

## Appendix E – Correspondence with Organs of State

**Appendix E1 – DFFE**

**From:** Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 22 November 2021 17:01  
**To:** 'Chantal Engelbrecht'  
**Cc:** 'Julliet Mahlangu'; 'Dr. Danie Smit'; 'Rhulani Kubayi'; 'Vusi Skosana'; Bernard de witt; Weyers Janse van Rensburg; 'EMaradwa@environment.gov.za'  
**Subject:** RE: Query re. EIA Regulations (11) and 25(2) for pre-application Ref No.: 2021-08-007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)

Dear Chantal

Thank you very much for your response as per your email below. I appreciate your input particularly in point 3 of your mail where you suggest dating maps in the different reports and also providing a validity period for those listed/specified activities without an operational component.

I am using the Department's generic/pre-approved EMPs for the overhead powerline and substations, so the impact management actions and impact management outcomes should be adequately distinguished.

**Just a note:** When I sent the IQ Helpdesk the query email on 15 November 2021, I also sent a similar email to [EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za](mailto:EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za) (on the same day). I have not received any response from EIA Admin, as yet. I have also sent EIA Admin a request for feedback today. I originally sent the query to both the IQ Helpdesk and EIA Admin based on instruction received from the Department during the pre-application meeting. From your response, I understand that the onus lies with the Competent Authority (i.e. National Infrastructure Projects) to decide whether two EAs will be issued from the single application.

Nonetheless, thank you for the thought and time taken in responding to my query.

Vivienne Thomson



*Environmental Assessment Practitioner*

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**From:** Chantal Engelbrecht <CENGELBRECHT@dffe.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 22 November 2021 13:30  
**To:** Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>  
**Cc:** Julliet Mahlangu <JMMahlangu@dffe.gov.za>; Vusi Skosana <VSKOSANA@dffe.gov.za>; Dr. Danie Smit <DSMIT@dffe.gov.za>; Rhulani Kubayi <RKubayi@dffe.gov.za>  
**Subject:** RE: Query re. EIA Regulations (11) and 25(2) for pre-application Ref No.: 2021-08-007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)

Dear Vivienne

It is unclear what assistance you require from the IQ Helpdesk, since the matter appears to be one of implementation and not interpretation.

## Vivienne Thomson

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**From:** IQ <IQ@dffe.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 23 November 2021 08:55  
**To:** Vivienne Thomson  
**Cc:** Julliet Mahlangu; Vusi Skosana; Dr. Danie Smit; Rhulani Kubayi; EIAAdmin; Masingita Maluleke; Isaac Sebothoma  
**Subject:** IQ/21/0299: Query re. EIA Regulations (11) and 25(2) for pre-application Ref No.: 2021-08-007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)

Dear All

Kindly note the reference no. for this query- IQ/21/0299.

Regards  
Chantal Engelbrecht

**From:** Chantal Engelbrecht  
**Sent:** Monday, 22 November 2021 13:30  
**To:** Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>  
**Cc:** Julliet Mahlangu <JMMahlangu@dffe.gov.za>; Vusi Skosana <VSKOSANA@dffe.gov.za>; Dr. Danie Smit <DSMIT@dffe.gov.za>; Rhulani Kubayi <RKubayi@dffe.gov.za>  
**Subject:** RE: Query re. EIA Regulations (11) and 25(2) for pre-application Ref No.: 2021-08-007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)

Dear Vivienne

It is unclear what assistance you require from the IQ Helpdesk, since the matter appears to be one of implementation and not interpretation.

The EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) is clear about the following -

1.  
The EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) provides for the splitting of an environmental authorisation, as well as the issue of multiple EAs for an application where a single consolidated impact assessment process was followed.
2.  
The EIA Regulations also do not prohibit the splitting of an EA after it has been issued, regardless of whether it has commenced or not.
3.  
What is important is that where an EA is split -
  - The relevant EMPr must be split as well. It is advisable that EMPRs distinguishes between impact management actions and impact management outcomes.
  - Splitting current conditions – could be cloning or referring to specific conditions, depending on the specific scenario. The relevant competent authority must consider this.
  - It is important to clearly demarcate the geographic ambit of each required EA on a map. Date the map in the relevant reports to avoid confusion.
  - Consider providing a validity period for those listed or specified activities without an operational component.

You are advised to further liaise with the relevant officers copied above via [EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za](mailto:EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za) or the relevant e-mail addresses.

Regards  
Chantal Engelbrecht

**From:** Vivienne Thomson [<mailto:vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>]

**Sent:** Monday, 22 November 2021 11:01

**To:** IQ <[IQ@dfpe.gov.za](mailto:IQ@dfpe.gov.za)>

**Cc:** Chantal Engelbrecht <[CENGELBRECHT@dfpe.gov.za](mailto:CENGELBRECHT@dfpe.gov.za)>; Julliet Mahlangu <[JMMahlangu@dfpe.gov.za](mailto:JMMahlangu@dfpe.gov.za)>; Weyers Janse van Rensburg <[weyers@kerenenergy.com](mailto:weyers@kerenenergy.com)>; Bernard de witt <[bernard@enviroafrica.co.za](mailto:bernard@enviroafrica.co.za)>

**Subject:** FW: Query re. EIA Regulations (11) and 25(2) for pre-application Ref No.: 2021-08-007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)

**Importance:** High

Dear Madam/Sir

The email below refers. I am following-up as to whether there is any feedback/clarification regarding the query?

Thank you,  
Vivienne Thomson



*Environmental Assessment Practitioner*

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**From:** Vivienne Thomson <[vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za](mailto:vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za)>

**Sent:** Monday, 15 November 2021 23:24

**To:** 'IQ@environment.gov.za' <[IQ@environment.gov.za](mailto:IQ@environment.gov.za)>

**Cc:** 'CEngelbrecht@environment.gov.za' <[CEngelbrecht@environment.gov.za](mailto:CEngelbrecht@environment.gov.za)>; 'JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za' <[JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za](mailto:JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za)>

**Subject:** FW: Query re. EIA Regulations (11) and 25(2) for pre-application Ref No.: 2021-08-007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)

**Importance:** High

Dear Madam/Sir

With reference to the attached letter, please advise regarding a query/request for clarification in terms of NEMA EIA Regulation 11 and 25(2) for pre-application EA Reference No.: 2021-08-0007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection).

For ease of reference, Appendix 1 included in the full query letter is also attached as a separate file.

Thank you,  
Vivienne Thomson



*Environmental Assessment Practitioner*

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15 November 2021

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
EIA Applications (Integrated Environmental Authorisations)  
Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Road  
Arcadia  
0083

**Email: [IQ@environment.gov.za](mailto:IQ@environment.gov.za)**

Dear Competent Authority

**re.: Request for clarification in terms of NEMA EIA Regulation 11 and 25(2) for pre-application EA Reference No.: 2021-08-0007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)**

EnviroAfrica CC on behalf of Keren Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd intends to apply for environmental authorisation (EA) for the above project. A pre-application meeting with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) was held on 27 August 2021 (minutes attached as Appendix 1 of this letter). EnviroAfrica was advised by the DFFE to submit an enquiry regarding the issue detailed below to EIA Admin as well as the Interpretation and Queries Desk prior to submission of the EA application as per point 3 of Appendix 1 attached.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The current/intended EA application i.e. Visserspan Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Grid Connection (Ref. No.: 2021-08-0007), is to enable connection of four already authorised Visserspan Solar PV Facilities to the existing national/Eskom electricity grid. Visserspan Solar PV Facilities (Projects 1 to 4) will each produce between 75MW to 100MW of electricity and were individually bid in the recent Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) Bid Window 5. Even though none of the Visserspan bids were successful as preferred bidder in this round of bidding, the developer intends to establish the grid connection infrastructure to accommodate each of the four Visserspan Solar PV Facilities'. It is intended to bid the four

Visserspan Solar PV Facilities in REIPPPP Bid Window 6 scheduled for the end of March 2022. In Bid Window 6, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy seeks to add another 4200MW of renewable energy to the national grid. Should one or more of the four Visserspan Solar PV bids be unsuccessful in Bid Window 6, they will be bid in future bidding windows.

The current/intended EA application for the Visserspan Solar PV Grid Connection entails permanent and temporary/construction infrastructure development. Permanent infrastructure development includes overhead power lines and substations (including offices, ablutions, storage buildings, transformers and pylons for overhead powerlines), as well as 4m to 8m wide (dirt) access roads/vehicle tracks where such roads do not already exist. Temporary/construction infrastructure includes two lay down areas, site offices, storage buildings, as well as a batching plant and stockpile yard. Construction ablutions would be provided by means of regularly serviced portable toilets and tanker trucks would supply water.

The Visserspan Solar PV Grid Connection will accommodate all four solar PV facilities in a once-off construction process. Substation construction and overhead power lines will be strung for each solar PV facility on pylons erected during the once-off construction process. The substations are planned to be built on either 'end' of the overhead power line corridor on the Visserspan and Kinderdam farms, respectively, as per Appendix B of Appendix 1 attached. The entire grid connection corridor route and the substations will be fully assessed during the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process for the intended EA application.

As such, all environmental issues/negative environmental impacts will be identified and rated in terms of significance, with mitigation and management measures provided in the Visserspan Solar PV Grid Connection basic assessment report (BAR) and associated environmental management plan report (EMPr), enabling the Department to make an informed decision on the whole application.

#### **CLARIFICATION REQUEST:**

The current/intended single EA application consists of three main parts:

- i. the on-site Visserspan substation which is in essence divided into two functional portions i.e.
  - a. the Independent Power Producer (IPP) 'collector substation' portion where evacuated electricity from the four Visserspan Solar PV Facilities will be collected and
  - b. the 'switching station' substation portion where the evacuated electricity will be stepped-up/transformed from either 22kV or 33kV, to 132kV;



- ii. the overhead (most likely 132kV) power lines strung on steel monopoles which will conduct electricity towards the point of connection with the national grid; and
- iii. the Kinderdam substation where the 132kV electricity conducted from the on-site substation will be stepped-up/transformed to 400kV enabling connection to the national grid via the 400kV Theseus-Perseus Eskom Overhead powerline.

As is common for these types of grid connection projects, the bulk of the permanent built infrastructure will be handed to Eskom once built. The future Eskom infrastructure includes portion i(b), ii and iii as listed above.

EnviroAfrica on behalf of Keren Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd would like to know if two EAs can be issued from the single Visserspan Solar PV Grid Connection application (pre-application EA Reference No.: 2021-08-0007) in terms of NEMA EIA Regulation 11 and 25(2)? One of the EAs would be issued to the IPP/Applicant (Keren Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd) and the other to Eskom.

To make the potential 'splitting' of the EA application into two EAs easier, EnviroAfrica will be submitting four EMPs together with the single BAR for this application: One for the IPP portion of the Visserspan Substation i.e. the collector part of the on-site substation, one for the future Eskom portion of the Visserspan Substation i.e. the switching station part of the on-site substation, one for the future Eskom portion of the overhead power lines and one for the future Eskom portion of the potential Kinderdam Substation.

Please advise what the Department's stance on the above request would be, or if further information is required from EnviroAfrica.

Yours sincerely,



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Environmental Consultant  
EnviroAfrica CC  
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**MINUTES OF PRE-APPLICATION MEETING  
FOR VISSERSPAN SOLAR PV GRID CONNECTION  
HELD ON 27 AUGUST 2021**

**PRESENT:**

**The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)** viz. Danie Smit - Deputy Director: National Infrastructure Projects (DS), Vusi Skosana - Director: National Infrastructure Projects (VS), Juliet (Jabulile) Mahlangu - Case Officer (JM);

**EnviroAfrica/Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)** viz. Vivienne Thomson (VT) and Bernard De Witt (BDW);

**Keren Energy (Co-Developer/Applicant)** viz. Weyers Janse van Rensburg (WJvR);

**Mulio (Co-Developer/Bidder)** viz. Ryan David-Andersen (RD); Warren Morse (WM); Andrew Pearson (AP).

**1. WELCOME:**

- i. DS introduced the DFFE team and welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- ii. DS reminded the meeting that minutes must be sent for approval to the DFFE and included in the BAR and that all documentation is to be submitted electronically as per the DFFE's existing system.
- iii. VT requested that the meeting be recorded. The meeting gave consent to do so. WM from Mulilo recorded the meeting.

**2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION/SUMMARY:**

Using satellite imagery of the preferred route, RD stated that:

- i. the entire grid connection is within both a REDZ and an EGI corridor.
- ii. there are four authorised Visserspan Solar PV Facilities but the application and EAs for the solar PV facilities did not include an on-site substation.
- iii. the current application includes a Visserspan/on-site substation (on Visserspan Solar PV Project 2) and a connection to the existing Eskom grid.
- iv. there are options for connection to the existing grid on the preferred route (preferred due to Eskom engagement, the CELs that were received for the project, landowner discussions and from a cost perspective).
- v. the proposed on-site substation is divided into two - an IPP substation which will step-up the power coming from approved PV projects from 33kV to 132kV before going into the second part of the substation which is an Eskom switching station (SS).
- vi. ultimately, only the IPP substation will belong to the applicant and the SS and power line infrastructure would be handed back to Eskom.
- vii. the options are in terms of the type of grid connection line to be used for tie-in to the Eskom grid i.e. the line could be a 132kV monopole line, or a 275 kV, or 400kV steel pylon line (to be finalised after discussions with Eskom).
- viii. if Eskom requires a 275kV or 400kV line then the second/Kinderdam substation would not be required.

WD confirmed the statement and added that:

- ix. the case of (viii) above, is called a double circuit line i.e. one tower with two conductors on either side which basically strings the conductor into the solar plant and back to the Eskom (grid) line again (two lines/conductors linked on the same structure).

RD stated that:

- x. option (ix) above is more expensive.
- xi. the potential alternative route is still in the process of being negotiated with a potential competitor, Mainstream, since they have several solar PV facilities around Eskom's Perseus substation and two collector substations to the south of Visserspan. Perhaps servitude rights for the potential alternate route and a link into Mainstream's collector substation could be negotiated. RD stated that an email had been sent to Mainstream but no response had been received as yet.

VT requested that, for purposes of the meeting, focus be given to the issues requiring clarification as per the agenda (Appendix A, attached as page 5) and that the various alternatives and possible power line options, once finalised/semi-finalised with Eskom, will be discussed in the draft BAR to be considered by the DFFE. RD handed the meeting to VT.

VT provided context in terms of the affected properties (Appendix B, attached as page 6):

- xii. from west to east on the image in Appendix 2 the affected farms are – Visserspan No. 40, Mooihoek No. 1547, Vasteveld No. 1548 and Kinderdam No. 1685. Kinderdam Farm contains the existing Eskom 400kV and 275kV powerline servitude
- xiii. the three farms, adjacent to Visserspan, through which the proposed development runs belong to the same farmer who owns all properties immediately surrounding the grid connection corridor once it leaves Visserspan Farm No. 40.
- xiv. the precautionary principle was applied, taking worst case scenario into account in terms of the proposed development footprint - the impact would be assessed in terms of two substations – one on Visserspan Farm (just over approximately 7ha footprint) and the other on Kinderdam Farm (approximately 6ha footprint) and a 55m wide corridor for the powerline connection (using worst case scenario impact from a 400kV overhead powerline with steel pylons)
- xv. the approach in (xiv) above was used so that if a smaller kV line or if only one substation was eventually developed the impacts would have been assessed since the worst case scenario/largest footprint would have been used.
- xvi. the specialists and EAP assessed areas wider than just the corridor/development footprint and alternative routes (indicated in white in Appendix 2 and as per earlier discussion)

**ISSUES FOR CLARIFICATION in terms of a proposed Visserspan Grid Connection application (DFFE clarification response highlighted in yellow):**

- 3 Issue raised:** Due to part of the infrastructure being handed back to Eskom, would it be possible to undertake one application i.e. the Visserspan Grid Connection application process, but have the Department issue two EA's from the single application (one in the name of the IPP/Applicant and one in the name of Eskom) as per EIA Regulations 11 and 25(2)?

**Meeting discussion:** VT mentioned that the entire development will be assessed fully in the EIA process but that a fair portion of the development will get handed back to Eskom which is why the request is being made.

VS stated that Regulation 11 and 25(2) does allow one bigger EIA with two EAs being issued. Yes, two EAs can be issued from one application. VS agreed with VT that all the issues/negative environmental impacts must be identified on both [EA] sides and they must be assessed and mitigation measures or alternatives must be provided before a decision could be issued. So while it is possible, the DFFE is not going to confirm it in this pre-application meeting until such time the interpretation query (IQ) officials are consulted so that an official response may be given. VS further stated that problems arise when the Applicant requests a splitting of the decision/EA after it has been issued. The DFFE often finds that where the split has to take place not all the negative impacts have been assessed.

VT asked if the request for the issuing of two EAs must form part of the DBAR narrative, or if it should be mentioned in a cover letter accompanying (but separate to) the DBAR? DS said that the request must be separate but should be sent to the DFFE IQ up front before the DBAR and application is submitted. The EAP must send in a request to EIA Admin and IQ detailing the request with a map, before submission of the DBAR so that the issue may be decided upon.

