Appendix E10 – Correspondence with Organs of State: SKA



Keren Energy Group (Pty) Ltd P. O. Box 73 Somerset Mall, 7137 Email:weyers@kerenenergy.com

Date: 23 June 2020

To whom it may concern

# Re: Development of Keren Energy Visserspan No 1 (Pty) Ltd PV Solar Project in the REDZ zone in Western Free State Province Dealesville

Kindly note that the above-mentioned facility will not pose any risk of interference to the SKA.

SARAO does not have any objection to the development of the project and would not participate any further in the environmental authorization processes.

Regards,

Mr Selaelo Matlhane Spectrum & Telecommunication Manager South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) Tel: 011 442 2434 Email: smatlhane@ska.ac.za

www.ska.ac.za

The South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) is a National Facility managed by the National Research Foundation and incorporates all national radio astronomy telescopes and programmes. SARAO is responsible for implementing the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) in South Africa.

CAPE TOWN Tel: +27 (0)21 506 7300 | 2 Fir Street, Black River Park | Observatory, Cape Town | South Africa 7925 JOHANNESBURG Tel: +27 (0)11 442 2434 | 17 Baker St, Rosebank | Johannesburg | South Africa 2196 HARTEBEESTHOEK Tel: +27 (0)12 301-3100 | Farm 502 Q Hartebeesthoek, Broederstroom Road | Krugersdorp, Gauteng | South Africa 1740

## **Vivienne Thomson**

From: Sent: To: Subject: Weyers Janse van Rensburg <weyers@kerenenergy.com> 19 June 2020 10:48 Vivienne Thomson; Bernard de witt Fwd: SKA approvals

Regards,

Weyers Janse van Rensburg



Begin forwarded message:

From: Busang Sethole <<u>bsethole@ska.ac.za</u>> Subject: Re: SKA approvals Date: 03 June 2020 at 16:31:57 SAST To: Weyers Janse van Rensburg <<u>weyers@kerenenergy.com</u>>

thanks..i will have the letter prepared and send to you before the end of next week..there is a couple of signature that are required for this..but will send by Friday

BR,

**Busang Sethole** 

Spectrum and Telecommunications Analyst

South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)

Address: 17 Baker Street,

Rosebank, Johannesburg, 2196

Tel: +27 (0) 11 268 3449 | Cell+27 (0) 79 465 5064

Email: bsethole@ska.ac.za

Website: www.ska.ac.za

On Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 3:51 PM Weyers Janse van Rensburg <<u>weyers@kerenenergy.com</u>> wrote: Good Afternoon Busang,

Attached, please find part of the bid schedules we have to complete. I have done some research and it seems like SKA is not needed for Free State. However, in preparation that the requirements could change, if it is not too much trouble maybe it will be good to have a letter. Or alternatively maybe just a letter stating it is not required for Free State at this stage.

Whatever will be best.

Thank you again for all your trouble.

Regards,

Weyers Janse van Rensburg

On 03 Jun 2020, at 09:41, Busang Sethole <<u>bsethole@ska.ac.za</u>> wrote:

Good Day

Yes you do need need SKA approval, SKA only need to respond to environmental authorization processes in the Northern Cape Province. I will prepae the letters for you but please can you refer me to the bid documentation pack, i need to consult with relevant people as this will be very tedious for us to do, if it is the bid requirements.

BR,

**Busang Sethole** 

**Spectrum and Telecommunications Analyst** 

South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)

Address: 17 Baker Street,

Rosebank, Johannesburg, 2196

Tel: <u>+27 (0) 11 268 3449</u> | Cell<u>+27 (0) 79 465 5064</u>

Email: bsethole@ska.ac.za

Website: www.ska.ac.za

On Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 9:16 AM Weyers Janse van Rensburg <<u>weyers@kerenenergy.com</u>> wrote: Morning Busang, Sorry, does this mean we do not need SKA approval? Projects are in Free State. If that is the case, can you give us just a letter stating that fact?

Thank you again for your time.

Regards,

Weyers Janse van Rensburg

<image001.jpg>

On 03 Jun 2020, at 08:27, Busang Sethole <<u>bsethole@ska.ac.za</u>> wrote:

Good Day

These projects seems to be in the Free State, protection of the SKA is in the Northern Cape province, may I kindly ask why you are seeking this letters ?

