

# PROPOSED VISSERSPAN SOLAR PV FACILITY – PROJECT 3

APPLICANT: Ventura Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd

## PRE-APPLICATION COMMENT AND RESPONSE TRAIL REPORT

(Public participation comment period started 13 November 2019 and ended 15 December 2019)

(DEFF Ref. No: To be provided)

No.	Comment Date, Comment Format, Organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist/Project Manager
1	<p><b>Date:</b> 14/11/2019 <b>Format:</b> Email <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Mr. Sello Meko, Demand and Acquisition, Free State Department of Health, Bloemfontein</p>	<p>With reference to Visserspan Solar PV Facility - Project 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Request for authority to inform consumers regarding what type of source of electricity is being supplied to consumers (i.e. renewable vs. non-renewable) since I&amp;AP claims that non-renewable should be cheaper.</li> <li>ii. Complaint that the cost of electricity is not affordable and the electricity tariff should go down as the country stabilises as renewable energy input increases.</li> <li>iii. Comment that the energy harvested from renewable sources should have a storage system and use of renewable energy for national supply should be disclosed to the public.</li> <li>iv. Suggestion that any product produced using renewable energy should be taxed at a lower rate.</li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. to vi. Cognisance taken of comments.</li> <li>v. Individual registered as an I&amp;AP. Email notification of same and of availability of DBAR sent 06/03/2020.</li> </ul>
2	<p><b>Date:</b> 18/11/2019 <b>Format:</b> Email <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Ms. Primrose Ndzululeka</p>	<p>With reference to Visserspan Solar PV Facility - Project 1, several statements made on what appears to be another company/organisation (no company name/details provided):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Entity 'keeps the lights on' when state entities fail to.</li> <li>ii. Lights are 'kept on' at affordable prices through the use of solar panels.</li> <li>iii. Potential customers will have power when the rest of the country has outages.</li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. to vi. Cognisance taken of comments.</li> <li>vii. Registration of organisation (represented by contact individual) as an I&amp;AP included since a second email was received shortly after the current one with more contact details. Email notification of same and of availability of DBAR sent 06/03/2020.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iv. Entity differs from competitors since they also supply road lighting.</li> <li>v. Entity claims to have a team that specialises in installing solar panels and determining customers' needs.</li> <li>vi. The biggest milestone reached is getting a local supplier and contributing towards the country's economy and the next target milestone is to sell 10 000 solar panels by the end of 2020.</li> </ul>	
3	<p><b>Date:</b> 18/11/2019  <b>Format:</b> Second email  <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Ms. Primrose Ndzululeka, Golden Four Trading</p>	<p>A second email received shortly after the above email but no specific project number specified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Proposal to purchase solar panels from Golden Four Trading for solar powered irrigation and solar power street lights for the proposed developments.</li> <li>ii. Comment that Golden Four Trading sold solar powered irrigation panels to Glen College with effective results (lasting up to 10 years with minimum maintenance).</li> <li>iii. Statement that electricity tariffs are high at the proposed facility will be high primarily due to irrigation systems and other electrical equipment. In addition, electricity demand fluctuates with peak demands in the morning and evenings.</li> <li>iv. Statement that solar panels are part of the fourth industrial revolution and the proposed facility should purchase solar panels at the prices provided.</li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. to vi. Cognisance taken of comments.</li> <li>v. Registration of organisation (represented by contact individual) as an I&amp;AP for all projects. Email notification of same and of availability of DBAR sent 06/03/2020.</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>Date:</b> 18/11/2019  <b>Format:</b> Email  <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Mr. Albertus Teseling representing Concordia Trust</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Request for registration as an I&amp;AP (for Visserspan Solar PV Facility no project number specified)</li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Registration of organisation (represented by contact individual) for all projects. Email notification of same and of availability of DBAR sent 02/03/2020.</li> <li>ii. <b>Note:</b> Email from I&amp;AP was forwarded from Mr. Pieter Venter who sent with a group email the initial maildrop information sheets for Projects 1 to 4, to several entities – all addresses in forwarded email added to I&amp;AP register and email notification of same and of availability of DBAR sent 06/03/2020.</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Date:</b> 18/11/2019  <b>Format:</b> Email  <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Mr. Ralph Damonse, Pontus Consulting (Pty) Ltd, Panorama, Cape Town</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Request for registration as an I&amp;AP for Visserspan Solar PV Facility - Project 2</li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Registration of individual as an I&amp;AP. Email notification of same and of availability of DBAR sent 06/03/2020.</li> </ul>

