

# PROPOSED VISSERSPAN SOLAR PV FACILITY – PROJECT 3

APPLICANT: Ventura Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd

## DBAR COMMENT AND RESPONSE REPORT

### Copies of actual correspondence in Appendix F1 (Supporting documents) of FBAR

(Public participation comment period started 09 March 2020 and ended 19 July 2020)

(DEFF Ref. No: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2155)

No.	Comment Date, Comment Format, Organisation/I&AP	Verbatim comments as quoted from I&AP correspondence	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist/Project Manager
1	<b>Date:</b> 10/03/2020 <b>Format:</b> Email <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Mr. Sello Meko, Free State Department of Health, Bloemfontein	“Morning Mam, I will definitely be happy to send me the CD copies of DBARs at De Waal Road, Ehrlich Park, Bloemfontein please. Thank you Regards”	<b>EAP:</b>  Email sent on 10/03/2020 requesting specific address, as well as clarification of I&AP’s section within the Department of Health.
2	<b>Date:</b> 10/03/2020 <b>Format:</b> Email <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Ms. Annette Geertsema, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)	“Good day Can you please confirm in which Province the proposed development is situated. Regards Annette”	<b>EAP:</b>  Email response sent on 10/03/2020 stating that the proposed developments are in the Free State Province in REDZ 5 (near Dealesville).
3	<b>Date:</b> 12/03/2020 <b>Format:</b> Email letter <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Mr. Sabelo Malaza, Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations,	“The Department confirms having received the Application for environmental Authorisation and a Draft Report for the abovementioned project on 11 March 2020. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested and Affected Parties,	<b>EAP:</b>  Paragraph 1 - cognisance taken of contents of paragraph.  Paragraph 2 - Email response sent to Ms. Mahlangu as per enquiries contact listed on Departmental letter, on 09/06/2020 stating that the Screening Tool Report was submitted to the Department (at the same

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	<p>Department of Environmental Affairs. Letter signed by: Mr. Rhulani Kubayi, Control Environmental Officer: EIA Systems and Tools</p>	<p>including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided with an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority. You are required to submit an updated Application form with a screening tool report as has been a requirement since 04 October 2019. Your application will be considered invalid without a screening tool report.</p> <p>All documentation delivered to the physical address contained in this form must be delivered during the official Departmental Office Hours which is visible on the Departmental gate. EIA related documents (includes application forms, reports or any EIA related submissions) that are faxed; emailed; delivered to Security or placed in the Departmental Tender Box will not be accepted.</p> <p>Not that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.</p> <p>Yours sincerely Mr. Sabelo Malaza”</p>	<p>time as the Application Form) as an appendix (Appendix H, attached) to the draft basic assessment report (DBAR) hardcopy and electronic copy and it was indicated on the application form that the DBAR accompanied the application form. Email resent on 08/07/2020 to Ms. Ncube as project case officer listed on Departmental letter dated 26/03/2020.</p> <p>Paragraph 3 - cognisance taken of contents of paragraph.</p> <p>Paragraph 4 - Various emails sent to the Department to confirm: i. time-frame for public participation (emails sent 09/06/2020 &amp; 08/07/2020) ii. deadline for submission of final BAR (emails sent 15/08/2020 &amp; 17/08/2020)</p> <p>Paragraph 5 - cognisance taken of contents of paragraph.</p> <p>Paragraph 6 - cognisance taken of contents of paragraph.</p>
4	<p><b>Date:</b> 26/03/2020 <b>Format:</b> Email letter <b>I&amp;AP:</b></p>	<p><u>“Application Form and DBAR</u> 1. Activity 1 of GN R.983 (as amended): You are advised to remove this activity as the development applied for has a capacity of 100MW and you have applied for Activity 1 of GN R.984 (as amended). 2. Activity 11(i) of GN R.983 (as amended): The activity description states that the development of the evacuation powerlines will be assessed in a separate environmental application process. Please clarify why this activity has been included in the application form. Should the associated infrastructure include an on-site substation, you are required to state the capacity of the substation and its footprint.</p>	<p><b>EAP:</b></p> <p>1. Activity removed. 2. Underground evacuation powerlines internal to the footprint of the proposed development site on the Farm Visserspan No. 40, as well as leading to an adjacent site on the Farm Visserspan No. 40 i.e. Visserspan Solar PV – Project 2, form part of this application but the development of a substation and tie-in/connection to the Eskom grid will only take place (in a separate EIA process) if the applicant is successful in the next round of REIPPP bidding process. The underground 22kV powerline/s leading to Project 2’s site from Project 1 will be along the</p>

