

Wynand Loftus

From: Thabile Sangweni <TSangweni@environment.gov.za>
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 09:33
To: Wynand Loftus; Coenrad Agenbach; Muhammad Essop
Cc: louis.dewavrin; Sheldon Vandrey; Stephan van den Berg; David Rathobei
Subject: RE: Pre-application meeting minutes and PPP plan for the Upgrade of the Gordonia-Avondale 132kV Transmission Line

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Wynand

The minutes of the meeting and Public Participation Plan is hereby approved.

Regards,

Thabile Sangweni

Control Environmental Officer

Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Private Bag X447

Pretoria

0001

(012) 399 9409

TSangweni@environment.gov.za

From: Wynand Loftus <Wynand.Loftus@zutari.com>

Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 08:21

To: Coenrad Agenbach <Cagenbach@environment.gov.za>; Thabile Sangweni <TSangweni@environment.gov.za>; Muhammad Essop <MEssop@environment.gov.za>

Cc: louis.dewavrin <louis.dewavrin@edf-re.co.za>; Sheldon Vandrey <sheldon.vandrey@edf-re.co.za>; Stephan van den Berg <Stephan.vandenBerg@zutari.com>; David Rathobei <David.Rathobei@zutari.com>

Subject: Pre-application meeting minutes and PPP plan for the Upgrade of the Gordonia-Avondale 132kV Transmission Line

Dear Coenrad and Thabile

Thank you for the pre-application meeting Wednesday last week (14 July 2021) and the guidance provided.

Please find the meeting notes and PPP plan attached for your review and approval. Kindly indicate any required changes. We remain available to discuss should you so require.

Kind regards,

Wynand Loftus *Pr.Sci.Nat., MTech Nat. Cons.*

SENIOR CONSULTANT, ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING | ZUTARI

M +27 72 3542607 E Wynand.Loftus@zutari.com W zutari.com

ZUTARI IMPACT. ENGINEERED.

Disclaimer

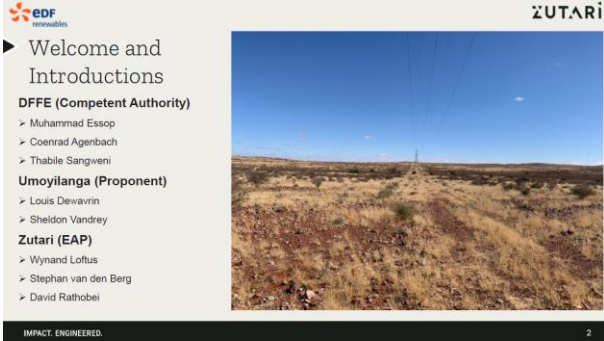
This message and any attachments transmitted with it are intended solely for the addressee(s) and may be legally privileged and/or confidential. If you have received this message in error please destroy it and notify the sender. Any unauthorized usage, disclosure, alteration or dissemination is prohibited. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

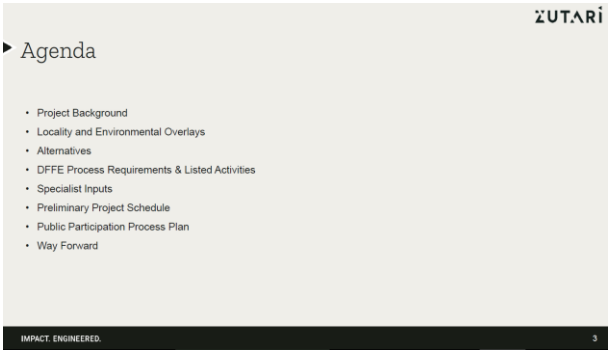
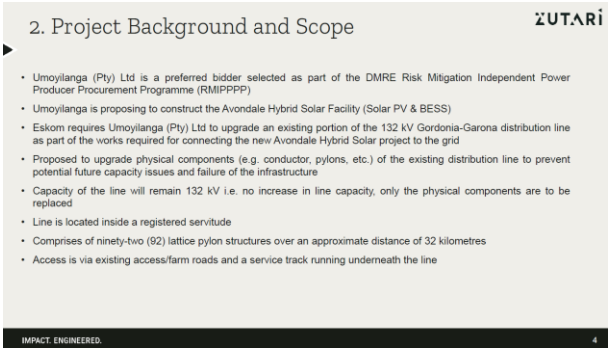
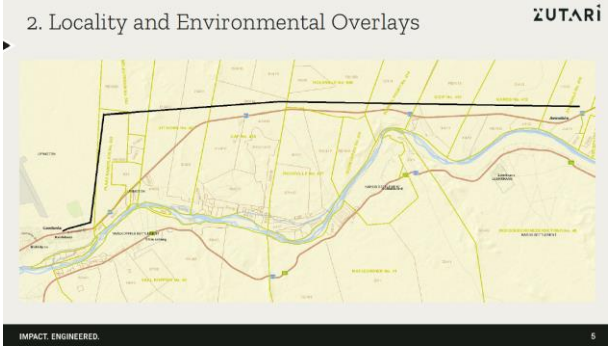

