

**SERURUBELE SOLAR POWER PROJECT (PTY) LTD.**

[Per e-mail: [berlijn@subsolar.co.za](mailto:berlijn@subsolar.co.za) & [venter@subsolar.co.za](mailto:venter@subsolar.co.za)]

**10 March 2021**

**To whom it may concern:**

**SPECIALIST INPUT FOR THE PART 2 AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (EA): AS PART OF THE SERURUBELE PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR POWER PROJECT NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE**

1. The Palaeontological study/assessment as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) conducted for the Serurubele Solar Power Plant (SPP) (DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/675) on the Remainning Extent of the farm Blydschap No.504, Registration Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, refers.
2. The Solar plant was tendered to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) in December 2020. To improve the desirability and efficiency of the proposed project, the following amendments were applied for in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended in 2017):

- Inclusion of a battery storage system

The capacity of the battery storage facility per project will be kept in standard shipment containers or smaller containers (“blocks”) as might be proposed by selected supplier with an area of approximately 2ha. The battery to be installed will be lithium-ion and no electrolytes will be transported to and handled on site. Battery cells will be assembled at the supplier factory prior to delivery to the sites. The battery storage facility will be located within the already authorized PV plant footprint area. There will be no need for the additional clearance of more than 2 ha of vegetation for the development of a new area for the battery storage facility.

Increasing capacity of the plant to up to 115MWdc

Due to new and advanced technology of panels (470W and Bi-facial) the same amount of panels may be used as specified previously but will be able to generate more megawatts on the same area. The DMRE no longer caps projects at 75MW under the RMIPPPP, which means that developers may tender for larger capacity (if the grid can accommodate it).

- The location and coordinates of the access road

Due to the change of the facility layout and location of the on-site Substation, it is proposed that the access to the facility be amended. The width of the proposed new route will be less than 8 meters and will not trigger any listed activities.

- Amending the location of inverters, buildings and internal roads within the development footprint (revised layout)

Due to the increase of capacity (MW), inclusion of battery storage and the spacing between panels, a new layout had to be designed which changed the citing of the infrastructure as well as the sizes of the demarcated areas for the associated infrastructure (the substation, laydown area, office, staff room and security room).

3. We hereby confirm that the proposed amendments are unlikely to result in any significant additional impacts regarding palaeontological heritage resources, or to increase the level or nature of the anticipated impacts, with respect to those considered when the original application was made for an EA. It is recommended, however, that a condition be added to the EA which states that a field-based specialist paleontological heritage assessment must be conducted following the approval of the EA amendment and before construction starts in order to more accurately assess any potential impacts and to propose site-specific mitigation measures, should these be required.
4. We trust you find the above in order. If there are any uncertainties or additional information required, please feel free to contact the undersigned.



**Dr John E. Almond**

**Palaeontologist**

***Natura Viva cc***

**PO Box 12410 Mill Street**

**CAPE TOWN 8001, RSA**