

Comments and Responses 1476 Glencore PV EIA and WULA - Lydenburg

Khumbelo Malele

Date 2024/03/18 Method Email

Comment

Dear Celia, Please note that I have already commented on this development application. LUA24/3797, sent comments to you on Wednesday 13/03/2024. Unless there are any changes to the Scoping report they do not need to re-send the document. Kind regards, Khumbelo

Response

EIMS noted the email as part of internal correspondence by the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency

Mr Serame Motlhake

Date 2024/09/27 Method Email

Comment

Dear Jolene, I am responsible for the applications, kindly send us the details and kml or kmz file of the proposed facility and we will develop an approval letter. Regards, Serame [In response to EIMS' email: "Good day, I hope this email finds you well. I hope that you may be able to assist us. We are currently undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment for a Solar PV project and Sentech was identified as a possible Interested & Affected Party. Please provide the relevant contact person who may be able to provide a comment on the proposed Solar PV project. I look forward to your response."]

Response

Dear Serame, Kindly see the attached notification regarding the availability of the Draft Scoping Report for the proposed Glencore Lydenburg Solar Photovoltaic Facility, in the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa. A copy of the report is available on the EIMS website (<https://www.eims.co.za/public-participation/>). Please note that as a registered Interested & Affected Party (I&AP) you (Sentech) will be notified of the availability of the Draft EIA Report for public review and comment. Kindly also find the attached Layout Map and KMZ file. Please feel free to contact EIMS should you have any queries/comments regarding the proposed project.

Date 2024/09/27 Method Email

Comment

Good day Jolene, Attached please find letter of approval as per request below. Regards, Serame [Attachment]: RE: PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF GLENCORE LYDENBURG SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY 1. The above matter refers. 2. We wish to advise that SENTECH SOC Ltd ("SENTECH") has received an application from EIMS ("the applicant"), which plans to construct a solar PV facility to be located near Thaba Chweu Local Municipality in the Mpumalanga Province as described in annexure 1 hereto, hereafter referred to as "the site", in accordance with the provisions of Section 29(1) (b) of the Electronic Communications Act no. 36 of 2005 ("the Act"). 3. SENTECH has analysed the information provided by the applicant in accordance with the provisions of Section 29(1) (c) of the Act, and specifically the location of the site and confirm that there would be limited degradation of SENTECH transmitted Terrestrial UHF/VHF Television (TV), and/or FM radio services in the planned deployment area, as indicated in annexure 1. 4. SENTECH hereby grants the applicant approval to proceed with the construction of its energy project at the site subject to the following terms and conditions: 4.1 Due to the fact that the findings made by SENTECH are based on simulations and calculated

Response

Good day Serame, Thank you for your response. The comments and letter of approval provided by SENTECH are duly noted and will be included in the relevant environmental reports.

Mr Serame Motlhake

on a theoretical model, using available data and assumptions where no data was provided, such findings may change at any time should any further information be made available to or come to SENTECH's attention. 4.2 At any time after the approval, and during construction of the project, should any radio transmissions be affected by construction activities, SENTECH will give the applicant 7 (seven) day's written notice to remove the cause of the interference. 4.3 Under no circumstances whatsoever will SENTECH be liable to the applicant or any third party for any damages, loss or costs, of any nature whatsoever or howsoever arising, suffered because of the aforementioned request and the applicant fully indemnify SENTECH. 4.4 SENTECH prior written consent must first be obtained before any construction activities underneath, along, across or within proximity to SENTECH infrastructure can begin and shall comply with the applicable SENTECH guidelines relating to clearances between equipment and the proposed construction activity. Furthermore, the applicant shall clearly adhere to, and ensure all installations shall be fully compliant with the Occupational Health and Safety Act No. 85 of 1993. 5. This approval is further subject to the submitted applications boundaries or structures listed in annexure 1 hereto, the materials used, as well as the size and positioning of structures declared in the application. If the services of SENTECH or its clients is in any way compromised by a deviation or change of this submission, the applicant shall be liable for all costs to re-establish, or relocate the services, and under no circumstances whatsoever will SENTECH be liable to the applicant or any other third party for any damages, loss or costs, of any nature whatsoever or howsoever arising, suffered as a consequence. 6. This approval is valid and applicable between SENTECH and the applicant only. It does not include any approval for any of the other electronic communication operators which have current co-sharing agreements to utilise SENTECH's radio masts. 7. Any additions, amendments, additional structures to be built, or any change to the energy farm boundaries, will require a new application to SENTECH. 8. The validity of this approval is for a period of 12 (twelve) months. If construction of the designed project commences after the expiry of the twelve-month period, the application must be re-submitted to SENTECH for further evaluation and approval. 9. This approval does not imply any rights of access whatsoever to SENTECH property or use of SENTECH's access roads for construction or maintenance of the design project. Separate permission must be obtained from SENTECH in this regard. Furthermore, SENTECH reserves the right to claim damages in terms of Section 29 of the Act, for any loss or damages sustained as a result of damages to any of SENTECH's electronic broadcast and communications infrastructure. 10. The applicant shall, in carrying out any work or project, take all the necessary precautions for the safety of SENTECH's employees, contractors, representatives and its property, including the radio transmitters and links on or near the site against damages as a result of construction of the applicant's energy project. 11. The applicant shall be liable for all and any direct and/or indirect, and/or consequential damages or injury that may be caused by the applicant, its contractors, subcontractors, employees, agents or representatives to any employee, contractor, representative or property of SENTECH including radio network transmitters and/or links or

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land which may have been disturbed shall be restored to the same condition in which it was before commencement of the construction of the energy project. 12. In no event will SENTECH, its employees, contractors, or representatives be liable to the applicant or any third party whatsoever for special, collateral, exemplary, direct, indirect, incidental, consequential or any other damages of any nature whatsoever or howsoever arising (including without limitation, loss of goodwill, loss of profits or revenues, loss of savings, loss of use, interruptions or noisiness, or injury) whether or not such damages or injury occurred prior or subsequent to, or are alleged as a result of any SENTECH radio network approved and/or not approved in terms of this letter, even if SENTECH has been advised of the possibility of such damages or injury. All SENTECH rights are fully reserved. Regards. ANNEXURE 1 The planned site will be situated approximately 4.04km north-east of SENTECH's Lydenburg T106.1 transmitter site. The planned PV Facility will not cause interference to any of SENTECH's networks. **[**Map**]** Map 1: Map indicating Glencore Lydenburg Solar PV and SENTECH's Lydenburg T106.1 Transmitter Site The PV plant is expected to be single axis tracking system which track the sun in one dimension. PV plant tracker tables are mounted in a north-to-south orientation and rotate about this axis tracking the sun from east-to-west. The maximum tilt from the horizontal (not vertical) is ± 55 degrees (Figure 1).