AP mentioned that he agreed with VS and that the intention this request is to avoid the need for asking for a split after the EA is issued.

**DFFE Response:** This issue must be fully assessed by the DFFE's IQ officials so that the Department can take a firm position on it and provide an official response.

- 4. Issue raised:** Since part of the impacted area has already undergone a full agricultural impact assessment (AIA) during the Visserspan Solar PV Facilities EIA process, could the same specialist be used and only an addendum to the original report be undertaken to assess and incorporate the areas not assessed in the Visserspan Solar PV development? This will save the project time and cost.

**Meeting discussion:** DS mentioned that if it is the same specialist as used for the Visserspan Solar PV Facilities AIA then an addendum incorporating the new areas impacted would be acceptable.

VS concurred with DS.

**DDFE Response:** Yes - an addendum by the same specialist to the previous solar PV facilities agricultural report is acceptable.

5. **Issue raised:** Please clarify if a full/detailed VIA, or an overview/summary visual impact screening is required.

**Meeting discussion:** VT mentioned that applying the precautionary approach and due to time constraints, the VIA specialist has already visited the site. The question is whether the DFFE requires a full VIA or just a screening/summary VIA.

DS said that since the area already has several HV power lines, perhaps the same approach as per point 4 above could be applied with just a visual screening. DS asked VS if the DFFE could accept this approach.

VS stated that it depends on the merit of the case since visual impact is usually where there is a lot of resentment and aggrieved parties who would complain and even appeal if it was not done properly. VS suggested that a complete VIA be done especially in an area like this. VS further said that he does not have a problem against a screening but he would guard against it especially in an area such as this one.

AP asked VT if the DFFE's screening tool kit indicated a VIA was required.

VT said that it is for the very reason that VS mentioned and cautioned the meeting about, that VT requested a VIA for this project. Having done the previous solar facility EIAs, there is resentment from (not immediate) neighbours. V further said that an appeal process can even stop an approved EA. VT could not recall if the screening tool required a VIA but she does know from the pre-application public participation (PP) that there is already a farmer who indicated that they are not happy with the project. Due to the cost implications VT put the question on the agenda but VT concurred with VS's suggestion that it would be better to do a full VIA.

AP agreed with VT and VS.

DS mentioned that a short cut could be taken and it might save some costs but if the decision is appealed than the whole process stops and we have already indicated our short timeframe for the project and the delay on an appeal is much worse than what a full VIA would cost the project in time and money.

**DDFE Response:** The DFFE stated that a complete/full VIA should be undertaken.

6. **Issue raised:** Must the public participation process accommodate an extra 21 days in addition to the minimum 30 days, due to COVID-19 / Disaster Management Act?

**Meeting discussion:** VT mentioned that as an EAP she had not seen any notices from the DFFE mentioning whether the PP is back to the original timelines or whether additional time should be added do to the COVID-19 situation.

DS said 30 days is the minimum that is required for PP in everything DFFE does so stick to that.

VS added that the project should stick to the 30 day PP and only if there is a challenge, then the DFFE can be notified in terms of Regulation 19 (1)(b) whether more time is needed. If we add the 21 days now we are extending the project to over the timeframe. VS stated that the 21 days can either use the 21 days or not but his advice is to stick to the 30 days, moreover, it gives a chance to assess the situation since anything can happen. Should something happen, then the EAP can invoke the 21 days, or even the 50 day extension where the PP will be done fully again. Do the application according to the 30 days PP process. Once the application is in process liaison with the case officer, Juliet/Jabulile, can take place and advice can always be given in the process.

**DDFE Response:** The normal 30 day public participation process period is sufficient.

## 7. GENERAL/Concluding remarks from the Department.

- i. WM mentioned that with regards to the EMPs the idea is to fast track everything we can. WM asked if two or three generic substation EMPs must be submitted since we are want a separate EA for the IPP substation/splitting the Visserdam substation that in essence is two EMPs. **Meeting discussion:** DS said that for each one there must be an EMP since splitting an EMP creates problems. So have an EMP for each one to make the process easier. VS said to cover ourselves have a good EMP. VT said that the idea is to have two EMPs, one for each substation and one (generic) power line EMP. So, there will be three EMPs for the project. EnviroAfrica might also include its standard construction EMP to cover all the bases that may be required.
- ii. RD mentioned that the PV facilities have been bid in round 5 which increases pressure to meet the timelines i.e. the EA is required in time for financial closure which is the end of February 2022. The EAP has provided a schedule using the legislated timelines which brings the project to the middle of February [2022] but in terms of the EMP, Mulilo would like to do all they can to make sure the EMPs are approved since there won't be time for an EMP update and another 30 day PP.

**Meeting discussion:** DS concurred with Ryan that an update will require another 30 day PP and also reminded the meeting that in terms of the project timelines, cognisance must be taken of the December break when the Department closes.

VS confirmed that this would be from 15/12/2021 to around 05/01/2022. VS said the timeframes will have to be managed very carefully from the Applicant/EAP's side since during the December period the Department is not functioning.

DS suggestion that in the application cover letter, we mention that this is part of the bid process and that we are working according to the following timelines to alert the DFFE of the fact.

RD asked if since generic (pre-approved) EMPs will be submitted, once the site specific mitigation measures are added is it standard to approve the generic EMPs even with the added mitigation measures?

DS said that for the DFFE to approve the EA and EMPs, everything must be in it to avoid an amendment later on.

VS stated that if an EA is approved and not the EMP then the EMP will have to be Fixed and subjected to another 30 day PP to get approval. The DFFE is aware that often there are issues with layout designs and plans but if these can be fixed as early as possible and included in the EMP, that will save on time which must be managed so that when the final BAR is submitted, the final EMP is also submitted.

DS concurred with VS and RD agreed.

VT said that for the EMPs to be approved the EAP needs finalisation on the kV power lines and what is going to be in the substations since that impacts on what is said in terms of mitigation measures and management. Speaking specifically to WM, VT said she needs that detail so the EMPs are handled in one go and not have to be 'rehashed'.

DS reiterated that a once-off submission is always better even if it takes a little longer to get the information because the drag on in terms of time if the information is not there in the first place would be a disaster for the project.

VT agreed with DS and said it makes the EAP's job much easier to know exactly what is being dealt with.

- iii. VS provided concluding remarks from the DFFE and said Jabulile (also known as Juliet) is the case officer. Site visits will be determined on the merit of the case since the DFFE adheres to very strict COVID-19 protocols for site visits. Any queries must be directed to Juliet and the DFFE team is willing and available to assist. VS thanked the meeting
- iv. AP asked VT to mention the other specialist studies that have/will be conducted. VT listed the botanical (botanical and biodiversity), avifaunal (due to the super-surface power line structures), visual, agricultural and soil potential and a heritage specialist. All of which except for the heritage specialist have already been on site. There is also a freshwater specialist to look at the water issues since there are pans in the area. So the two processes, the WULA and NEMA processes are dovetailing. VS mentioned that we are on the right track. VT asked the Department if there were any other specialist studies which were required. DS said that that it all seemed covered. VS agreed and said that those studies are as per the appendix as well - we are on the right track.
- v. RD closed the meeting

~ End of Meeting ~

**Note:** A copy of the recording of the meeting is available on request.

## APPENDIX A – DETAILED AGENDA

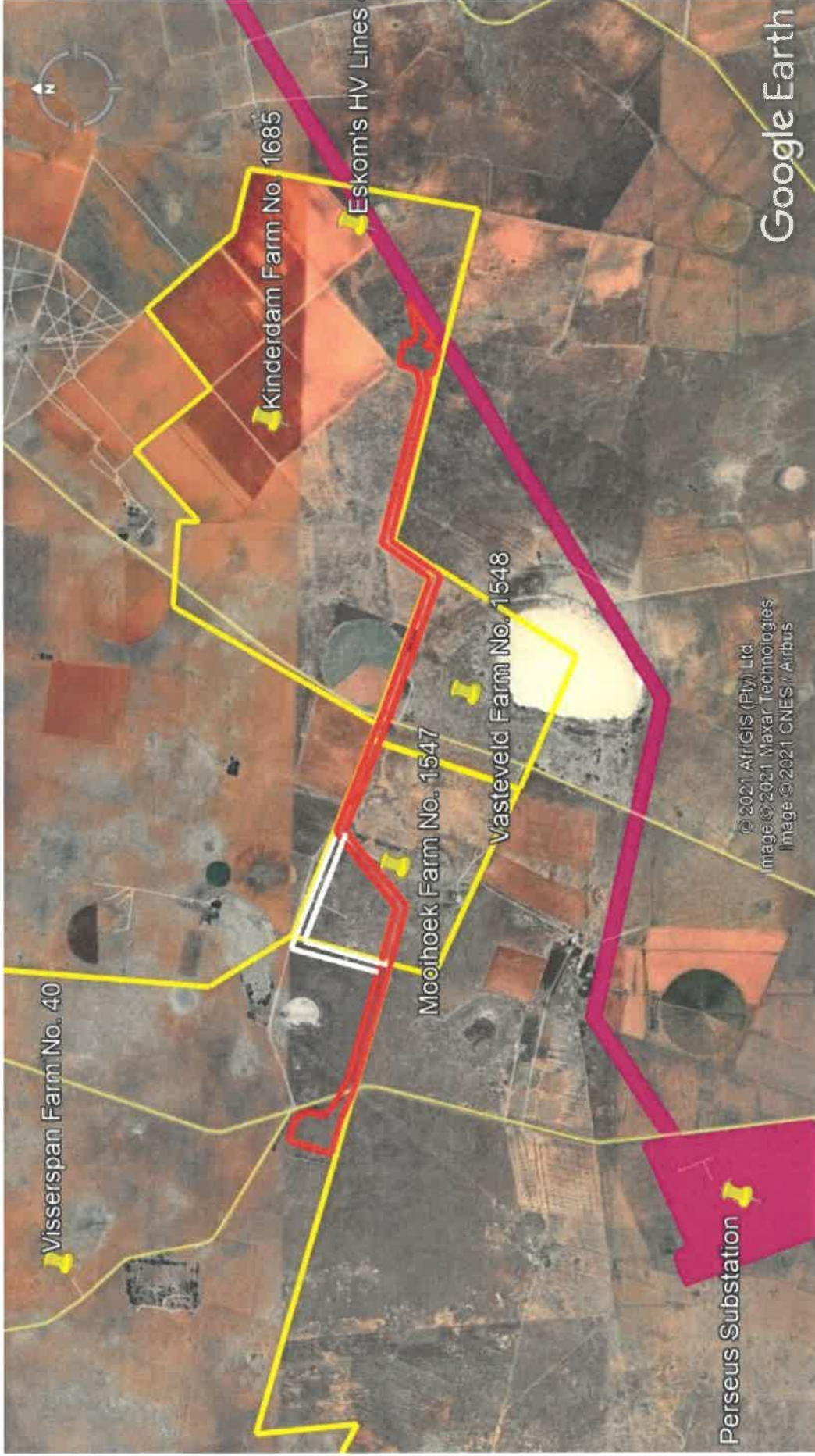
1. **Welcome**
2. **Brief project description summary**

### Issues for clarification in terms of a proposed Visserspan Grid Connection application:

3. One of the substations, the Kinderdam Substation which lies closest to Eskom's 400kV where tie-in will occur, will be built by the Applicant but handed back to Eskom. **Would it be possible to undertake one application i.e. the Visserspan Grid Connection application process, but have the Department issue two EA's from the single application (as per EIA Regulation 11)?**
4. Although the proposed development is to take place on agricultural land, part of the impacted area has already undergone a full agricultural impact assessment during the Visserspan Solar PV Facilities EIA process. The Visserspan substation footprint and initial part of the grid-connection corridor was part of this assessment. **Is an agricultural assessment required for this project considering that agricultural activities may still continue underneath the powerlines and the actual disturbed footprint still needing to be assessed makes up about 14% of the total project footprint as indicated as in the locality maps attached as Appendix 2?.**  
  
Should the Department still require an agricultural assessment, may the same specialist who has conducted the Visserspan and many other assessments in the region provide an addendum statement to the Visserspan report instead of undertaking a full soil, land use and agricultural potential survey/impact assessment?
5. Electricity from the Visserspan Solar PV facilities will be evacuated via overhead 132kV poles and/or 400kV pylons. An approximately 6km grid tie-in line will be constructed as part of the proposed grid connection in part running where there are currently no power lines. **A visual impact assessment (VIA) specialist has been approached as part of the specialist assessment team for the project. Please clarify if a full/detailed VIA, or an overview/summary visual impact screening is required?**
6. **Must the public participation process accommodate an extra 21 days in addition to the minimum 30 days, due to COVID-19 / Disaster Management Act?**
7. **General/Concluding remarks from the Department.**

~ End of Meeting ~

APPENDIX B  
 SATELLITE IMAGE OF PROPOSED SUBSTATIONS AND OVERHEAD POWER LINE ROUTE/CORRIDOR



**Note:** Farm SG/cadastral boundaries indicated in yellow – farm boundary fences do not necessarily follow cadastral demarcations (Mooihoek, Vasteveld, Kinderdam farms, as well as farm immediately to the north of Mooihoek Farm and adjacent to Visserspan Farm all owned by one landowner, Mr K Saaiman). Proposed grid connection route indicated in red with alternative to route indicated in white. Existing Eskom HV lines and substation indicated in purple.

**From:** Julliet Mahlangu <JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 04 October 2021 13:49  
**To:** Vivienne Thomson  
**Cc:** Zama Langa; Ephron Maradwa; Dr. Danie Smit; 'Weyers Janse van Rensburg'; Bernard de witt  
**Subject:** Approval of Public Participation (PP) Plan for the proposed Visserspan Solar Pv Facility Grid Connection

Dear Ms Vivienne

The Public Participation (PP) Plan for the proposed Visserspan Solar PV Facility Grid Connection, received by this Department on 04 October 2021, refers.

Based on the information provided this Department decided to approve the PP Plan and minutes for the proposed project. You may proceed with the PP process in accordance with tasks contemplated in the PP plan. Should you wish to deviate from the submitted PP Plan, the amended PP Plan must be submitted to the Department for approval prior commencement.

A copy of the PP Plan and this approval must be submitted as part of the application form when the application is lodged.

Also note that submission of a PP Plan and approval thereof do not negate your responsibility to comply with the requirements for public participation in terms of Regulations 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

Julliet Mahlangu  
Environmental Officer Specialised Production  
Chief Directorate Integrated Environmental Authorisation  
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment  
Cell: 064 880 8742  
Tel: (012) 399 9320



**environment, forestry  
& fisheries**

**Department:  
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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## Vivienne Thomson

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**From:** Juliet Mahlangu <JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 04 October 2021 08:40  
**To:** Vivienne Thomson  
**Subject:** RE: Visserspan Grid Connection Project Plan (Ref. No.: 2021-08-0007)

Good Morning Vivienne

All is noted.  
I was on leave, I will send a formal approval before 11.

Regards  
J

**From:** Vivienne Thomson [mailto:vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za]  
**Sent:** Friday, 01 October 2021 12:26 PM  
**To:** Juliet Mahlangu <JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za>  
**Subject:** Visserspan Grid Connection Project Plan (Ref. No.: 2021-08-0007)

Hi Jabulile

As per the message I left on your office voicemail box: Just thought I should let you know that the project plan I sent you earlier this week is based on the fact that Mulilo (co-developers with Keren Energy for the above project) provide me with the information I require for the draft BAR and EMPr i.e. preliminary layout plants and pylon information as listed in the EMPr.

If Mulilo delays in getting this information to me by Monday, I will adjust the project plan timelines accordingly to accommodate our deadlines and re-send it to you.

P.S. As per the pre-application meeting request form, only Keren Energy Holdings will be the applicant

Thank you,  
Vivienne Thomson



**EnviroAfrica**

*Environmental Assessment Practitioner*

**EnviroAfrica cc**

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## Vivienne Thomson

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**From:** Juliet Mahlangu <JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 04 October 2021 08:44  
**To:** Vivienne Thomson  
**Cc:** Bernard de witt; 'Weyers Janse van Rensburg'; Zama Langa  
**Subject:** RE: Ref. No.: 2021-08-0007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)

Good Morning

Please amend the PP plan and include the list of the identified I&APs.

Regards

J

**From:** Vivienne Thomson [mailto:vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 30 September 2021 11:51 AM  
**To:** Juliet Mahlangu <JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za>  
**Cc:** Bernard de witt <bernard@enviroafrica.co.za>; 'Weyers Janse van Rensburg' <weyers@kerenenergy.com>  
**Subject:** Ref. No.: 2021-08-0007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)  
**Importance:** High

Dear Juliet

Please find the public participation plan (PPP) and project plan for the Visserspan Solar PV Facility Grid Connection project.

Please let me know if the PPP and minutes of the pre-application meeting have been approved.