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6	<p><b>Date:</b> 18/11/2019  <b>Format:</b> Email  <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Ms. Meisie Nel, Farm Brakfontein 1/636 close to Eskom power line</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Request for registration as an I&amp;AP for Visserspan Solar Project (no number specified).</li> <li>ii. Mention that I&amp;AP's farm is Brakfontein 1/636 and is very close to Eskom power line which goes through the farm.</li> <li>iii. Statement that I&amp;P is not opposed to providing her entire farm for the project.</li> <li>iv. Request to please consider iii above.</li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Registration of individual as an I&amp;AP. Email notification of same and of availability of DBAR sent 06/03/2020.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>Date:</b> 19/11/2019  <b>Format:</b> Email sent  <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Mr. Stanley Robertson, Director of Lezmin 1383 CC and Trustee of Three Star Trust (Owner of Farm Beestepan)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Record of telephonic <u>contact made by EAP</u> with I&amp;AP and registration of I&amp;AP in two capacities - Director of Lezmin 1383 CC and Trustee of Three Star Trust (Owner of Farm Beestepan immediate neighbour to the south west of Visserspan Solar PV Project 1).</li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Registration of entity as an I&amp;AP and request for I&amp;AP to inform other I&amp;APs of project. Email notification of same sent 19/11/2019. Email notification of availability of DBAR sent 06/03/2020.</li> </ul>
8	<p><b>Date:</b> 19/11/2019  <b>Format:</b> Email sent  <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Mr. Pierre Greyling, Farm Perseus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Record of telephonic <u>contact made by EAP</u> with I&amp;AP and registration of I&amp;AP as representative of Farm Perseus (south of Farm Visserspan)</li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Registration of entity as an I&amp;AP and request for I&amp;AP to inform other I&amp;APs of project. Email notification of same sent 19/11/2019. Email notification of availability of DBAR sent 06/03/2020.</li> </ul>
9	<p><b>Date:</b> 25/11/2019  <b>Format:</b> Email facsimile  <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Mr. Thabang Peter Nakedi</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Receipt of faxed copy of <i>Curriculum Vitae</i> (CV) and identity document of I&amp;AP.</li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Registration of entity as an I&amp;AP. Email response to I&amp;AP that EnviroAfrica is responsible for the EIA process and not employment opportunities but that I&amp;AP should follow the process to see when potential employment opportunities may arise, should the project be developed. Email of same and notification of availability of DBAR sent 06/03/2020.</li> </ul>
10	<p><b>Date:</b> 26/11/2019  <b>Format:</b> Email (fax)  <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Mr. Senelo Kaneng, Director, Kaneng Security and Trading (Pty) Ltd</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Note that the Visserspan Solar PV Project 2 includes a fence and maintenance office and that Kaneng Security has been operating in the Tokologo Local Municipal area since 2014.</li> <li>ii. Request for more information related to Visserspan Solar PV Project 2 in terms of opportunities for small business development and benefits for Kaneng Security.</li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Registration of entity as an I&amp;AP. Email response to I&amp;AP that EnviroAfrica is responsible for the EIA process and not employment opportunities but that I&amp;AP should follow the process to see when potential employment opportunities may arise, should the project be developed. Email of same and notification of availability of DBAR sent 06/03/2020.</li> </ul>
11	<p><b>Date:</b> 26/11/2019  <b>Format:</b> Email</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Note that I&amp;AP's name is Sylvester and would like to know more about the EIA process for the Visserspan Solar PV Facility Project</li> </ul>	