Ms Natasha Higgitt

Date 2023/11/23 Method Email

Comment

Good day, 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. Please create an application on SAHRIS for each EA application 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. If a case already exists on SAHRIS regarding the development, please upload the documents to that case using the "Make an additional submission to an existing case" in the application selector wizard <https://sahris.org.za/form/application-selector>. Please ensure that all documents produced as part of the EA process are submitted as part of the application. ****PLEASE NOTE**** An application fee is now required for all section 38 applications. Please ensure that the SAHRIS application contains a proof of payment as per the notice at the following link: <https://sahris.org.za/help>. A payment of R 2 000.00 for each application is required. Please

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email. We are currently in the initial call to register phase of the public participation process for this project. An application will be made on SAHRIS once the relevant environmental reports are made available for public review.

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Ms Natasha Higgitt

make separate payments with the specific reference numbers. Applications that do not include a proof of payment will be considered incomplete and will not be processed until proof of payment is provided. Please make use of the SAHRIS Case ID in the payment reference. e.g. 12345/38.8. Please upload the PoP using the "Make an additional submission to an existing case" in the application selector wizard <https://sahris.org.za/form/application-selector>. The case officer assigned to your case will approve the submission and begin to process the case. Please note that I will be on annual leave from 15 December 2023 and will return to work on the 8th January 2024.

Date 2024/02/27 Method Email

Comment

Good day, 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. Please create an application on SAHRIS for each EA application 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. If a case already exists on SAHRIS regarding the development, please upload the documents to that case using the "Make an additional submission to an existing case" in the application selector wizard <https://sahris.org.za/form/application-selector>. Please ensure that all documents produced as part of the EA process are submitted as part of the application. ****PLEASE NOTE**** An application fee is now required for all section 38 applications. Please ensure that the SAHRIS application contains a proof of payment as per the notice at the following link: <https://sahris.org.za/help>. A payment of R 2 000.00 for each application is required. Please make separate payments with the specific reference numbers. Applications that do not include a proof of payment will be considered incomplete and will not be processed until proof of payment is provided. Please make use of the SAHRIS Case ID in the payment reference. e.g. 12345/38.8. Please upload the PoP using the "Make an additional submission to an existing case" in the application selector wizard <https://sahris.org.za/form/application-selector>. The case officer assigned to your case will approve the submission and begin to process the case.

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email. Kindly note that a SAHRIS application has been made (case ID: 22187, title: 1476 Glencore PV EIA – Lydenburg) for this project.

Date 2024/04/15 Method Other

Comment

Interim Comment The SAHRA requests that the pending assessment of the impact to heritage

Response

The interim comment from SAHRA has been noted and will be addressed in the relevant

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resources must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA as required by section 38(8) of the NHRA be conducted as part of the EA application. The HIA must include an archaeological and palaeontological component. The archaeological component of the field-based HIA must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and must comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports (see www.asapa.co.za or www.aphp.org.za for a list of qualified archaeologists). The proposed development is located within an area of moderate and high Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist. (See <https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html> for a list of qualified palaeontologists). Any other heritage resources as defined in section 3 of the NHRA that may be impacted, such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed. Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the heritage reports and DEIA inclusive of appendices.

environmental reports. SAHRA will be notified once the Draft EIA Report is available for public review and comment.

Mr Sityhilelo Ngcatsha

Date 2024/02/23 Method Email

Comment

Good day Thank you for notifying SAHRA of the proposed development of the Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility at the Lydenburg CMI Smelter . Please ensure that an application is made to SAHRA in this regard. 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: <https://sahris.org.za/>. We do not accept emailed, posted, hardcopy, faxed, website links or DropBox links as official submissions. Please create an application on SAHRIS for each EA application 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. If a case already exists on SAHRIS regarding the development, please upload the documents to that case. Please ensure that all documents produced as part of the EA process are submitted as part of the application. ****PLEASE NOTE**** An application fee is now required for all section 38 applications. Please ensure that the SAHRIS application contains a proof of payment as per the notice at the following link <https://sahris.org.za/help>. A payment of R 2 000.00 for each application is required. Please make separate payments with the specific reference numbers. Applications that do not include a proof of payment will be considered incomplete and will not be processed until proof of payment is provided. If a case on SAHRIS has been created, please

Response

Good day, Kindly note that an application has been made on SAHRIS, case ID: 22187, title: 1476 Glencore PV EIA – Lydenburg.

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Mr Sityhilelo Ngcatsha

respond contact Nokusho Ngubeni with the case ID number. Kind Regards, Sityhilelo Ngcatsha

Date 2024/03/20 Method Email

Comment

Good day Thank you for the notification. Please ensure that an application is made to SAHRA in this regard. 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: <https://sahris.org.za/>. We do not accept emailed, posted, hardcopy, faxed, website links or DropBox links as official submissions. Please create an application on SAHRIS for each EA application 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. If a case already exists on SAHRIS regarding the development, please upload the documents to that case. Once all documents including all appendices are uploaded to the case applications, 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. ****PLEASE NOTE**** An application fee is now required for all section 38 applications. Please ensure that the SAHRIS application contains a proof of payment as per the notice at the following link <https://sahris.org.za/help>. A payment of R 2 000.00 for each application is required. Please make separate payments with the specific reference numbers. Applications that do not include a proof of payment will be considered incomplete and will not be processed until proof of payment is provided. If a case on SAHRIS has been created, please contact Natasha Higgitt with the case ID number. Kind Regards, Sityhilelo Ngcatsha

Response

EIMS noted the email. A SAHRIS Case had already been created and both Sityhilelo Ngcatsha and Natasha Higgitt had been notified of the case ID number.

Mr Amos Ngomane

Date 2024/06/26 Method Telephone

Comment

EIMS called to confirm whether Mr Ngomane was the correct contact person at Thaba Chweu Local Municipality to be able to provide a comment on the project as the management authority for the Lydenburg Nature Reserve. Mr Ngomane confirmed that he was the correct person and provided his email address to forward the information to.

Response

Good day Mr Ngomane, Kindly see the attached notifications regarding the proposed Glencore Lydenburg Solar Photovoltaic Facility, in the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa and the availability of the Draft Scoping Report. An electronic copy of the Draft Scoping Report is available on the EIMS public participation website: <https://www.eims.co.za/public-participation/> Kindly note that although the public review period for the Draft Scoping Report has ended, we require comments from the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality for the EIA phase of the project. You will be provided information regarding the EIA

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Mr Amos Ngomane

report once the report is available for public review. Please feel free to contact EIMS should you have any comments/queries regarding this project.

Amalgamated Forum Of Thaba Chweu

Date 2024/02/22 Method Email

Comment

Thanks For Sending the Amalgamated Forum Of Thaba Chweu a message we will shortly get back to you.

Response

EIMS noted the email as acknowledgement of receipt of the DSR notification.

Date 2024/03/18 Method Email

Comment

Thanks For Sending the Amalgamated Forum Of Thaba Chweu a message we will shortly get back to you.