Thank you,  
Vivienne Thomson



**EnviroAfrica**

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## Vivienne Thomson

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**From:** Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 November 2021 23:21  
**To:** 'EIAAdmin@environment.gov'  
**Cc:** 'EMaradwa@environment.gov.za'; 'JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za'  
**Subject:** Query re. Regulations (11) and 25(2) for pre-application Ref No.: 2021-08-0007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)  
**Attachments:** Full Visserspan Grid Connection Query Letter EIA Admin.pdf; Appendix 1 - Minutes with appendices.pdf  
  
**Importance:** High

Dear Madam/Sir

With reference to the attached letter, please advise regarding a query/request for clarification in terms of NEMA EIA Regulation 11 and 25(2) for pre-application EA Reference No.: 2021-08-0007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection).

For ease of reference, Appendix 1 included in the full query letter is also attached as a separate file.

Thank you,  
Vivienne Thomson



**EnviroAfrica**

*Environmental Assessment Practitioner*

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15 November 2021

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
EIA Applications (Integrated Environmental Authorisations)  
Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Road  
Arcadia  
0083

**Email: [EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za](mailto:EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za)**

Dear Competent Authority

**re.: Request for clarification in terms of NEMA EIA Regulation 11 and 25(2) for pre-application EA Reference No.: 2021-08-0007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)**

EnviroAfrica CC on behalf of Keren Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd intends to apply for environmental authorisation (EA) for the above project. A pre-application meeting with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) was held on 27 August 2021 (minutes attached as Appendix 1 of this letter). EnviroAfrica was advised by the DFFE to submit an enquiry regarding the issue detailed below to EIA Admin as well as the Interpretation and Queries Desk prior to submission of the EA application as per point 3 of Appendix 1 attached.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The current/intended EA application i.e. Visserspan Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Grid Connection (Ref. No.: 2021-08-0007), is to enable connection of four already authorised Visserspan Solar PV Facilities to the existing national/Eskom electricity grid. Visserspan Solar PV Facilities (Projects 1 to 4) will each produce between 75MW to 100MW of electricity and were individually bid in the recent Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) Bid Window 5. Even though none of the Visserspan bids were successful as preferred bidder in this round of bidding, the developer intends to establish the grid connection infrastructure to accommodate each of the four Visserspan Solar PV Facilities'. It is intended to bid the four

Visserspan Solar PV Facilities in REIPPPP Bid Window 6 scheduled for the end of March 2022. In Bid Window 6, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy seeks to add another 4200MW of renewable energy to the national grid. Should one or more of the four Visserspan Solar PV bids be unsuccessful in Bid Window 6, they will be bid in future bidding windows.

The current/intended EA application for the Visserspan Solar PV Grid Connection entails permanent and temporary/construction infrastructure development. Permanent infrastructure development includes overhead power lines and substations (including offices, ablutions, storage buildings, transformers and pylons for overhead powerlines), as well as 4m to 8m wide (dirt) access roads/vehicle tracks where such roads do not already exist. Temporary/construction infrastructure includes two lay down areas, site offices, storage buildings, as well as a batching plant and stockpile yard. Construction ablutions would be provided by means of regularly serviced portable toilets and tanker trucks would supply water.

The Visserspan Solar PV Grid Connection will accommodate all four solar PV facilities in a once-off construction process. Substation construction and overhead power lines will be strung for each solar PV facility on pylons erected during the once-off construction process. The substations are planned to be built on either 'end' of the overhead power line corridor on the Visserspan and Kinderdam farms, respectively, as per Appendix B of Appendix 1 attached. The entire grid connection corridor route and the substations will be fully assessed during the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process for the intended EA application.

As such, all environmental issues/negative environmental impacts will be identified and rated in terms of significance, with mitigation and management measures provided in the Visserspan Solar PV Grid Connection basic assessment report (BAR) and associated environmental management plan report (EMPr), enabling the Department to make an informed decision on the whole application.

#### **CLARIFICATION REQUEST:**

The current/intended single EA application consists of three main parts:

- i. the on-site Visserspan substation which is in essence divided into two functional portions i.e.
  - a. the Independent Power Producer (IPP) 'collector substation' portion where evacuated electricity from the four Visserspan Solar PV Facilities will be collected and
  - b. the 'switching station' substation portion where the evacuated electricity will be stepped-up/transformed from either 22kV or 33kV, to 132kV;

- ii. the overhead (most likely 132kV) power lines strung on steel monopoles which will conduct electricity towards the point of connection with the national grid; and
- iii. the Kinderdam substation where the 132kV electricity conducted from the on-site substation will be stepped-up/transformed to 400kV enabling connection to the national grid via the 400kV Theseus-Perseus Eskom Overhead powerline.

As is common for these types of grid connection projects, the bulk of the permanent built infrastructure will be handed to Eskom once built. The future Eskom infrastructure includes portion i(b), ii and iii as listed above.

EnviroAfrica on behalf of Keren Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd would like to know if two EAs can be issued from the single Visserspan Solar PV Grid Connection application (pre-application EA Reference No.: 2021-08-0007) in terms of NEMA EIA Regulation 11 and 25(2)? One of the EAs would be issued to the IPP/Applicant (Keren Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd) and the other to Eskom.

To make the potential 'splitting' of the EA application into two EAs easier, EnviroAfrica will be submitting four EMPs together with the single BAR for this application: One for the IPP portion of the Visserspan Substation i.e. the collector part of the on-site substation, one for the future Eskom portion of the Visserspan Substation i.e. the switching station part of the on-site substation, one for the future Eskom portion of the overhead power lines and one for the future Eskom portion of the potential Kinderdam Substation.

Please advise what the Department's stance on the above request would be, or if further information is required from EnviroAfrica.

Yours sincerely,



Vivienne Thomson  
Environmental Consultant  
EnviroAfrica CC  
Mobile: +27 82 464 2874  
Email: [vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za](mailto:vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za)

**MINUTES OF PRE-APPLICATION MEETING  
FOR VISSERSPAN SOLAR PV GRID CONNECTION  
HELD ON 27 AUGUST 2021**

**PRESENT:**

**The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)** viz. Danie Smit - Deputy Director: National Infrastructure Projects (DS), Vusi Skosana - Director: National Infrastructure Projects (VS), Juliet (Jabulile) Mahlangu - Case Officer (JM);  
**EnviroAfrica/Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)** viz. Vivienne Thomson (VT) and Bernard De Witt (BDW);  
**Keren Energy (Co-Developer/Applicant)** viz. Weyers Janse van Rensburg (WJvR);  
**Mulio (Co-Developer/Bidder)** viz. Ryan David-Andersen (RD); Warren Morse (WM); Andrew Pearson (AP).

**1. WELCOME:**

- i. DS introduced the DFFE team and welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- ii. DS reminded the meeting that minutes must be sent for approval to the DFFE and included in the BAR and that all documentation is to be submitted electronically as per the DFFE's existing system.
- iii. VT requested that the meeting be recorded. The meeting gave consent to do so. WM from Mulilo recorded the meeting.

**2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION/SUMMARY:**

Using satellite imagery of the preferred route, RD stated that:

- i. the entire grid connection is within both a REDZ and an EGI corridor.
- ii. there are four authorised Visserspan Solar PV Facilities but the application and EAs for the solar PV facilities did not include an on-site substation.
- iii. the current application includes a Visserspan/on-site substation (on Visserspan Solar PV Project 2) and a connection to the existing Eskom grid.
- iv. there are options for connection to the existing grid on the preferred route (preferred due to Eskom engagement, the CELs that were received for the project, landowner discussions and from a cost perspective).
- v. the proposed on-site substation is divided into two - an IPP substation which will step-up the power coming from approved PV projects from 33kV to 132kV before going into the second part of the substation which is an Eskom switching station (SS).
- vi. ultimately, only the IPP substation will belong to the applicant and the SS and power line infrastructure would be handed back to Eskom.
- vii. the options are in terms of the type of grid connection line to be used for tie-in to the Eskom grid i.e. the line could be a 132kV monopole line, or a 275 kV, or 400kV steel pylon line (to be finalised after discussions with Eskom).
- viii. if Eskom requires a 275kV or 400kV line then the second/Kinderdam substation would not be required.

WD confirmed the statement and added that:

- ix. the case of (viii) above, is called a double circuit line i.e. one tower with two conductors on either side which basically strings the conductor into the solar plant and back to the Eskom (grid) line again (two lines/conductors linked on the same structure).

RD stated that:

- x. option (ix) above is more expensive.
- xi. the potential alternative route is still in the process of being negotiated with a potential competitor, Mainstream, since they have several solar PV facilities around Eskom's Perseus substation and two collector substations to the south of Visserspan. Perhaps servitude rights for the potential alternate route and a link into Mainstream's collector substation could be negotiated. RD stated that an email had been sent to Mainstream but no response had been received as yet.

VT requested that, for purposes of the meeting, focus be given to the issues requiring clarification as per the agenda (Appendix A, attached as page 5) and that the various alternatives and possible power line options, once finalised/semi-finalised with Eskom, will be discussed in the draft BAR to be considered by the DFFE. RD handed the meeting to VT.

VT provided context in terms of the affected properties (Appendix B, attached as page 6):

- xii. from west to east on the image in Appendix 2 the affected farms are – Visserspan No. 40, Mooihoek No. 1547, Vasteveld No. 1548 and Kinderdam No. 1685. Kinderdam Farm contains the existing Eskom 400kV and 275kV powerline servitude
- xiii. the three farms, adjacent to Visserspan, through which the proposed development runs belong to the same farmer who owns all properties immediately surrounding the grid connection corridor once it leaves Visserspan Farm No. 40.
- xiv. the precautionary principle was applied, taking worst case scenario into account in terms of the proposed development footprint - the impact would be assessed in terms of two substations – one on Visserspan Farm (just over approximately 7ha footprint) and the other on Kinderdam Farm (approximately 6ha footprint) and a 55m wide corridor for the powerline connection (using worst case scenario impact from a 400kV overhead powerline with steel pylons)
- xv. the approach in (xiv) above was used so that if a smaller kV line or if only one substation was eventually developed the impacts would have been assessed since the worst case scenario/largest footprint would have been used.
- xvi. the specialists and EAP assessed areas wider than just the corridor/development footprint and alternative routes (indicated in white in Appendix 2 and as per earlier discussion)

**ISSUES FOR CLARIFICATION in terms of a proposed Visserspan Grid Connection application (DFFE clarification response highlighted in yellow):**

- 3 Issue raised:** Due to part of the infrastructure being handed back to Eskom, would it be possible to undertake one application i.e. the Visserspan Grid Connection application process, but have the Department issue two EA's from the single application (one in the name of the IPP/Applicant and one in the name of Eskom) as per EIA Regulations 11 and 25(2)?

**Meeting discussion:** VT mentioned that the entire development will be assessed fully in the EIA process but that a fair portion of the development will get handed back to Eskom which is why the request is being made.

VS stated that Regulation 11 and 25(2) does allow one bigger EIA with two EAs being issued. Yes, two EAs can be issued from one application. VS agreed with VT that all the issues/negative environmental impacts must be identified on both [EA] sides and they must be assessed and mitigation measures or alternatives must be provided before a decision could be issued. So while it is possible, the DFFE is not going to confirm it in this pre-application meeting until such time the interpretation query (IQ) officials are consulted so that an official response may be given. VS further stated that problems arise when the Applicant requests a splitting of the decision/EA after it has been issued. The DFFE often finds that where the split has to take place not all the negative impacts have been assessed.

VT asked if the request for the issuing of two EAs must form part of the DBAR narrative, or if it should be mentioned in a cover letter accompanying (but separate to) the DBAR? DS said that the request must be separate but should be sent to the DFFE IQ up front before the DBAR and application is submitted. The EAP must send in a request to EIA Admin and IQ detailing the request with a map, before submission of the DBAR so that the issue may be decided upon.

AP mentioned that he agreed with VS and that the intention this request is to avoid the need for asking for a split after the EA is issued.

**DFFE Response:** This issue must be fully assessed by the DFFE's IQ officials so that the Department can take a firm position on it and provide an official response.

- 4. Issue raised:** Since part of the impacted area has already undergone a full agricultural impact assessment (AIA) during the Visserspan Solar PV Facilities EIA process, could the same specialist be used and only an addendum to the original report be undertaken to assess and incorporate the areas not assessed in the Visserspan Solar PV development? This will save the project time and cost.

**Meeting discussion:** DS mentioned that if it is the same specialist as used for the Visserspan Solar PV Facilities AIA then an addendum incorporating the new areas impacted would be acceptable.

VS concurred with DS.



**DFFE Response:** Yes - an addendum by the same specialist to the previous solar PV facilities agricultural report is acceptable.

5. **Issue raised:** Please clarify if a full/detailed VIA, or an overview/summary visual impact screening is required.  
**Meeting discussion:** VT mentioned that applying the precautionary approach and due to time constraints, the VIA specialist has already visited the site. The question is whether the DFFE requires a full VIA or just a screening/summary VIA.  
DS said that since the area already has several HV power lines, perhaps the same approach as per point 4 above could be applied with just a visual screening. DS asked VS if the DFFE could accept this approach.  
VS stated that it depends on the merit of the case since visual impact is usually where there is a lot of resentment and aggrieved parties who would complain and even appeal if it was not done properly. VS suggested that a complete VIA be done especially in an area like this. VS further said that he does not have a problem against a screening but he would guard against it especially in an area such as this one.  
AP asked VT if the DFFE's screening tool kit indicated a VIA was required.  
VT said that it is for the very reason that VS mentioned and cautioned the meeting about, that VT requested a VIA for this project. Having done the previous solar facility EIAs, there is resentment from (not immediate) neighbours. V further said that an appeal process can even stop an approved EA. VT could not recall if the screening tool required a VIA but she does know from the pre-application public participation (PP) that there is already a farmer who indicated that they are not happy with the project. Due to the cost implications VT put the question on the agenda but VT concurred with VS's suggestion that it would be better to do a full VIA.  
AP agreed with VT and VS.  
DS mentioned that a short cut could be taken and it might save some costs but if the decision is appealed then the whole process stops and we have already indicated our short timeframe for the project and the delay on an appeal is much worse than what a full VIA would cost the project in time and money.  
**DFFE Response:** The DFFE stated that a complete/full VIA should be undertaken.
6. **Issue raised:** Must the public participation process accommodate an extra 21 days in addition to the minimum 30 days, due to COVID-19 / Disaster Management Act?  
**Meeting discussion:** VT mentioned that as an EAP she had not seen any notices from the DFFE mentioning whether the PP is back to the original timelines or whether additional time should be added do to the COVID-19 situation.  
DS said 30 days is the minimum that is required for PP in everything DFFE does so stick to that.  
VS added that the project should stick to the 30 day PP and only if there is a challenge, then the DFFE can be notified in terms of Regulation 19 (1)(b) whether more time is needed. If we add the 21 days now we are extending the project to over the timeframe. VS stated that the 21 days can either use the 21 days or not but his advice is to stick to the 30 days, moreover, it gives a chance to assess the situation since anything can happen. Should something happen, then the EAP can invoke the 21 days, or even the 50 day extension where the PP will be done fully again. Do the application according to the 30 days PP process. Once the application is in process liaison with the case officer, Juliet/Jabulile, can take place and advice can always be given in the process.  
**DFFE Response:** The normal 30 day public participation process period is sufficient.
7. **GENERAL/Concluding remarks from the Department.**
- i. WM mentioned that with regards to the EMPs the idea is to fast track everything we can.  
WM asked if two or three generic substation EMPs must be submitted since we are want a separate EA for the IPP substation/splitting the Visserdam substation that in essence is two EMPs.  
**Meeting discussion:** DS said that for each one there must be an EMP since splitting an EMP creates problems. So have an EMP for each one to make the process easier.  
VS said to cover ourselves have a good EMP  
VT said that the idea is to have two EMPs, one for each substation and one (generic) power line EMP. So, there will be three EMPs for the project. EnviroAfrica might also include its standard construction EMP to cover all the bases that may be required.
- ii. RD mentioned that the PV facilities have been bid in round 5 which increases pressure to meet the timelines i.e. the EA is required in time for financial closure which is the end of February 2022. The EAP has provided a schedule using the legislated timelines which brings the project to the middle of February [2022] but in terms of the EMP, Mulilo would like to do all they can to make sure the EMPs are approved since there won't be time for an EMP update and another 30 day PP.

**Meeting discussion:** DS concurred with Ryan that an update will require another 30 day PP and also reminded the meeting that in terms of the project timelines, cognisance must be taken of the December break when the Department closes.

VS confirmed that this would be from 15/12/2021 to around 05/01/2022. VS said the timeframes will have to be managed very carefully from the Applicant/EAP's side since during the December period the Department is not functioning.

DS suggestion that in the application cover letter, we mention that this is part of the bid process and that we are working according to the following timelines to alert the DFFE of the fact.

RD asked if since generic (pre-approved) EMPs will be submitted, once the site specific mitigation measures are added is it standard to approve the generic EMPs even with the added mitigation measures?

DS said that for the DFFE to approve the EA and EMPs, everything must be in it to avoid an amendment later on.

VS stated that if an EA is approved and not the EMP then the EMP will have to be Fixed and subjected to another 30 day PP to get approval. The DFFE is aware that often there are issues with layout designs and plans but if these can be fixed as early as possible and included in the EMP, that will save on time which must be managed so that when the final BAR is submitted, the final EMP is also submitted.