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		<p>Also note that infrastructure that triggers this activity requires a generic EMPr to be submitted with the final BAR.</p> <p>3. Should it apply:</p> <p>a) The Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of substation infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity can be downloaded from <a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms">https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms</a></p> <p>b) Part B: Section 2 of the generic EMPr must be completed, and an originally signed EMPr must be submitted with the final BAR. Please note that Point 7.1.1 in Part B: Section 2 needs to match the details of the applicant as contained in the application form.</p> <p>4. Should it not apply: You are advised to remove this activity from the list of activities applied for.</p> <p>5. Activity 15 of GN R.984 (as amended): Indicate the total indigenous vegetation proposed for clearance in hectares.</p> <p>6. Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.</p> <p>7. An amended application form must be submitted with the final BAR. Please note that the Department's application form and other templates can be downloaded from the following link <a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms">https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms</a></p> <p>8. You are required to submit the updated application form with a screening tool report, as has been the requirement since 04 October 2019. Your application will be considered invalid without a screening tool report.</p> <p>9. You have not provided an electronic copy of the application form for the proposed development. Please ensure that an electronic and hard copy of the updated application form and screening tool is submitted to the Department with the final BAR.</p> <p>10. You are required to include details and expertise of the EAP in the BAR, including a curriculum vitae, in order to comply with the requirements of Appendix 1(3)(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>11. It is noted that the submitted application form has an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP. However, the aforementioned oath was not included in the draft BAR. Please note that the final BAR must also have an undertaking under oath/affirmation by the EAP in order to comply with the requirements of Appendix 1(3)(1)(r) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p>	<p>road of an existing farm access road between the two projects (approximately 90m in length).</p> <p>3. Does not apply.</p> <p>4. Does not apply. Activity removed from the list of activities applied for.</p> <p>5. The total development footprint will be cleared. Since there are patches of degradation and existing farm roads in the area, it is estimated that the total indigenous vegetation proposed for clearance is approximately 213ha.</p> <p>6. Cognisance taken of request.</p> <p>7. Amended application form submitted with the final BAR.</p> <p>8. Screening Tool Report attached as Appendix 11 of application form.</p> <p>9. Cognisance taken of request.</p> <p>10. Cognisance taken of request. EAP Curriculum Vitae included in Appendix L of the final BAR after EAP Declaration.</p> <p>11. EAP Declaration included in Appendix L of the final BAR.</p> <p>12.</p>

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		<p><u>Technical details of the proposed facility and design alternative</u>  12. The EIA must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions. A sample for the minimum information required is listed under point 2 of Annexure 1, of the EIA information required for PV facilities below.  13. Further, the EIA must include the design alternative for the proposed 100MW PV facility.</p> <p><u>Alternatives</u>  14. Please note that Appendix 1(3)(1)(h)(x) of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, requires that “<i>if no alternatives, including alternative locations for the activity were investigated, the motivation for not considering such</i>” must be included in the BAR. You are therefore required to provide a motivation should other alternatives sites, routes, layouts and technologies not be considered.  15. A description of the process followed to reach each preferred alternative within the site as per Appendix 1(3)(1)(h)(i) of the EIA Regulations (2014), as amended, must be incorporated into the final BAR.</p> <p><u>Coordinates</u>  16. Provide coordinates for the bend points of the proposed 218ha site boundary (for Project 1 only), within Visserspan Farm, in degrees, minutes and seconds.</p> <p><u>Specialist studies</u>  17. You are required to conduct Ecology and Hydrology specialist studies; to assess the impacts of the proposed development on the biodiversity of the area (CBAs, ESA, surface water and ground water features, fauna, etc); to determine the indigenous and disturbed vegetation to be cleared (in square metres); as well as provide mitigation and management measures. This/ these reports must be included in the final BAR.  18. The Specialist Declaration of Interest forms submitted for the specialist studies are for Visserspan Solar Photovoltaic Facility Project <u>4</u>. You are required to submit forms related to Project <u>1</u>.  19. The Soil, Land Use and Agricultural Potential study, as well as the Socio-economic study that have been submitted with the draft BAR are for Visserspan Solar Photovoltaic Facility Project <u>3</u>. You are required to submit studies related to Project <u>1</u>.</p>	