BR,

**Busang Sethole** 

**Spectrum and Telecommunications Analyst** 

South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)

Address: 17 Baker Street,

Rosebank, Johannesburg, 2196

Tel: +27 (0) 11 268 3449 | Cell+27 (0) 79 465 5064

Email: bsethole@ska.ac.za

Website: www.ska.ac.za

On Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 8:00 AM Selaelo Matlhane - SKA <<u>smatlhane@ska.ac.za</u>> wrote:

------ Forwarded message ------From: Adrian Tiplady <<u>atiplady@ska.ac.za</u>> Date: Wed, 27 May 2020, 15:28 Subject: Re: Fwd: SKA approvals To: <<u>weyers@kerenenergy.com</u>> Cc: <<u>riaan@kerenenergy.com</u>>, Selaelo Matlhane <<u>smatlhane@ska.ac.za</u>>, <u>mbaloye@ska.ac.za</u> <<u>mbaloye@ska.ac.za</u>> Dear Weyers,

Apologies for the delays in response. My colleague, Selaelo, will be able to respond.

Kind Regards,

Adrian

------ Forwarded message ------From: <<u>weyers@kerenenergy.com</u>> Date: Thu, Nov 7, 2019 at 10:43 AM Subject: SKA approvals To: <<u>vrowland@ska.ac.za</u>> Cc: Riaan <<u>riaan@kerenenergy.com</u>>

Dear Vivienne,

We are in the process of developing 4 solar PV projects in the Dealesville area. Attached, please find the 4 letters, one for each project. Can you please advise on any other documentation we need to complete in order to finalise the approvals.

Regards,

Weyers Janse van Rensburg

weyers@kerenenergy.com

0826317496

--Dr. Adrian Tiplady SKA South Africa Johannesburg +27 11 442 2434 +27 72 372 0134 www.ska.ac.za

SuviroAfrica PRE-APPLICATION PARTICIPA	PRE-APPLI	PRE-APPLICATIC	Vq.		PUBLIC	2	I&AP List	Propo	Proposed Visserspan Solar PV	
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Title Initials/Name Surname Administry PPP End Date: 15 December 2019	Surname	Т	2019				DEA Ref:	To be provided	ld la	Communication
				Postal Address	Town/City	Code	Telephone	Fax	E-mail	method/Preferred communication
venura Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd c/o Mr C W Janse van Rensburg perty / Land Owners:	ergy (Pty) Ltd	c/o Mr C W Janse van Rensburg		P. O. Box 73	Somerset West	7137	082 631 7496	086 267 6181	WAVARG () Karananun unun	
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2.2 IMr Eugene Geyer Trustee and contact person     3. Occupiers		Trustee and contact person		P. O. Box 288		9670	082 574 3167 082 463 3785		Binananan@	
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The Municipal Manager Dealesville Municipality, Cnr. Brand & Andries Pretorius Streets, Dealesville		Dealesville Municipality, Cnr. Brand & Andries Pretori. Streets, Dealesville	5	P. O. Box 18	Dealesville	9348	051 811 0029	051 811 0005		
The Municipal Manager Tokologo Local Municipality, Market Square, Voortrekker Street, Boshoff		Tokologo Local Municipality, Market Square, Voortrek Street, Boshoff	ē	Private Bag X46	Boshoff 8	8340	053 541 0014	053 541 0360		postage
The District Manager Lejweleputswa District Municipality, Cnr. Tempest & Jan Hofmeyer Road, Welkom		Lejweleputswa District Municipality, Cnr. Tempest & J Hofmeyer Road, Welkom	us	P.O. Box 2169	Welkom	9460	057 353 3094/5	057 383 4949		postage
Manager	Manager	Water and Sanitation, Mangaung Metropolitan Municip.	È	P. O. Box 3704	Bloemfontein		051 410 6764	DE4 440 CTT44	-	postage
al Ward Councillor:					T		+010014100	L/ /9 NI + I CN	enquiry@mangaung.co.za	postage & email
5.1 The Ward Councillor Tokologo Local Municipality, Market Square, Voortrekker 6. State Organisations:		Tokologo Local Municipality, Market Square, Voortrekk Street, Boshoff	, F	Private Bag X46	Boshoff 8	8340	053 541 0014	053 541 0360	<	
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The Director Police, Roads and Transport, Perm Building, 45 Charlotte Maxeke Street, Bloemfontein, 9301		Police, Roads and Transport, Perm Building, 45 Chart Maxeke Street, Bloemfontein, 9301	otte	P. O. Box 119	Bloemfontein 90	9300	051 409 8850	051 409 RPI64		afiprond
The Director Provincial Treasury, 55 Miriam Makeba Street, Fidel Cast Building, Bloemfontein		Provincial Treasury, 55 Miriam Makeba Street, Fidel Ca Building, Bloemfontein	astro	Private Bag X20537	Bloemfontein	9300	T	051 405 442 5	00	postage
The Director South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)		South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)		11 Harrington St, Zonnebloem	Cape Town 80	8001			Correspondence via Heritage Specialist (NID &	postage
The Director Public Works and Infrastructure, Office 310, OR Tambo House, Cnr Markgraaf & St Andrew's Streets, Bloemfonte 9301		Public Works and Infrastructure, Office 310, OR Tambo House, Cnr Markgraaf & St Andrew's Streets, Bloemfont 9301	ů,	P. O. Box 960	Bloemfontein	9300	051 492 3909	051 405 4490 / · 086 624 7915	SAFITICIDADOSO	postage
Anneliza Collett		Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries		Private Bag x120	Pretoria 00	0001	012 3197508	012 329 5938	<u>AnnelizaC@nda.aoric.za</u>	
Director		Department of Environmental Affairs, Integrated Environmental Authorisations (National)		Private Bag x 447	Pretoria 00	0001			EZ: VOD	email & postage
Mr Stanley Tshitwamulomon Blodiversity Directorate - Department of Environmental Affairs (National)	Tshitwamulomon Blodiversity Directorate - Department of Environment. Affairs (National)	on Biodiversity Directorate - Department of Environment	-	Private Bag x 447	Pretoria 00	0001	012 399 9587 / 012 399 9377	012 359 3625	T	amail & postage
		SKA Africa		3rd Floor, The Park, Park Road,	Pinelands	4050	1	021 506 7375		erriari & postage
6.14 Ms Nicole Abrahams South African National Roads Agency Ltd. (SANRAL)		South African National Roads Agency Ltd. (SANRAL)		Private Bag X 19	Bellville 75	7535 0	T		Abrahams N@nra.co.za	4
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n