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	<b>I&amp;AP:</b> Mr. Thabo (Sylvester) Seliba	<p>since I&amp;AP is interested in applying for a job and has experience in includes a fence and maintenance office and that Kaneng Security solar plant construction.</p> <p>ii. Further note that I&amp;AP is aware that EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Ventura Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd.</p> <p>iii. Query as to where to forward a CV for open vacancies.</p>	<p><b>EAP:</b></p> <p>i. Registration of entity as an I&amp;AP. Email response to I&amp;AP that EnviroAfrica is responsible for the EIA process and not employment opportunities but that I&amp;AP should follow the process to see when potential employment opportunities may arise, should the project be developed. Email of same and notification of availability of DBAR sent 06/03/2020.</p>
12	<p><b>Date:</b> 02/12/2019  <b>Format:</b> Email facsimile  <b>I&amp;AP:</b> . Thabang Peter Nakedi</p>	<p>i. Receipt of faxed copy of <i>Curriculum Vitae</i> (CV) and identity document of I&amp;AP.</p>	<p><b>EAP:</b></p> <p>i. Registration of entity as an I&amp;AP. Email response to I&amp;AP that EnviroAfrica is responsible for the EIA process and not employment opportunities but that I&amp;AP should follow the process to see when potential employment opportunities may arise, should the project be developed. Email of same and notification of availability of DBAR sent 06/03/2020.</p>
13	<p><b>Date:</b> 02/12/2019  <b>Format:</b> Email  <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Serame Petrus Galeboe</p>	<p>i. Receipt of email with copy of <i>Curriculum Vitae</i> (CV) and identity document of I&amp;AP.</p>	<p><b>EAP:</b></p> <p>i. Registration of entity as an I&amp;AP. Email response to I&amp;AP that EnviroAfrica is responsible for the EIA process and not employment opportunities but that I&amp;AP should follow the process to see when potential employment opportunities may arise, should the project be developed. Email of same and notification of availability of DBAR sent 06/03/2020.</p>
14	<p><b>Date:</b> 10/12/2019  <b>Format:</b> Email with letter and signed petition  <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Mr. Gerhard van Rhyn (temporary co-ordination of registration for various farmers in region)</p>	<p>i. Email received (following telephonic conversation) of interested and affected farmers who want to register.</p> <p>ii. Letter addressed to EAP indicating application to register for the Visserspan Solar PV Facility Project:</p> <p>a. Note that the farmers included on a two-page typed list attached to the letter, hereby apply to register to take part in the EIA for the Farm Visserspan, identified as "Solar PV Facility".</p> <p>b. Mention that contact details as well as names of parties concerned are enclosed and request that correspondence and important information be sent to each of the parties individually from now on since this letter serves only to co-ordinate the effort to ensure the farmers are registered in time.</p> <p>c. Statement that this is the third solar development close to Dealesville in the Free State and that the properties identified for these developments are almost adjacent. Comment that the first two</p>	<p><b>EAP:</b></p> <p>i. Email sent on 17/12/2019, confirming receipt of correspondence from I&amp;AP and acknowledging that I&amp;APs have been registered.</p> <p>ii.</p> <p>a. Inclusion of list of farmers in I&amp;AP register</p> <p>b. Email of notification of availability of DBAR sent to individual parties on 06/03/2020 (where possible after attempting to get postal addresses, electronic copies of DBAR sent to I&amp;APs).</p> <p>c. Agreed – the cumulative effect should all the proposed solar PV developments be constructed, should have been considered/assessed when Renewable energy Development Zone 5 (REDZ 5) was declared by the Government.</p> <p>d. Noted.</p> <p>e. Agreed – all input/comments from I&amp;APs are valued to allow a more robust assessment process.</p>

