



# environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER, DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH

File Reference Number:  
NEAS Reference Number:  
Date Received:

(For official use only)

DEA/EIA/

Application for authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended (the Regulations)

### PROJECT TITLE

**Proposed Visserspan Solar Photovoltaic Facility Project 4 on Visserspan Farm No. 40, near Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province**

### Kindly note the following:

1. This form must always be used for applications that must be subjected to Basic Assessment or Scoping & Environmental Impact Reporting where this Department is the Competent Authority.
2. This form is current as of 01 September 2018. It is the responsibility of the Applicant / Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the form have been published or produced by the Competent Authority. The latest available Departmental templates are available at <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.
3. A copy of this form containing original signatures must be appended to all Draft and Final Reports submitted to the department for consideration.
4. All documentation delivered to the physical address contained in this form must be delivered during the official Departmental Officer Hours which is visible on the Departmental gate.
5. All 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, only hardcopy submissions are accepted.

### Departmental Details

#### Postal address:

Department of Environmental Affairs  
Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Private Bag X447  
Pretoria  
0001

#### Physical address:

Department of Environmental Affairs  
Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Road  
Arcadia

Queries must be directed to the Directorate: Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support at:  
Email: [EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za](mailto:EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za)

## 1. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER (EAP) INFORMATION

EAP Company Name:	EnviroAfrica CC		
B-BBEE	Contribution level (indicate 1 to 8 or non-compliant)	4	Percentage Procurement recognition
			0%
EAP name:	Vivienne Thomson		
EAP Qualifications:	<p>BSc, Zoology (UCT); EIA short course (PU), Environmental Law (PU), Advanced Environmental Law (Mandela Institute School of Law, Wits), ISO 14001 Lead Auditors Course (WTH Management and Training), Root Cause Analysis Technique (IRCA), Environmental Performance Measurement Workshop (African Centre for Energy and Environment), Basic Principles of Ecological Rehabilitation and Mine Closure (PU), Member: National Association for Clean Air; South African Coal Ash Association</p> <p>Vivienne has over twenty years industry experience in the construction, power generation and mining sectors. She has guest lectured for the MSc in Environmental Science Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) course at the University of the Witwatersrand.</p> <p>Vivienne is a member of the National Association for Clean Air (NACA) and has served as NACA National Council Member. She is a member of the South African Coal Ash Association and an affiliate of the Institute of Innovators and Inventors. She was also a member of the Committee of Interested Parties which acted as an independent, advisory body to ensure impartiality of Pricewaterhouse Coopers' Certification Body in their governance and sustainability division.</p>		
Professional affiliation/registration:	I.A.I.A. (S.A.) Membership Number: 219 – Bernard de Witt (Owner) EnviroAfrica		
Physical address:	7 Pastorie Park, Cnr. Lourens and Reitz Streets, Somerset West, 7129		
Postal address:	P. O. Box 5367, Somerset West		
Postal code:	7135	Cell:	082 464 2874 / 082 448 9991
Telephone:	021 851 1616	Fax:	086 512 0154
E-mail:	vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za		bernard@enviroafrica.co.za

The appointed EAP must meet the requirements of Regulation 13 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amended.

## 2. DECLARATION BY THE EAP

I, **Vivienne Thomson**, declare that –

- I act as the independent environmental assessment practitioner in this application;
- I have expertise in conducting environmental impact assessments, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;
- I will take into account, to the extent possible, the matters listed in Regulation 13 of the Regulations when preparing the application and any report relating to the application;
- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the Competent Authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the Competent Authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the Competent Authority, unless access to that information is protected by law, in which case it will be indicated that such information exists and will be provided to the Competent Authority;
- I will perform all obligations as expected from an environmental assessment practitioner in terms of the Regulations; and
- I am aware of what constitutes an offence in terms of Regulation 48 and that a person convicted of an offence in terms of Regulation 48(1) is liable to the penalties as contemplated in Section 49B of the Act.