no responsibility for any loss whether it be direct, indirect or consequential, arising from information made available and actions resulting there from. The views and opinions expressed in this e-mail message may not necessarily be those of Management. The processing of personal information by the Department 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.



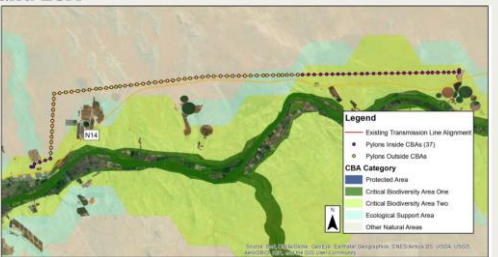
Meeting record

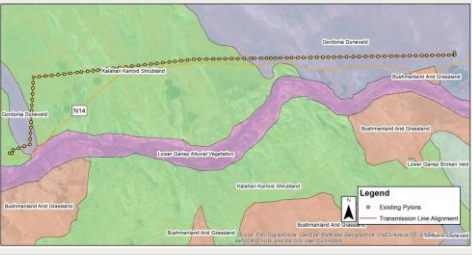


Project number	1001408	Meeting date	2021-07-14
Project name	Proposed upgrade of the Gordonia-Avondale 132kV transmission line	Recorded by	S van den Berg
Meeting/subject	Pre-application meeting	Total pages	7

Name	Organisation	Contact details
Coenrad Agenbach (CA)	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE)	Cagenbach@environment.gov.za
Thabile Sangweni (TS)	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE)	TSangweni@environment.gov.za
Louis Dewavrin (LD)	EDF	louis.dewavrin@edf-re.co.za
Sheldon Vandrey (SV)	EDF	sheldon.vandrey@edf-re.co.za
Wynand Loftus (WL)	Zutari	Wynand.Loftus@Zutari.com
Stephan van den Berg (SvdB)	Zutari	Stephan.vandenBerg@zutari.com
David Rathobei (DR)	Zutari	David.Rathobei@zutari.com
Adriaan Lombard (AL)	Zutari	adriaan.lombard@zutari.com

No	Slide	Person	Comment
1		WL	Did an introduction and requested permission to record the meeting.