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		<p>impact studies were done by the CSIR and Visserspan's study will be done by EnviroAfrica. Statement that since the three developments are so close to one another, it simply does not make sense to undertake the studies in isolation since the combined impact of all the development on the environment is dramatically different from that indicated for an individual impact study.</p> <p>d. Statement that since the projects are so close to each other, the same farmers will be negatively impacted by all of them. Further statement that besides the wider impact on Dealesville and the environment, the collective effect of these developments in an area already compromised by Eskom power developments is being ignored. Comment that these developments will have a catastrophic effect on agricultural activities and farmers in the area.</p> <p>e. Request that as part of the study, the I&amp;APs would like to voice their concerns regarding the negative impact of the development and provide reasons as to why it is not viable.</p> <p>f. Statement that criteria currently used by developers to justify their choice of the specific area around Dealesville, are the strongest arguments amongst the farmers as to why it is <b>not</b> suitable for any further power developments.</p> <p>g. Statement that no private development can be sanctioned if it is to the detriment of other peoples' careers and livelihoods. Further statement that none of the developments are undertaken due to national importance but they are being undertaken by private developers solely to make money in the process.</p> <p>h. Offer that should any additional information be required, the farmers would be glad to co-operate.</p>	<p>f. The criteria currently used by solar facility developers to justify the location of their respective proposed developments around Dealesville is due to the fact that the area has been zoned or allocated by the national Government as one of 8 areas currently earmarked for such development (the developers merely source a farmer willing to sell or lease property for the development within the REDZ. The selection of areas in the country for REDZs would have undergone an impact assessment process which should have been subject to public scrutiny and comment before the area was declared a REDZ. This would have been done prior to any private developer proposing to develop facilities in the region. Therefore, the comment that the area is not suitable for solar PV facility developments is an issue that needed to be raised when the REDZ were being assessed before they were declared by Government as such.</p> <p>g. The statement that private developers make money in the process is true since this is the nature of their business - they develop plants to meet a need that has been identified. In this case the need has been identified by the national Government as having national importance and is considered one of the Government's 18 Strategic Infrastructure Projects (SIPs). Offer that should any additional information be required, the farmers would be glad to co-operate</p>
15	<p><b>Date:</b> 16/12/2019  <b>Format:</b> Resend of email with letter and signed petition  <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Mr. Gerhard van Rhyn (temporary co-ordination of registration for various farmers in region)</p>	<p>i. Original communication resent by I&amp;AP (i.e. email detailed in no. 12 above).</p>	<p><b>EAP:</b>  i. Noted.</p>
16	<p><b>Date:</b> 27/01/2020  <b>Format:</b> Email</p>	<p>i. Thanks expressed for notification of the Visserspan Solar PV Facility Projects.</p>	<p><b>EAP:</b>  i. Email acknowledged on 06/03.2020 and content noted.</p>

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	<b>I&amp;AP:</b> Ms. Ragna Redelstorff, Heritage Officer (Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit, South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA))	ii. Reminder that SAHRA does not accept hardcopies, emails or website links but that the application information must be submitted on the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS). Website link provided.	ii. Archaeology specialist appointed to upload all heritage related information and issue a SAHRA notice of intent to develop document on SAHRIS.
17	<b>Date:</b> 02/03/2020 <b>Format:</b> Email <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Serame Petrus Galeboe	i. Receipt of email stating I&AP is waiting for a response and address has changed.	<b>EAP:</b> i. Registration of entity as an I&AP. Email response to I&AP that EnviroAfrica is responsible for the EIA process and not employment opportunities but that I&AP should follow the process to see when potential employment opportunities may arise, should the project be developed. Email of same and notification of availability of DBAR sent 06/03/2020.
18		END OF TRAIL REPORT	