Details of EAP, Declaration and Undertaking Under Oath

**Disclosure of Vested Interest (delete whichever is not applicable)**

- I do not have and will not have any vested interest (either business, financial, personal or other) in the proposed activity proceeding other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the Regulations;

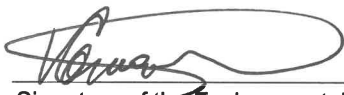
~~• I have a vested interest in the proposed activity proceeding, such vested interest being:~~

Not Applicable

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Signature of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner

**EnviroAfrica CC**

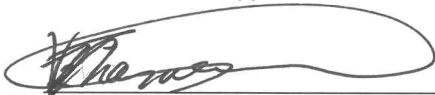
Name of Company:

29 FEBRUARY 2020

Date

**3. UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH/ AFFIRMATION**

I, **Vivienne Thomson**, swear under oath / affirm that all the information submitted or to be submitted for the purposes of this application is true and correct.




Signature of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner

**EnviroAfrica CC**

Name of Company

29 FEBRUARY 2020

Date



.....7160739-1  
R.O.D. WILLIAMS *RD*

Signature of the Commissioner of Oaths

2020/02/29

Date



*Curriculum Vitae:*

*Vivienne Thomson  
(née Cornelius)*

## Personal Information

Nationality	South African
ID Number	730623 0155 081
Gender	Female
Marital Status	Divorced
Contact Details	Cell: +2782 464 2874 E-mail: thomsonvivienne1@gmail.com

## Education

**2004 - 2005:**            **University of the Witwatersrand    Johannesburg**  
**MSc (Environmental Science) - Coursework completed (*in lieu of***  
**Honours Degree); Dissertation to be completed**

*(Certified academic transcripts available on request)*

**1991 - 1995:**            **University of Cape Town            Cape Town**  
**BSc (Zoology)**

- Graduated: 12 December 1995

*(Certified degree certificate attached)*

**1986 - 1990:**            **Woolhope Secondary School        Port Elizabeth**  
**Senior Certificate, House of Delegates**

- Passed Senior Certificate Matriculation Examination (higher grade)

*(Certified matric certificate available on request)*

I have also attended various short courses as part of my personal development which include but are not limited to:

An ISO 14001 lead Auditors Course (WTH Management and Training); Environmental Impact Assessment (Potchefstroom University); Basic Principles of Ecological Rehabilitation and Mine Closure (Potchefstroom University); Introduction to Environmental Management (Potchefstroom University); Environmental Law (Potchefstroom University); Advanced Environmental Law (Mandela Institute, Wits University); Bio-fouling and Bio-corrosion Workshop (University of Pretoria); Root Cause Analysis Technique (IRCA); Environmental Performance Measurement Workshop (African Centre for Energy and Environment); NOSA Environmental Seminar; NOSA Five Star System Workshop; Standardised Victim Support Training (FAMSA, Western Cape).

*(Certificates for short courses available on request)*

## Languages

Proficient in English and Afrikaans

## Work Experience

**September 2015 – to date**

**Environmental Consultant  
Vivienne Thomson, South Africa**

My work over the past three and a half years has involved:

- environmental impact assessments (EIAs) with environmental authorisation (EA) approvals for six renewable energy plants
- basic assessment (BA) applications with environmental authorisation (EA) approvals for residential, infrastructural and mining permit projects (including undertaking and managing the public participation process, liaison with governmental and non-governmental organisations and specialist/project management)
- environmental authorisation amendment applications
- EIAs (including public participation) for two municipal green cemetery and memorial park projects which received environmental authorisation (EA) approvals
- environmental feasibility study for a municipal mixed-use building project
- the development of site environmental management programmes/plans
- environmental control officer site visits
- environmental licence and authorisation compliance/legal evaluations
- mentoring (through review and project management guidance) of junior consultants

**September 2004 – August 2015**

**Environmental Consultant  
Over the Moon Consulting CC, South Africa**

In 2004, I left full time employment at a State-owned entity to establish a small environmental consultancy. This afforded me the opportunity to:

- develop and establish ISO14001 certified environmental management systems (EMSs) and contribute towards the ISO18001 management systems at several entities in the power generating sector such as Medupi Power Station (construction and commissioning), Kendal Power Station (operational) and Grootvlei Power Station (return-to-service and operational)
- conduct legal compliance evaluations and internal audits
- undertake various specific environmental licence applications *viz.* emissions licence applications, water use licence applications, as well as waste site licensing
- contribute towards the establishment, improvement and maintenance of several air and groundwater monitoring networks
- appraise and report on the performance of various clients' environmental departments
- train site personnel to fulfil environmental officer monitoring and management functions
- perform BAs and EIAs (including the public participation processes)
- assess compliance to EAs/Records of Decisions and environmental management and monitoring plans

As an environmental consultant, I have:

- drawn up immediate environmental scopes of work, as well as medium to long term strategies for ground and surface water monitoring, ambient air quality monitoring, as well as land management and rehabilitation plans
- assessed sites and advised clients regarding due diligence issues in all areas of environmental management.
- presented guest lectures on air quality and air quality monitoring for the MSc in Environmental Science EIA course at the University of the Witwatersrand (2006)
- undertaken a research study for Eskom on the feasibility of the gypsum market from flue gas desulphurisation
- provided input into procurement contract drafting to ensure environmental sustainability

As owner of Over the Moon, I oversaw a full-time staff of four employees and a sub-contracted contingent of four professional engineers and one engineering technician. I also managed all administrative functions of the business which included project and budget management.

**October 2000 – August 2004**

**Environmental Officer/Advisor  
Eskom - Lethabo Power Station, Vereeniging**

This position exposed me to several additional aspects of environmental management that my initial position in Eskom had not afforded me. I managed a staff of three employees who made up the environmental management team at Lethabo Power Station and advised top management, engineers, project managers and contractors regarding environmental issues.

In addition to being responsible for all Lethabo's environmental management issues, my responsibilities included the environmental management of four other decommissioned power station properties. I undertook and was involved in, risk assessments of these properties related to sale, asbestos hazards, deconstruction and rehabilitation.

I was responsible for:

- the establishment of the Station's ISO 14001 compliant EMS
- setting up and maintaining the Station's environmental incidents and complaints registers
- establishing the Station's internal environmental impact assessment (filtering and screening) processes for all modifications and new projects
- the Station's first line of direct environmental liaison with governmental organisations, particularly the then Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and the then Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism's Chief Air Pollution Control Officer
- reporting on all environmental performance issues and concerns at relevant Eskom and non-Eskom forums
- conducting on-site training and plant orientation workshops
- foundation work for Lethabo's integrated Safety, Health and Environmental manual development

**July 1999 – September 2000**

**Environmental Officer  
Eskom - Duvha Power Station, Witbank**

At Duvha Power Station I was exposed to several aspects of environmental management and monitoring. My responsibilities included:

- daily and monthly reporting of environmental issues internally and external to the company
- management of contractors related to environmental air, water, waste and rehabilitation issues
- environmental liaison at internal meetings, as well as at non-governmental forums (such as the regional Air Pollution Liaison Committee Meetings) and governmental departments
- reporting of environmental performance
- planning and co-ordination of action plans to address environmental issues

My function included research and writing of reports related to possible controlled saline and storm water releases, air quality monitoring reports, as well as hazard and risk investigations of the ash dams. I also co-ordinated Station and public relation events related to significant environmental calendar dates.

I was involved in the initial implementation and transition from a paper- to electronic-based, ISO 14001 compliant, environmental management system and was part of the team responsible for the Station's environmental audit preparedness.

**Feb 1997 – June 1999**

**Senior Chemist/Laboratory Technician  
Tavistock Collieries Limited, Witbank**

This position allowed me to learn about coal sampling, specifications and analyses, as well as its application in various industries. I was appointed as Acting Chief Chemist for periods when the Chief Chemist was on leave with full responsibility for the laboratory and staff. I also handled and resolved staff related issues (including disciplinary processes) for the 40 strong laboratory complement.

My responsibilities included the writing up of the laboratory's Health and Safety Critical Task Analyses and Procedures and the establishment of a new, computer-based laboratory management system, to increase efficiency and accuracy at the laboratory. At the time, it was only the second installation of its kind in the world.

