

Dear Interested and Affected Party

06 November 2023

NEMA AND NWA PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

THE PROPOSED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION PLANT AND ELECTRIC TRUCK CHARGING FACILITY, N3, NEAR VREDE, FREE STATE (N3 SASOL KOHLER)

Notice is hereby given of the intention to submit an application for environmental authorisation and the public participation process, in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended ("NEMA"), Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2014, as well as a Water Use License Application (WULA) in terms of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998)(NWA). The proposed solar photovoltaic (PV) plant and electric truck charging facility includes activities listed in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014.

EnviroAfrica cc has been appointed by N3 Electric Highway (Pty) Ltd. to undertake a NEMA application process for Environmental Authorisation for the proposed facility.

Application for environmental authorisation to undertake the following listed activities* in terms of NEMA EIA Regulations 2014:

<u>Government Notice R327 (Listing Notice 1)</u>: Activity No. 1, 11, 12, 19, 24, 27, 28 <u>Government Notice R325 (Listing Notice 2)</u>: Activity No. 1, 15 <u>Government Notice R324 (Listing Notice 3</u>): Activity No. 4, 12, 14

Application in terms of NWA: Sections 21 (c) and (i)*.

*Please note that the listed activities above may change during the course of the NEMA Application process. Registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) will be notified of any changes.

Project Description & Location: It is proposed that a solar photovoltaic (PV) plant, connected to an electric truck charging facility with a battery energy storage system, overnight parking, wash bay, lounge area with a kitchen, ablution facilities, shop and offices, including associated infrastructure, be developed on Remainder of Farm Rooirand No. 990, Vrede. The Solar PV plant will be connected to the electric truck charging facility via a distribution line with a capacity of approximately 33 kV. An area of approximately 66.5ha will be considered and assessed.

The proposed site is located off the N3, at the corner of the N3 and Reitz/Roadside road (S589) intersection (107 turnoff), approximately 32km south-west of Vrede, 33km north of Warden, and 61km south of Villiers. Site co-ordinates (approximate central point): 27° 33' 50.80" S, 28° 50' 16.80" E.

Description of Alternatives: Due to the strategic placement required for the renewable truck charging facilities and other renewable energy developments/proposed developments, alternative sites are limited. However, alternative options which include inter alia alternative PV technology, layout options and the option of not proceeding with the proposed development at all (the No-Go option) will be considered and assessed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIR). The EIR will include specialist impact reports and will undergo further public participation.

Public Participation: I&APs are hereby notified of the applications and invited to register (in writing) and/or provide initial comments and identify any issues, concerns or opportunities relating to either, or all of, the projects to the contact details provided below, <u>on or before **15 December 2023**</u> in terms of the environmental aspects (NEMA Application) and <u>on or before **07 February 2024**</u> for water related issues (NWA WULA Application). In order to register or submit comment, I&APs should refer to the project name/s, and provide their name, address & contact details (*indicating your preferred method of notification*) and an indication of any direct business, financial, personal, or other interest which they have in the application. You are also requested to pass this information to any person you feel should be notified.

<u>Please note</u> that only Registered I&APs will be notified of the availability of reports and other written submissions made (or to be made) to the Department by the applicant, and be entitled to comment on these reports and submissions; will be notified of the outcome of the application, the reasons for the decision, and that an appeal may be lodged against a decision; and will be notified of the applicant's intention to appeal the decision, and where and for what period the appeal submission will be available for inspection.

<u>Consultant</u>: EnviroAfrica CC. P.O. Box 5367, Helderberg, 7135 / Fax: 086 512 0154 / Tel: 021 8511616 / E-mail: <u>clinton@enviroafrica.co.za</u>

