

PROPOSED RAMPHELE PV SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT: I&APs & STAKEHOLDERS

Comments Received

No.	Issue	Raised by	Response
<i>General</i>			
1	We hereby acknowledge receipt of your e-mail pertaining to the above-mentioned project of which the content is noted. The matter has been referred to Mr. Mutyorauta for input and comments.	T. Wessels, Northern Cape Provincial Government, comment by e-mail, 04 August 2011.	Comment noted.
2	I own the property to the west of the proposed solar energy facility and reside 5 kilometers from the site.	Adriaan Naude, neighbouring farmer and landowner, comment by fax, 18 July 2011.	Comment noted and you are now registered on the project database.
3	Must be part of the project as a district municipality.	Molwantwa Selogilwe, Francis Baard District Municipality, Senior Town and Regional Planner, comment by fax, 18 July 2011.	Comment noted and you are now registered on the project database.
4	We appreciate the inputs of renewable energy and our municipality is supportive of all green projects. We are looking at making Kimberley a green hub for renewable energy in the Northern Cape. As you know Kimberley faces numerous power supply issues.	Bobby Buchanan, Sol Plaatjie Focus Group Meeting, 27 July 2011.	Comment noted.
5	There are a large number of environmental impact assessments being done for solar energy facilities in the Kimberley area. You need to take note of them.	Bobby Buchanan, Sol Plaatjie Focus Group Meeting, 27 July 2011.	We are aware of some of the independent power producers doing studies throughout the region.

No.	Issue	Raised by	Response
6	Thank you for your input on the Ramphele project. Please note that this project will fall under the Siyancuma Municipality in Douglas and the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality in De Aar.	Bobby Buchanan, Sol Plaatjie Focus Group Meeting, 27 July 2011.	We have been intouched with the two municipalities and have forwarded the background information document and draft scoping report to them by registered mail. A focus group meeting was also conducted with the District Municipality
7	Thank you for mailing me the background information document and the draft scoping report for the proposed Ramphele PV Solar Energy Facility on behalf of the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality. I have placed this project on the district project list.	Sindisile Madyo, Pixley ka Seme District Municipality Focus Group Meeting, 11 August 2011.	We would appreciate your comments. The documents were also sent to the Municipal Manager, Mr. Isaac W J Stadhouer at the Siyancuma Municipality in Douglas for comments.
8	Can you provide us with a map of all the proposed Solar Capital solar PV projects for the Pixley ka Seme District Municipal area?	Sindisile Madyo, Pixley ka Seme District Municipality Focus Group Meeting, 11 August 2011.	We would identify all the projects and provide your municipality with all the background information documents. To date we have provided you with: 1. Solar Capital De Aar Solar PV; and, 2. Solar Capital Ramphele PV Solar Energy Facilities.
9	How soon do you hope to start the full environmental impact assessment?	Sindisile Madyo, Pixley ka Seme District Municipality Focus Group Meeting, 11 August 2011.	In about two to three months.
10	Can we meet with the project developer during the environmental impact assessment phase?	Sindisile Madyo, Pixley ka Seme District Municipality Focus Group Meeting, 11 August 2011.	A meeting will be scheduled.
11	We would be interested to clarify the job creation and skills development opportunities for the Solar Capital projects.	Sindisile Madyo, Pixley ka Seme District Municipality Focus Group Meeting, 11 August 2011.	Comment noted.

No.	Issue	Raised by	Response
12	I will follow-up with the Siyancuma Municipality about the Ramphele PV Solar Energy Facility.	Sindisile Madyo, Pixley ka Seme District Municipality Focus Group Meeting, 11 August 2011.	We will also have detailed follow-up meetings with the Municipality.
13	We have a large influx of people from the farms into the town of Ritchie. People are extremely poor and unemployment is quite high in this area.	Councillor Obennie Moseki, Ritchie Focus Group Meeting, 28 July 2011.	Comment noted.
14	I think you need to inform a broader portion of the farming community in this area.	Adriaan Naude, Magersfontein Public Meeting, 28 July 2011.	We will make sure all farmers are informed and we will be having follow-up meetings with the farmers association in the area.
15	When will the full environmental impact assessment phase start?	Alan Shergold, Magersfontein Public Meeting, 28 July 2011.	In about two months' time.
16	By when would you like to start building the solar plant?	Alan Shergold, Magersfontein Public Meeting, 28 July 2011.	The developer is proposing to start construction possibly by March 2012 if all approvals are received.
17	My property is next to the proposed site. I have a business in Modderrivier.	Stephanus Phillipus van Niekerk, landowner, comment by reply form, 18 October 2011.	Comment noted.
18	Mokala is a National Park in the Ritchie area.	Deon joubert, Park Manager, Mokala National Park, comment by reply from, 18 October 2011.	Comment noted.
19	Would like to migrate to solar energy. Maybe I can provide the project with diesel.	Hannellie Heckroodt, Modderrivier Diesel Supplier, comment by reply form, 18 October 2011.	Comment noted.