No	Slide	Person	Comment
2	 <p>Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Background Locality and Environmental Overlays Alternatives DFFE Process Requirements & Listed Activities Specialist Inputs Preliminary Project Schedule Public Participation Process Plan Way Forward <p>IMPACT ENGINEERED. 3</p>	WL	Presented the agenda for the meeting.
3	 <p>2. Project Background and Scope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Umoyilanga (Pty) Ltd is a preferred bidder selected as part of the DMRE Risk Mitigation Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (RMIPPPP) Umoyilanga is proposing to construct the Avondale Hybrid Solar Facility (Solar PV & BESS) Eskom requires Umoyilanga (Pty) Ltd to upgrade an existing portion of the 132 kV Gordonia-Garona distribution line as part of the works required for connecting the new Avondale Hybrid Solar project to the grid Proposed to upgrade physical components (e.g. conductor, pylons, etc.) of the existing distribution line to prevent potential future capacity issues and failure of the infrastructure Capacity of the line will remain 132 kV i.e. no increase in line capacity, only the physical components are to be replaced Line is located inside a registered servitude Comprises of ninety-two (92) lattice pylon structures over an approximate distance of 32 kilometres Access is via existing access/farm roads and a service track running underneath the line <p>IMPACT ENGINEERED. 4</p>	WL	Presented project background and scope.
		LD	Stated that the RMIPP bid was submitted in December and then Eskom confirmed preferred bidder status. It became clear that there were some discrepancies between the Cost Estimate Letter (CEL) from Eskom and what Eskom requires. The need for this Basic Assessment was not anticipated and will make rebuilding the line prior to Commercial Operation Date (COD) of the project very difficult. He further stated that Eskom requires the line to remain live while construction is underway.
		CA	Requested clarification on the existing line being active and questioned if this will be possible.
		AL	Initially Eskom stated that the line is not in use every day. It is only in use when there is a contingency event somewhere in the Eskom network. The CEL hinted that it will be possible to take the line out of service and then rebuild along the same central line. Eskom subsequently confirmed that the line cannot be taken out for the construction duration of approx. 10 months. Eskom is now undertaking an investigation to determine how long it can be taken offline. This will provide input into how the construction will take place and if it can be done in sections. EDF is awaiting feedback from Eskom.
4	 <p>2. Locality and Environmental Overlays</p>  <p>IMPACT ENGINEERED. 5</p>	WL	Continued presented the locality of the project.

No	Slide	Person	Comment
5	 <p>IMPACT ENGINEERED 6</p>	AL	Explained the technical information regarding the pylons.
6	 <p>IMPACT ENGINEERED 7</p>	WL	Presented the RED Zone in relation to the project site.
7	 <p>IMPACT ENGINEERED 8</p>	WL	Explained that there are 37 pylons in CBA2, and others are in ONA or ESAs.

No	Slide	Person	Comment
8	<p>► Vegetation</p>  <p>IMPACT ENGINEERED 9</p>	WL	Presented the vegetation of the project site.
		CA	Commented that the vegetation map and CBA map do not entirely correlate and there seem so be no link between the two.
9	<p>► Freshwater</p>  <p>IMPACT ENGINEERED 10</p>	WL	Presented on the freshwater resources at the proposed site. He noted that the Gordonia substation popped up as a wetland and that this is likely a mapping error and will be confirmed/denied as part of the field investigations.
10	<p>► Protected Areas</p>  <p>IMPACT ENGINEERED 11</p>	WL	Confirmed that the proposed project is not in the vicinity of any protected areas.
11		WL	Presented the alternatives of the proposed project.

No	Slide	Person	Comment
12	<p>Alternatives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative 1 (preferred): Rebuild the existing lattice structures with monopole structures at the same locations i.e. pylon placements remain the same. Only 88 pylons would have to be rebuilt. Alternative 2: Construct a new 132 kV monopole distribution line to the south of, and parallel to, the existing line. A 31 m wide corridor has been identified for the potential construction of a new line should this alternative have to be implemented pending technical feedback from Eskom; and No-Go option (i.e. use the OHL as it is, possibly subject to a full condition assessment. Keep the Wolf Conductor and install ADSS between Gordonia and Avondale). <p>IMPACT ENGINEERED. 12</p>	CA	Questioned if at this stage the client is waiting on confirmation from Eskom on what they want and therefore not in a position to say which alternative you will follow as a preferred one.
		AL	Confirmed that the preferred alternative is to construct along the same centre line within the existing servitude because then it won't be necessary to acquire a new servitude. The investigation being undertaken by Eskom to determine how often the line must be available will determine if the preferred alternative can go ahead. If the line is required every second or third day then this alternative would be impractical.
		CA	Questioned where alternative 2 will be positioned. From an environmental point of view, it would not be ideal to have two linear impacts within a CBA. It would be best to concentrate them in the existing servitude or right next to one another to limit the footprint in the CBA.
		AL	Responded that Alternative 2 will be constructed parallel to the existing line.
		LD	Commented that from the developer's point of view, constructing the new line is a scenario that may be extremely challenging. It may stop the project if that route must be followed (very lengthy and costly exercise which does not coincide with the RMIPPPP timeline).
		SvdB	Questioned if alternative 2 is the preferred option what will happen to the existing line.
		AL	Responded that the existing line will be decommissioned, but that will be part of Eskom's scope and not part of IPP scope.
12	<p>Pylon Foundations</p> <p>IMPACT ENGINEERED. 13</p>	WL	Continued to present on pylon foundations. Existing span pylons have footprint of 6m x 2.6m and new monopole pylons required by Eskom will have a square footprint of 4m x 4m.
13		WL	Presented on the DFFE requirements. He questioned if the preferred alternative 1 would require a Basic Assessment considering that it is being built in the same location as the existing and is it not in line with the activities already commenced with as part of the construction of the existing line.