15 November 2019



Dear Interested and Affected Party

*re.*: Pre-application Public Participation Registration Process for the Proposed Visserspan Solar PV Facilities (Projects 1 to 4), Dealesville on Visserspan Farm No. 40, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province

You are on our database as a potential interested and affected party (I&AP) for the abovementioned proposed projects.

Please find, for your perusal, registration and comment, summary background information maildrops/documents for each of the four Solar PV Facilities proposed on Visserspan Farm No. 40, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province (near Dealesville).

Should you have any comments queries or concerns regarding the project, please notify EnviroAfrica in writing by 15 December 2019, at the contact details below. Please also inform and encourage any other parties you feel may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed developments, to register as part of this process. Future correspondence will be sent to registered I&APs.

I trust everything is in order and look forward to your registration/valued input.

Yours sincerely,

Vivienne Thomson Environmental Consultant EnviroAfrica CC

SOMERSET WALL 7137

P.O. Box 5367 Helderberg 7135 Tel: +27 (0)21 851 1616 Fax: +27 (0)86 512 0154

Unit 7 Pastorie Park Cnr Reitz & Lourens St.,Somerset West CK 97/46008/23 VAT4870170513

e-mail: admin@enviroafrica.co.za

**ENVIROAFRICA CC** 

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PRE-APPLICATION PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

## **PROPOSED VISSERSPAN SOLAR PV FACILITY PROJECT 1**

(on Farm Visserspan No. 40, near Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province) Department of Environmental Affairs Reference Number: To be provided

Notice is hereby given of the pre-application public participation process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2014), as well as the National Water Act, No. 36 of 1998 (NWA).

