



HARVARD SOLAR PV - INITIAL COMMENTS RECEIVED (NOVEMBER 2021 - FEBRUARY 2022)

Date	Issue	Comment	I&AP	Response	Respondent
	General				
26 November 2021		I would like to get more information on time frames re building of proposed PV facility	Donavan Swanepoel	Noted. This is will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report.	EnviroAfrica
		Are you aware that there is a proposed ring road that the city of Bloemfontein is going to build around Bloemfontein. This road will cut thru a portion of my farm and straight thru Harvard 1 and 2	"	Noted. This is will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report	EnviroAfrica
		Lastly I would like to get a copy of the full environmental report and risk analysis on surrounding area re elevation of crime due to the proposed facility being build in this area	"	Noted. A Socio-economic Impact Assessment will be conducted, and will be included in the Environmental Impact Report.	EnviroAfrica
26 November 2021		Your designation of Harvard 1 to Portion 5/2355 in the 'Project Description and Location' is incorrect if compared to the Cadastral Map of the properties. Likewise Harvard 2 to Portion 8/2355. Either the designations or the portion numbers should be switched to match the maps.	FW van der Walt	Noted. Initial information provided to the EAP was incorrect. This has since been corrected, as per the Draft Scoping Reports.	EnviroAfrica
		I am the owner of the farm Rooidam 19/2354, abutting for 603,04m between the beacons X5 and B3 (for which I have a Beacon Certificate) in the southern boundary of Portion 5 of Spes Bona 2355. Adjoining property owners share the cost to erect and maintain a boundary. How will the proposed development impact on the existing boundary indicated in 1. Above, now and in the future.	"	The existing boundary will unlikely be impacted. The entire facility will be fenced off.	EnviroAfrica
		No access road(s) and entrance(s) are indicated in the documentation. Where will these be?	"	At present, it is proposed that access to the site will be from Koppies Street, to the north, along the current access road to the entrance of Portion 8 of Farm 2355. This is addressed in the Draft Scoping Report for Harvard 1 and Grid connection, and Harvard 2.	EnviroAfrica
		Will the grid connection be the only power line exiting the premises, now and in the future?	"	The proposed developments (Harvard 1 and 2) will only have one grid connection exiting the facilities, to the existing powerlines to the east of the development, connecting to the Harvard substation.	EnviroAfrica
		Will staff (and their families) of the owner/developer reside on the property at any stage? If so, where will the accommodation be located and how will it be accessed?	"	Unknown at this stage. To be confirmed	EnviroAfrica
		Will offices be erected on the property? If so, where will it be located and how will it be accessed?	"	Offices will be constructed for the facility. The layouts are still to be finalised, but will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report. Access will be via the existing access road to the property from Koppies Street to the north.	EnviroAfrica
		Will only persons authorised by the owner/developer be allowed access to the property?	"	Yes, and/or authorities.	EnviroAfrica
22 February 2021		Dear Mr Clinton, I do understand and am very much aware of the appeal process that ended on 11 February of this year, but we just bought PORTION 7 of FARM 2355 & PORTION 11 of FARM 2355 and the proposed solar facility has only now come to my attention. I do hope that you take my appeal into consideration	Madeli Bosch	The contents of your email have been noted. Please note that we are in the initial phases of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. The various specialist studies (including botanical, avifauna (birds), freshwater, agricultural and the various engineering geotechnical studies still need to be conducted and compiled. You will be registered as an Interested and Affected Party, and as such, will be notified of the availability of any reports for viewing and further comment. You will be registered as an Interested and Affected Party, and as such, will be notified of the availability of any reports for viewing and further comment. Your comments will be responded to in Scoping Report and/or the Environmental Impact Report, and will be included in all reports submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment who will assess and decide on the Application.	EnviroAfrica
		The proposed plans hold a significant environmental risk, especially on the immediate environment - which is inevitably our piece of land right next to the portions in question.	"	Specialist impact assessments will be conducted and included in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).	EnviroAfrica

		The construction of solar facilities on such a large piece of land imposes clearing and grading, resulting in soil compaction, alteration of drainage channels and increased erosion. The area already struggles with drainage and erosion - with the recent rains the surroundings were flooded. Portion 5 & 8 was either used for planting crops or as pasture - both of which either channels or retains the water. The clearing & compaction of such a large area will have a catastrophic effect on the water's natural flow and hinder any agricultural activities in the surroundings.	"	Noted. Stormwater management will be addressed in the engineering reports and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), to be included in the EIR.	EnviroAfrica
		The Bloemfontein area has an average rainfall of between 200mm & 400mm annually - any chemical spills from the facilities which may result in the contamination of groundwater or the ground surface will render the surrounding soil and underground water useless.	"	Noted. Chemical management will be addressed in the EMPr.	EnviroAfrica
		The development of such a large-scale facility can also be hazardous to air quality. Such threats include the release of soil-carried pathogens and results in an increase in air particulate matter which yet again has the effect of contaminating water reservoirs. In an area like Bloemfontein where the average year is dry any contamination will be catastrophic.	"	The nature of the proposed facility and construction methods, it is unlikely to lead to any significant negative air quality impacts	EnviroAfrica
		Numerous studies have shown the negative impact on wildlife. There are a couple of Blue Cranes nesting in the area - the heat, the reflection ect will definitely hinder their breeding and force them away. The same disruptions - heat, reflection and light pollution will have a negative effect on livestock farming and production.	"	Noted. An avi-faunal impact assessment will be conducted and included in the EIR.	EnviroAfrica
		The conclusion - the proposed solar plant will negatively impact the soil, the flow of water, the water itself and the production of crops and livestock. Therefore I sincerely ask that you consider my appeal.	"	Noted.	EnviroAfrica
ESKOM					
25 November 2021		Please send me KMZ files of the proposed development areas and proposed grid connection. Please find attached Eskom general requirements for works at or near Eskom infrastructure as well as a setbacks guideline for renewable energy developments in proximity to Eskom infrastructure.	John Geeringh Senior Consultant Environmental Management Grid Planning: Land and Rights Eskom Transmission Division	Noted. This will be included in the Draft Scoping Report.	EnviroAfrica
Heritage					
03 December 2021		SAHRA has received via post (01/12/2021) of the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Harvard Solar PV Facilities (Harvard Solar, 1, 2 and Grid Connections) near Bloemfontein, Free State Province. Please note that all development applications are processed via our online portal, the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) found at the following link: http://sahra.org.za/sahris/ . We do not accept emailed, posted, hardcopy, faxed, website links or DropBox links as official submissions.	Natasha Higgitt - SAHRA	Noted.	EnviroAfrica
		Please create an application on SAHRIS and upload all documents pertaining to the Environmental Authorisation Application Process. As per section 24(4)(b)(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA), an assessment of heritage resources must form part of the process and the assessment must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA.		Noted.	EnviroAfrica
		Once all documents including all appendices are uploaded to the case application, please ensure that the status of the case is changed from DRAFT to SUBMITTED. Please ensure that all documents produced as part of the EA process are submitted as part of the application.		Noted	EnviroAfrica