No	Slide	Person	Comment
14	<p>► DFFE Process Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion regarding applicability of Listed Activities of the proposed alternatives • Clear that Alternative 2 would trigger the requirement for a Basic Assessment • DFFE to confirm whether Alternative 1 needs to be subjected to Basic Assessment? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New pylons located at the exact same location as existing and within registered servitude • No new access roads to be constructed • Proposed works are to upgrade an existing line components – no increase in capacity • The new pylons would result in an additional footprint of: 1.6m x 4m = 6.4m² per pylon • Are proposed works associated with Alternative 1 in line with the purposes for what the line was originally built and can it be seen as a continuation of the activity commenced with when the existing line was constructed? <p>IMPACT ENGINEERED. 14</p>	CA	Concurred that based on the information provided in the pre-application meeting form Alternative 2 would trigger a Basic Assessment Process. If alternative 1 were a “like for like” scenario it would be considered as maintenance, however it is proposed that there are additional footprints for the pylon foundations and that equals to triggering listed activities [<i>marginal increase of infrastructure footprint at each new pylon</i>]. He confirmed that alternative 1 would trigger a basic assessment and noted that activity 11 of LN 1 [<i>development of infrastructure for distribution of electricity</i>] would not be triggered.
		TS	Agreed with CA statement.
		CA	Further noted that the project may qualify for a SIP as the project is within the Eskom powerline EGI corridor. Shorter timeframe of 57 days will apply for decision making.
		SvdB	Clarified that the requirement for a Basic Assessment was not anticipated by the project team and is being considered based on Eskom’s insistence. Questioned if there is a scenario where a listed activity would not be triggered (i.e. a solution other than doing a Basic Assessment).
		CA	Responded that the only way to not going trigger any activity is the No-go alternative. The second option is purely maintenance, replace like for like (i.e. same pylon position, same footprint, etc), then no activity will be triggered.
		SvdB	Further stated that it has been mentioned that Eskom has previously built lines in existing servitudes without undertaking a Basic Assessment process. Based on CA response he assumed that applies to a maintenance activity or like for like.
		CA	In some cases, there were also a Maintenance Management Plan adopted or approved by the Competent Authority. He further stated that only certain listed activities have the MMP exclusion and that the client / EAP should confirm with Eskom if an approved MMP exists for the old powerline.
	<p>► Specialist Inputs</p> <p>Specialist Studies Commissioned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Botanical – Bergwind Botanical Surveys & Tours CC (Dave McDonald) • Aquatic – EnviroSci (Pty) Ltd (Brian Colloff) • Heritage – Johnny van Schalkwyk • Agriculture – Johann Lantz (site verification report) • Palaeontology – Marion Bamford • Visual – VRMA (Steve Stead) • Avifauna – Arcus Consulting SA (Owen Davies) <p>Site Verification Reports</p> <p>DFFE Screening Tool Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrestrial Ecology / Animal Species • Civil Aviation • Defence • RFI • Geotechnical <p>IMPACT ENGINEERED. 15</p>	WL	Presented on specialist inputs and DFFE screening report.
		CA	Note that the protocols are important. If there is a protocol that is applicable in the screening report the specialists must follow these protocols. Very important make sure that specialist are registered professionals. If the EAP feels that an attribute is not applicable, as indicated in the screening tool, the EAP should provide a proper motivation as to why.
		WL	Noted. Based on the Aquatic Assessment initial feedback a General Authorisation is required from the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation and not a full Water Use License. Asked whether the DFFE is satisfied with the proposed specialist assessments, appointed specialists and site verification reports.
		CA & TS	Stated they are satisfied with the proposed approach to specialist assessments. Reiterated that EAP must ensure protocols for environmental specialist inputs are followed.