No.	Issue	Raised by	Response
20	Dear Mr. Johnston, Receipt of your email pertaining to the above is hereby acknowledged of which the content is noted. The matter has been forwarded to Mr J Mutyorauta for his attention and action. Regards	T. Wessels, Northern Cape Provincial Government, comment by e-mail, 12 December 2011.	Comment noted.
21	We have made sure all the surrounding farmers have been informed about the process and the meetings through the farmers association.	Alan Shergold, farmer, comment at Magersfontein public meeting, 28 september 2011.	Shawn Johnston: We want to thank you for providing us with the list and contact details of each farmer. They were all sent a registered letter with the background information document and reply form.
22	I see that your presentation on the draft environmental impact assessment have not changed much from the scoping phase.	Adriaan Naude, farmer, comment at Magersfontein public meeting, 28 september 2011.	The project has no environmental flaws and we have made a number of recommendations which the developer would have to implement.
23	Are you still looking at the project creating a large number of jobs in both the construction and operational phases?	Adriaan Naude, farmer, comment at Magersfontein public meeting, 28 september 2011.	Mercia Grimbeek: Yes we are looking at utilising a large number of local labour for the construction and operational phase of the project. We would clarify this in the near future.
24	Have you spoken to all the relevant government departments	Alan Shergold, farmer, comment at Magersfontein public meeting, 28 september 2011.	We have been engaging with the different organs of state throughout the EIA process.
25	I do not see any objection to this project. I believe the community of Modderrivier and Ritchie would support a renewable energy project like this.	Adriaan Naude, farmer, comment at Magersfontein public meeting, 28 september 2011.	Comment noted.
26	Please note if you are interested in expanding your project and require additional land, please consult with me.	Adriaan Naude, farmer, comment at Magersfontein public meeting, 28 september 2011.	Mercia Grimbeek: Comment noted.

No.	Issue	Raised by	Response
27	As Adriaan indicated we do not foresee any problems with the development. Please keep us informed of the outcomes of the environmental impact assessment study.	Alan Shergold, farmer, comment at Magersfontein public meeting, 28 september 2011.	Comment noted.
28	Our area has become a very popular place for solar energy projects. We have a number of projects in the Douglas area that completed their full environmental impact assessments already.	Gerhard Beukes, Siyancuma Municipality Douglas, comment at focus group meeting, 28 September 2011.	Comment noted.
29	I will follow-up with the municipal manager, Mr. Stadhouer about the scoping report and environmental impact assessment reports that were sent to the Siyancuma Municipality. In future please send the reports to both the municipal manager and me.	Gerhard Beukes, Siyancuma Municipality Douglas, comment at focus group meeting, 28 September 2011.	Reports were sent to the Municipality
30	Please note all rezoning and building plan applications would have to come to the Siyancuma Municipality here in Douglas.	Gerhard Beukes, Siyancuma Municipality Douglas, comment at focus group meeting, 28 September 2011.	Mercia Grimbeek: Thank you for clarifying that point.
31	It would be important for you to keep the Siyancuma Municipality informed of progress made and maybe you should request to do a presentation to the full council closer to the time. I can help with facilitating such a meeting.	Gerhard Beukes, Siyancuma Municipality Douglas, comment at focus group meeting, 28 September 2011.	Mercia Grimbeek: Thank you for the suggestion and I will take you up on your offer of assistance in do a presenation to the Siyancuma Municipality.
Fauna			
32	You would need to be aware of the bush pigs (vlakvark) in the area. They dig under fences and might be a problem on the solar energy facility.	Adriaan Naude, Magersfontein Public Meeting, 28 July 2011.	Comment noted.
Power			