DS concurred with VS and RD agreed.

VT said that for the EMPs to be approved the EAP needs finalisation on the kV power lines and what is going to be in the substations since that impacts on what is said in terms of mitigation measures and management. Speaking specifically to WM, VT said she needs that detail so the EMPs are handled in one go and not have to be 'rehashed'.

DS reiterated that a once-off submission is always better even if it takes a little longer to get the information because the drag on in terms of time if the information is not there in the first place would be a disaster for the project.

VT agreed with DS and said it makes the EAP's job much easier to know exactly what is being dealt with.

- iii. VS provided concluding remarks from the DFFE and said Jabulile (also known as Juliet) is the case officer. Site visits will be determined on the merit of the case since the DFFE adheres to very strict COVID-19 protocols for site visits. Any queries must be directed to Juliet and the DFFE team is willing and available to assist. VS thanked the meeting
- iv. AP asked VT to mention the other specialist studies that have/will be conducted. VT listed the botanical (botanical and biodiversity), avifaunal (due to the super-surface power line structures), visual, agricultural and soil potential and a heritage specialist. All of which except for the heritage specialist have already been on site. There is also a freshwater specialist to look at the water issues since there are pans in the area. So the two processes, the WULA and NEMA processes are dovetailing. VS mentioned that we are on the right track. VT asked the Department if there were any other specialist studies which were required. DS said that that it all seemed covered. VS agreed and said that those studies are as per the appendix as well - we are on the right track.
- v. RD closed the meeting

~ End of Meeting ~

**Note:** A copy of the recording of the meeting is available on request.

## APPENDIX A – DETAILED AGENDA

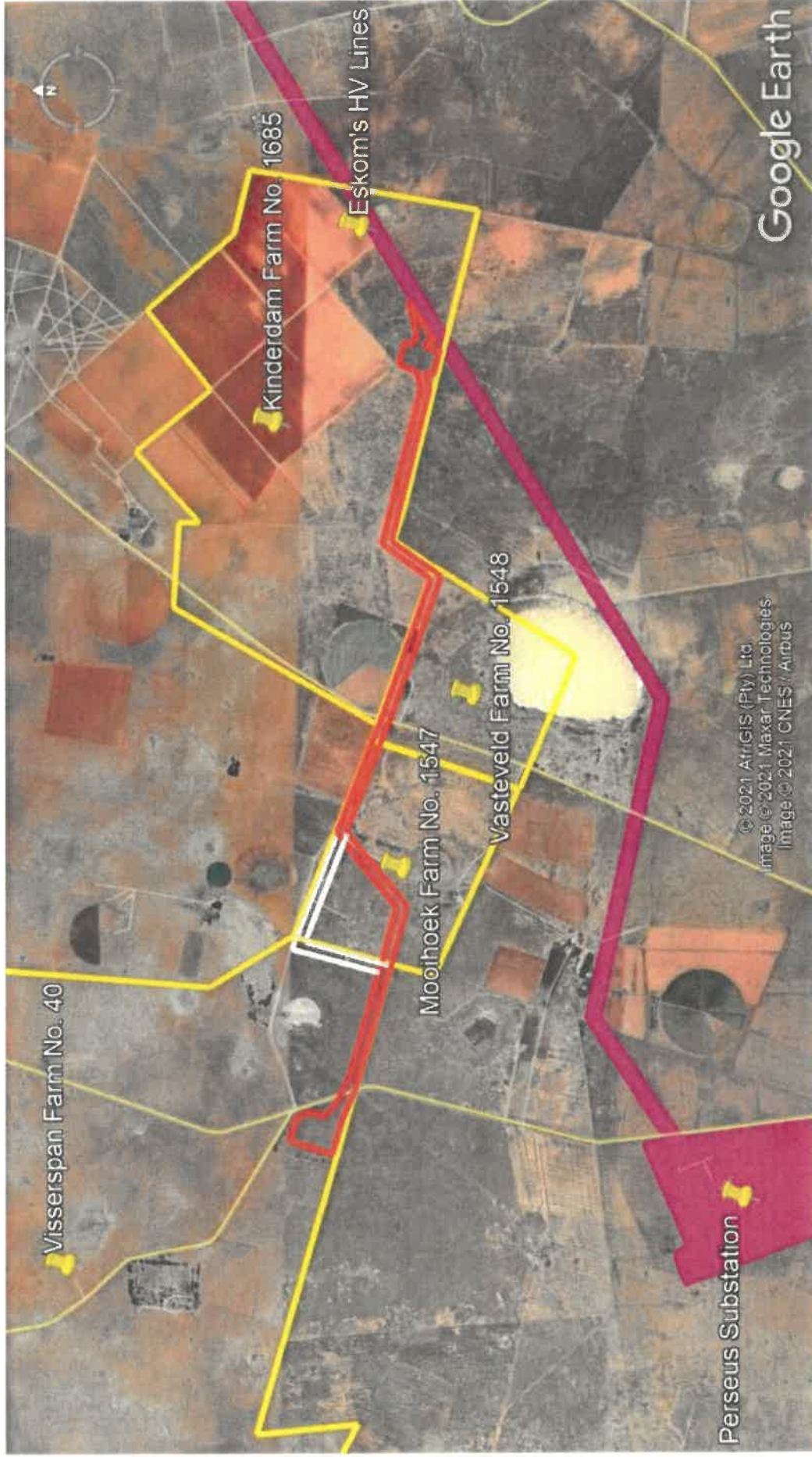
1. **Welcome**
2. **Brief project description summary**

### Issues for clarification in terms of a proposed Visserspan Grid Connection application:

3. One of the substations, the Kinderdam Substation which lies closest to Eskom's 400kV where tie-in will occur, will be built by the Applicant but handed back to Eskom. **Would it be possible to undertake one application i.e. the Visserspan Grid Connection application process, but have the Department issue two EA's from the single application (as per EIA Regulation 11)?**
4. Although the proposed development is to take place on agricultural land, part of the impacted area has already undergone a full agricultural impact assessment during the Visserspan Solar PV Facilities EIA process. The Visserspan substation footprint and initial part of the grid-connection corridor was part of this assessment. **Is an agricultural assessment required for this project considering that agricultural activities may still continue underneath the powerlines and the actual disturbed footprint still needing to be assessed makes up about 14% of the total project footprint as indicated as in the locality maps attached as Appendix 2?.**  
  
Should the Department still require an agricultural assessment, may the same specialist who has conducted the Visserspan and many other assessments in the region provide an addendum statement to the Visserspan report instead of undertaking a full soil, land use and agricultural potential survey/impact assessment?
5. Electricity from the Visserspan Solar PV facilities will be evacuated via overhead 132kV poles and/or 400kV pylons. An approximately 6km grid tie-in line will be constructed as part of the proposed grid connection in part running where there are currently no power lines. A visual impact assessment (VIA) specialist has been approached as part of the specialist assessment team for the project. **Please clarify if a full/detailed VIA, or an overview/summary visual impact screening is required?**
6. **Must the public participation process accommodate an extra 21 days in addition to the minimum 30 days, due to COVID-19 / Disaster Management Act?**
7. **General/Concluding remarks from the Department.**

~ End of Meeting ~

APPENDIX B  
 SATELLITE IMAGE OF PROPOSED SUBSTATIONS AND OVERHEAD POWER LINE ROUTE/CORRIDOR



**Note:** Farm SG/cadastral boundaries indicated in yellow – farm boundary fences do not necessarily follow cadastral demarcations (Mooihoek, Vasteveld, Kinderdam farms, as well as farm immediately to the north of Mooihoek Farm and adjacent to Visserspan Farm all owned by one landowner, Mr K Saaiman). Proposed grid connection route indicated in red with alternative to route indicated in white. Existing Eskom HV lines and substation indicated in purple.

## Vivienne Thomson

---

**From:** Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 02 November 2021 12:35  
**To:** 'Julliet Mahlangu'  
**Subject:** Ref.: 2021-08-0007 (Visserspan Solar PV Grid Connection)

**Importance:** High

Morning Jabulile

I hope you are well. Please could you let me know if these are the correct addresses for the national representatives of the previously called Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF):

[MashuduMa@daff.gov.za](mailto:MashuduMa@daff.gov.za) for Ms. Mashudu Marubini, Delegate of the Minister (Act 70 of 1970);  
[Thokob@daff.gov.za](mailto:Thokob@daff.gov.za) for Mr. Thoko Buthelezi (AgriLand Liaison Office) and  
[AnnetteS@daff.gov.za](mailto:AnnetteS@daff.gov.za) for Ms. Annette Geertsma (DAFF).

The above email addresses are from the interested and affected parties (I&AP) list I sent you with the public participation process (PPP) plan earlier last month. The emails I sent to the above parties on 05 August 2021 did not give me an error/undeliverable response but knowing that the DAFF was merged with the national Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, I do not want to run the risk of excluding these individuals in the PPP particularly since we are preparing for submission of the application form and draft BAR in the next week.

Note: I did try to call the landline numbers I have for Ms. Marubini and Mr. Buthelezi but the numbers just ring.

Any help to ensure these important I&APs/organs of state are not accidentally omitted from the public participation process would be appreciated.

P.S. Please also note that I have not forgotten that I said I would send you an updated project plan/timeline summary. I will do so when I submit the application and DBAR.

Thank you,  
Vivienne Thomson



*Environmental Assessment Practitioner*

**EnviroAfrica cc**

p: +27 21 851 1616      m: +27 82 464 2874  
f: +27 86 512 0154  
a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz St, Somerset West, 7130  
P.O. Box 5367, Helderberg, 7135  
w: [www.enviroafrica.co.za](http://www.enviroafrica.co.za)

## Vivienne Thomson

---

**From:** Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 04 October 2021 10:20  
**To:** 'Juliet Mahlangu'  
**Cc:** 'Bernard de witt'; 'Weyers Janse van Rensburg'; 'Zama Langa'  
**Subject:** RE: Ref. No.: 2021-08-0007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)  
**Attachments:** PP Plan amended to include I&AP list.pdf

Hi Jabulile

Please see attached amended public participation (PP) plan to include identified interested and affected parties list on pages 2 to 5 of the PP plan.

Thank you,  
Vivienne Thomson



**EnviroAfrica**

*Environmental Consultant*

**EnviroAfrica cc**

p: +27 21 851 1616 m: +27 82 464 2874

f: +27 86 512 0154

a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz St, Somerset West, 7130

P.O. Box 5367, Helderberg, 7135

w: [www.enviroafrica.co.za](http://www.enviroafrica.co.za) e: [vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za](mailto:vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za)

Please consider the environment and only print this mail if necessary.

**From:** Juliet Mahlangu <JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 04 October 2021 08:44  
**To:** Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>  
**Cc:** Bernard de witt <bernard@enviroafrica.co.za>; 'Weyers Janse van Rensburg' <weyers@kerenenergy.com>; Zama Langa <ZLanga@environment.gov.za>  
**Subject:** RE: Ref. No.: 2021-08-0007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)

Good Morning

Please amend the PP plan and include the list of the identified I&APs.

Regards

J

**From:** Vivienne Thomson [<mailto:vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 30 September 2021 11:51 AM  
**To:** Juliet Mahlangu <[JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za](mailto:JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za)>  
**Cc:** Bernard de witt <[bernard@enviroafrica.co.za](mailto:bernard@enviroafrica.co.za)>; 'Weyers Janse van Rensburg' <[weyers@kerenenergy.com](mailto:weyers@kerenenergy.com)>  
**Subject:** Ref. No.: 2021-08-0007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)  
**Importance:** High

Dear Juliet

Please find the public participation plan (PPP) and project plan for the Visserspan Solar PV Facility Grid Connection project.

Please let me know if the PPP and minutes of the pre-application meeting have been approved.

Thank you,  
Vivienne Thomson



*Environmental Assessment Practitioner*

**EnviroAfrica cc**

p: +27 21 851 1616 m: +27 82 464 2874

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## **VISSERSPAN SOLAR PV FACILITY GRID CONNECTION PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

Details of the public participation process proposed for the above application as required by Regulation 41(2) of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amended.

- 1. Pre-application public participation (PP) process:**
  - i. Compile initial Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) list/register\*.
  - ii. Place advertisement in local newspapers regarding project, availability of copies of documents and process to register as an I&AP.
  - iii. Send out notifications to previously registered I&APs as per I&AP list/register.
  - iv. Place A2 posters on sites' boundary fences.
  - v. Display and place A3 posters, maildrop letters / background information document in public facilities (Municipality / Municipal clinic / large retail shops)
  - vi. Display A3 posters at local public amenities / local shops.
  - vii. Deliver maildrop letters to neighbouring properties / spaza shops.
  - viii. Make copies of PP associated documents available on EnviroAfrica website for public viewing / comment.
  - ix. Email, deliver or post copies of any PP documentation to querying I&APs who request them.
  - x. Respond to I&APs where required.
  - xi. Compile comments and response trail report.
  - xii. Update I&AP list.
  
- 2. Post-application PP process:**


*Post-application PP process commences with submission/upload of application form and draft basic assessment report (BAR) to competent authority.*

  - i. Send copies of post-application draft BAR and appendices to registered I&APs including relevant Organs of State.
  - ii. Make copies of post-application draft BAR documents available on EnviroAfrica's website for public viewing / comment.
  - iii. Email, deliver or post copies of any PP documentation to querying I&APs who request them.
  - iv. Respond to I&APs where required.
  - v. Compile comments and response trail report.
  - vi. Update I&AP list/register.
  
- 3. Final BAR PP process:**
  - i. Notify all registered I&APs of final BAR submission to competent authority.
  - ii. Make copies of final BAR documents available on EnviroAfrica's website for public viewing.
  
- 4. Post decision PP:**
  - i. When environmental authorisation (EA) decision received, inform all registered I&APs within 14 days of DFFE decision (notification to include conditions and appeal process).
  - ii. Make copies of environmental authorisation decision and appeal process available on EnviroAfrica's website for public viewing.

\* See attached pre-application I&AP list/register (page 2 to 5 below)





 <small>Environmental Management and Support Association            1111 Hamington St, Zonnebloem</small>		<b>PRE-APPLICATION            PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS</b>					<b>Proposed Viesspersan Grid            Connection,            Dealesville, Free State Province</b>			<b>I&amp;AP List            (Rev. 1)            for:</b>		<b>2021-08-0007</b>		<small>Initial PPP: Newspaper advert, posters, letters (delivered &amp; posted).            Subsequent PPP: DBAR availability, emails, letters &amp; cds posted. FBAR availability notification</small>
<b>First PPP (pre-application): started 05 August 2021 and ended 05 September 2021.</b> <b>Second PPP (post application):</b>		<b>2021-08-0007</b>										<small>Communication method/Preferred communication</small>		
No.	Title	Initiale/Name	Surname	Affiliation	Postal Address	Town/City	Code	Telephone	Fax	E-mail	Communication method/Preferred communication			
6.5	The		Director	Police, Roads and Transport	P. O. Box 119 or Fern Building, 45 Charlotte Maxeke Street	Bloemfontein	9300	051 409 8850	051 409 8864		postage			
6.6	The		Director	Provincial Treasury	Private Bag X20537 or 55 Miriam Makeba Street, Fidel Castro Building	Bloemfontein	9300	051 405 4229	051 405 4152		postage			
6.7	Ms	Ragna	Redelsdorff	Heritage Officer, Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit, South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)	111 Hamington St, Zonnebloem	Cape Town	8001	021 462 4502 / 021 462 8651	021 202 4509	Correspondence via Heritage Specialist (NID & SAHRIS upload)	Online system			
6.8	The		Director	Public Works and Infrastructure (Office 310, OR Tambo House, Cnr Markgraaf & St Andrew's Streets, Bloemfontein)	P. O. Box 960	Bloemfontein	9300	051 492 3909	051 405 4490 / 086 624 7915		postage			
6.10	Ms	Anneliza	Collett	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)	Private Bag X120	Pretoria	0001	012 3197508	012 329 5938	Acollite@environment.gov.za. AnnelizaC@nda.agric.za	email & postage			
6.11	The	Chief	Director	Department of Environment Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF), Integrated Environmental Authorisations (national)	Private Bag x 447	Pretoria	0001			EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za	email & postage			
6.12	Mr	Stanley	Tshitwamulomoni	Biodiversity Directorate - Department of Environmental Affairs (national)	Private Bag x 447	Pretoria	0001	012 399 9587 / 012 399 9372	012 359 3625	Stanley.T@environment.gov.za	email & postage			
6.13	Ms	Thembi	Nyoka	Previous DAFF (national) now DFPE						jack@fs.agric.za				
6.14	Mr	Jack	Morton	Free State Department of Agriculture				051 861 8369	-					
6.15	Ms	Mashudu	Marubini	Delegated of the Minister (Act 70 of 1970)	P. O. Box X120 or Office 270, Delpan Building, Cnr. Annie Botha and Union Streets	Pretoria	0001	012 319 7619	-	MMashudu@environment.gov.za. MashuduM@daff.gov.za				
6.16	Mr	Thoko	Buthelezi	Agriland Liaison Office	P. O. Box X120 or Office 270, Delpan Building, Cnr. Annie Botha and Union Streets	Pretoria	0001	012 319 7634	-	BThoko@environment.gov.za. ThokoB@daff.gov.za				
6.17	The		Director	SKA Africa	3rd Floor, The Park, Park Road,	Pinelands		021 506 7300	021 506 7375					
6.18	Ms	Nicole	Abrahams	South African National Roads Agency Ltd. (SANRAL)	Private Bag X 19	Belville	7535	021 957 4607	-	AbrahamsN@nra.co.za	email & postage			
6.19	Ms	René	de Kock	South African National Roads Agency Ltd. (SANRAL)	Private Bag X 20	Belville	7536	022 957 4607	-	DeKockR@nra.co.za	email & postage			
6.20	Mr	Francois	Retief	Eskom North West Region	120 Henry Street, Westdene	Bloemfontein	9301	051 404 2501	-					
6.21	J		Geerthigh	Eskom Transmission	MegaWatt Park, D1Y38 or P. O. Box 1091	Johannesburg	2000	011 516 7233	086 661 4064	john.geerthigh@eskom.co.za	email & postage			
6.22	Mr	Kevin	Leask	Eskom	P. O. Box 1091	Johannesburg	2001	072 888 9209	-					
6.23		Sebabatsio	Mohaphi	Department of Energy	Private Bag x6093	Kimberley	8300	053 836 4000	096 562 7065					