Response

EIMS noted the response as acknowledgement of receipt of the notification.

DFFE Director Compliance

Date 2024/02/23 Method Email

Comment

Dear Jolene Please note that the purpose of the *** address is for the filing of audit reports, ECO reports and proof of compliance to issued authorisations. In this regard you are kindly requested not to forward pre-decision (EIA process reports) documentation to this mail box. Regards

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email and clarification. Kindly note that we have deregistered *** from our list of Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs) for this project and that mailbox will no longer receive communication regarding this project.

Date 2024/03/18 Method Email

Comment

100% Once and if an EA is issued, all reports and proof of compliance to such can be send to this e-mail address. Regards

Response

EIMS noted the email. The I&AP was deregistered from the project.

Mr John Geeringh

Date 2024/03/18 Method Email

Comment

Response

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Mr John Geeringh

Please send me a KMZ file of the affected property, proposed development and proposed grid connection. Please find attached Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes, as well as a setbacks guideline for RE Developments. Regards John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat) Reg. EAP (EAPASA) Senior Consultant Environmental Management Grid Planning: Land and Rights Eskom Transmission Division *** Tel: *** Cell: *** Fax: *** E-mail: ***

Good day, Thank you for your email, we acknowledge receipt of the attached documents. Kindly find the attached KMZ file of the properties. Please note that we are still awaiting detailed layouts of the proposed development and we are unable to provide KMZ files of the development at this time. We are also awaiting detailed layout/routing to be finalized, however, grid connection will be at the Eskom substation in the middle of the site within the smelter. Please feel free to contact EIMS should you have any comments/queries regarding this project or if you require any additional information. Kindly note that all comments on the Draft Scoping Report must be submitted by no later than 22 April 2024.

Robyn Luyt

Date 2023/11/23 Method Email

Comment

Good Morning Jolene, Please ensure that DARDLEA as well as MTPA are meaningfully consulted throughout the process (relevant parties copied herein). Kind Regards

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email. The parties have been added to the I&AP database for this project for further notifications regarding the project. The DARDLEA are the competent authority and will receive a hard copy of the relevant environmental reports as well as the application once it is ready to be submitted.

Cecilia de Waal

Date 2023/11/23 Method Email

Comment

Dear Jolene Kindly send us a hard copy of the document to the following physical address for our Scientists to comment on. I was also requested to kindly ask for a new commenting date in January. Address: *** Contact number : *** or ***

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email. Your comments are received and will be recorded as part of the public participation process for this project. Please note that the relevant environmental scoping report will only be available in the new year. A hard copy will be sent to you as per your request once the report is made available for public review and comment. Please feel free to contact EIMS should you have any queries/comments.

Date 2023/11/23 Method Email

Comment

Thank you Jolene Regards

Response

EIMS noted the response.

Date 2024/02/22 Method Email

Comment

Response

Comments and Responses 1476 Glencore PV EIA and WULA - Lydenburg

Cecilia de Waal

Dear Ms. Webber Kindly send the MTPA a hard copy of the Scoping Report to the following address, for our Scientists to comment on: To: Celia de Waal (EIA Data Capturer) ***
Contact numbers: *** or *** Kind regards Celia de Waal

Good day, Thank you for your email. We have received confirmation that the courier has delivered a hard copy of the Draft Scoping Report. We kindly request confirmation that you have received the report.

Date 2024/03/15 Method Email

Comment

Response

Dear Mr. Mabunda Kindly receive the attached comments from the MTPA regarding a Draft Scoping report for the following: • Proposed Development of the Glencore Lydenburg Solar Photovoltaic facility at the Lydenburg Smelter on portion 143 of Potloodspruit 30JT, Portion 114, 471 and 457 of Townlands of Lydenburg 31 JT, Thaba Chweu Local Municipality. • Your Reference number: 1476 • Our EIA registration number for any further Enquiries: LUA 24/3797 Kind regards Celia de Waal

Good day, Thank you for your email. We acknowledge receipt of the comments provided by the MTPA, these comments will be recorded and addressed in the relevant reports. Kindly note that a site plan will be included in the EIA report that will include all of the information as requested by the MTPA.

Date 2024/03/15 Method Other

Comment

Response

Dear Mr. Mabunda SUBJECT: THE MTPA’S COMMENTS REGARDING THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE GLENCORE LYDENBURG SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY AT THE LYDENBURG SMELTER ON PORTION 143 OF THE FARM 30 POTLOODSPRUIT 30 JT, PORTION 114, 471 AND 457 OF THE FARM TOWNLANDS OF LYDENBURG 31 JT, WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THABA CHWEU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE. Your correspondence with reference: 1476, dated 29/02/2024 has reference: Background The applicant proposes to develop a solar photovoltaic (SPV) energy generation facility at the Lydenburg Smelter. The generation capacity will be up to 300 megawatts. The electricity generated from the facility will be used at the Lydenburg Smelter and the surplus will be wheeled to other Glencore operations. Other possible infrastructure will include an on-site substation/ switching station, access road, energy storage system and an 132KV power lines. Comments The sensitivity of the proposed development area was assessed using the following tools: Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (2014 as updated) and associated land use guidelines, Environmental legislation National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) and EIA regulations 2014 as amended, Department of Water and Sanitation, and Water Research Commission Guidelines on wetlands, and the South African Heritage Resources Act, and information and knowledge to assess Development Applications. The sensitivity of the area in which the activity is proposed is likely to occur was assessed according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector plan (MBSP; MTPA, 2014). The sensitivity is assessed in terms of terrestrial and freshwater assessments. In the MBSP, sensitivity areas are identified in terms of Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and Ecological

The letter of comments was responded to in the email to Celia de Waal in response to their email dated 2024/03/15.

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Cecilia de Waal

Support Areas (ESAs). According to the MBSP terrestrial assessment, the proposed study area falls within the 5 km ESA: Protected Area Buffer of the Gustav Klingbiel Nature Reserve, Other Natural Areas, and Moderately and Heavily Modified areas. According to the MBSP freshwater assessment, the proposed study area has ESA: Important sub-catchments and Heavily Modified areas. The MBSP assessment maps have been taken into consideration in the Scoping Report. Recommendations The MTPA has no objections to this development but would like to recommend the following:

- The MTPA agrees to the list of specialist studies that will be undertaken as part of the EIA process.
- The site or route plan must include the following:
 - o The exact position of each element of the application as well as any other structures on the site
 - o The position of services, including electricity supply cables (above or underground), water supply pipelines, boreholes, sewage pipelines, storm water infrastructure
 - o Servitudes and buffers associated with the development.
 - o Sensitive environmental elements within 100 meters of the site or sites including (but not limited thereto) watercourses and wetlands, the 1:100-year flood line, ridges, cultural and historical features.

The MTPA looks forward to receiving the draft EIA report for comment once it is available. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.