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		<p>20. All specialist studies must provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. It must be noted that all specialist studies must be conducted in the correct season, and conducting a specialist study in the incorrect season and providing that as a limitation will not be accepted.</p> <p>21. The Archaeological and Palaeontological Impact Assessments must be submitted to SAHRA for comments, via the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS). These comments must be must be addressed and incorporated in the final BAR.</p> <p>22. Should the comments SAHRA (or any other I&amp;AP) propose significant changes or new information to be added to the BAR (or EMP), you are advised to refer to Regulation 19(1)(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>23. Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expert advice.</p> <p><u>A copy of the final site layout map and alternatives</u></p> <p>All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map.</p> <p>24. The layout map must indicate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PV positions and its associated infrastructure;</li> <li>• Permanent laydown area footprint;</li> <li>• Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible);</li> <li>• Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used;</li> <li>• The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;</li> <li>• Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;</li> <li>• Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;</li> <li>• All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads;</li> </ul>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buffer areas;</li> <li>• Buildings, including accommodation; and</li> <li>• All “no-go” areas.</li> </ul> <p><u>Topographical and sensitivity Maps</u></p> <p>25. The maps in Appendix D provide information for the entire Visserspan Farm No. 40. The maps submitted with that final BAR may provide information for the entire extent of Visserspan Farm but it is required that maps displaying geographical information particular to the portion of the farm designated for Project 1 only, be included in the report.</p> <p>26. The Biodiversity map provided in Appendix D utilises similar colours for “<i>Protected</i>” and “<i>CBA 1</i>” which makes it difficult to distinguish between the two.</p> <p>27. A locality map indicating the location of the proposed site, in relation to the nearest town (within the region) must be on an A3 page and submitted with the final BAR.</p> <p>28. An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmentally sensitive areas and features identified during the basic assessment process must be on an A3 page with a clear legend.</p> <p>29. A topographical map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map must be submitted with the final BAR.</p> <p><u>Shapefile of the preferred Development layout</u></p> <p>30. A shapefile of the preferred development layout/footprint must be submitted to this Department.</p> <p>31. The shapefile must be created using the Hartebeesthoek 94 Datum and the data should be in decimal Degree Format using the WGS 84 Spheroid.</p> <p>32. The shapefile must include at a minimum the following extensions i.e. .shp, .shx, .dbf, .prj, and, .xml (Metafile). If specific symbology was assigned to the file, then the .avi and/or the .lyr file must also be included.</p> <p>33. Data must be mapped at a scale of 1:10 000 (please specify if an alternative scale was used). The metadata must include a description of the base data used for digitizing.</p> <p>34. The shapefile must be submitted in a zip file using the EIA application reference number as the title. The shape file must be submitted to:</p>	