**PRE-APPLICATION  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

**First PPP (pre-application): started 05 August 2021 and ended 05 September 2021.  
Second PPP (post application):**

No.	Title	Initials/Name	Surname	Affiliation	Postal Address	Town/City	Code	I&AP List (Rev. 1) for:			Initials/Name	Method/Preferred communication
								Telephone	Fax	E-mail		
6.24	Ms	Lizell	Stroh	South Africa Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)	Private Bag x73	Halfway House	1685	011 545 1232	011 545 1451	strohli@caa.co.za	email & postage	
<b>7. Neighbourhoods</b>												
7.1	Mr	Andries	Tshabalala	Trustee of The Wesselsbron Trust (Farm Rooiland)	1167 Manja Park	Dealesville	9348	063 858 4549	-	-	postage	
7.2	The	Wesselsbron	Trust	Farm Rooiland. Community Trust representing about 20 residents/families of the northern neighbouring property (immediate neighbour to Viesserspan Farm, Project 3) - only (occasional) resident on land - Jan				078 019 4418	-	-	communicate via Mr. Tshabalala	
7.3	The	Chrisalta	Trust	Farm Dam Pan (north east of Viesserspan Farm)	P. O. Box 288	Bulfontein	9670	082 574 3167	-	-	hand delivery & postage	
7.4	The	Wonderkop	Trust	Farm Beestepan - immediate neighbour to west of Viesserspan Farm	P. O. Box 62	Dealesville	9348	071 062 6730	-	-	hand delivery	
7.5	Mr	Stanley	Robertson	Director of Lezmin 1383 CC and Trustee of 3 Star Trust (owner of Farm Beestepan to south west of Viesserspan Farm)	Attempted to call for postal address - not successful			082 490 3444	-	slanmanrob@gmail.com	email	
7.6	Mr	Christiaan	van der Walt	Owner of Farm Oversat, south of Viesserspan Farm and Farm Kentani, far south of Viesserspan Farm	Attempted to call for postal address - not successful			083 292 2363	-	vandenwathnaomi@gmail.com	email	
7.7	Mrs	Naomi	van der Walt	Owner of Farm Mooioek to immediate south of Viesserspan Farm	Called for postal address - wants email only			083 457 8298	-	vandenwathnaomi@gmail.com	email only	
7.8	Mr	J H	Saaiman	Owner of Farm Perseus (south of Viesserspan)	P. O. Box 28	Dealesville	9348	082 416 9002	-	ksaaiman@gmail.com	email	
7.9	Mr	Pierre	Greyling	Owner of Farm Melsekker, east of Farm Viesserspan (father-in-law is Carl Otto)	P. O. Box 3702	Welkom	9459	082 806 9233	-	info@bjrisky394.co.za	email	
7.10	Mr	Tokmans	Carstens						-		hand delivery	
<b>8. Other</b>												
8.1	Mr	Bernard	de Vries	Manjangu Express (Dealesville & Bloemfontein)				051 404 7800	-	Bernard.DeVries@volksblad.com	email	
8.2	Ms	Rosie	Nel	BKB (manager of store in Dealesville)	8 Andrias Pretories Street	Dealesville	9348	051 811 0018	-	wimpy.duplooy@bkb.co.za	email	
8.3	Mr	Gerhard	van Rhyin	Local game and cattle farmer (based in Kimberley)				060 500 1419	-	gerhardvanrhyin@gmail.com	email	
8.4	Mr	Pieter	Vermulen		P. O. Box 124	Dealesville	9348	082 805 2172	-	pieter.vermulen63@gmail.com	email	
8.5	Mr	Jaco	Rooos		P. O. Box 134	Dealesville	9348	062 964 9714	-	1jacroos@gmail.com	email	
8.6	Ms	Alice	Ackermann		P. O. Box 88	Dealesville	9348	082 453 0837	-	alice.dealesville@gmail.com	email	
8.7	C	Carstens	Carstens		Attempted to call for postal address - not successful			071 345 0466	-	carstenswild@gmail.com	email	
8.8	Ms	Charlotte	Griessel					082 717 7950	-	charlottegriessel18@gmail.com	email	
8.9	Ms	Erika	Kruger		P. O. Box 37245 Langenhoven Park	Bloemfontein	9330	083 458 7068	-	erikalrus@gmail.com	email	
8.10	Ms	Estelle	Stevens		P. O. Box 31396, Fichardt Park	Bloemfontein	9330	072 218 7019	-	estellestevens6@gmail.com	email	
8.11	Mr	Danie/Dawie	Keyser		P. O. Box 28817, Danhof Post Office	Bloemfontein	9310	083 755 3376	-	forgothe@imweb.co.za	email	
8.12	Mr	A	Saaiman	(immediate northern neighbour of Kinderdam Farm)				082 775 5382	-	freestate@setsa.co.za	email	
8.13	Mr	Henk	Pieterse					082 818 2320	-	hpi.pieterse@gmail.com	email	
8.14	Mr	Ivan	Stevens		P. O. Box 31396, Fichardt Park	Bloemfontein	9317	084 707 3667	-	ivanstevens10@gmail.com	email	
8.15	Mr	Johan	Beyersfeld					083 448 9262	-	johanbeyersfeld@gmail.com	email	
8.16	Mr	Vickus	van Staden					082 775 7822	-	junettevanstaden@gmail.com	email	
8.17	Mr	Leon	Badenhorst					072 416 1507	-	leonbadenhorst2@gmail.com	email	

**PRE-APPLICATION  
 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

First PPP (pre-application): started 05 August 2021 and ended 05 September 2021.  
 Second PPP (post application):

No.	Title	Initials/Name	Surname	Affiliation	Postal Address	Town/City	Code	Telephone	Fax	E-mail	Communication method/Preferred communication
8.18	Ms	Malene	Vermeulen					084 205 7720	-	malenevermeulen@hotmail.com	email
8.19	Ms	Meisie	Nel		52 Kerck Street	Welkom	9438	082 671 4198 / 079 070 8463	-	meisie53ne@gmail.com	email
8.20	J	Fouche			Attempted to call for postal address - not successful			082 846 2247	-	ndlourens5@gmail.com	email
8.21	G	Jonker			Called for postal address - wants email only			083 287 6599	-	noodshulp@hotmail.com	email only
8.22	Gert	du Plessis			Called for postal address - wants email only			082 575 9558	-	oukraal@gmail.com	email only
8.23	J	Sander			Called for postal address - wants email only			083 469 1607	-	stefan@sanderbc.co.za	email only
8.24	J	van Staden			Attempted to call for postal address - not successful			082 415 6840	-	sunelavs@vodamail.com	email
8.25	Tania	van Straalen			Attempted to call for postal address - not successful			083 455 0502	-	taniastraalen@gmail.com	email
8.26	Mr	Albertus	Teselling		P. O. Box 31749	Fichardt	9317	082 372 5135	-	albertus@teselling.com; teselal@eskom.co.za; belinda@goldfishoed.co.za	email and postage
8.27	Ms	Eirika	Vorsier		Called for postal address - wants email only			082 828 5849	-	vorstereirika@gmail.com	email
8.28	R	Jansen van Rensburg			P. O. Box 122	Dealesville	9348	084 208 3272	-	rianelmarjvr@gmail.com	email
8.29	Piet	Wiese			Attempted to call for postal address - not successful			082 772 4520	-	wiese@mtloaded.co.za	email
8.30	Mr	Willie	Haarhoff		P. O. Box 54	Dealesville	9348	082 464 2589	-	williehaarhoff@gmail.com	email
8.31	W	Liebenberg			P. O. Box 32471, Fichardt Park	Bloemfontein	9317	082 809 2678	-	wilma.boerdery@gmail.com	email
8.32	Mr	Wilkop	van de Westhuizen		P. O. Box 155	Dealesville	9348	082 550 4750	-	wilkopamaspan@gmail.com	email
8.33	Ms	Annatjie	Jabobs		P. O. Box 17	Dealesville	9348	082 770 5546	-		email
8.34	Mr	Sello	Meiko	Demand and Acquisition, Department of Health	17 De Waal Road, Eimlich Park	Bloemfontein	9312	051 408 1640	-	MekoS@fshealth.gov.za	email and postage
8.35	Ms	Primrose	Ndzukuleka	Golden Four Trading	Attempted to call for postal address - not successful			074 212 1777	-	primleroux@gmail.com	email
8.36	Mr	Dean	van Zyl						-		email
8.37	Mr	R R (Ralph)	Damone	Pontus Consulting (Pty) Ltd	P. O. Box 16089, Panorama	Cape Town	7506	021 911 0341	086 672 6096	damo@iafrica.com	email
8.38	Mr	Senelo	Kaneng	Director, Kaneng Security	P. O. Box 318	Boshof	8340	078 566 9954 / 063 334 7464	-	sensiokaneng@gmail.com	email

## Vivienne Thomson

---

**From:** Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 01 October 2021 12:26  
**To:** 'JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za'  
**Subject:** Visserspan Grid Connection Project Plan (Ref. No.: 2021-08-0007)

Hi Jabulile

As per the message I left on your office voicemail box: Just thought I should let you know that the project plan I sent you earlier this week is based on the fact that Mulilo (co-developers with Keren Energy for the above project) provide me with the information I require for the draft BAR and EMPr i.e. preliminary layout plants and pylon information as listed in the EMPr.

If Mulilo delays in getting this information to me by Monday, I will adjust the project plan timelines accordingly to accommodate our deadlines and re-send it to you.

P.S. As per the pre-application meeting request form, only Keren Energy Holdings will be the applicant

Thank you,  
Vivienne Thomson



**EnviroAfrica**

*Environmental Assessment Practitioner*

**EnviroAfrica cc**

p: +27 21 851 1616      m: +27 82 464 2874

f: +27 86 512 0154

a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz St, Somerset West, 7130

P.O. Box 5367, Helderberg, 7135

w: [www.enviroafrica.co.za](http://www.enviroafrica.co.za)

## Vivienne Thomson

---

**From:** Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 30 September 2021 11:51  
**To:** 'JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za'  
**Cc:** Bernard de witt; 'Weyers Janse van Rensburg'  
**Subject:** Ref. No.: 2021-08-0007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)  
**Attachments:** Public Participation Plan.pdf; Visserspan Solar PV Grid Connection EA Project Plan rev4 Sept 2021 Update.pdf

**Importance:** High

Dear Juliet

Please find the public participation plan (PPP) and project plan for the Visserspan Solar PV Facility Grid Connection project.

Please let me know if the PPP and minutes of the pre-application meeting have been approved.

Thank you,  
Vivienne Thomson



**EnviroAfrica**

*Environmental Assessment Practitioner*

**EnviroAfrica cc**

p: +27 21 851 1616      m: +27 82 464 2874

f: +27 86 512 0154

a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz St, Somerset West, 7130  
P.O. Box 5367, Helderberg, 7135

w: [www.enviroafrica.co.za](http://www.enviroafrica.co.za)

## **VISSERSPAN SOLAR PV FACILITY GRID CONNECTION PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

Details of the public participation process proposed for the above application as required by Regulation 41(2) of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amended.

- 1. Pre-application public participation (PP) process:**
  - i. Compile initial Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) list/register.
  - ii. Place advertisement in local newspapers regarding project, availability of copies of documents and process to register as an I&AP.
  - iii. Send out notifications to previously registered I&APs as per I&AP list/register.
  - iv. Place A2 posters on sites' boundary fences.
  - v. Display and place A3 posters, maildrop letters / background information document in public facilities (Municipality / Municipal clinic / large retail shops)
  - vi. Display A3 posters at local public amenities / local shops.
  - vii. Deliver maildrop letters to neighbouring properties / spaza shops.
  - viii. Make copies of PP associated documents available on EnviroAfrica website for public viewing / comment.
  - ix. Email, deliver or post copies of any PP documentation to querying I&APs who request them.
  - x. Respond to I&APs where required.
  - xi. Compile comments and response trail report.
  - xii. Update I&AP list.
  
- 2. Post-application PP process:**

*Post-application PP process commences with submission/upload of application form and draft basic assessment report (BAR) to competent authority.*

  - i. Send copies of post-application draft BAR and appendices to registered I&APs including relevant Organs of State.
  - ii. Make copies of post-application draft BAR documents available on EnviroAfrica's website for public viewing / comment.
  - iii. Email, deliver or post copies of any PP documentation to querying I&APs who request them.
  - iv. Respond to I&APs where required.
  - v. Compile comments and response trail report.
  - vi. Update I&AP list/register.
  
- 3. Final BAR PP process:**
  - i. Notify all registered I&APs of final BAR submission to competent authority.
  - ii. Make copies of final BAR documents available on EnviroAfrica's website for public viewing.
  
- 4. Post decision PP:**
  - i. When environmental authorisation (EA) decision received, inform all registered I&APs within 14 days of DFFE decision (notification to include conditions and appeal process).
  - ii. Make copies of environmental authorisation decision and appeal process available on EnviroAfrica's website for public viewing.

**2021 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process  
Project Plan Summary: Visserspan Solar PV Grid Connection**

No.	Action	Target Date	Progress
1	Clarification meeting and appointment of environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) for EIA and environmental authorisation (EA) application	22-23 July 2021	Green
2	Appointment of basic assessment report (BAR) specialists	26-30 July 2021	Green
3	First round of public participation (PP) starts (minimum 30 days), with background document/mailedrop, for registration purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Place advertisement in local newspapers</li> <li>- Send out notifications to anticipated/previously registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&amp;APs) including State Depts.</li> <li>- Place A2 posters on site</li> <li>- Display and place A3 posters, mailedrop letters in public facilities (e.g. municipality; library, large retail shops, community clinic)</li> <li>- Display A3 posters at informal settlement entrances / local spaza shops</li> <li>- Deliver mailedrop letters to neighbouring properties / community clinic in closest township</li> </ul>	05 August 2021	Green
4	EAP and specialists' site visit (Site visit to meet specialists' earliest availability)	09 -15 August 2021	Green
5	First round (pre-application) of PP ends	05 September 2021	Green
6	Specialist site visits and draft pre-application reports	09 August - 15 September 2021	Green
7	Receipt and review of specialist draft pre-application reports	15 - 27 September 2021	Yellow
8	Compile updated I&AP list and finalise pre-application PP comment and response report	05 August - 26 September 2021	Yellow
9	Pre-application meeting with DFFE (Meeting held 27 August 2021 - Ref.No.: 2021-08-0007)	By 06 September 2021	Green
10	Compile and finalise draft BAR (DBAR) (with specialist assessments and client information)	20 - 01 September 2021	Yellow
11	Complete EA application document and submit with DBAR to DFFE	05 October 2021	White
12	Second round of PP starts	05 October 2021	White
13	Receive final project reference number from DFFE (Ref.No.: 2021-08-0007)	By 18 October 2021	Yellow
14	Second round of PP ends	05 November 2021	White
15	Compile updated I&AP list and finalise DBAR PP response report	27 October – 08 November 2021	White
16	Liaison with DFFE re. PP comments and potential DBAR issues	18 October – 10 November 2021	White
17	Specialist assessment revisions / addendums due (if required)	08 – 17 November 2021	White
18	Compile final BAR (FBAR) and final environmental management programmes (4 x EMPs – substation x 3 and overhead power line x 1)	November 2021	White
19	Submit FBAR to DFFE (DFFE closes from 15 December 2021 to ~05 January 2022)	30 November 2021	White
20	Inform I&APs of FBAR submission (Not legislated - just courteous notification)	By 06 December 2021	White
21	Await DFFE decision (Competent Authority has 57 days for decision)	By 18 February 2022	White
22	Applicant to inform I&APs of EA decision and right to appeal (within 14 days of receipt of EA). I&APs then have 20 days to appeal EA decision before it stands	By end February 2022	White

KEY: Target not met: ■;

In progress: ■;

Target met / met to date: ■



## Vivienne Thomson

---

**From:** Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 27 September 2021 00:59  
**To:** 'JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za'; 'Dsmit@environment.gov.za'  
**Cc:** 'VSkosana@environment.gov.za'  
**Subject:** Minutes of Pre-Application Meeting: Ref. No. 2021-08-0007 (Visserspan Solar PV Grid Connection)  
**Attachments:** Minutes of Pre-application Meeting.pdf; Appendix A - Agenda.pdf; Appendix B - Satellite image of site.pdf  
  
**Importance:** High  
  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear Juliet

Please find the minutes of the above pre-application meeting held on 27 August 2021 for your approval.