No	Slide	Person	Comment
15	<div> <div> </div> <div> <h3>Preliminary Project Schedule</h3> </div> </div>	WL	Presented the preliminary project schedule.
		CA	Questions if the submission of the application form will be in mid-August because of the Eskom feedback that the client is waiting on.
		WL	Confirmed the EAP/Client is waiting on feedback from Eskom and the specialist reports will only be available in August. Requested if the DFFE will be satisfied if the App form and the Draft BAR for comment are submitted simultaneously?
		CA	Agreed that this approach can be followed.
16	<div> <div> </div> <div> <h3>PPP Plan</h3> </div> </div>	CA	Stated that the next step is to submit the meeting minutes and PPP Plan to the department for approval. He further stated that he did look at the PPP Plan and he thinks it requires more detail and specifics regarding which Library the reports will be kept at and which electronic platforms will be used. He also stated that the department has a turnaround time of 48 hours to approve the minutes and PPP Plans.
		WL	Noted.
		TS	Questioned when the department can expect the meeting minutes to be submitted.
		WL	Stated by Friday afternoon.
17	<div> <div> </div> <div> <h3>Way Forward</h3> </div> </div>	WL	Thanked everyone for attending and concluded.

PPP Plan – Proposed upgrade of the Gordonia-Avondale 132kV transmission line

To	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) Coenrad Agenbach (Cagenbach@environment.gov.za) Thabile Sangweni (TSangweni@environment.gov.za) Muhammad Essop (MEssop@environment.gov.za)
From	Zutari (Wynand Loftus; Wynand.Loftus@Zutari.com)
Copy	Louis Dewavrin (louis.dewavrin@edf-re.co.za) Sheldon Vandrey (sheldon.vandrey@edf-re.co.za) Stephan van den Berg (Stephan.vandenBerg@zutari.com) David Rhatobei (David.Rathobei@zutari.com)
Date	2021-07-16
Subject	Upgrade of the Gordonia-Avondale 132kV Transmission Line – PPP Plan
Reference	1001408
Total pages	3

1. CONTEXT

On 15 March 2020 a National State of Disaster was declared in terms of COVID-19 which has since been extended and is still in place. Regulations, as well as numerous Directions, have since the declaration of the National State of Disaster been issued in terms of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002) (“DMA”) regarding COVID-19 related measures. During December 2020 amendments to the Lockdown Regulations were published in terms of the DMA, which put South Africa back in Alert Level 3¹.

On 31 March 2020 Directions were issued by the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment in respect of the undertaking and administration of Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) and related processes during the Lockdown².

On 5 June 2020 new Directions were issued by the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment in respect of the undertaking and administration of EIA and related processes during Lockdown Alert Level 3.3. The Directions of 5 June 2020 repealed the Directions of 31 March 2020. The duration of the Directions of 5 June 2020 came to an end at midnight on 17 August 2020³.

On 9 September 2020 new Directions were issued by the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment in respect of the undertaking and administration of EIA and related processes during the national state of disaster declared in terms of COVID-19⁴. The Directions of 9 September 2020 came into effect from 9 September 2020 and apply for as long as the national state of disaster declared in terms of COVID-19 remains in place (i.e. irrespective of the Alert Level that is in place, the Directions of 9 September 2020 apply for as long as the national state of disaster is still in place).

To ensure that reasonable notice is given to potential and registered interested and affected parties (“I&APs”), the competent authority should be approached with a proposed Public Participation Plan

¹ The Regulations, Directions and Guidelines published by National Government in respect of COVID-19 are available at: <https://www.gov.za/coronavirus/guidelines>.

² Government Notice No. R.439 in Government Gazette No. 43190 of 31 March 2020.

³ Government Notice No. 650 in Government Gazette No. 43412 of 5 June 2020.

⁴ Government Notice No. 970 in Government Gazette No. 43696 on 9 September 2020.

setting out all the public participation steps proposed. This should be approved by the competent authority prior to commencement of any Public Participation Process (PPP).