Date 2024/03/18 Method Email

Comment

Dear Ms. Webber We are taking note of your email. Kindly send us, the MTPA a hard copy of the Draft Scoping report a mentioned in your email below for our Scientists to comment on, to the following physical address: To: Cecilia de Waal (EIA Data Capturer) *** My contact details are: *** or *** Kind regards Celia de Waal

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email. We have received confirmation that the courier has delivered a hard copy of the Draft Scoping Report. We kindly request confirmation that you have received the report.

Date 2024/03/19 Method Email

Comment

Good day Thank you for your reply. Regards Celia

Response

EIMS noted the response as acknowledgement of receipt of the prior email.

Date 2024/04/18 Method Email

Comment

Dear Ms. Webber I noticed that we already sent you comments of the Draft BAR. Our reference number is LUA24/3797. It is not necessary to send us a hard copy again unless there are some changes in the Draft BAR report. Kind regards Celia

Response

Good day Ms. de Waal, Thank you for your email. No changes have been made to the Draft Scoping Report for this project. However, the public comment and review period has been extended until the 22nd of April 2024.

Mr David Nunez

Comments and Responses 1476 Glencore PV EIA and WULA - Lydenburg

Mr David Nunez

Date 2023/11/30 Method Email

Comment

Dear Jolene, I kindly request you add me as an I&AP for the above-mentioned project. My contact details are: *** Thanks! Best regards,

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email and interest in the project. We have registered you as an I&AP as requested. Please feel free to contact EIMS should you have any comments/queries.

Mrs Portia Makitla

Date 2024/04/16 Method Email

Comment

Good morning Kindly find the attached comments for your attention. [Attachment]: Dear Mr. Mabunda COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED GLENCORE LYDENBURG SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY AT THE LYDENBURG SMELTER, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the reports. The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the reports and does not have any objection to the draft Scoping Report and the Plan of Study, however, the EIA report must comply with the procedures for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of sections 24(5) (A) and (H) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998. The Environmental Impact Assessment report must comply with all the requirements as outlined in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) guideline for renewable energy projects and the Best Practice Guideline for Birds & Solar Energy for assessing and monitoring the impact of solar energy facilities on birds in Southern Africa. In conclusion, the Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries should be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email; *** for the attention of Mr. Seoka Lekota. Yours faithfully

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email. We acknowledge receipt of the comments provided by the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation as per the letter provided, dated 19 April 2024. The EIA report will comply with the procedures for assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of sections 24(5) (A) and (H) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, as well as the requirements outlined in the EIA guideline for renewable energy projects and the Best Practice Guideline for Birds & Solar Energy for assessing and monitoring the impact of solar facilities on birds in Southern Africa. The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation (Mr Seoka Lekota) will continue to receive communication regarding this project and the availability of the Environmental reports and their associated Public Participation Process documents for public review and comment.

Ms Tebego Kgaphola

Date 2024/03/04 Method Email

Comment

Dear Sir/Madam DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the project mentioned on the subject line. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Mrs P Makitla and Ms Tebego Kgaphola (Copied on this email). In addition, kindly share the shapefiles of the development footprints/application site with the Case Officers. Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email. We have registered Mrs P Makitla and Ms Tebego Kgaphola as Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs) for further communication regarding the project. Kindly find the attached KML of the site area. BCAdmin@dfre.gov.za is part of our I&AP database and all public participation documents/information will be communicated accordingly. Please feel free to contact EIMS should you have any further queries/comments regarding the project.

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Ms Tebego Kgaphola

Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota

Date 2024/03/25 Method Email

Comment

Good day Kindly note that we are not able to find the report for the project on your website, please provide us with an alternative so that we can be able to review the report.

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email. The website appears to work from our side, please try the following link: <https://www.eims.co.za/public-participation/> Alternatively, please use the following WeTransfer link to access the report: <https://we.tl/t-Ob6o0rkNM2> Should you have any further difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact us so that we may make alternative arrangements.

Mr Exodus K Mabanna

Date 2024/01/08 Method Email

Comment

Dear. Jolene Please find attached our letter of request for participation. Yours sincerely,

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email. We acknowledge receipt of your letter of request for participation on behalf of Thaba Chweu Social Labour Plan Forum. Kindly note that EIMS has been appointed as independent environmental consultants to undertake the necessary environmental authorisation process for the proposed Lydenurg solar PV project only. Your comments have been captured however please note that EIMS is not involved with the formulation or update of the SLP for Glencore. Part of the environmental authorisation process requires a public participation process where any interested and affected party (I&AP) is provided an opportunity to raise any queries, comments or concerns regarding the solar PV project. We have registered the Thaba Chweu Social Labour Plan Forum as an I&AP for this proposed project with the details you have provided. You will be notified when the relevant environmental reports are made available for public review and comment. All comments received are recorded and addressed in the environmental reports which are then considered by the competent authority to ensure that a well-informed decision is made. Should you have any further comments/queries, please do not hesitate to contact EIMS.

Date 2024/03/19 Method Email

Comment

Dear Jole Webber. This email serves to confirm and acknowledge receipt of your email and the attachment. Thaba Chweu Social Labour Plan Forum, a section 21 company (NPC) here by welcome the opportunity to participate in the Draft Scoping Report of the Water Licence

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email and interest in the proposed project. Your comments are acknowledged and will be incorporated in the relevant reports as part of the Public Participation Process for this project for consideration by the Competent Authority to assist in the decision-

Comments and Responses 1476 Glencore PV EIA and WULA - Lydenburg

Mr Exodus K Mabanna

application to the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Environment for the Glencore Lydenburg Smelter PV Solar Plant and as the Interested and Affected Parties such initiative and development would create job opportunities and enterprise supplier development to the impoverish communities in the greater Lydenburg. Yours Exodus Mabanne Secretary

making process. Please feel free to contact EIMS should you have any further comments/queries regarding this project. Kindly note that all comments on the Draft Scoping Report must be submitted by no later than 22 April 2024.

Date 2024/04/22 Method Email

Comment

Dear. Jolene Webber. The Thaba Chweu Social Labour Plan Forum hereby make a submission to the Environment Impact Management Service regarding the 1476 Glencore PV Lydenburg, that the forum welcome your draft report on the proposed PV plant and its Environmental Impact Assessment as it will stimulate the economy of our town and municipality as a Labour Sending Areas and thus will create more job opportunities which will put our communities in the mainstream of the economy in the economic space and will also accord opportunities for Enterprise Supplier Development and SMME's opportunity in terms of Incubation and other grants which will benefits Community Self Sustainable programmes and projects. Yours Exodus Kgolofelo Mabanna Thaba Chweu Social Labour Plan Forum (Secretary)

Response

EIMS noted the email from the I&AP. Their comments have been captured as part of the Public Participation Report.

Date 2024/06/27 Method Email

Comment

Dear Jolene Weber As an organization based in Mpumalanga Provincial can you please share with us the agreement between DFFE and DARDLEA in detailed if there's any paper trailing. Yours truly Exodus Mabanne

Response

Good day Exodus, Thank you for your email. Kindly note that EIMS does not have a copy of the agreement between DFFE and DARDLEA – EIMS was advised by Province in this regard.