Relevant Act/Notice and Activity No.	To be Included in Application	Description in Legislation
NEMA, EIA Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 (GN. R. 327), Activity No. 12(xii)(c)	Possibly	Development of infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100m <sup>2</sup> or more where such development occurs if no development setback exists, within 32m of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.
NEMA, EIA Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014 (GN. R. 325), Activity No. 1	Yes	Development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts (MW) or more
NEMA, EIA Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014 (GN. R. 325), Activity No. 15	Yes	Clearance of an area of 20ha or more of indigenous vegetation
NEMA, EIA Regulations Listing Notice 3 of 2014 (GN. R. 324), Activity No. 2	Possibly	Development of reservoirs, excluding dams, with a capacity of more than 250 cubic metres.
NWA, Section 21(a)	Possibly	Taking water from a water resource
NWA, Section 21(b)	Possibly	Storing water
NWA, Section 21(c)	Possibly	Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse
NWA, Section 21(i)	Possibly	Altering the bed, banks or characteristics of a watercourse

EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Ventura Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd, to undertake the EIA application process for the above proposed project. As part of the application for an environmental authorisation, a basic assessment report (BAR) is required since, although it is for a large scale solar photovoltaic (PV) facility capable of generating of more than 20MW but less than 100MW of electricity, the proposed development falls within renewable energy development zone 5 and therefore, GN. 350 of 2017 applies.

## **Project Location and Description:**

The proposed development site is located at **28°35'33.46"S**, **25°43'21.04"E** (estimated central point), on the Farm Visserspan No. 40, approximately 10km northwest of Dealesville and 68km northwest of Bloemfontein, in the Free State Province. The proposed development is a solar photovoltaic (PV) array covering an area of around 218ha, circumscribed with a perimeter fire access road and fence. The PV tables will be raised approximately 500mm above ground level and will have single axis tracking systems allowing the generation of not more than 100MW of alternating current. Proposed associated infrastructure includes a fenced construction staging area, maintenance shed/s, inverter-transformer stations on concrete pads and office buildings all within the 218ha proposed development site footprint, as well as a switch panel and an overhead powerline from the PV array for connection to the power grid, at Eskom's Perseus substation, south of the proposed development site.

## **Description of Alternatives:**

Due to proximity to the Eskom substation, consent use of land and other renewable energy developments/proposed developments, alternative sites do not exist. However, alternative options which include *inter alia* alternative PV technology, layout options and the option of not proceeding with the proposed development at all (the No-Go option) are considered within the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR). The DBAR will include specialist reports and will undergo a further round of public participation.