### **Individual Awards/Commendations Received**

- Selected as finalist for Managers Award, Lethabo Power Station, Eskom 2001
- Winner of Managers Safety, Health and Environmental Award, Lethabo Power Station, Eskom 2002
- Secretary for the Vaal Triangle Branch of the National Association for Clean Air (NACA) 2003 to 2009
- Winner of Sterling Performance Managers Award, Lethabo Power Station, Eskom 2004



- National Council Member of NACA 2008 to 2011
- Member of Air Pollution Action Committee non-governmental organisation in the Vaal Triangle 2001 to 2005
- One of three industry representatives selected to represent the industry sector on the steering committee of the Vaal Triangle Strategic Environmental Assessment Process 2004 to 2006
- Acting chairperson for the Vaal Triangle Branch of NACA during the region's co-ordination of the Department of Environmental Affairs Legotla/NACA Annual Conference 2009
- Independent committee member on the Pricewaterhouse, Coopers (Pty) Ltd. ISO Certification Committee of Interested Parties 2009 to 2013

### Company Awards/Commendations Received

- Runner-up (Service Provider of the Year) Managers Award, Grootvlei Power Station, Eskom 2009
- Winner (Service Provider of the Year) Managers Award, Grootvlei Power Station, Eskom 2010

### Memberships

- National Association for Clean Air (Individual Member)
- South African Coal Ash Association (Previous Individual Member)
- Institute of Innovators and Inventors (Affiliate)

### Project Summary

No.	Project Type and Title	Project Duration	Client	Location	Role and Responsibilities
1	EIA: Calcutta Public Cemetery and Memorial Park (PC&MP) development	13/06/2017 - 20/09/2019	EnviroAfrica CC for Stellenbosch Municipality	South Africa (Western Cape)	<b>Lead EAP.</b> Also conducted all public participation liaison with stakeholders. Environmental authorisation granted.
2	EIA: Sand Borrow Pit on Plot 2372, Alheid, Kenhardt District, Northern Cape	06/03/2019 - 25/10/2019	EnviroAfrica CC for the Verneujk Pan Trust)	South Africa (Free State)	<b>Lead EAP.</b> DMR online (SAMRAD) application with EMPR development throughout project life-cycle. Public participation also co-ordinated and undertaken by Vivienne Thomson. Environmental authorisation granted,

No.	Project Type and Title	Project Duration	Client	Location	Role and Responsibilities
3	EIA: Louw's Bos PC&MP development	13/06/2017 - 20/01/2020	EnviroAfrica CC for Stellenbosch Municipality	South Africa (Western Cape)	<b>Lead EAP.</b> Also conducted all public participation liaison with stakeholders. EIA study and application finalised and submitted. Environmental authorisation granted.
4	EIA: Steynville Sewage Outfall Pipeline Development, Hope Town, Thembelihle Municipality, Northern Cape	21/10/2019 - In progress	EnviroAfrica CC for BVi Engineering (Pty) Ltd	South Africa (Free State)	<b>Lead EAP.</b> Pre-application Phase for <100MW solar PV facility in REDZ 5; First round of public participation also co-ordinated and undertaken by Vivienne Thomson. Including liaison with community forums. Environmental authorisation granted.
5	EIA: Vanrhynsdorp Solar PV Facility	27/10/2017 - 08/05/2018	EnviroAfrica CC for Keren Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd	South Africa (Western Cape)	<b>Project EAP</b> and author of the BAR. Project for development of <20MW solar PV facility in non-REDZ area. Vivienne Thomson also undertook all public participation for the project. Environmental authorisation granted.
6	EIA: Mount Roper Solar PV Facility	12/02/2017 - 07/11/2017	EnviroAfrica CC for Keren Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd	South Africa (Northern Cape)	<b>Project EAP.</b> Project for development of <20MW solar PV facility in non REDZ area. Vivienne Thomson also undertook all public participation for the project. Environmental authorisation granted.
7	EIA: Danielskuil Solar PV Facility	12/02/2017 - 07/11/2017	EnviroAfrica CC for Keren Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd	South Africa (Northern Cape)	<b>Project EAP.</b> Project for development of <20MW solar PV facility in non REDZ area. Vivienne Thomson also undertook all public participation for the project. Environmental authorisation granted.
8	EIA: Disselfontein Solar PV Facility	12/02/2017 - 07/11/2017	EnviroAfrica CC (for Keren Energy Holdings)	South Africa (Northern Cape)	<b>Project EAP.</b> Project for development of <20MW solar PV facility in non REDZ area. Vivienne Thomson also undertook all public participation for the project. Environmental authorisation granted.
9	EIA: Keimoes Solar PV Facility	12/02/2017 - 04/11/2017	EnviroAfrica CC for Keren Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd	South Africa (Northern Cape)	<b>Project EAP.</b> Project for development of <20MW solar PV facility in non REDZ area. Vivienne Thomson also undertook all public participation for the project. Environmental authorisation granted.
10	EIA: Kakamas Solar PV Facility	12/02/2017 - 9/11/2017	EnviroAfrica CC for Keren Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd	South Africa (Northern Cape)	Vivienne Thomson was the <b>project EAP.</b> Project for development of <20MW solar PV facility in non REDZ area. Vivienne Thomson also undertook all public participation for the project. Environmental authorisation granted.
11	EIA & applicability checklists: Several telecommunication mast / tower developments	08/01/2018 - 28/03/2020	Atlas Tower (Pty) Ltd; Eagle Towers (Pty) Ltd.	South Africa (Western Cape and Northern Cape)	<b>Lead EAP/environmental consultant.</b> EIA applications granted

