

From the desk of Gabriele Wood
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21 November 2013

South African Heritage Resources Agency
111 Harrington Street
Cape Town
8000

Dear Mariagrazia Galimberti

**FOUR PROPOSED PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES ON THE FARM
ZUURWATER NEAR AGGENEYS, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
DEA REF. NUMBERS: PHASE 1 - 14/12/16/3/3/2/470
PHASE 2 - 14/12/16/3/3/2/471
PHASE 3 - 14/12/16/3/3/2/472
PHASE 4- 14/12/16/3/3/2/473**

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS:
DRAFT EIA FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND INVITATION TO A PUBLIC MEETING**

PVAfrica Development (Pty) Ltd (previously referred to as FSBWSA Development (Pty) Ltd) is proposing to establish four commercial photovoltaic solar energy facilities on the remaining extent of Portion 3 of the Farm Zuurwater 62 near Aggeneys, in the Northern Cape Province. A larger facility (comprising of seven phases) on the same property was the subject of a previous Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken in 2011/2012 for Sato Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd (Sato), for which the EIA process was completed and individual environmental authorisations for each of the 7 phases issued in August 2012 (DEA Ref Nos 12/12/20/2334/1-7). The Scoping Report and EIA report were compiled for Sato by SRK Consulting. Subsequently, changes to the project have been effected due to technical considerations. In addition, the developer has changed from Sato to PVAfrica Development (Pty) Ltd.

The following changes regarding the Zuurwater PV project are of relevance:

UNIT 10, BUILDING 2, S WOODLANDS DRIVE OFFICE PARK, CNR. WOODLANDS DRIVE & WESTERN SERVICE ROAD, WOODMEAD, JOHANNESBURG
PO BOX 148, SUNNINGHILL, 2157, GAUTENG
TEL: +27 (0)11 656 3237 • FAX: +27 (0)86 684 0547 • E-MAIL: INFO@SAVANNAHSA.COM
WWW.SAVANNAHSA.COM

DIRECTORS: KM JODAS • J THOMAS • M MATSABU
COMPANY REGISTRATION NO.: 2006/000127/07
VAT REGISTRATION NO.: 4780226736

- » Units 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 - The authorisations for these five authorised units have lapsed. The developer PVAfrica Development (Pty) Ltd has submitted new applications for environmental authorisation (EA) for four replacement projects on Portion 3 of the Farm Zuurwater 62, but with a new layout and technology (the subject of this EIA report).
- » Unit 4 and Unit 5 – The environmental authorisations for these units are still valid and have been amended to now be held by PVAfrica Development (Pty) Ltd.

DEA have accepted the four new applications for environmental authorisation and granted permission for an EIA phase assessment and public participation process to be undertaken for the environmental assessment of the four new phases within the same site (i.e. on the Farm Zuurwater 62). The rationale behind the phased approach to the development is based on the Department of Energy (DoE) requirements of restricting the electricity generation capacity per project to 75 MW.

The broader Zuurwater Solar PV development is now as follows: 3 x 75 MW phases, 2 x 40 MW phases, and 1 x 60 MW phase, which together comprise a larger solar project of up to 365MW. Two of the original phases (Unit 4 and Unit 5) have already been authorised, and the balance of the phases (Phases 1 – 4) are the subject of this EIA phase report.

The approach for the EIA phase, as agreed with DEA, includes the compilation of a consolidated Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which considers Phases 1 – 4 of the Zuurwater PV Project. If authorised, DEA will provide four separate Environmental Authorisations (one for each Phase). This consolidated EIR assesses the following Phases of the Zuurwater PV Project:

- » Phase 1 - 14/12/16/3/3/2/470
- » Phase 2 - 14/12/16/3/3/2/471
- » Phase 3 - 14/12/16/3/3/2/472
- » Phase 4 - 14/12/16/3/3/2/473

PVAfrica Development (Pty) Ltd has appointed Savannah Environmental as the independent environmental consultant to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase for the above-mentioned four phases of the Zuurwater PV Project. The EIA process is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the DEA (EIA Phase study only) and the EIA Regulations of June 2010 (GNR543) promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA; Act No. 107 of 1998).

AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT EIA REPORT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public, local communities and stakeholders are invited to comment on the draft EIA Report for Phase 1 – Phase 4 of the PV Facilities near Aggeneys which has been made available for 40-day public review and comment period at the following locations from **22 November 2013 – 20 January 2014**:

- » Pofadder Library (Hoofweg Street, Pofadder)
- » Aggeneys Library (Havelock Street, Aggeneys)

The report is also available for download from www.savannahsa.com. Comments can be made as a written submission via fax, post, or e-mail.

PUBLIC FEEDBACK MEETING

In order to facilitate comments on the draft EIA report and provide feedback on the findings of the studies undertaken for Phase 1 – Phase 4 of the PV Facilities near Aggeneys, a public feedback meeting will be as follows:

- » **Date:** Tuesday, 10 December 2013
- » **Time:** 18:00
- » **Venue:** The Recreational Club (Black Mountain Mine), Aggeneys

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned should you require additional information and/or clarification regarding the proposed project. Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process.

Kind regards



MRS GABRIELE WOOD
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT
SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL (PTY) LTD