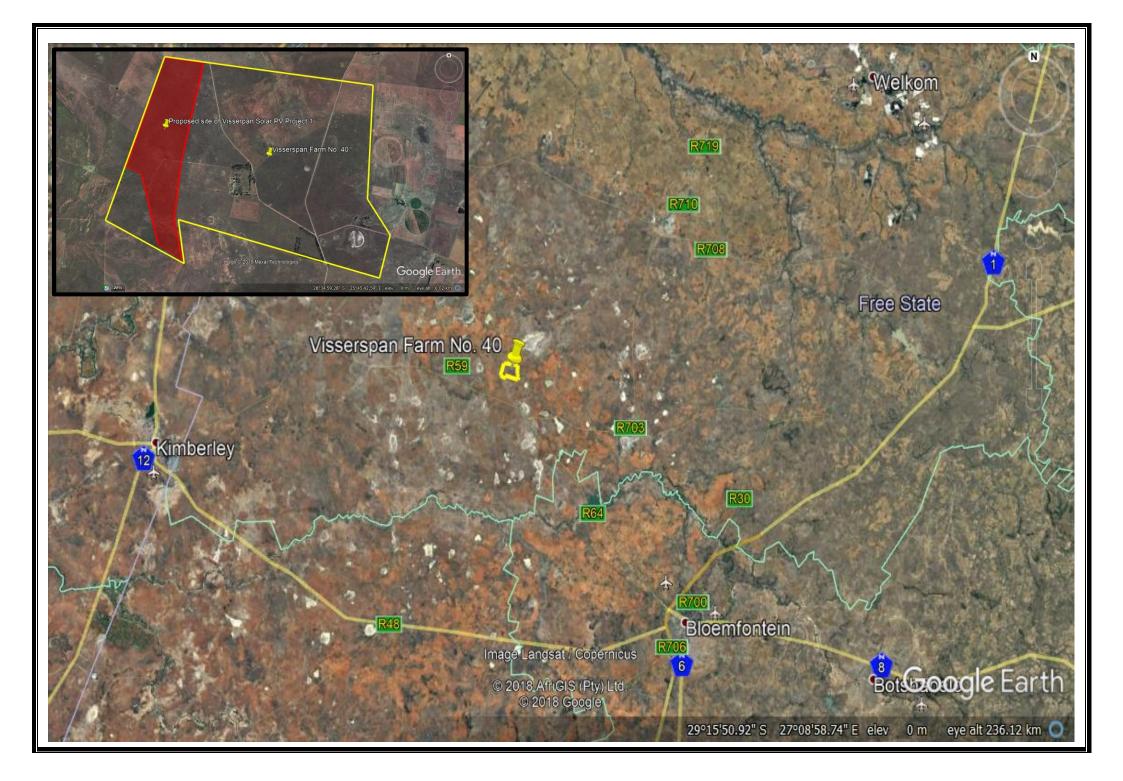
### **Public Participation:**

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby invited to register (in writing) and/or provide initial comments, queries, concerns or opportunities relating to this proposed project, **on or before 15 December 2019** for environmental/NEMA issues and **on or before 04 February 2020** for water/NWA related issues.

## To register as an I&AP or for more information contact EnviroAfrica at:

EnviroAfrica (Visserspan Solar PV No. 1) P.O. Box 5367, HELDERBERG, 7135 Fax: 086 512 0154 Tel.: 021 8511616 E-mail: admin@enviroafrica.co.za

Please inform and encourage any other I&APs that you feel may be interested in the proposed development, to register. Future correspondence will be sent to registered I&APs.



**ENVIROAFRICA CC** 

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PRE-APPLICATION PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

## **PROPOSED VISSERSPAN SOLAR PV FACILITY PROJECT 2**

(on Farm Visserspan No. 40, near Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province) Department of Environmental Affairs Reference Number: To be provided

Notice is hereby given of the pre-application public participation process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2014), as well as the National Water Act, No. 36 of 1998 (NWA).

Relevant Act/Notice and Activity No.	To be Included in Application	Description in Legislation
NEMA, EIA Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 (GN. R. 327), Activity No. 12(xii)(c)	Possibly	Development of infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100m <sup>2</sup> or more where such development occurs if no development setback exists, within 32m of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.
NEMA, EIA Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014 (GN. R. 325), Activity No. 1	Yes	Development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts (MW) or more
NEMA, EIA Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014 (GN. R. 325), Activity No. 15	Yes	Clearance of an area of 20ha or more of indigenous vegetation
NEMA, EIA Regulations Listing Notice 3 of 2014 (GN. R. 324), Activity No. 2	Possibly	Development of reservoirs, excluding dams, with a capacity of more than 250 cubic metres.
NWA, Section 21(a)	Possibly	Taking water from a water resource
NWA, Section 21(b)	Possibly	Storing water
NWA, Section 21(c)	Possibly	Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse
NWA, Section 21(i)	Possibly	Altering the bed, banks or characteristics of a watercourse

EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Ventura Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd, to undertake the EIA application process for the above proposed project. As part of the application for an environmental authorisation, a basic assessment report (BAR) is required since, although it is for a large scale solar photovoltaic (PV) facility capable of generating of more than 20MW but less than 100MW of electricity, the proposed development falls within renewable energy development zone 5 and therefore, GN. 350 of 2017 applies.

### Project Location and Description:

The proposed development site is located at **28°36'6.13"S**, **25°43'48.46"E** (estimated central point), on the Farm Visserspan No. 40, approximately 10km northwest of Dealesville and 68km northwest of Bloemfontein, in the Free State Province. The proposed development is a solar photovoltaic (PV) array covering an area of around 223ha, circumscribed with a perimeter fire access road and fence. The PV tables will be raised approximately 500mm above ground level and will have single axis tracking systems allowing the generation of not more than 100MW of alternating current. Proposed associated infrastructure includes a fenced construction staging area, maintenance shed/s, inverter-transformer stations on concrete pads and office buildings all within the 223ha development site footprint, as well as a switch panel and an overhead powerline from the PV array for connection to the power grid, at Eskom's Perseus substation, south of the proposed development site.

### **Description of Alternatives:**

Due to proximity to the Eskom substation, consent use of land and other renewable energy developments/proposed developments, alternative sites do not exist. However, alternative options which include *inter alia* alternative PV technology, layout options and the option of not proceeding with the proposed development at all (the No-Go option) are considered within the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR). The DBAR will include specialist reports and will undergo a further round of public participation.