No.	Project Type and Title	Project Duration	Client	Location	Role and Responsibilities
12	Mixed use residential development feasibility study	10/05/2019 - 28/06/2019	EnviroAfrica CC (for Rumboll and Partners (Pty) Ltd)	South Africa (Western Cape)	<b>Lead EAP/environmental consultant.</b>
13	Housing/residential development environmental compliance assessments and management programme development	02/05/2017 - 31/10/2018	EnviroAfrica CC (for De Roodezandt, Robertson)	South Africa (Western Cape)	<b>ECO</b> - undertook all ECO assessments, reporting and stakeholder liaison.
14	Established ISO 14001 certified environmental management system (EMS) Medupi Power Station	01/07/2012 - 30/09/2013	Parsons Brinckerhoff (for Eskom, CED)	South Africa (Limpopo)	<b>Environmental consultant.</b> Developer and implementer of environmental policy, procedures and management programmes. Established legal registers and undertook training and internal auditing.
15	Established ISO 14001 certified EMS Kendal Power Station	01/10/2011 - 30/06/2012	Eskom, Generation Division	South Africa (Mpumalanga)	<b>Environmental consultant</b> and implementer for policy, procedure and management programme development. Established legal registers and undertook training and internal auditing.
16	Environmental Manager; Established ISO 14001 certified EMS Lethabo Power Station; Air and water use licence applications	01/10/2000 - 31/08/2004	Eskom, Generation Division	South Africa (Free State/Gauteng)	<b>Environmental consultant</b> and implementer for policy, procedure and management programme development. Established legal registers and undertook training and internal auditing.
17	Air/emission and water use licence applications	01/05/2007 - 30/04/2011	Eskom, Generation Division	South Africa (Mpumalanga)	<b>Environmental consultant</b> and applicant representative with authorities.
18	Feasibility study on the potential for a flue gas desulphurisation gypsum market	01/07/2009 - 30/11/2009	Eskom, Corporate Division	South Africa (Gauteng)	<b>Environmental consultant</b>
19	Gap analyses of environmental requirements for return to service of Grootvlei Power Station	01/07/2005 - 31/09/2005	Eskom, Generation Division	South Africa (Mpumalanga)	<b>Environmental consultant</b>
20	Established ISO 14001 compliant EMS at Ash Resources and conducted EIAs	28/08/2004 - 30/06/2007	Eskom, Generation Division	South Africa (Free State/Gauteng)	<b>Environmental consultant</b> and implementer for policy, procedure and management programme development. Established legal registers and undertook training and internal auditing.