Please note: the recording of the meeting is available should you so request.

Thank you,  
Vivienne Thomson



*Environmental Assessment Practitioner*

**EnviroAfrica cc**

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**MINUTES OF PRE-APPLICATION MEETING  
FOR VISSERSPAN SOLAR PV GRID CONNECTION  
HELD ON 27 AUGUST 2021**

**PRESENT:**

**The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)** viz. Danie Smit - Deputy Director: National Infrastructure Projects (DS), Vusi Skosana - Director: National Infrastructure Projects (VS), Juliet Mahlangu - Case Officer (JM);

**EnviroAfrica/Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)** viz. Vivienne Thomson (VT) and Bernard De Witt (BDW);

**Keren Energy (Co-Developer/Applicant)** viz. Weyers Janse van Rensburg;

**Mulio (Co-Developer/Bidder)** viz. Ryan David-Andersen (RD); Warren Morse (WM); Andrew Pearson (AP).

**1. WELCOME:**

- i. DS introduced the DFFE team and welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- ii. DS reminded the meeting that minutes must be sent for approval to the DFFE and included in the BAR and that all documentation is to be submitted electronically as per the DFFE's existing system.
- iii. VT requested that the meeting be recorded. The meeting gave consent to do so. WM from Mulilo recorded the meeting.

**2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION/SUMMARY:**

Using satellite imagery of the preferred route, RD stated that:

- i. the entire grid connection is within both a REDZ and an EGI corridor.
- ii. there are four authorised Visserspan Solar PV Facilities but the application and EAs for the solar PV facilities did not include an on-site substation.
- iii. the current application includes a Visserspan/on-site substation (on Visserspan Solar PV Project 2) and a connection to the existing Eskom grid.
- iv. there are options for connection to the existing grid on the preferred route (preferred due to Eskom engagement, the CELs that were received for the project, landowner discussions and from a cost perspective).
- v. the proposed on-site substation is divided into two - an IPP substation which will step-up the power coming from approved PV projects from 33kV to 132kV before going into the second part of the substation which is an Eskom switching station (SS).
- vi. ultimately, only the IPP substation will belong to the applicant and the SS and power line infrastructure would be handed back to Eskom.
- vii. the options are in terms of the type of grid connection line to be used for tie-in to the Eskom grid i.e. the line could be a 132kV monopole line, or a 275 kV, or 400kV steel pylon line (to be finalised after discussions with Eskom).
- viii. if Eskom requires a 275kV or 400kV line then the second/Kinderdam substation would not be required.

WD confirmed the statement and added that:

- ix. the case of (viii) above, is called a double circuit line i.e. one tower with two conductors on either side which basically strings the conductor into the solar plant and back to the Eskom (grid) line again (two lines/conductors linked on the same structure).

RD stated that:

- x. option (ix) above is more expensive.
- xi. the potential alternative route is still in the process of being negotiated with a potential competitor, Mainstream, since they have several solar PV facilities around Eskom's Perseus substation and two collector substations to the south of Visserspan. Perhaps servitude rights for the potential alternate route and a link into Mainstream's collector substation could be negotiated. RD stated that an email had been sent to Mainstream but no response had been received as yet.

VT requested that, for purposes of the meeting, focus be given to the issues requiring clarification as per the agenda (Appendix A, attached as page 4) and that the various alternatives and possible power line options, once finalised/semi-finalised with Eskom, will be discussed in the draft BAR to be considered by the DFFE. RD handed the meeting to VT.

VT provided context in terms of the affected properties (Appendix B, attached as page 5):

- xii. from west to east on the image in Appendix 2 the affected farms are – Visserspan No. 40, Mooihoek No. 1547, Vasteveld No. 1548 and Kinderdam No. 1685. Kinderdam Farm contains the existing Eskom 400kV and 275kV powerline servitude
- xiii. the three farms, adjacent to Visserspan, through which the proposed development runs belong to the same farmer who owns all properties immediately surrounding the grid connection corridor once it leaves Visserspan Farm No. 40.
- xiv. the precautionary principle was applied, taking worst case scenario into account in terms of the proposed development footprint - the impact would be assessed in terms of two substations – one on Visserspan Farm (just over approximately 7ha footprint) and the other on Kinderdam Farm (approximately 6ha footprint) and a 55m wide corridor for the powerline connection (using worst case scenario impact from a 400kV overhead powerline with steel pylons)
- xv. the approach in (xiv) above was used so that if a smaller kV line or if only one substation was eventually developed the impacts would have been assessed since the worst case scenario/largest footprint would have been used.
- xvi. the specialists and EAP assessed areas wider than just the corridor/development footprint and alternative routes (indicated in white in Appendix 2 and as per earlier discussion)

**ISSUES FOR CLARIFICATION in terms of a proposed Visserspan Grid Connection application (DFFE clarification response highlighted in yellow):**

- 3 **Issue raised:** Due to part of the infrastructure being handed back to Eskom, would it be possible to undertake one application i.e. the Visserspan Grid Connection application process, but have the Department issue two EA's from the single application (one in the name of the IPP/Applicant and one in the name of Eskom) as per EIA Regulations 11 and 25(2)?

**Meeting discussion:** VT mentioned that the entire development will be assessed fully in the EIA process but that a fair portion of the development will get handed back to Eskom which is why the request is being made.

VS stated that Regulation 11 and 25(2) does allow one bigger EIA with two EAs being issued. Yes, two EAs can be issued from one application. VS agreed with VT that all the issues/negative environmental impacts must be identified on both [EA] sides and they must be assessed and mitigation measures or alternatives must be provided before a decision could be issued. So while it is possible, the DFFE is not going to confirm it in this pre-application meeting until such time the interpretation query (IQ) officials are consulted so that an official response may be given. VS further stated that problems arise when the Applicant requests a splitting of the decision/EA after it has been issued. The DFFE often finds that where the split has to take place not all the negative impacts have been assessed.

VT asked if the request for the issuing of two EAs must form part of the DBAR narrative, or if it should be mentioned in a cover letter accompanying (but separate to) the DBAR? DS said that the request must be separate but should be sent to the DFFE IQ up front before the DBAR and application is submitted. The EAP must send in a request to EIA Admin and IQ detailing the request with a map, before submission of the DBAR so that the issue may be decided upon.

AP mentioned that he agreed with VS and that the intention this request is to avoid the need for asking for a split after the EA is issued.

**DFFE Response:** This issue must be fully assessed by the DFFE's IQ officials so that the Department can take a firm position on it and provide an official response.

4. **Issue raised:** Since part of the impacted area has already undergone a full agricultural impact assessment (AIA) during the Visserspan Solar PV Facilities EIA process, could the same specialist be used and only an addendum to the original report be undertaken to assess and incorporate the areas not assessed in the Visserspan Solar PV development? This will save the project time and cost.

**Meeting discussion:** DS mentioned that if it is the same specialist as used for the Visserspan Solar PV Facilities AIA then an addendum incorporating the new areas impacted would be acceptable.

VS concurred with DS.

**DFFE Response:** Yes - an addendum by the same specialist to the previous solar PV facilities agricultural report is acceptable.

5. **Issue raised:** Please clarify if a full/detailed VIA, or an overview/summary visual impact screening is required.

**Meeting discussion:** VT mentioned that applying the precautionary approach and due to time constraints, the VIA specialist has already visited the site. The question is whether the DFFE requires a full VIA or just a screening/summary VIA.

DS said that since the area already has several HV power lines, perhaps the same approach as per point 4 above could be applied with just a visual screening. DS asked VS if the DFFE could accept this approach.

VS stated that it depends on the merit of the case since visual impact is usually where there is a lot of resentment and aggrieved parties who would complain and even appeal if it was not done properly. VS suggested that a complete VIA be done especially in an area like this. VS further said that he does not have a problem against a screening but he would guard against it especially in an area such as this one.

AP asked VT if the DFFE's screening tool kit indicated a VIA was required.

VT said that it is for the very reason that VS mentioned and cautioned the meeting about, that VT requested a VIA for this project. Having done the previous solar facility EIAs, there is resentment from (not immediate) neighbours. V further said that an appeal process can even stop an approved EA. VT could not recall if the screening tool required a VIA but she does know from the pre-application public participation (PP) that there is already a farmer who indicated that they are not happy with the project. Due to the cost implications VT put the question on the agenda but VT concurred with VS's suggestion that it would be better to do a full VIA.

AP agreed with VT and VS.

DS mentioned that a short cut could be taken and it might save some costs but if the decision is appealed than the whole process stops and we have already indicated our short timeframe for the project and the delay on an appeal is much worse than what a full VIA would cost the project in time and money.

**DFFE Response:** The DFFE stated that a complete/full VIA should be undertaken.

6. **Issue raised:** Must the public participation process accommodate an extra 21 days in addition to the minimum 30 days, due to COVID-19 / Disaster Management Act?

**Meeting discussion:** VT mentioned that as an EAP she had not seen any notices from the DFFE mentioning whether the PP is back to the original timelines or whether additional time should be added do to the COVID-19 situation.

DS said 30 days is the minimum that is required for PP in everything DFFE does so stick to that.

VS added that the project should stick to the 30 day PP and only if there is a challenge, then the DFFE can be notified in terms of Regulation 19 (1)(b) whether more time is needed. If we add the 21 days now we are extending the project to over the timeframe. VS stated that the 21 days can either use the 21 days or not but his advice is to stick to the 30 days, moreover, it gives a chance to assess the situation since anything can happen. Should something happen, then the EAP can invoke the 21 days, or even the 50 day extension where the PP will be done fully again. Do the application according to the 30 days PP process. Once the application is in process liaison with the case officer, Juliet/Jabulile, can take place and advice can always be given in the process.

**DFFE Response:** The normal 30 day public participation process period is sufficient.

## 7. GENERAL/Concluding remarks from the Department.

- i. WM mentioned that with regards to the EMPs the idea is to fast track everything we can. WM asked if two or three generic substation EMPs must be submitted since we are want a separate EA for the IPP substation/splitting the Visserdam substation that in essence is two EMPs.

**Meeting discussion:** DS said that for each one there must be an EMP since splitting an EMP creates problems. So have an EMP for each one to make the process easier.

VS said to cover ourselves have a good EMP

VT said that the idea is to have two EMPs, one for each substation and one (generic) power line EMP. So, there will be three EMPs for the project. EnviroAfrica might also include its standard construction EMP to cover all the bases that may be required.

- ii. RD mentioned that the PV facilities have been bid in round 5 which increases pressure to meet the timelines i.e. the EA is required in time for financial closure which is the end of February 2022. The EAP has provided a schedule using the legislated timelines which brings the project to the

middle of February [2022] but in terms of the EMPr, Mulilo would like to do all they can to make sure the EMPrs are approved since there won't be time for an EMPr update and another 30 day PP.

**Meeting discussion:** DS concurred with Ryan that an update will require another 30 day PP and also reminded the meeting that in terms of the project timelines, cognisance must be taken of the December break when the Department closes.

VS confirmed that this would be from 15/12/2021 to around 05/01/2022. VS said the timeframes will have to be managed very carefully from the Applicant/EAP's side since during the December period the Department is not functioning.

DS suggestion that in the application cover letter, we mention that this is part of the bid process and that we are working according to the flowing timelines to alert the DFFE of the fact.

RD asked if since generic (pre-approved) EMPrs will be submitted, once the site specific mitigation measures are added is it standard to approve the generic EMPrs even with the added mitigation measures?

DS said that for the DFFE to approve the EA and EMPrs, everything must be in it to avoid an amendment later on.

VS stated that if an EA is approved and not the EMPr then the EMPr will have to be Fixed and subjected to another 30 day PP to get approval. The DFFE is aware that often there are issues with layout designs and plans but if these can be fixed as early as possible and included in the EMPr, that will save on time which must be managed so that when the final BAR is submitted, the final EMPr is also submitted.

DS concurred with VS and RD agreed.

VT said that for the EMPrs to be approved the EAP needs finalisation on the kV power lines and what is going to be in the substations since that impacts on what is said in terms of mitigation measures and management. Speaking specifically to WM, VT said she needs that detail so the EMPrs are handled in one go and not have to be 'rehashed'.

DS reiterated that a once-off submission is always better even if it takes a little longer to get the information because the drag on in terms of time if the information is not there in the first place would be a disaster for the project.

VT agreed with DS and said it makes the EAP's job much easier to know exactly what is being dealt with.

- iii. VS provided concluding remarks from the DFFE and said Jabulile (also known as Juliet) is the case officer. Site visits will be determined on the merit of the case since the DFFE adheres to very strict COVID-19 protocols for site visits. Any queries must be directed to Juliet and the DFFE team is willing and available to assist. VS thanked the meeting
- iv. AP asked VT to mention the other specialist studies that have/will be conducted. VT listed the botanical (botanical and biodiversity), avifaunal (due to the super-surface power line structures), visual, agricultural and soil potential and a heritage specialist. All of which except for the heritage specialist have already been on site. There is also a freshwater specialist to look at the water issues since there are pans in the area. So the two processes, the WULA and NEMA processes are dovetailing. VS mentioned that we are on the right track. VT asked the Department if there were any other specialist studies which were required. DS said that that it all seemed covered. VS agreed and said that those studies are as per the appendix as well - we are on the right track.
- v. RD closed the meeting

~ End of Meeting ~

**Note:** A copy of the recording of the meeting is available on request.

## APPENDIX A – DETAILED AGENDA

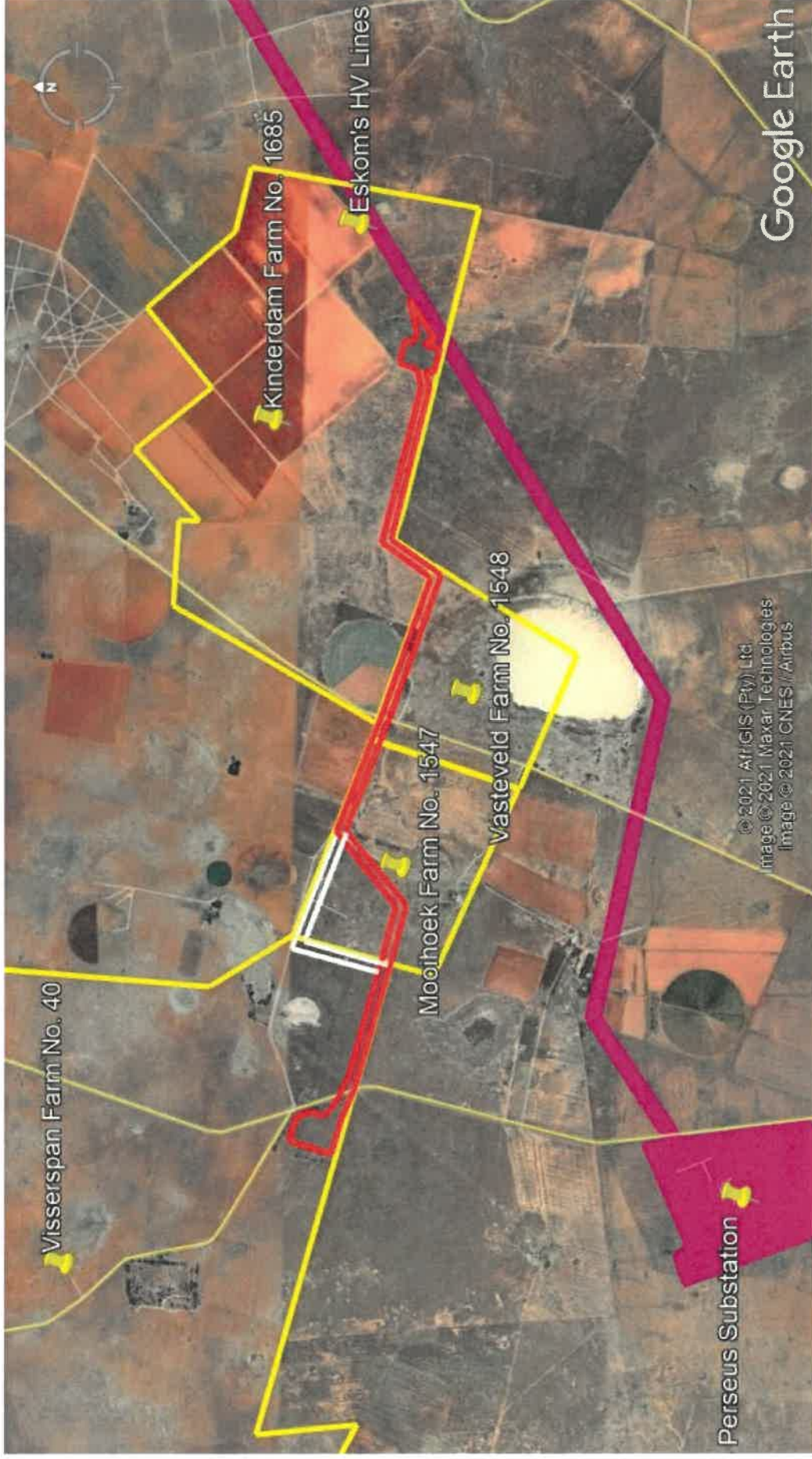
1. **Welcome**
2. **Brief project description summary**