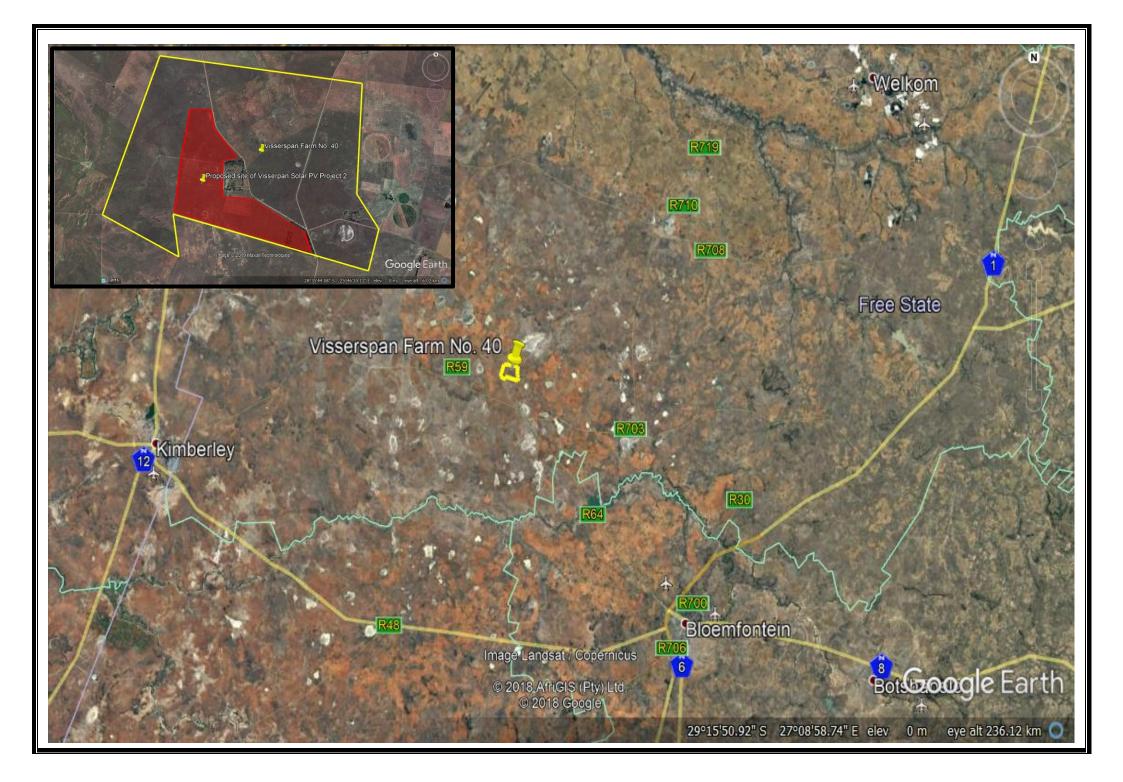
### **Public Participation:**

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby invited to register (in writing) and/or provide initial comments, queries, concerns or opportunities relating to this proposed project, **on or before 15 December 2019** for environmental/NEMA issues and **on or before 04 February 2020** for water/NWA related issues.

To register as an I&AP or for more information contact EnviroAfrica at:

EnviroAfrica (Visserspan Solar PV No. 2) P.O. Box 5367, HELDERBERG, 7135 Fax: 086 512 0154 Tel.: 021 8511616 E-mail: admin@enviroafrica.co.za

Please inform and encourage any other I&APs that you feel may be interested in the proposed development, to register. Future correspondence will be sent to registered I&APs.



**ENVIROAFRICA CC** 

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PRE-APPLICATION PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

## **PROPOSED VISSERSPAN SOLAR PV FACILITY PROJECT 3**

(on Farm Visserspan No. 40, near Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province) Department of Environmental Affairs Reference Number: To be provided

Notice is hereby given of the pre-application public participation process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2014), as well as the National Water Act, No. 36 of 1998 (NWA).

Relevant Act/Notice and Activity No.	To be Included in Application	Description in Legislation
NEMA, EIA Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 (GN. R. 327), Activity No. 12(xii)(c)	Possibly	Development of infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100m <sup>2</sup> or more where such development occurs if no development setback exists, within 32m of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.
NEMA, EIA Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014 (GN. R. 325), Activity No. 1	Yes	Development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts (MW) or more
NEMA, EIA Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014 (GN. R. 325), Activity No. 15	Yes	Clearance of an area of 20ha or more of indigenous vegetation
NEMA, EIA Regulations Listing Notice 3 of 2014 (GN. R. 324), Activity No. 2	Possibly	Development of reservoirs, excluding dams, with a capacity of more than 250 cubic metres.
NWA, Section 21(a)	Possibly	Taking water from a water resource
NWA, Section 21(b)	Possibly	Storing water
NWA, Section 21(c)	Possibly	Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse
NWA, Section 21(i)	Possibly	Altering the bed, banks or characteristics of a watercourse

EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Ventura Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd, to undertake the EIA application process for the above proposed project. As part of the application for an environmental authorisation, a basic assessment report (BAR) is required since, although it is for a large scale solar photovoltaic (PV) facility capable of generating of more than 20MW but less than 100MW of electricity, the proposed development falls within renewable energy development zone 5 and therefore, GN. 350 of 2017 applies.