Date 2024/06/27 Method Email

Comment

Dear Jolene Weber As an organization based in Mpumalanga Provincial can you please share with us the agreement between DFFE and DARDLEA in detailed if there's any paper trailing. Yours truly

Response

Good day Exodus, Thank you for your email. Kindly note that EIMS does not have a copy of the agreement between DFFE and DARDLEA – EIMS was advised by Province in this regard.

Date 2024/07/01 Method Email

Comment

Dear. Jolene Weber Thank you for the clarification. Yours Exodus

Response

EIMS noted the response from the I&AP as acknowledgement of receipt of the previous email.

Comments and Responses 1476 Glencore PV EIA and WULA - Lydenburg

Salome Mambane

Date 2024/04/15 Method Email

Comment

Good day. Please find herein the attached letter for the above mentioned. Please do not respond to this mailbox with any queries related to the decision been issued. All queries on the attached decision must be directed to official whose contact details is listed as enquiries. I hope you find all in order.

Response

Please refer to the table of comments and responses regarding the comments provided on 2024/04/15 by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment on the Draft Scoping Report.

Ms Maureen Nkuna

Date 2023/11/27 Method Email

Comment

Good Morning The receipt of your email has been acknowledged. A response will be given as soon as possible regarding the above land claim status. NB: Please note Mr *** will be assisting you with a response to your enquiry

Response

EIMS noted the comment from DALRRD

Liandri Nel

Date 2023/12/13 Method Email

Comment

Good day Jolene We are interested in applying to be a part of the EIMS 1476 Project that will be done at Lydenburg Smelter as advertised in the Steelburger. We install solar and electrical systems on a daily basis and would like to be a part of this new project Hope to hear from you soon

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email. Kindly note that EIMS has been appointed by Glencore Operations South Africa (Pty) Ltd as an independent Environmental Consulting company to undertake the necessary environmental authorisation processes and Public Participation processes for the proposed project. Your email will be passed on to Glencore Operations South Africa (Pty) Ltd.

Date 2024/02/22 Method Email

Comment

Good afternoon Jolene How or when does the application process start? We are still very interested in being a part of this big project. I received all the link and documents but what to know what and how is the next step.

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email. Kindly note that EIMS has been appointed as Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) / Consultants to undertake the necessary environmental authorisation and water use authorisation required prior to the construction and operation of the Solar PV Facility. The aim of our involvement is to acquire input/solicit comment from the public regarding the environmental authorisation and water use authorisation application pertaining to potential environmental and socio-economic impacts associated with the proposed PV Facility. Kindly note that we are not involved in Glencore's hiring and

Comments and Responses 1476 Glencore PV EIA and WULA - Lydenburg

Liandri Nel

procurement processes. Necessary hiring and procurement processes will be undertaken solely by Glencore upon receipt of the environmental authorisation and water use authorisation. Kindly note that this project is currently in the environmental authorisation and water use authorisation application phase and as such the competent authorities have not granted authorisation for any development at this stage. As registered Interested and Affected Parties, we would appreciate your involvement by providing us with comments / concerns pertaining to potential environmental and socio-economic impacts associated with the proposed PV Facility. Alternatively, we will keep you updated with the application processes and eventual outcome of the applications.

Lizell Stroh

Date 2024/02/27 Method Email

Comment

Good day, Kindly find below for your attention. The SACAA has transferred the assessments for Solar and Wind energy applications to Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) as published on the SACAA website. A formal application must be lodged with Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) for a formal obstacle assessment to be conducted. Their responsibility would pertain to the assessments, maintenance, and all other related matters in respect to Solar and Wind Farm assessments. The contact details for ATNS are: Obstacle Evaluator ATNS Head Office Tel: *** (Ask for Obstacle Evaluators) Email: *** Regards

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email. The applicant (Glencore Operations South Africa (Pty) Ltd) will be informed of this requirement and a formal application, if required, will be submitted by Glencore to ATNS prior to commencement. Kindly note that this email also serves to confirm that you, and the Obstacle Evaluator as per the contact details provided, have been registered as Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs) for this project to receive further communication regarding the project. Please feel free to contact EIMS should you have any comments/queries regarding the project.

Shonese Bloy

Date 2023/12/06 Method Email

Comment

Hello, I trust you are well. Could I please request that *** with email address *** be registered as an I&AP for Glencore Lydenberg Solar Energy Facility. Please could you also send through any relevant documents and reply with confirmation of registration. Thank you very much.

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email and interest in the proposed project. We have registered *** as an I&AP for this project as per your request. Kindly note that the Scoping Report is currently being drafted and there are no additional documents to provide at this time. As an I&AP, you will be notified when the relevant environmental reports are made available for public review and comment. Please feel free to contact EIMS should you have any queries/comments regarding the proposed project.

Simon Bongsi

Date 2024/02/23 Method Email

Comments and Responses 1476 Glencore PV EIA and WULA - Lydenburg

Simon Bongi

Comment	Response
<p>Dear sir I want to register to be part of it how can I get the form to join today for solar and water . what are you need from that form. Can you please send for me a form on this email above</p>	<p>Good day, Thank you for your email. Kindly note that EIMS has been appointed as Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) / Consultants to undertake the necessary environmental authorisation and water use authorisation required prior to the construction and operation of the Solar PV Facility. The aim of our involvement is to acquire input/solicit comment from the public regarding the environmental authorisation and water use authorisation application pertaining to potential environmental and socio-economic impacts associated with the proposed PV Facility. Kindly note that we are not involved in Glencore’s hiring and procurement processes. Necessary hiring and procurement processes will be undertaken solely by Glencore upon receipt of the environmental authorisation and water use authorisation. This email also serves to inform you that you have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for this project for further communications regarding this project. As a registered I&AP, we would appreciate your involvement by providing us with comments / concerns pertaining to potential environmental and socio-economic impacts associated with the proposed PV Facility. Alternatively, we will keep you updated with the application processes and eventual outcome of the applications.</p>

Winnie Lekabe

Date 2024/03/27 Method Email

Comment	Response
<p>Good Morning Jolene Thank you for requesting proposal from ATNS. Herewith attached proposal for your attention . Kind Regards</p>	<p>Good day, Kindly find the attached KMZ file of the layout of the proposed 1476 Glencore Lydenburg Solar PV project and please advise on whether an obstacle evaluation is necessary for this proposed project. The solar panels will have a height of between 3 to 5 metres. If an obstacle evaluation is necessary, please advise on the reasons for the assessment and the procedure that will be required. If we do not require an obstacle evaluation, kindly provide us with a statement. More information and an electronic copy of the Scoping Report can be found on the EIMS public participation website: https://www.eims.co.za/public-participation/ Please do not hesitate to contact EIMS should you require any further information or if you have any comments regarding this project.</p>