### Issues for clarification in terms of a proposed Visserspan Grid Connection application:

3. One of the substations, the Kinderdam Substation which lies closest to Eskom's 400kV where tie-in will occur, will be built by the Applicant but handed back to Eskom. **Would it be possible to undertake one application i.e. the Visserspan Grid Connection application process, but have the Department issue two EA's from the single application (as per EIA Regulation 11)?**
4. Although the proposed development is to take place on agricultural land, part of the impacted area has already undergone a full agricultural impact assessment during the Visserspan Solar PV Facilities EIA process. The Visserspan substation footprint and initial part of the grid-connection corridor was part of this assessment. **Is an agricultural assessment required for this project considering that agricultural activities may still continue underneath the powerlines and the actual disturbed footprint still needing to be assessed makes up about 14% of the total project footprint as indicated as in the locality maps attached as Appendix 2?.**  
  
Should the Department still require an agricultural assessment, may the same specialist who has conducted the Visserspan and many other assessments in the region provide an addendum statement to the Visserspan report instead of undertaking a full soil, land use and agricultural potential survey/impact assessment?
5. Electricity from the Visserspan Solar PV facilities will be evacuated via overhead 132kV poles and/or 400kV pylons. An approximately 6km grid tie-in line will be constructed as part of the proposed grid connection in part running where there are currently no power lines. A visual impact assessment (VIA) specialist has been approached as part of the specialist assessment team for the project. **Please clarify if a full/detailed VIA, or an overview/summary visual impact screening is required?**
6. **Must the public participation process accommodate an extra 21 days in addition to the minimum 30 days, due to COVID-19 / Disaster Management Act?**
7. **General/Concluding remarks from the Department.**

~ End of Meeting ~

**APPENDIX B**  
**SATELLITE IMAGE OF PROPOSED SUBSTATIONS AND OVERHEAD POWER LINE ROUTE/CORRIDOR**



**Note:** Farm SG/cadastral boundaries indicated in yellow – farm boundary fences do not necessarily follow cadastral demarcations (Mooihoek, Vasteveld, Kinderdam farms, as well as farm immediately to the north of Mooihoek Farm and adjacent to Visserspan Farm all owned by one landowner, Mr K Saaiman). Proposed grid connection route indicated in red with alternative to route indicated in white. Existing Eskom HV lines and substation indicated in purple.

## Vivienne Thomson

---

**From:** Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 06 August 2021 19:27  
**To:** 'EIAApplications@environment.gov.za'  
**Subject:** Re-send: Request for pre-application meeting for the development of Visserspan Grid Connection (Keren Energy)

***For Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations***

Please find an urgent request (related to REIPPPP Bid Window 5 submission deadlines) for a pre-application meeting for the Visserspan Grid Connection (Keren Energy).

Note: This email has been re-sent since the original email contained a word version of the request for pre-application form which was 7MB in size,

Thank you,  
Vivienne Thomson



**EnviroAfrica**

*Environmental Consultant*

**EnviroAfrica cc**

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f: +27 86 512 0154

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Please consider the environment and only print this mail if necessary.



## Vivienne Thomson

---

**From:** Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 06 August 2021 15:06  
**To:** 'EIAApplications@environment.gov.za'  
**Subject:** Request for pre-application meeting for the development of Visserspan Grid Connection (Keren Energy)  
**Attachments:** Request for Pre-Application Meeting April 2021 Keren Energy r0.docx

***For Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations***

Please find an urgent request (related to REIPPPP Bid Window 5 submission deadlines) for a pre-application meeting for the Visserspan Grid Connection (Keren Energy)

Thank you,  
Vivienne Thomson



**EnviroAfrica**

*Environmental Consultant*

**EnviroAfrica cc**

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Please consider the environment and only print this mail if necessary.



## forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### **PRE-APPLICATION MEETING REQUEST** *For Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations*

Request for a pre-application meeting in terms of Regulation 8 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**

Visserspan Grid Connection

#### **Kindly note the following:**

1. This form must always be used for pre-application meeting requests where this Department is the Competent Authority.
2. This application form is current as of **April 2021**. 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. The onus on Applicant/EAP to determine all applicable listed activities that would require Environmental Authorisation prior to the commencement of the construction activities. Should any revision of your development comprise any other activities that constitute a listed activity/ies as defined in GN R983, R984 and R98 of 04 December 2014, as amended, it must also form part of the Application for Environmental Authorisation.
4. Be reminded that it is not compulsory in terms of the EIA Regulations that a pre-application meeting must take place prior to an application being lodged with the Department.
5. This form must be lodged with the Department at least **one (1) month** prior to the requested meeting date.
6. Please note that the proposed date and time will be confirmed prior to the meeting.
7. A detailed motivation and agenda must be appended to this meeting request.
8. This form must be marked ***“for Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations”*** and submitted to the Department via email.
9. All fields are compulsory.
10. The required information must be typed within the spaces provided in the form. The sizes of the spaces provided are not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided. Spaces are provided in tabular format and will extend automatically when each space is filled with typing. A legible font type and size must be used when completing the form. The font size should not be smaller than 10pt (e.g. Arial 10).
11. **Note that the EAP is required to submit minutes of the meeting to the Department for approval as per the timeframes agreed to in the meeting.**
12. The Department reserves the right to refuse the pre-application meeting based on the information provided in this request.

#### **Departmental Details**

**Online Submission:**  
EIAapplications@environment.gov.za

**Please read the process for uploading files to determine how files are to be submitted to this Department**

**Physical address:**

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
 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. APPLICANT CONTACT DETAILS**

Name of the Applicant:	Keren Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd		
RSA Identity/ Passport Number:	N/A		
Name of contact person for applicant (if other):	Mr. Cornelius Weyers Janse van Rensburg		
RSA Identity/ Passport Number:	7301275062086		
Responsible position, e.g. Director, CEO, etc.:	Appointed company representative		
Company/ Trading name (if any):	N/A		
Company Registration Number:	2019/545107/07		
BBBEE status:	Level 4		
Physical address:	20 Victoria Link, Route 21 Corporate Park, Irene, Pretoria, 0157		
Postal address:	P.O. Box 73, Somerset Mall, Western Cape		
Postal code:	7137	Cell:	082 631 7496
Telephone:	082 631 7496	Fax:	086 267 6181
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:weyers@kerenenergy.com">weyers@kerenenergy.com</a>		

**2. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER CONTACT DETAILS**

Company of Environmental Assessment Practitioner:	EnviroAfrica CC		
B-BBEE	Contribution level (indicate 1 to 8 or non-compliant)	4	Percentage Procurement recognition
EAP name:	Vivienne Thomson		
			0%

EAP Qualifications:

Vivienne holds a BSc in Zoology from the University of Cape Town (1995) and has over twenty years industry experience in the development/construction, power generation and mining sectors. She has completed an ISO 14001 Lead Auditors course, as well as several environmental short courses and has guest lectured for the MSc in Environmental Science Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) course at the University of the Witwatersrand.

She has attended various short courses including the 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).

Vivienne is a member of the National Association for Clean Air (NACA) and has served as a NACA National Council Member. She was a member of the South African Coal Ash Association and is an affiliate of the Institute of Innovators and Inventors. Vivienne 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.

Since 2004, Vivienne has been involved in environmental consulting with experience in EIAs, establishing and implementing ISO 14001 EMSs, contract management, legal compliance evaluations/due diligence assessments, as well as developing, implementing and assessing environmental management plans and monitoring programmes.

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:

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### 3. COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Identified Competent Authority to consider the application:

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, (Integrated Environmental Authorisations)

Reason(s) in terms of S24C of NEMA:

Proposed application forms part of REIPPPP (National Priority Infrastructure Projects)

### 4. MEETING DETAILS

Purpose of the meeting request	To introduce the proposed Visserpan Grid Connection Project and gain clarity.	
Any advice requested before from the Department on this project i.e. from IQ or via email (attached response received)		No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Applicant Category	Application by Parastatal	
	Organ of State	
	Private Individual/Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Application type	Application for EA	✓
	Application for Integrated EA	
	Application for Amendment EA	
Proposed meeting date and time-slot. Provide three alternative dates and time-slots ( <i>note that the Department requires at least a month due to logistical arrangements</i> ). <b>Please note:</b> Instruction as received after telephonic consultation with EIA applications is to provide three potential dates as required (even if within the next two weeks and not in line with the lead time stipulated), due to the urgency of the request – proposed project forms part of assurances required for Bid Window 5 of the REIPPPP.		
Date	Time-slot	
	Start time	End time
1 10 August 2021 (Tuesday)	08h00 to 09h00; 12h00 to 13h00; or 15h00 to 16h00	One hour after start time to be chosen by the Department
2 12 August 2021 (Thursday)	Any time from 08h30 to 16h00	One hour after start time to be chosen by the Department
3 13 August 2021 (Friday)	Any time from 08h30 to 12h30 or from 14h30 to 16h00	One hour after start time to be chosen by the Department
Duration of the meeting	1 hour virtual meeting	
Estimated number of people attending meeting	4 to 5 persons	

Please attach a proposed agenda as **APPENDIX 1**. If the Applicant or EAP intends to discuss several projects in one meeting, separate agendas must be drafted for each proposed project and the project details for each project. Please note that a detailed agenda is required.

## 5. PROJECT DETAILS

Project description	<p>The proposed Visserspan Grid Connection project entails development near the town of Dealesville in the Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province, on the Farms Visserspan No. 40, Mooihoek No. 1547, Vasteveld No. 1548 and Kinderdam No. 1685.</p> <p>The development is primarily a linear development but includes the construction of two 'substations' located at each 'end' of the proposed grid connection line viz.:</p> <p>i. a combined switching station and high voltage (HV) substation is proposed to be constructed on Visserspan Farm No. 40, located at approximately 28°36'37.82"S, 25°44'50.21"E (estimated central point); and</p> <p>ii. a main transmission substation (MTS) to be located at 28°37'0.82"S, 25°48'14.76"E (estimated central point) where the proposed 132kV overhead grid connection power line will enter before exiting from the Kinderdam MTS to form grid tie-in via a loop-in/loop-out connection. Grid tie-in will be to the existing Eskom Perseus-Theseus 400kV or the existing 275kV Everest-Perseus Transmission Line powerline which feed to Eskom's existing Perseus substation.</p> <p>The proposed Visserspan Farm switching station/HV substation will serve as a single 'collection' point for electricity evacuated from the Visserspan Solar PV facilities (No's. 1 to 4). From this single substation facility, electricity will be fed via overhead power lines towards</p>
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	<p>the east and turning north-east to traverse the northern boundary of Mooihoek Farm No. 1547 and Vasteveld Farm No. 1548 before turning north-east again and running along the southern boundary of Kinderdam Farm No. 1685 connecting to the Kinderdam main transmission substation (MTS) to be located at 28°37'0.82"S, 25°48'14.76"E (estimated central point). Refer to Locality Map attached as Appendix 1.</p> <p>The estimated total length of the grid connection line is approximately 6km and will be either via 132kV steel monopoles (30m in height), 275kV or 400kV pylons (40m in height) overhead power lines.</p> <p>Existing roads will be used to access the proposed development area (farm access and fence maintenance roads).</p> <p>Clearance of vegetation/land will only occur for substation and pylon/monopole footprints (not the entire servitude corridor). Although, as a precautionary approach, the servitude for a 400kV powerline will be used to determine potential development footprint (55m width).</p> <p>Due to the proximity to Eskom's Perseus substation and the number of HV lines feeding in to it, only one potential alternative route for grid connection was identified. This possible route lies directly to the south of Visserspan Farm No. 40 but involves negotiation with a separate IPP developer who is developing a solar PV project between Visserspan and Perseus - this will be further investigated in the Draft Basic Assessment Report.</p>
Indicate if any screening has taken place on site	No on-site environmental screenings have taken place as yet – the EAP and specialist team are planning to visit the site next week.
Physical Address where the development will take place	Development is primarily linear and will take place on the Farms Visserspan No. 40, Mooihoek No. 1547, Vasteveld No. 1548 and Kinderdam No. 1685 near Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province.
Farm name(s)/ Erf No	Visserspan Farm No. 40; Mooihoek Farm No. 1547; Vasteveld Farm No. 1548 and Kinderdam Farm No. 1685.
Local Municipality	Tokologo Local Municipality
District Municipality	Lejweleputswa District Municipality

Locality map:	<p>A locality map must be attached to the application form, as <b>APPENDIX 2</b>. The scale of the locality map must be at least 1:50 000. For linear activities of more than 25 kilometres, a smaller scale e.g. 1:250 000 can be used. The scale must be indicated on the map. The map must include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an accurate indication of the project site position as well as the positions of the alternative sites, if any;</li> <li>• road names or numbers of all the major roads as well as the roads that provide access to the site(s)</li> <li>• a north arrow;</li> <li>• a legend;</li> <li>• the prevailing wind direction;</li> <li>• site sensitivities, including but not limited to vegetation, wetlands, watercourses, heritage sites, critical biodiversity area/s, World Heritage Site, etc. and it must be overlaid by the study area; and</li> <li>• GPS co-ordinates (Indicate the position of the proposed activity with the latitude and longitude at the centre point for each alternative site.</li> <li>• The co-ordinates should be in degrees and decimal minutes. The minutes should be to at least three decimal places. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS-84 spheroid in a national or local projection)</li> </ul>
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## 6. ACTIVITIES APPLIED FOR

For an application for authorisation that involves more than one listed activity that, together, make up one development proposal, all the listed activities pertaining to this application must be provided below.

Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant <b>Basic Assessment Activity(ies)</b> as set out in <b>Listing Notice 1</b> of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	Describe the portion of the proposed project to which the applicable listed activity relates.
11	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts	Development includes the construction of two 'substations' and either 132kV, 275kV or 400kV overhead powerlines
12	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.	There is potential for the grid connection corridor to cross over or close to watercourses
27	The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for the undertaking of a linear activity	Development includes the construction of two 'substations' with a combined footprint of approximately 14.04ha.
28	Mixed, commercial or industrial developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare	Development includes the construction of two 'substations' with a combined footprint of approximately 14.04ha.
56	The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres.	Existing farm access and fence maintenance / farm boundary roads will be used. It is not envisioned that this activity will be triggered but this will be confirmed after a site visit.
Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant <b>Basic Assessment Activity(ies)</b> as set out in <b>Listing Notice 3</b> of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	Describe the portion of the proposed project to which the applicable listed activity relates.
None	None	N/A
Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant <b>Scoping and EIR Activity(ies)</b> as set out in <b>Listing Notice 2</b> of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	Describe the portion of the proposed project to which the applicable listed activity relates.
9	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more, outside an urban area or industrial complex	Development includes the construction of two 'substations' and possibly 400kV overhead powerlines
15	The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for the undertaking of a linear activity	Although the linear / powerline corridor section of the development does not involve total clearance of the corridor, the substations' footprint is more than 14ha. When added to the footprints of the pylons, this activity may be triggered

Be reminded that the onus is on the applicant to ensure that all applicable listed activities are included in the application. Environmental Authorisation must be obtained prior to commencement with each applicable listed activity.

**7. ADDITIONAL INFO, IF ANY**

Please attach any additional information as **APPENDIX 3**.

Please find proposed Public Participation Process Plan for clarification/confirmation of Department's required timeframes, considering current COVID-19 regulations.