### Project Location and Description:

The proposed development site is located at **28°35'18.93"S**, **25°44'30.53"E** (estimated central point), on the Farm Visserspan No. 40, approximately 10km northwest of Dealesville and 68km northwest of Bloemfontein, in the Free State Province. The proposed development is a solar photovoltaic (PV) array covering an area of around 213ha, circumscribed with a perimeter fire access road and fence. The PV tables will be raised approximately 500mm above ground level and will have single axis tracking systems allowing the generation of not more than 100MW of alternating current. Proposed associated infrastructure includes a fenced construction staging area, maintenance shed/s, inverter-transformer stations on concrete pads and office buildings all within the 213ha proposed development site footprint, as well as a switch panel and an overhead powerline from the PV array for connection to the power grid, at Eskom's Perseus substation, south of the proposed development site.

### **Description of Alternatives:**

Due to proximity to the Eskom substation, consent use of land and other renewable energy developments/proposed developments, alternative sites do not exist. However, alternative options which include *inter alia* alternative PV technology, layout options and the option of not proceeding with the proposed development at all (the No-Go option) are considered within the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR). The DBAR will include specialist reports and will undergo a further round of public participation.

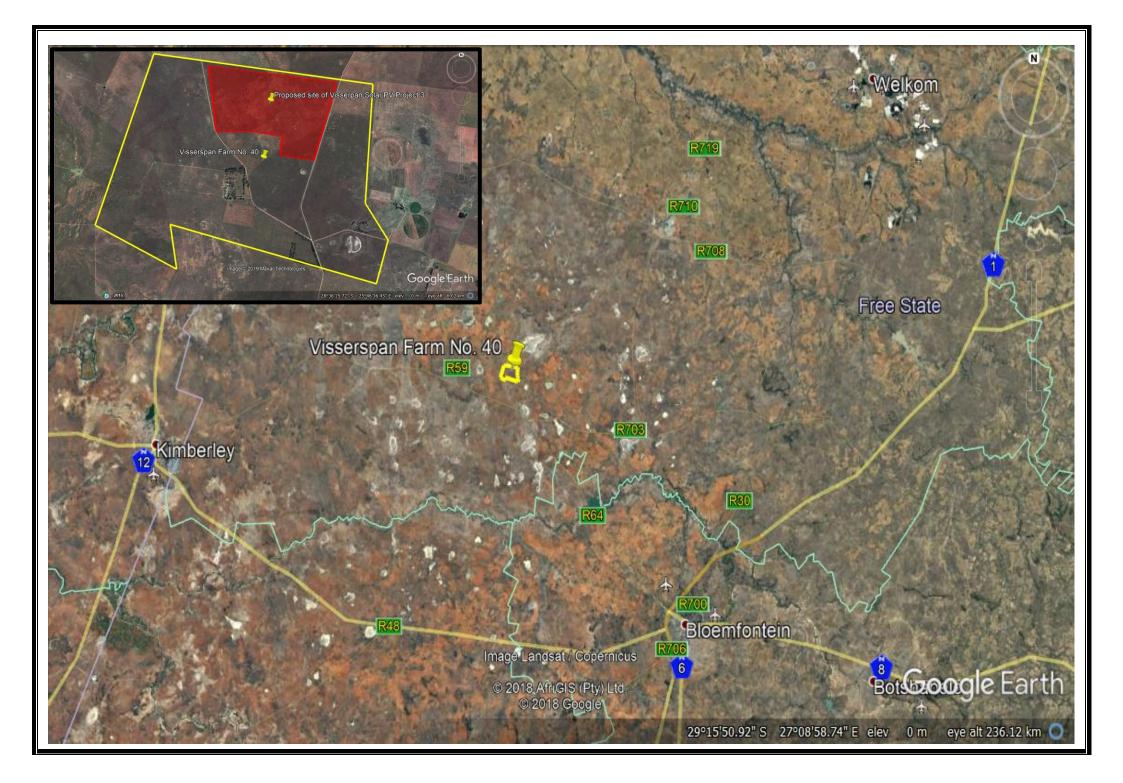
### **Public Participation:**

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby invited to register (in writing) and/or provide initial comments, queries, concerns or opportunities relating to this proposed project, <u>on or before 15 December 2019</u> for environmental/NEMA issues and **on or before 04 February 2020** for water/NWA related issues.