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		<p><b>Postal Address:</b> Department of Environmental Affairs, Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001</p> <p><b>Physical Address:</b> Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria</p> <p><b>For Attention:</b> Muhammad Essop, Integrated Environmental Authorisations, Strategic Infrastructure Developments</p> <p><b>Telephone Number:</b> 012 399 9406</p> <p><b>Email Address:</b> <a href="mailto:MEssop@environment.gov.za">MEssop@environment.gov.za</a></p> <p><b>The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)</b>  The EMPr to be submitted as part of the BAR must include the following:</p> <p>35. All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the BAR and the specialist studies conducted.</p> <p>36. A good quality final site layout map with clear legend.</p> <p>37. Measures as dictated by the final site layout map and micro-siting.</p> <p>38. An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmentally sensitive areas and features identified during the basic assessment process.</p> <p>39. A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.</p> <p>40. An alien invasive management plan to be implemented during construction and operation of the facility. The plan must include mitigation measures to reduce the invasion of alien species and ensure that the continuous monitoring and removal of alien species is undertaken.</p> <p>41. A plant rescue and protection plan which allows for the maximum transplant of conservation important species from areas to be transformed. This plan must be compiled by a vegetation specialist familiar with the site and be implemented prior to commencement of the construction phase.</p> <p>42. A re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. Restoration must be undertaken as soon as possible after completion of construction activities to reduce the amount of habitat converted at any one time and to speed up the recovery of natural habitats.</p> <p>43. A traffic management plan for the site access roads to ensure that no hazards would result from the increased truck traffic and that traffic flow would not be adversely impacted. This plan must include measures to minimize impacts on local commuters e.g. limiting construction</p>	

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		<p>vehicles travelling on public roadways during the morning and late afternoon commute time and avoid using roads through densely populated built-up areas so as not to disturb existing retail and commercial operations.</p> <p>44. A storm water management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. The plan must ensure compliance with applicable regulations and prevent off-site migration of contaminated storm water or increased soil erosion. The plan must include the construction of appropriate design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote dissipation of storm water run-off.</p> <p>45. A fire management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility.</p> <p>46. Measures to protect archaeological sites, artefacts, palaeontological fossils or graves from construction and operational impacts.</p> <p>47. Ensure that the EMPr complies with Appendix A of the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended).</p> <p>48. The EMPr must not contain any ambiguity. Where applicable, statements containing the word “should’ or “may’ are to be amended to “must”.</p> <p><u>Public Participation</u></p> <p>49. Ensure that all relevant stakeholders’ comments are submitted to the Department with the final BAR. This includes but is not limited to the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA, the Department of Transport, Tikogolo Local Municipality, Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL), the South African Heritage resources Agency (SAHRA), Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA), South African National Defence Force, Eskom and BirdLife South Africa.</p> <p>50. Comments must be obtained from this Department’s Biodiversity and Conservation Section of this Department. Further to that, these comments must be addressed and incorporated in the final Basic Assessment Report.</p> <p>The contact details are as follows:</p>	



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		<p><u>Biodiversity and Conservation</u>  <b>Attention:</b> Mr. Stanley Tshitwamolomoni  <b>Tel:</b> 012 399 9587  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:StanleyT@environment.gov.za">StanleyT@environment.gov.za</a></p> <p>51. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 &amp; 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p> <p>52. Copies of original comments received from I&amp;APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are submitted to the Department with the final BAR.</p> <p>53. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final BAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. In terms of Regulation 41(2)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, please provide <u>proof</u> of written notice for the availability of the BAR for comment.</p> <p>54. All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft BAR from I&amp;APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final BAR, including comments from this Department, and must be incorporated into a Comments and Response Report (CRR).</p> <p>55. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&amp;APs. All comments from I&amp;APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to an I&amp;AP’s comment.</p> <p>56. Attendance registers and minutes of any meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&amp;APs) and other role players must be included in the final BAR.</p> <p><u>The final BAR must also provide the following:</u></p> <p>57. Clear description of all associated infrastructure. This description must include, but not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powerlines;</li> <li>• Internal roads infrastructure; and;</li> <li>• All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house, and control room etc.</li> <li>• All necessary details regarding all possible locations and sizes of the proposed satellite substation and the main substation.</li> </ul>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on services required on the site, e.g. sewage, refuse removal, water and electricity, agreements with suppliers and confirmation of capacity been obtained must be provided.</li> </ul> <p>58. A <b>cumulative impact assessment</b> of the facility with other solar energy facilities within a 30km radius of the proposed development site.</p> <p>59. Please note that information on location of renewable energy developments can be accessed from <a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/mapsgraphics">https://www.environment.gov.za/mapsgraphics</a>.</p> <p>60. Details of the future plans for the site and infrastructure after decommissioning in 20-30 years and the possibility of upgrading the proposed infrastructure to more advanced technologies.</p> <p>61. Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads and internal cables is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.</p> <p>62. Should the Specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Department's definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer.</p> <p>63. The EAP must provide detailed motivation if any of the above requirements is not required by the proposed development and not included in the EMPr.</p> <p><u>General</u></p> <p>64. The EAP is requested to contact the Department (subsequent to the national lockdown) to make the necessary arrangements to conduct a site inspection.</p> <p>65. You are reminded that the final BAR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of the basic assessment reports in accordance with Appendix 1 of the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended.</p> <p>66. You are further reminded to comply with regulation 19(1)(a) and (b) of the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended <i>[regulations quoted]</i></p> <p>67. Should you fail to meet any of the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 19 of the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended, your application will lapse.</p> <p>68. You are requested to submit one (1) electronic copy (1 CD/DVD /USB) and one (1) hard copy of the final BAR to the Department</p>	