**8. LIST OF APPENDICES**

		SUBMITTED	
APPENDIX 1	Proposed Agenda	YES ✓	
APPENDIX 2	Locality map	YES ✓	
APPENDIX 3	Additional info	YES ✓	



**APPENDIX 1  
PRE-APPLICATION MEETING AGENDA**

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Brief project description summary**

**Issues for clarification in terms of a proposed Visserspan Grid Connection application:**

- 3.** One of the substations, the Kinderdam Substation which lies closest to Eskom's 400kV where tie-in will occur, and the overhead powerline, will be built by the Applicant but handed back to Eskom. **Would it be possible to undertake one application i.e. the Visserspan Grid Connection application process, but have the Department issue two EA's from the single application (in terms of EIA Regulations 11 and 25(2))?**
- 4.** Although the proposed development is to take place on agricultural land, part of the impacted area has already undergone a full agricultural impact assessment during the Visserspan Solar PV Facilities EIA process. The Visserspan substation footprint and initial part of the grid-connection corridor was part of this assessment. **Is an agricultural assessment required for this project considering that agricultural activities may still continue underneath the powerlines and the actual disturbed footprint still needing to be assessed makes up about 14% of the total project footprint as indicated as in the locality maps attached as Appendix 2?**  
Should the Department still require an agricultural assessment, may the same specialist who has conducted the Visserspan and many other assessments in the region provide an addendum statement to the Visserspan report instead of undertaking a full soil, land use and agricultural potential survey/impact assessment?
- 5.** Electricity from the Visserspan Solar PV facilities will be evacuated via overhead 132kV, 275kV or 400kV pylons and powerlines. An approximately 6km grid tie-in line will be constructed as part of the proposed grid connection in part running where there are currently no power lines. A visual impact assessment (VIA) specialist has been approached as part of the specialist assessment team for the project. **Please clarify if a full/detailed VIA, or an overview/summary visual impact screening is required?**
- 6.** **Must the public participation process accommodate an extra 21 days in addition to the minimum 30 days, due to COVID-19 / Disaster Management Act?**
- 7. General/Concluding remarks from the Department.**

~ End of Meeting ~

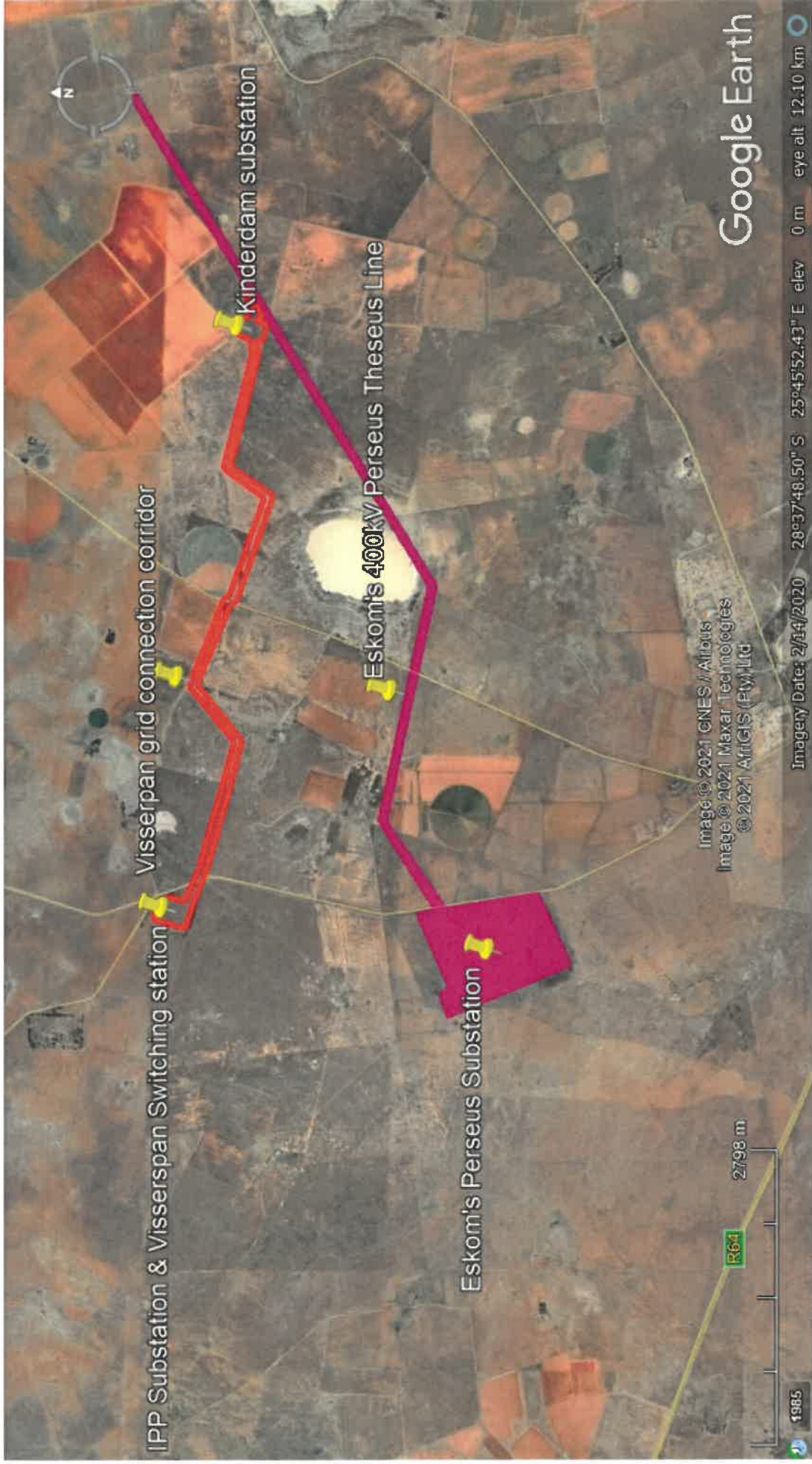
APPENDIX 2  
LOCALITY MAPS



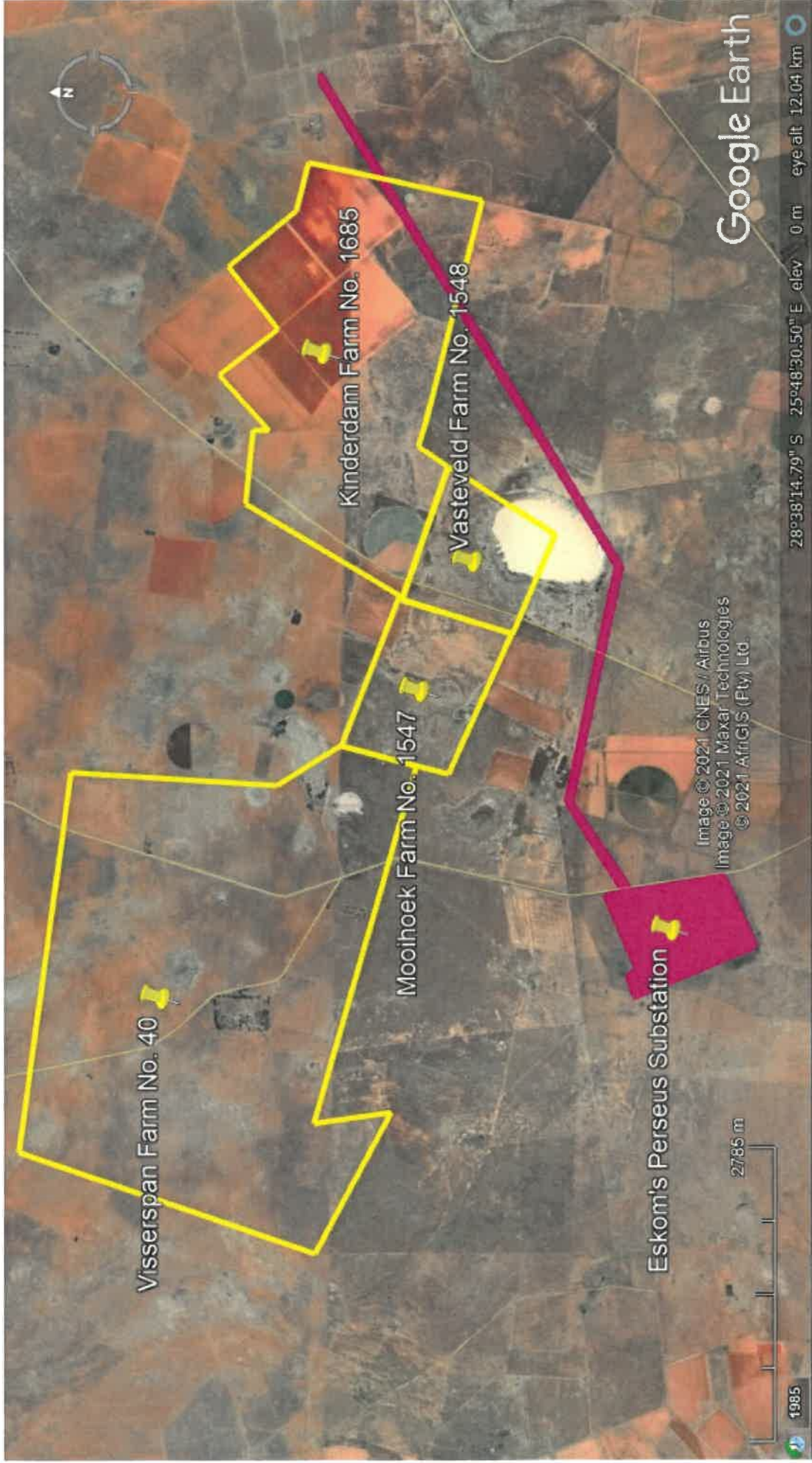
**Figure 1:** Proposed Visserpan Grid Connection project located approximately 68km north-west of Bloemfontein in Renewable Energy Development Zone 5 (REDZ 5), Tokologo Local Municipality, Lejweleputswa District Municipality, Free State Province. Combined footprint of substation facilities and grid connection overhead powerline corridor indicated in red.



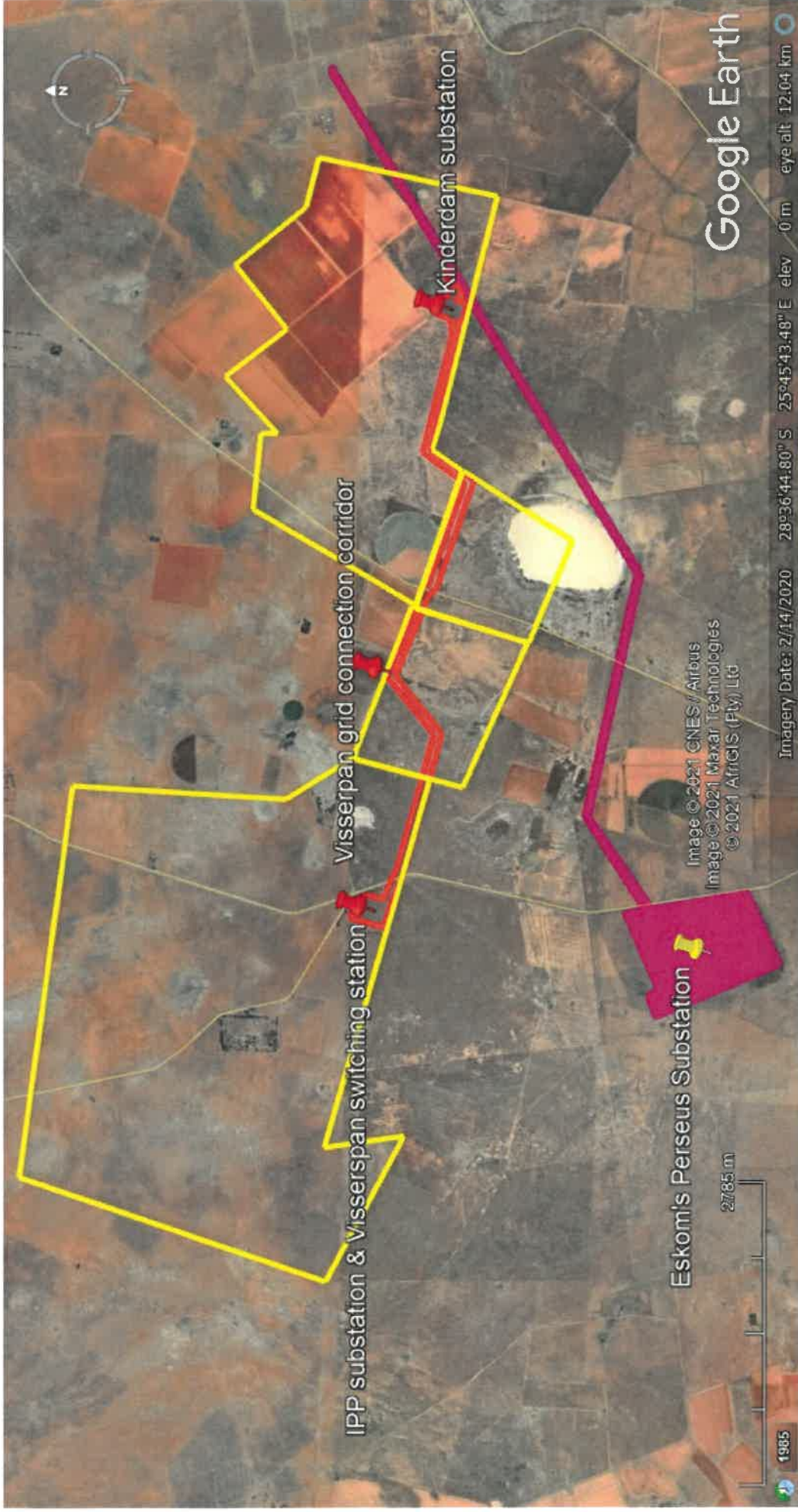
**Figure 2:** Proposed Visserspan Grid Connection project located approximately 2km north of Eskom's Perseus substation and 6km north of the town of Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Lejweleputswa District Municipality, Free State Province. Combined footprint of substation facilities and grid connection overhead powerline corridor indicated in red. Eskom's existing Perseus substation indicated in purple.



**Figure 3:** Proposed Visserpan Grid Connection project located approximately in REDZ 5, located approximately 2km north of Eskom's Perseus substation. Combined footprint of substation facilities and grid connection overhead powerline corridor indicated in red. Eskom's existing Perseus Theseus overhead powerline indicated in purple.



**Figure 4:** Locality of farms directly impacted by the proposed Visserspan Grid Connection project. Eskom's existing Perseus substation and 400kV Perseus Theseus overhead powerline indicated in purple.



**Figure 5:** Locality of proposed Visserspan Grid Connection project in REDZ 5. Farms directly impacted by the project (from west to east) are Visserspan Farm No. 40; Mooihoek Farm No. 1547; Vasteveld Farm No. 1548 and Kinderdam Farm No. 1685. Total footprint of proposed project (substation facilities and grid connection overhead powerline corridor) indicated in red. Eskom's existing Perseus substation and 400kV Perseus Theseus overhead powerline indicated in purple.

**APPENDIX 3  
PROPOSED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

Particulars of the public participation process already commenced and still to be conducted, are summarised below:

**1. Pre-application public participation process (PPP):**

**(30 days)** *Is there an additional time-period required due to COVID-19 / Disaster Management Act?*

- i. Placed advertisement in local newspaper regarding project with background information and process to register as an I&AP.
- ii. Send out notifications via email and postage to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) previously registered for projects in the area (Organs of State; Forums; Community groups, etc.)
- iii. Place A2 posters on site
- iv. Display and place A3 posters, maildrop letters / background information document in public facilities (Municipality, local clinic and large retail shops)
- v. Display A3 posters at local informal public facilities amenities (bar / spaza shops)
- vi. Delivered maildrop letters to neighbouring properties / farms
- vii. Make copies of PPP associated documents available on EnviroAfrica website for public viewing / comment
- viii. Email, deliver or post copies of any PPP documentation to querying I&APs who requested them.
- ix. Compile comments and response trail report.
- x. Update I&AP List.

**2. Post-application PPP process:**

**(30 days)** *Is there an additional time-period required due to COVID-19 / Disaster Management Act?*

- i. Inform registered I&APs (via email, posting of cd copies and availability of reports on website), of the post-application PPP, inviting comment on draft basic assessment report (BAR) which includes with the environmental management programme (EMPr).
- ii. Make copies of PPP associated documents available on EnviroAfrica website for public viewing / comment
- iii. Email, deliver or post copies of any PPP documentation to querying I&APs who requested them.
- iv. Compile comments and response trail report.
- v. Update I&AP List.

**3. Third round of PPP:**

- i. Inform all registered I&APs of submission of final BAR and availability of all final BAR related documentation on EnviroAfrica website.
- ii. Await decision from Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).

*Does the Department have the approximate dates of the December 2021 / January 2022 closure period?*

**4. Inform I&APs within 14 days of DFFE decision, when received.**

## Vivienne Thomson

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**From:** Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 05 August 2021 21:52  
**To:** 'EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za'  
**Subject:** Visserspan Grid Connection Pre-Application Public Participation Process  
**Attachments:** Maildrop.pdf

Dear Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP)

EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Keren Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd, to undertake the environmental impact assessment (EIA) application process for the above proposed project. **The proposed Visserspan Grid Connection project will run through the Farms Visserspan No. 40, Mooihoek No. 1547, Vasteveld No. 1548 and Kinderdam No. 1685 near Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province.** As part of the application for an environmental authorisation, a basic assessment report (BAR) is required since the proposed development falls within renewable energy development zone 5.

You have been identified as a possible I&AP for the EIA process for this project. Please see the attached notice and locality map for more detail on the proposed grid connection. Similar information was published today on page 5 of the Bloemnuus / Bloem News newspaper.

**Please note:** To confirm that you are an I&AP for this project (or to register as an I&AP) with any comments or queries regarding the project, please notify EnviroAfrica in writing strictly on or before 05 September 2021, at the contact details below or in the maildrops attached.

Please also inform any other I&APs you may know about this process.

Thank you,  
Vivienne Thomson



**EnviroAfrica**

*Environmental Consultant*

**EnviroAfrica cc**

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Please consider the environment and only print this mail if necessary.