## To register as an I&AP or for more information contact EnviroAfrica at:

EnviroAfrica (Visserspan Solar PV No. 3) P.O. Box 5367, HELDERBERG, 7135 Fax: 086 512 0154 Tel.: 021 8511616 E-mail: admin@enviroafrica.co.za

Please note that future correspondence will only be sent to registered I&APs.



## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PRE-APPLICATION PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

## **PROPOSED VISSERSPAN SOLAR PV FACILITY PROJECT 4**

(on Farm Visserspan No. 40, near Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province) Department of Environmental Affairs Reference Number: To be provided

Notice is hereby given of the pre-application public participation process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2014), as well as the National Water Act, No. 36 of 1998 (NWA).

Relevant Act/Notice and Activity No.	To be Included in Application	Description in Legislation
NEMA, EIA Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 (GN. R. 327), Activity No. 12(xii)(c)	Possibly	Development of infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100m <sup>2</sup> or more where such development occurs if no development setback exists, within 32m of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.
NEMA, EIA Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014 (GN. R. 325), Activity No. 1	Yes	Development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts (MW) or more
NEMA, EIA Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014 (GN. R. 325), Activity No. 15	Yes	Clearance of an area of 20ha or more of indigenous vegetation
NEMA, EIA Regulations Listing Notice 3 of 2014 (GN. R. 324), Activity No. 2	Possibly	Development of reservoirs, excluding dams, with a capacity of more than 250 cubic metres.
NWA, Section 21(a)	Possibly	Taking water from a water resource
NWA, Section 21(b)	Possibly	Storing water
NWA, Section 21(c)	Possibly	Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse
NWA, Section 21(i)	Possibly	Altering the bed, banks or characteristics of a watercourse

EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Ventura Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd, to undertake the EIA application process for the above proposed project. As part of the application for an environmental authorisation, a basic assessment report (BAR) is required since, although it is for a large scale solar photovoltaic (PV) facility capable of generating of more than 20MW but less than 100MW of electricity, the proposed development falls within renewable energy development zone 5 and therefore, GN. 350 of 2017 applies.

### **Project Location and Description:**

The proposed development site is located at **28°35'58.80"S**, **25°45'6.65"E** (estimated central point), on the Farm Visserspan No. 40, approximately 10km northwest of Dealesville and 68km northwest of Bloemfontein, in the Free State Province. The proposed development is a solar photovoltaic (PV) array covering an area of around 225ha, circumscribed with a perimeter fire access road and fence. The PV tables will be raised approximately 500mm above ground level and will have single axis tracking systems allowing the generation of not more than 100MW of alternating current. Proposed associated infrastructure includes a fenced construction staging area, maintenance shed/s, inverter-transformer stations on concrete pads and office buildings all within the 225ha proposed development site footprint, as well as a switch panel and an overhead powerline from the PV array for connection to the power grid, at Eskom's Perseus substation, south of the proposed development site. The proposed site falls on either side of an existing dirt road and is denoted as either 'east' or 'west' of the existing farm road.

### **Description of Alternatives:**

Due to proximity to the Eskom substation, consent use of land and other renewable energy developments/proposed developments, alternative sites do not exist. However, alternative options which include *inter alia* alternative PV technology, layout options and the option of not proceeding with the proposed development at all (the No-Go option) are considered within the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR). The DBAR will include specialist reports and will undergo a further round of public participation.

### Public Participation:

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby invited to register (in writing) and/or provide initial comments, queries, concerns or opportunities relating to this proposed project, **on or before 15 December 2019** for environmental/NEMA issues and **on or before 04 February 2020** for water/NWA related issues.

## To register as an I&AP or for more information contact EnviroAfrica at:

EnviroAfrica (Visserspan Solar PV No. 4) P.O. Box 5367, HELDERBERG, 7135 Fax: 086 512 0154 Tel.: 021 8511616 E-mail: admin@enviroafrica.co.za

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