No.	Issue	Raised by	Response
33	How many megawatts do you proposed to produce on the site?	Alan Shergold, Magersfontein Public Meeting, 28 July 2011.	The developer is proposing a maximum of 100 megawatts with 45 megawatts developed in the first phase. However, this is still to be confirmed in the EIA phase.
34	What can be done with 45 mega watts?	Alan Shergold, Magersfontein Public Meeting, 28 July 2011.	According to the developer one can power a small town like Kimberley with this capacity.
35	Will the substation be able to handle the power input?	Alan Shergold, Magersfontein Public Meeting, 28 July 2011.	Preliminary discussions between the developer and Eskom indicate that the facility will be able to.
Footprint			
36	Is the project not too close to the N12 National Road?	Adriaan Naude, Magersfontein Public Meeting, 28 July 2011.	The developer will create a buffer between the road and the facility. Of biggest concern to the developer would be vandalism on a project of this nature. They are currently proposing a 250 barrier between the road and the first row of solar panels.
37	How many hectares will the facility be on?	Adriaan Naude, Magersfontein Public Meeting, 28 July 2011.	About 400 hectares at an allocation of 4ha per megawatt of installed capacity.
38	Will you construct one main access route to the site?	Adriaan Naude, Magersfontein Public Meeting, 28 July 2011.	The developer is currently looking at only one access from the main access road. However, this will be clarified in the site layout which will be made available during the EIA phase.
39	How high will the solar panels be from the ground?	Adriaan Naude, Magersfontein Public Meeting, 28 July 2011.	About one 3 metres.
40	When will maintenance be done?	Adriaan Naude, Magersfontein Public Meeting, 28 July 2011.	Some of it during the day and but most of it at night.

No.	Issue	Raised by	Response
Labour and Social Investment			
41	Will you be using foreigners to build the plant?	Bobby Buchanan, Sol Plaatjie Focus Group Meeting, 27 July 2011.	As proposed by the developer, the project will be built by South Africans with inputs from international specialist. However, they are looking at making this a holistic South African project with the bulk of the work and manufacturing being done by South Africans. The developer notes that these types of projects are new to South African and they would need the assistance of industry specialist, however it will be built by South Africans.
42	What types of relationships exist with the local farming community?	Bobby Buchanan, Sol Plaatjie Focus Group Meeting, 27 July 2011.	The developer notes that they had positive interactions with the landowners and the projects have been well received. Consultation is on-going with all interested and affected parties.
43	We are happy with your presentation. You have covered employment, food security and the strengthening of the local Northern Cape electricity grid.	Bobby Buchanan, Sol Plaatjie Focus Group Meeting, 27 July 2011.	Comment noted.
44	Will you be focusing on skills transference for local communities as part of your project?	Desmond Lang, Sol Plaatjie Focus Group Meeting, 27 July 2011.	Kevin Anderson (developer): Yes we have and it is an integral part of how we will develop the project with major South African input. We have another project at De Aar and we would look at an academy to assist with skills developemt and training. So we are looking at job creation and skills development in a holistic way. We are also looking at a research and development component for new technology.
45	We would support the idea of training youth and especially the point of training them at tertiary and university level to become electrical and chemical engineers to work in the solar energy industry.	Bobby Buchanan, Sol Plaatjie Focus Group Meeting, 27 July 2011.	Kevin Anderson: We are looking at empowering and growing South Africans to become qualified engineers to service the solar industry. This will be part of our corporate social investment.

No.	Issue	Raised by	Response
46	Our town is the closest town to your project and we would like to see that you employ local people from Ritchie in the Ramphele project.	Obennie Moseki, Ritchie Focus Group Meeting, 28 July 2011.	Kevin Anderson: We need to understand the community and create a profile of the community. We will be looking at employing local people from the area. Some specialist skilled in the solar industry will be brought in to assist. As part of our social investment programme we will clarify how job creation and partnership will be forged with the local communities.
47	We would want to see local people get the jobs and would not be in favour of importing people from Kimberley, Bloemfontein and Johannesburg.	Obennie Moseki, Ritchie Focus Group Meeting, 28 July 2011.	Kevin Anderson: Comment noted.
48	Will you fund students and youth to go and study as specialist in solar energy?	George Koopman, Ritchie Focus Group Meeting, 28 July 2011.	Kevin Anderson: We are looking at a social investment programme with an academy that would support youth and learners from this area in skills development. We will clarify this as the project develops.
49	We would like to see that we create the atmosphere for open communications on this project.	Obennie Moseki, Ritchie Focus Group Meeting, 28 July 2011.	Kevin Anderson: We welcome your proposal and we will provide you with all of our contact details.
50	When will the social impact assessment be done?	George Koopman, Ritchie Focus Group Meeting, 28 July 2011.	A desktop scoping assessment was conducted. Detailed studies will be conducted during the environmental impact assessment phase.
51	What type of people do you need for this project? Do you have a profile for your solar farmers?	George Koopman, Ritchie Focus Group Meeting, 28 July 2011.	Kevin Anderson: We would be looking at a range of people. We are looking at the community in a holistic way and this is where we would need the help from the community. We are looking at establishing a community trust with the community becoming shareholders in the project.