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		<p>69. Please also find attached information that must be used in the preparation of the final BAR. This will enable the Department to speedily review the BAR and make a decision on the application.</p> <p>70. You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No.107 of 1998, as amended, which stipulates that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p>	
5	<p><b>Date:</b> 06/04/2020  <b>Format:</b> Email  <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Mr. Gerhard van Rhyn (Landowner/ farmer and temporary co-ordinator of about 35 farmers in region)</p>	<p>“Dear Vivienne  The current lock down situation prohibits any meaningful liaison between affected farmers. May we request a postponement of the cut-off date?  Regards  Gerhard van Rhyn”</p>	<p><b>EAP:</b>  Email response sent on 06/04/2020 extending the public participation period for an additional 22 days after the initial 16 April end of lockdown date, to the 08 May 2020. Subsequent emails from EAP extended comments period to 30 June 2020, with a final extension to 19 July 2020.</p>
6	<p><b>Date:</b> 05/05/2020  <b>Format:</b> Email  <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Mr. Deon Edwards (Telephonic call followed by email)</p>	<p>“Good day Vivienne  Ref: Visserspan Solar Plant ( Dealesville )  From: Deon Edwards</p> <p>Further to our discussions of todays date,  Having been employed on a similar project, Boshof 65mw Solar plant as a Safety officer, I hereby wish to register as an I&amp;AP pertaining to the above project.</p> <p>Your assistance regarding this matter will be greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Kind Regards  Deon Edwards”</p>	<p><b>EAP:</b>  Email response sent on 06/05/2020 thanking I&amp;AP for telephonic conversation and email and confirming registration as I&amp;AP for the projects: Visserspan Solar PV Plants 1, 2, 3 and 4.</p>
7	<p><b>Date:</b> 06/05/2020  <b>Format:</b> Email  <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Mr. Deon Edwards</p>	<p>“Many thanks pertaining to the matter  Deon”</p>	<p><b>EAP:</b>  Cognisance taken of I&amp;AP's thanks.</p>
8	<p><b>Date:</b> 08/06/2020  <b>Format:</b> Email  <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Mr. John Geeringh, Senior Consultant Environmental Management,</p>	<p>“Please find Eskom General comments and setbacks guideline for consideration by the applicant. Please send me KMZ files of the affected properties and proposed layouts as well as the proposed grid connections.</p> <p>Kind regards</p>	<p><b>EAP:</b>  Email response sent on 06/08/2020 thanking I&amp;AP for telephonic conversation and email and confirming registration as I&amp;AP for the projects: Visserspan Solar PV Plants 1, 2, 3 and 4.</p>