Date 2024/06/13 Method Email

Comment	Response
<p>Good day, RE: Proposed Solar PV Facility This is to acknowledge that ATNS has received your query. Below is the criteria for an obstacle evaluation according to the regulations: • If the Solar PV installation is equal to or bigger than 5000 square meters; • If the Solar PV installation falls</p>	<p>EIMS noted the response from ATNS. The relevant study was conducted.</p>

Comments and Responses 1476 Glencore PV EIA and WULA - Lydenburg

Winnie Lekabe

within a 8km radius around any aerodrome/airstrip or helipad; • If the Solar PV installation falls within the Approach and Departure area of any aerodrome/airstrip or helipad and • If the Solar PV installation falls within 3km radius of any aerodrome/airstrip or helipad a glint and glare assessment is required from the applicant. Kindly note that ATNS charges a fee for the Obstacle Evaluation Report, and that before the process starts our Business Development department will forward a proposal to the client. The proposal and payment process are as follows if applicable: • You will receive the proposal from our Business Development department, it will contain the work that will be done as well as what it will cost. • They will provide you with all the information needed to make payment. For this reason, please provide a billing address and the details of the person to whom the proposal should be addressed. • We will start with the assessments when our Business Development department received an accepted and signed proposal back from the client. We will conduct an assessment to evaluate whether the proposed structures will affect the safety of flight for aerodromes in close vicinity as well as communication, navigation and surveillance (CNS) equipment. Please see required information below before we can proceed with our assessment: • Elevation above mean sea level • Coordinate list for each structure - WGS84 (degrees, min and sec – S302515.32 E0180102.52) • A KMZ file with the positions of the proposed structures. • We also require the dimensions/specs of the structures. • Height to the top of structure. • A Glint and Glare assessment report (if it is within the 3km radius of any aerodrome/airstrip or helipad). • If there will be power lines erected, and/or a substation the position and heights for each structure (Pole/substation) must be provided. This whole process can take up to 120 working days’ minimum that will commence after the proposal is accepted, signed and received by our Business Development department. Please note that ATNS also liaise with the South Africa Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) and will provide the client with the conditional/final approval from the SACAA. The client will have to liaise with SACAA to finalise the “As build” and for any queries with the lighting. Regards

Ms Nqobile Mkhonza

Date 2024/01/16 Method Email

Comment

Good day, Attached kindly receive for your attention. Kind Regards

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email. We acknowledge receipt of the comments provided by the Department of Co-operative Governance & Traditional Affairs. Your comments will be recorded and included as part of the Public Participation Process for the proposed project. Kindly find the response to COGTA’s comments below highlighted in blue: SUBJECT: AN APPLICATION FOR WATER USE RIGHTS FOR PROPOSED GLENCORE LYDENBURG SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY ON PORTION 143 OF THE FARM 30 POTLOODSPRUIT, PORTIONS 114, 457 AND 471 OF THE FARM 31

Comments and Responses 1476 Glencore PV EIA and WULA - Lydenburg

Ms Ngobile Mkhonza

	<p>TOWNLANDS, PORTION 1 OF THE FARM LYDENBURG SMELTER ERF 6099, LYDENBURG SMELTER ERF 2540 AND LYDENBURG SMELTER ERF 2541: THABA CHWEU MUNICIPALITY, EHLANZENI 1. The above-mentioned application has reference. 2. Please note that the Head: Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs has supported the application in terms of water use rights on various portions of a farm to be used to establish solar photovoltaic renewable energy, subject to. Thank you for your response which is duly noted and recorded. 2.1. The municipality has a newly approved Land Use Scheme, the rights if granted must after consultation with the applicant be aligned with the appropriate zoning in the new LUS. Kindly note that a town planner has been appointed by the applicant (Glencore Operations South Africa (Pty) Ltd) and is assisting with the SPLUMA Land Use application for this project. 2.2 The proposed farm portions should continue to also be used for "Agriculture" and may not be used for any other land use activity unless the local municipality has granted a land use change. As above – a SPLUMA application is in process. 2.3 The applicant must comply with the stipulations of the National Environmental Management Act 1998, (Act 107 of 1998). The applicant is required to comply with all applicable environmental legislation. This application has considered the relevant Acts applicable to this project, including the National Environmental Management Act 1998, (Act 107 of 1998). 2.4 Comments and approval from relevant Roads Authority must be obtained and the applicant must adhere to any conditions in this regard. The relevant Roads Authority will be included as part of the Public Participation Process and will be notified of their opportunity to comment on this project. 2.5 The whole development shall be to the satisfaction of the local municipality and the authorized roads authority. The Thaba Chweu Local Municipality have been included as part of the Public Participation Process for this project. 2.6 Eskom's rights and services must be acknowledged and respected at all times. Eskom has been included as part of the Public Participation Process for this project. Eskom's rights and services will be acknowledged and respected at all times.</p>
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Simphiwe Masilela

Date	2024/04/02	Method	Email
Comment	<p>Good day, Kindly note that the SACAA has transferred the assessments for Solar and Wind energy applications to Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) as published on the SACAA website. A formal application must be lodged with Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) for a formal obstacle assessment to be conducted. Their responsibility would pertain to the assessments, maintenance, and all other related matters in respect to Solar and Wind Farm assessments. The contact details for ATNS are: Obstacle Evaluator ATNS Head Office Tel: *** (Ask for Obstacle Evaluators) Email: *** Kindly note that Solar applications that are within a 3km radius of an aerodrome must be submitted with a glint and glare study. Regards,</p>		
Response	<p>EIMS noted the email as an automated response. SACAA had already been notified that the applicant would be informed about the requirement and, if needed, the applicant will submit the application to ATNS prior to commencement. The Obstacle Evaluator had been registered as an I&AP for further communication regarding the project.</p>		

Comments and Responses table regarding the comments provided on 2024/04/15 by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment on the Draft Scoping Report

COMMENT	RESPONSE
<p>Dear Vukosi Mabunda</p> <p>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED GLENCORE LYDENBURG SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY AT THE LYDENBURG SMELTER, NEAR LYDENBURG TOWN, WITHIN THE THABA CHWEU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE</p> <p>The application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) and draft Scoping Report (SR) dated March 2024 and received by the Competent Authority (CA) on 13 March 2024 refer.</p> <p><u>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the final SR:</u></p>	
<p><u>Project Description</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are advised to provide a project description for the proposed Glencore Lydenburg solar PV and associated infrastructure, which only form part of this EA application in the amended application form and final SR. In addition, it has been noted that the proposed development may include the extension Eskom/main intake substation, which will require additional bays. Therefore, you are advised to provide clarity if the extension of the Eskom main Substation will form part of this application. Furthermore, note that this information need to be clear to ensure that all the EIA report cover the relevant project description when published for review and comments by registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). Should new information later be included in the report, you are advised to circulate it public review and comments prior submission to the CA for review and decision making. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A detailed project description is included in Section 3 of the FSR. The extension of the Eskom main intake substation does form part of this application. The proposed extension of the Eskom yard is approximately 0.6ha includes a feeder bay and will cater for 3 x 2km long 132kV powerlines parallel to each other. The impacts associated with the extension are considered minimal as the area for the extension is completely transformed. The areas for the extension have been indicated in the layout map in the FSR (Figure 3).