In line with the above Directions we submit the proposed Public Participation Plan for the Proposed upgrade of the Gordonia-Avondale 132kV transmission line Basic Assessment Environmental Process, to the competent authority namely the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, for approval.

The Pre-Application Meeting on 14 July 2021 regarding this project also refers (meeting minutes attached).

2. UPGRADE OF THE GORDONIA-AVONDALE 132KV TRANSMISSION LINE, UPINGTON, NORTHERN CAPE

This memo serves as a Public Participation Plan for the Basic Assessment Environmental Process for the 'Upgrade of the Gordonia-Avondale 132kV Transmission Line' project. The application details are as follows:

- **Title:** Upgrade of the Gordonia-Avondale 132kV Transmission Line
- **Proponent:** Umoyilanga (Pty) Ltd
- **DDFE Ref Number:** Application not yet made

The project's PPP framework for the Basic Assessment is set out below.

The proposed PPP for the project will comply with the PPP requirements of the Environmental Regulations:

	Regulation	Task / Comment
1.	In terms of Regulation 41 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) -	
(a)	fixing a notice board at a place conspicuous to and accessible by the public at the boundary, on the fence or along the corridor of -	Two site notices have been erected at the site. One at the Gordonia Substation just outside Upington and one on the boundary fence/gate of the farm where the Avondale Hybrid Solar Project will be constructed (i.e. one at either end of the section of line to be upgraded).
(i)	the site where the activity to which the application relates is or is to be undertaken; and	
(ii)	any alternative site.	
(b)	giving written notice, in any manner provided for in section 47D of the NEMA, to –	Notification will be given to all relevant parties as per the requirements of the Regulations. Notifications will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> distributed via email, post, fax or sms or as the situation requires. Inform the public of the project and the availability for the Draft BAR for review and comment. Provide background information to the project and what is being proposed. Include details of the EAP. Details on how to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP).
(i)	the occupiers of the site and, if the applicant is not the owner or person in control of the site on which the activity is to be undertaken, the owner or person in control of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;	
(ii)	owners, persons in control of, and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;	
(iii)	the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site or alternative site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represent the community in the area;	
(iv)	the municipality (Local and District Municipality) which has jurisdiction in the area;	

(v)	any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and	
vi)	any other party as required by the Competent Authority;	
(c)	placing an advertisement in -	
(i)	one local newspaper; or	An advertisement shall be placed in the 'Gemsbok' local newspaper. The advert will comply with the minimum requirements of the Regulations and will inform the public of the availability of the Draft BAR for review and comment, comment period date, to whom and how to submit comment.
(ii)	any official <i>Gazette</i> that is published specifically for the purpose of providing public notice of applications or other submissions made in terms of these Regulations;	Local newspaper shall be used for placement of an advertisement.
(d)	placing an advertisement in at least one provincial newspaper or national newspaper, if the activity has or may have an impact that extends beyond the boundaries of the metropolitan or district municipality in which it is or will be undertaken.	Project does not extend beyond the boundaries of the metropolitan or district municipality.
(e)	using reasonable alternative methods, as agreed to by the Department, in those instances where a person is desirous of but unable to participate in the process due to— (i) illiteracy;(ii) disability; or (iii) any other disadvantage.	Alternative methods shall be used if any such instance comes to the attention of the project team.

The following is also relevant in terms of PPP:

- No pre-application PPP will be undertaken
- The formal PPP process will commence post submission (or at the same time) of the BA application form, as agreed to by DFFE during the Pre-App Meeting on 14 July 2021.
- One hard copy of the Draft BAR will be lodged at the Upington public library in Mutual Street (next to the Dawid Kruiper Municipality's offices). A bottle of hand sanitiser shall be placed with the hard copy, together with a notice reminding readers to sanitise their hand before reading the document.
- The Draft BAR will also be made available online via Google Drive and the link provided in all PPP notifications regarding the comment period.
- No open house meeting or public meetings will form part of the PPP.
- A register of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) shall be maintained.
- A 30-day comment period will be provided.

3. SCHEDULE

Date of submission of the Basic Assessment Application Form is unclear at this stage as specialists are in the process of finalising their studies, however it is anticipated that the Application Form together with the Draft BAR will be submitted to the DFFE by mid-August 2021.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you wish to discuss the content of this memo.