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	Land and Rights, Eskom Transmission Division, Megawatt Park	John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat)"	
9	<p><b>Date:</b> 17/07/2020  <b>Format:</b> Email  <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Mr. Gerhard van Rhyn (Landowner/ farmer and temporary co-ordinator of about 35 farmers in region)</p>	<p>"Hallo Vivienne  Van ons benadeeldes het weer gepraat oor al die sonplaasontwikkelings in ons streek,asook oor die feit dat ons nie baie suksesvol is wanneer ons aan die prosesse deelneem nie. Ons gevoel is dat daar nie werklik indringend aan ons objeksies en versoeke aandag gegee word nie. Reaksies wat ons ontvang oor ons bekommernisse word telkemale weerspreek deur algemene vae antwoorde,sonder die nodige diepgaande ontleding daarvan. Ongelukkig word ontwikkelings goedgekeur wat op die langtermyn nie die gewenste uitkomst in ons streek gaan meebring nie. Ons gevoel is dat ons bloot deel vorm van die wetlike proses en vereiste om die proses legitiem en suksesvol af te handel. Die hele proses word uitsluitlik tot voordeel van die ontwikkelaar hanteer. Objektiviteit en rasionaliteit t.o.v. van ons klagtes en besware bestaan tans glad nie. Ons voel dat ons nie meer blindelings aan hierdie uitmergelende prosse kan deelneem nie. Ons gevoel is om hierdie situasie met verantwoordelike departemente en rolspelers verder te bespreek voordat ons weer aan prosesse deelneem.  Die feit dat ons tans onderworpe is aan "lock down " maak dit vir ons verder moeilik om suksesvol aan prosesse te kan deelneem. Ons werkswyse en strategie sal moet aangepas word,aangesien ons tans ons tyd mors om aan die prosesse deel te neem.  Hiermee versoek ons `n verdere uitstel asook grasie om hierdie situasie met die nodige rolspelers te bespreek totdat die situasie rondom Covid 19 verbeter..  Groete  Gerhard van Rhyn"</p>	<p><b>EAP:</b></p> <p>Email response sent on 03/08/2020:</p> <p>"Geagte Gerhard</p> <p>Baie dankie vir die onderstaande korrespondensie en telefoniese kommunikasie op 9 Julie 2020 aangaande genoemde kwessie.</p> <p>Ek vra om verskoning vir die vertraging in my respons. Ek kon eers Donderdag (30 Julie 2020) met die ontwikkelaar in verbinding tree aangaande u e-pos versoek. Hulle het weer gewag vir 'n besluit van die Regering af in verband met die proses voorentoe vir al die onafhanklike hernubare energie-kragprodusente.</p> <p>Die Visserspan projek het al reeds meer as die vereiste tyd aan geregistreerde belanghebbende en geaffekteerde partye gebied om kommentaar op die voorgestelde ontwikkeling te lewer. Tans, verwag die ontwikkelaar 'n aankondiging van die Regering binne die volgende week af. Dit is dus die rede hoekom die projek se beplanningstyd ongelukkig nie weer uitgestel kan word nie.</p> <p>Soos met u telefonies bespeek, is die Dealesville streek 'n paar jare gelede as 'n hernubare energie-ontwikkelingsone vir sonkrag geidentifiseer. Dit is hoekom onwikkelaars projekte in die gebied voorstel.</p> <p>Dankie vir u aktiewe betrokkenheid.</p>
10	<p><b>Date:</b> 31/07/2020  <b>Format:</b> Email  <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Mr. Gerhard van Rhyn (Landowner/ farmer and temporary</p>	<p>"Hallo Vivienne  Ek wag vir `n reaksie op my skrywe asb.  Groete  Gerhard van Rhyn"</p>	<p><b>EAP:</b></p> <p>Email response sent on 03/08/2020 (as above) thanking I&amp;AP for telephonic conversation and email and confirming registration as I&amp;AP for the projects: Visserspan Solar PV Plants 1, 2, 3 and 4.</p>

No.	Comment Date, Comment Format, Organisation/I&AP	Verbatim comments as quoted from I&AP correspondence	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist/Project Manager
	co-ordinator of about 35 farmers in region)		
11	<p><b>Date:</b> 26/11/2019  <b>Format:</b> Email  <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Mr. Thabo (Sylvester) Seliba</p>	<p>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 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.  ii. Further note that I&amp;AP is aware that EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Ventura Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd.  iii. Query as to where to forward a CV for open vacancies.</p>	<p><b>EAP:</b>  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>  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>  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.  ii. Letter addressed to EAP indicating application to register for the Visserspan Solar PV Facility Project:  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".  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</p>	<p><b>EAP:</b>  i. Email sent on 17/12/2019, confirming receipt of correspondence from I&amp;AP and acknowledging that I&amp;APs have been registered.  ii.  a. Inclusion of list of farmers in I&amp;AP register  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).  c. Agreed – the cumulative effect should all the proposed solar PV developments be constructed, should have been considered/assessed</p>