COMMENT	RESPONSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CA acknowledges the provided infrastructures in the application form and the draft SR project descriptions, however, when submitting the final SR, you are advised to provide the footprint of the proposed development and that of the associated infrastructures such as Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). In addition, for the linear infrastructures you are advised to provide the length and coordinates of the linear infrastructures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consolidated Glencore Lydenburg Smelter properties accumulate to 377ha footprint. The footprint of the PV panels and associated infrastructure including coordinates is included in the amended application form and Section 3.1 / Table 4 of the FSR. The Proposed infrastructure includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 195ha area of PV Panels; 3 x 2km long 132kV Power lines; 13.5km 7m wide Access Roads; 2 x 0.75ha on-site battery energy storage facility; 1 x 2.3ha laydown area; 2 x on-site substation / switching station; and 0.6ha expansion of Eskom Yard for an additional feeder bay.
<p><u>Screening Tool Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CA acknowledges the submitted Appendix 14 (Screening tool report), however, it has been noted that the EIA reference number is not provided. Therefore, you are advised to include the EIA reference number in the aforesaid report, with the final SR. 	<p>The Screening Tool report has been updated to include the EIA reference number.</p>
<p><u>Listed Activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has been noted that the words “up to, likely and may” have been used in the description of activity 11 of Listing Notice (LN) 1, activity 15 of LN 2 and activity 14 of LN 3. Please refrain from using such word/s, since it creates an uncertainty regarding the applicability of the listed activity applied for, for the proposed development. In addition, please note that the project description and listed activities are not based on a precautionary approach. It has been noted that for activity 11 of LN 1, the infrastructures to distribute or transmit electricity are not provided, therefore, you are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The description of the listed activities in the FSR and amended application form has been updated to be more specific regarding the exact areas of disturbance and infrastructure proposed. The description relating to Activity 11 of LN1 has been updated to indicate which infrastructure is applicable to this activity. A layout map

COMMENT	RESPONSE
<p>advised to provide infrastructures such as powerlines or substation that are to distribute or transmit electricity, with a capacity of more than 33kV but less than 275kV.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding activity 12 of LN 3, you are advised to provide the footprint of the indigenous vegetation to be cleared, which is 300 square metres or more. It has been noted that for activity 14 of LN 3, PV facility construction may occur within 32m of a watercourse, therefore you are advised to provide the infrastructures or activities for the PV facility during construction that are to be within 32m of a watercourse. For Listing Notice (LN) 3 activities, the proposed PV facility infrastructures and activities are located within an ecological support area protected area buffer, a National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES) and within 5km from the Lydenburg Nature Reserve. Therefore, for the description of triggering the listed activities, the CA advise you to note the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To obtain comments from the management authority of the Lydenburg Nature Reserve. ✓ To obtain comments from the DFFE Biodiversity Conservation, DFFE: Protected Areas, Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs: Biodiversity Section and the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). <u>Please be advised that listed activities are not based on a precautionary approach. Please ensure that all the listed activities in the amended application form and final SR are clear and final for decision making purposes. Should it not be clear that listed activity is triggered, such activity will not be considered in the decision-making process.</u> 	<p>has been included in Figure 3 of the FSR indicating the electrical transmission infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The description of Activity 12 of LN3 has been updated to indicate the approximate amount of vegetation to be cleared. Activity 14 of LN3 has been removed from the amended application. Based on the layout received, there is no infrastructure planned to be located within 32m of the any water courses. The management authority of the Lydenburg Nature Reserve is the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality. The municipality has been pre-identified as an I&AP for the project – refer to Appendix C of the FSR. <p>DFFE Biodiversity Conservation, DFFE: Protected Areas, Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs: Biodiversity Section and the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) were all pre-identified as potential stakeholders and are included on the project database (Appendix C).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The listed activities have been updated in the Scoping report and amended application. All the listed activities in the amended application form and final SR are clear and final for decision making purposes. The listed activities have been updated in the Scoping report and amended application form to be more specific and accurate.

COMMENT	RESPONSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. In addition, the onus is on the applicant and the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to ensure that all the applicable listed activities are included in the application and the final SR. Failure to do so may result in unnecessary delays in the processing of the application. • If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the draft SR, an amended application form must be submitted with the final SR. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An amendment application form has been submitted together with the FSR.
<p><u>Alternatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On page 66 of the draft SR, it has been indicated that the storage options include "batteries, thermal, or mechanical systems, and that may also be other alternatives which may also be considered by the applicant". Therefore, when submitting the final report, you are advised to provide the storage option between the three alternatives. • Based on the above, the CA advise that should the preferred storage alternative trigger a listed activity, ensure it is clear in the description of the project under relevant triggered listed activity. • In addition, for the three storage alternatives, please ensure that you include the risk assessment for the preferred storage option in the final report. • You are further required to provide details of all the alternatives considered for this development and indicate the preferred alternatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various technology alternatives - batteries, thermal, or mechanical systems - have been considered in the Scoping Report and a preferred alternative has been nominated in the FSR. Refer to Section 6.2.3 of the FSR. At this stage a standard lithium or vanadium-redox battery system has been identified as the preferred and most feasible option which will be further assessed in the EIA report. • The preferred energy storage alternative is a battery energy storage system and the listed triggered activity for the storage of hazardous goods has been applied for. • A risk assessment for the BESS storage is included in Section 9.2.3 of the FSR. This will be refined in the EIR report once detailed specialist studies are completed.

COMMENT	RESPONSE
<p>as per Appendix 2 (2) (1) (g) (i) (v) (vi) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended in the final report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details of alternatives considered are included in Section 6 of the FSR. Where no feasible or reasonable alternatives exist, a motivation has been provided for.
<p><u>Coordinates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CA acknowledges the provided coordinates of the proposed solar PV facility boundaries on page 17 of 55 of the application form, however, you are advised to provide four corner coordinates points and center point for all the associated infrastructures such as maintenance building or laydown area with the final report. In addition, for linear infrastructures such as roads or powerlines, you are advised to provide coordinates from the start, middle and end points. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The corner point co-ordinates for all associated infrastructure is listed in Section 3.1 / Table 4 of the FSR. The laydown area has been included on the layout map (Figure 4). The laydown area for the PV facility overlaps with the current contractor laydown area already in place at the Smelter. No maintenance buildings are required. Start Middle and End point coordinates for linear infrastructure is included in Section 3.1 / Table 4 of the FSR.
<p><u>Cumulative Impact</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CA acknowledges the Environmental Impact Assessment discussion on page 96 of the draft SR. However, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Assess the cumulative impacts of the proposed (not yet authorised), authorised (not yet constructed) and existing solar energy facilities. ➤ Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and 	<p>A map has been included as Figure 22 in the FSR showing all proposed and authorized existing solar energy facilities within 30km of the site. Only two additional facilities were identified, and none of these are in close proximity to the proposed Lydenburg PV project site.</p> <p>Specialist studies will form part of the EIA report and will include a detailed assessment of the cumulative impacts.</p> <p>Cumulative impacts for each identified impact are included in Section 9.2 of the FSR. A cumulative impact environmental statement has been included in Section 9.2.8 of the FSR. The cumulative impact assessment and</p>