No.	Issue	Raised by	Response
52	Who will supply your solar panels?	Alan Shergold, Magersfontein Public Meeting, 28 July 2011.	Kevin Anderson: We are looking at Suntech, one of the largest solar panel suppliers in the world. However, we are looking at manufacturing all the other components in South Africa.
53	How many people will you employ on the project during construction?	Adriaan Naude Magersfontein Public Meeting, 28 July 2011.	Kevin Anderson: We are looking at having about 450 people on site during the construction phase. All staff will be bussed in and out of the site on a daily basis.
54	Hope it creates jobs for the community? I see solar as the future.	Hannellie Heckroodt, Modderivier Diesel Supplier, comment by reply form, 18 October 2011.	Comment noted.
Safety & Security			
55	Around the plant you will have the security fencing. So there will be no movement from the solar plant onto surrounding farms.	Adriaan Naude Magersfontein Public Meeting, 28 July 2011.	Kevin Anderson: That is correct. One entrance and exit point onto the solar plant.
Micro-climate			
56	Will this project change the microclimate in the area?	Obennie Moseki, Ritchie Focus Group Meeting, 28 July 2011.	No it will not change the micro climate of the area.
Heritage			
57	Obennie Moseki: I understand you need to do all the impact studies. The area is known for its battlefields, how far is it from any known sites.	Obennie Moseki, Ritchie Focus Group Meeting, 28 July 2011.	Sections of the site are part of the area where the battle of Modder river took place.
58	How far do you have to be from the Magersfontein battlefield and heritage area?	Adriaan Naude Magersfontein Public Meeting, 28 July 2011.	Sections of the site are part of the area where the battle of Modder river took place. We need to clarify this with the heritage specialist.

No.	Issue	Raised by	Response
59	<p>The Permits Committee of Ngwao Boswa yaKapa Bokone would like to thank you for opportunity given to take part on the EIA and public participation processes for the proposed project. The committee supports the recommendations of the report.</p> <p>In conclusion please note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the views of Ngwao Boswa ya Boswa Bokone expressed above do not exempt the proposed project from compliance with planning or any other legislation • The South African Heritage Resources Agency, SAHRA, for the present still handles all archaeological matters in the Northern Cape Province and hence all impact assessment matters relating to heritage resources have to be referred to its Cape Town office as well as Ngwao Boswa ya Kapa Bokwone. 	M.J. Sinthumule, Accounting Officer: Heritage Resource Management, Ngwao Boswa ya Kapa Bokone, comment by letter, 28 July 2011.	Comment noted.
Visual Impacts			
60	I believe that there will be no visual impacts on the surrounding farms as most of the farm houses are isolated from the proposed site.	Adriaan Naude Magersfontein Public Meeting, 28 July 2011.	Comment noted.
61	Concerned about visual.	Adriaan Naude, neighbouring farmer and landowner, comment by fax, 18 July 2011.	Detailed visual impact assessment will be conducted during the EIA phase.
62	Visual impact for visitors of the park.	Deon joubert, Park Manager, Mokala National Park, comment by reply from, 18 October 2011.	Comment noted.

No.	Issue	Raised by	Response
Property Prices			
63	The influence of the project on neighbouring property.	Adriaan Naude, neighbouring farmer and landowner, comment by fax, 18 July 2011.	Comment noted.
Ecology			
64	Please register me as an interested party for this project (DEA Ref No 12/12/20/2124) and send me the BID, notices of meetings and follow up reports. There are a number of sensitive biodiversity areas near this site, especially i.t.o. of the avifauna, and I recommend therefore that an avifauna specialist be contracted to do an avifauna study separately to any ecological or fauna study that may be required/undertaken. BirdLife SA could advise on the appropriate avifauna specialist for this region.	Tania Anderson, Ecologist, Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa – Northern Cape Province, comment by e-mail, 10 June 2011.	Comment noted.