No.	Comment Date, Comment Format, Organisation/I&AP	Verbatim comments as quoted from I&AP correspondence	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist/Project Manager
		<p>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 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>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> <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)</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>

No.	Comment Date, Comment Format, Organisation/I&AP	Verbatim comments as quoted from I&AP correspondence	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist/Project Manager
	for various farmers in region)		
16	<b>Date:</b> 27/01/2020 <b>Format:</b> Email <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Ms. Ragna Redelstorff, Heritage Officer (Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit, South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)	i. Thanks expressed for notification of the Visserspan Solar PV Facility Projects. 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.	<b>EAP:</b> i. Email acknowledged on 06/03.2020 and content noted. 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	

# PROPOSED VISSERSPAN SOLAR PV FACILITY – PROJECT 4

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>



No.	Comment Date, Comment Format, Organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist/Proje[ct Manager
		iv. Entity differs from competitors since they also supply road lighting. v. Entity claims to have a team that specialises in installing solar panels and determining customers' needs. 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.	
3	<b>Date:</b> 18/11/2019 <b>Format:</b> Second email <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Ms. Primrose Ndzululeka, Golden Four Trading	A second email received shortly after the above email but no specific project number specified: i. Proposal to purchase solar panels from Golden Four Trading for solar powered irrigation and solar power street lights for the proposed developments. 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). 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. iv. Statement that solar panels are part of the fourth industrial revolution and the proposed facility should purchase solar panels at the prices provided.	<b>EAP:</b> i. to vi. Cognisance taken of comments. v. Registration of organisation (represented by contact individual) as an I&AP for all projects. Email notification of same and of availability of DBAR sent 06/03/2020.
4	<b>Date:</b> 18/11/2019 <b>Format:</b> Email <b>I&amp;AP:</b> Mr. Albertus Teseling representing Concordia Trust	i. Request for registration as an I&AP (for Visserspan Solar PV Facility no project number specified)	<b>EAP:</b> i. Registration of organisation (represented by contact individual) for all projects. Email notification of same and of availability of DBAR sent 02/03/2020. ii. <b>Note:</b> Email from I&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&AP register and email notification of same and of availability of DBAR sent 06/03/2020.
5	<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	i. Request for registration as an I&AP for Visserspan Solar PV Facility - Project 2	<b>EAP:</b> i. Registration of individual as an I&AP. Email notification of same and of availability of DBAR sent 06/03/2020.

No.	Comment Date, Comment Format, Organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist/Project Manager
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 contact made by EAP 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 contact made by EAP 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>	

No.	Comment Date, Comment Format, Organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist/Project Manager
	I&AP: Mr. Thabo (Sylvester) Seliba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>ii. Further note that I&amp;AP is aware that EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Ventura Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd.</li> <li>iii. Query as to where to forward a CV for open vacancies.</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>
12	<p>Date: 02/12/2019 Format: Email facsimile I&amp;AP: . 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>
13	<p>Date: 02/12/2019 Format: Email I&amp;AP: Serame Petrus Galeboe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Receipt of email with 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>
14	<p>Date: 10/12/2019 Format: Email with letter and signed petition I&amp;AP: Mr. Gerhard van Rhyn (temporary co-ordination of registration for various farmers in region)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Email received (following telephonic conversation) of interested and affected farmers who want to register.</li> <li>ii. Letter addressed to EAP indicating application to register for the Visserspan Solar PV Facility Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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".</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>EAP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Email sent on 17/12/2019, confirming receipt of correspondence from I&amp;AP and acknowledging that I&amp;APs have been registered.</li> <li>ii. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Inclusion of list of farmers in I&amp;AP register</li> <li>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).</li> <li>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.</li> <li>d. Noted.</li> <li>e. Agreed – all input/comments from I&amp;APs are valued to allow a more robust assessment process.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

No.	Comment Date, Comment Format, Organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist/Project Manager
		<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>

No.	Comment Date, Comment Format, Organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist/Project Manager
	<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	