COMMENT	RESPONSE
<p>when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development. ➤ A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed. 	<p>statement will be refined in the EIA report once detailed specialist studies have been concluded.</p>
<p><u>Specialist Assessments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CA acknowledges the attached Environmental Site Assessment and Site Specific EMP (Appendix E) and the Screening Tool Report (Appendix 14), <u>However, you are advised to submit a site sensitivity verification report that, comply with the requirements of Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e., “the Protocols”), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020.</u> • Based on the above, it is brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e., “the Protocols”), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020, have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols unless proof is provided to demonstrate that the specialist assessments were commissioned prior to 50 days after the promulgation of GN 320 and after promulgation of GN1150 (30 October 2020). • The protocols require certain specialists to be registered with SACNASP. Refer to the relevant protocols in this regard. • The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SSVR report is included as Appendix E. The procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 have been noted in the attached SSVR (Appendix E) and Section 5.1.15 of the FSR. • Specialist studies will be included in the EIA report. The terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies will be in line with the listed requirements.

COMMENT	RESPONSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation. ➤ Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed. ➤ Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas. ➤ All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA. ➤ Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated. ➤ Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice. ➤ Declaration forms must be provided for all specialist studies to be conducted. ➤ Should it be determined that there is a need for additional specialist studies to be undertaken based on the outcome of public participation, these must be commissioned and be included in the draft EIA reports for public comment. ➤ Please ensure the specialist provide reasons and mitigation measures should there be sensitive areas that cannot be avoided, considering the length of the proposed powerline. As an EAP, you 	

COMMENT	RESPONSE
<p>are advised to provide in a table format, areas highlighted by the specialists which would not be avoided as well as mitigation measures. Ensure that the above information is reflecting on the development layout map.</p>	
<p><u>Layout and Sensitivity Maps</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Competent Authority acknowledges the attached Appendix A (site maps), however, it has been noted that on page 63 to 68 of the draft SR, the design alternatives did not include the design layout of the proposed development. Therefore, you are advised to submit a layout map that indicates the following (but not limited to the below), and the findings of the specialists must advise on what needs to be incorporated in the layout). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The solar PV development area. ➤ Position of all infrastructure e.g., BESS, electrical distribution infrastructure as per page 8, 9, 10 and 11 of 55 of the application form. ➤ Supporting infrastructure (i.e., operation and maintenance buildings including a gate house and security building, control centre, communications tower, offices, warehouses and workshops for storage and maintenance). ➤ Permanent and temporary laydown area footprint. ➤ All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g., roads (existing and proposed). ➤ All existing infrastructure on the site. ➤ The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g., CBAs, ESAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected. ➤ Buffer areas of the above sensitive areas. ➤ All “no-go” areas. 	<p>A layout map showing the required information has been included as Figure 3 in the FSR. Preliminary identified sensitive areas have been avoided in the current layout. These areas will be refined in the EIA report once further specialist studies have been completed.</p>

COMMENT	RESPONSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please ensure that the above map has a clear legend that communicates with details of the map. • Available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map and infrastructure must not encroach on highly sensitive areas as far as possible. • Ensure that similar colours are not used to differentiate between infrastructures. i.e., items must be easily distinguishable in the legend. • Google maps will not be accepted for decision-making purposes. • Please ensure all the specialists indicate on the layout map the sensitive areas. 	
<p><u>Generic EMPr</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A powerline with more than 33kV but less than 275kV powerline, is being mentioned as part of the infrastructure to form part of the proposed development in activity 11 of Listing Notice 1. Therefore, ensure that a generic EMPr for the powerline that complies with the GN 435 of March 2022 is submitted in the final report. Should the proposed development include a substation, a Generic EMPr for this facility must also be submitted in the final report. • In addition, Part B: Section 2 of the generic EMPr must be completed, and a copy of an originally signed EMPr must be submitted with the final EIAR. Please note that Point 7.1.1 in Part B: Section 2 needs to match the details of the applicant as contained in the application form and EIAR. • If any specific environmental sensitivities/attributes are present on site which require more specific impact management outcomes and impact management actions, not included in the pre-approved generic EMPr template, to manage such impacts, those impact management outcomes and actions must be included in Section C of the generic EMPr. 	<p>The EMPr will form part of the EIA report.</p> <p>A generic EMPr for the powerline that complies with the GN 435 of March 2022 will be submitted in the EIA report.</p> <p>Only an on-site switching station will be required, no large new substation is proposed, therefore the requirement for a Generic EMPr for the substation is not considered necessary.</p> <p>An EMPr that complies with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, as amended, for the PV facility will also form part of the EIA report</p>

COMMENT	RESPONSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EMPr that complies with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, as amended, for the facility must be submitted with the final report. 	
<p><u>Public Participation Process</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the final SR. This includes but not limited to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE): Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness and Directorate: Biodiversity Planning and Conservation (BCAdmin@environment.gov.za); Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs (EIA and Biodiversity Sections), MTPA, Telkom, South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), South African Civil Aviation Authority, Endangered Wildlife Trust, Birdlife South Africa, Department of Human Settlement, Water and Sanitation, South African National Defence Force, Local interest and affected groups, for example: Councillors and Rate Payers associations; Surrounding landowners, Farmer Organisations, Environmental Groups and NGOs; and Grassroots communities and structures as well as the affected district and local municipalities. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulations 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended and the approved Public Participation Plan. The comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the 	<p>All relevant stakeholder as identified in the DFFE comments are included on the database for the project (Appendix C of the FSR).</p> <p>Proof of correspondence with relevant stakeholders in included in Appendix C of the FSR in the required format.</p> <p>The Public Participation Process has been and will continue to be conducted in terms of Regulations 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p> <p>The comments and response report is included as Appendix C.</p>

COMMENT	RESPONSE
<p>main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's comments) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed. Comments made by I&APs must be comprehensively captured (copy verbatim if required) and responded to clearly and fully. Please note that a response such as "Noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments. 	
<p><u>General</u></p> <p>You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:</p> <p><i>"If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority".</i></p> <p>You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p> <p>Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).</p>	<p>Comment noted. The FSR is compliant with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>

COMMENT	RESPONSE
<p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Yours sincerely</p>	