No.	Issue	Raised by	Response
65	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DSR. I have one serious issue that needs to be investigated and addressed in the EIA phase. I did mention when I registered WESSA:NC as an IP (10 June) that the ecological specialist should contact me with regards to plant species of conservation concern present at the proposed site. It is noted that the ecological study for the DSR is only a desktop at this stage and a field survey is planned during the EIA phase. Therefore I expect that the specialist will locate the Red Data listed plant species and possibly other species of conservation concern on site during the field study and map their populations as highly sensitive (with a 300m buffer zone) as has been done for the wetlands on site.</p>	<p>Tania Anderson, Ecologist, Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa – Northern Cape Province, comment by e-mail, 04 August 2011.</p>	<p>Your comments have been forwarded to the ecologist who will be contacting you during the EIA phase studies.</p>

No.	Issue	Raised by	Response
66	Of greatest concern is the Red Data listed plant <i>Lithops lesliei</i> subsp <i>lesliei</i> var. <i>hornii</i> which is Near Threatened (Red Data List 2011) and is also a protected species (NC Nature Conservation Bill 2009). It is only known from three localities within a very limited area of distribution (around Ritchie) and has very specific habitat requirements. This variety of the species has a restricted range of < 2 000 km ² , and therefore no further loss of its habitat should take place. Destroying this population and its habitat would increase its threatened status and extinction risk. It can therefore not be translocated and the option of a search and rescue (and ex situ conservation) is not supported nor recommended by SANBI for Red Data List plant species.	Tania Anderson, Ecologist, Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa – Northern Cape Province, comment by e-mail, 04 August 2011.	Comments noted and also forwarded to the ecologist to consider during the EIA phase investigations and recommendations thereof.
67	Quarry sites for material for roads or foundation construction etc must also be identified and mapped/geo-referenced during the EIA phase. Often quarries are not included as activities that may add to the impacts in a development and assessed in the EIA, but quarrying can also destroy very restricted populations of rare plants which are habitat specialists like <i>Lithops</i> . Obviously potential quarry sites should not be proposed or located within any highly sensitive areas mapped by the specialists. I trust that the above will be addressed during the EIA phase and please keep me posted as to the availability of the EIA report for comment.	Tania Anderson, Ecologist, Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa – Northern Cape Province, comment by e-mail, 04 August 2011.	No quarries or burrow pits are proposed as the developer is proposing the use of commercially available material.

No.	Issue	Raised by	Response
Forestry			
68	Page 48 and 50 of the DSR refers to potential impacts on fauna, flora and ecology and specifically protected tree species. It mentioned that two species have a geographical distribution that includes the study area, namely <i>Acacia erioloba</i> and <i>Boscia albitrunca</i> . Please note that <i>Acacia haemotoxylon</i> also have the probability of occurring in the area (south eastern distribution unit).	Jacoline Mans, Chief Forester, NFA Regulation, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, comment by e-mail, 10 August 2011.	Comment noted.
69	None of the Northern Upper Karoo is formally conserved in statutory conservation areas. The conservation target is 21% and about 4% is already irreversibly transformed (the highest proportion of any vegetation type in the Nama-Karoo biome). This vegetation type may contain biogeographically important taxa, as well as endemic succulent shrubs, low shrubs and herbs. An effort should be made to relocate such species if found on site and affected by the proposed development.	Jacoline Mans, Chief Forester, NFA Regulation, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, comment by e-mail, 10 August 2011.	Comment noted.
View Protection Zone			
70	View protection area.	Deon Joubert, Park Manager, Mokala National Park, comment by e-mail, 10 July 2011.	Comment noted.

No.	Issue	Raised by	Response
Agriculture			
71	<p>This Department does not support the abovementioned application as it will change the agricultural character of the area. The land parcels concerned has agricultural potential and are currently being used for agricultural purposes. The protection of agricultural land for agricultural purposes is of utmost importance to ensure food security in the country.</p> <p>Power plants have the potential to complement farming activities on farm, provided that it is done in the correct manner, with no negative impact on the status of the natural resource base. The proposed photovoltaic power plant will have a significant influence on the property as it will sterilize the area from further agricultural activities.</p>	Anneliza Collet, National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, comment by letter, 13 October 2011.	Based on the preliminary layout provided for assessment during the EIA phase, the proposed development has avoided the current irrigated agricultural areas. The section of the site proposed for development has been deemed to be of low agricultural potential through specialist studies conducted during the EIA phase. This information and proposed layout will be sent to the Department for further comments.