Abed <RAbed@csir.co.za>

Sent: Friday, 02 September 2022 09:21

To: Savannah Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>

Cc: Helen Antonopoulos <HAntonopoulos@csir.co.za>

Subject: Hydra B Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities - Stakeholder Registration

Dear Nicolene

I hope that you are well.

We are aware of proposed Hydra B Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities near Philipstown in the Northern Cape (21 Solar PV Facilities).

The Environmental Management Services (EMS) group of the CSIR is also undertaking Environmental Assessment processes for the proposed Kudu Solar Facility cluster in the vicinity. Here is a link to the Background Information Document for additional information: <https://www.csir.co.za/documents/bidkudupvegifinal020622pdf-0>

Would it be possible to please register myself and Helen Antonopoulos on the project database of I&APs?

Please see our email addresses below:

- Rohaida Abed – RAbed@csir.co.za
- Helen Antonopoulos - HAntonopoulos@csir.co.za

Our preferred method of notification is email.

Our interest in the application is as stated above (i.e. Environmental Assessment Practitioner for a nearby Solar PV development).

Would it be possible to please send us a KMZ file of the affected properties of the proposed Hydra B Cluster of Renewable Energy Facilities? Please also kindly let us know what the status of the project is?

We have noted your request to register on the Kudu Solar PV project also and will also respond on that separately.

Thanks and kind regards,
Rohaida

