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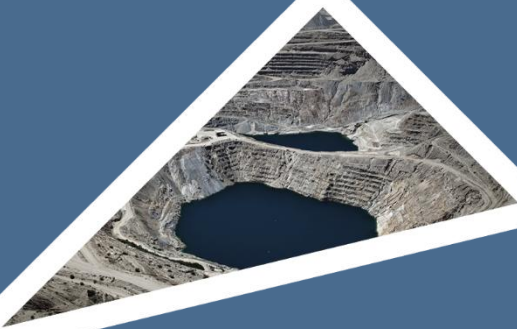
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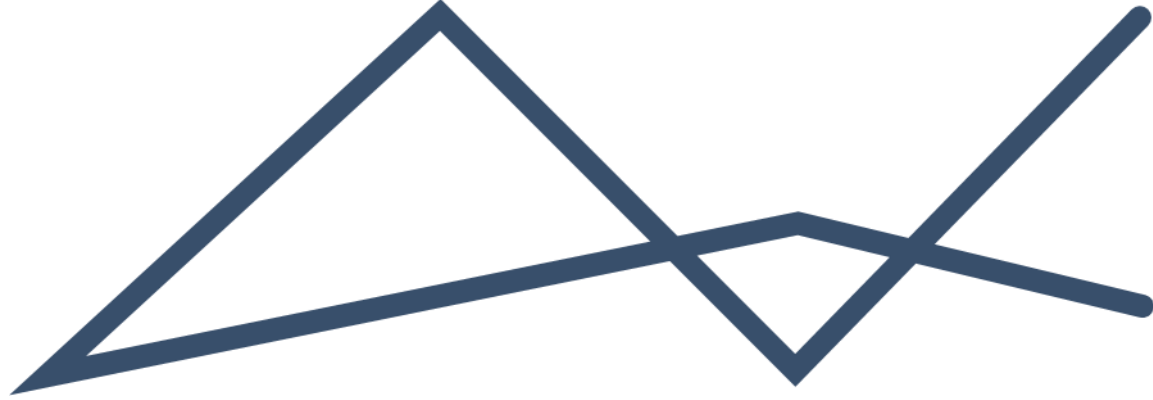
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT

12/3/386 EA APPLICATION:

MOTUOANE EXPLORATION RIGHT 386 APPLICATION, WITHIN
VARIOUS FARMS IN MATJHABENG AND MOQHAKA LOCAL
MUNICIPALITIES, LEJWELEPUTSWA AND FEZILE DABI DISTRICT
MUNICIPALITIES, FREE STATE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA

JUNE 2026







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Motuoane Exploration Right 386 Application, Within Various Farms in Matjhabeng and Moqhaka Local Municipalities, Lejweleputswa and Fezile Dabi District Municipalities, Free State Province, South Africa – Public Participation Report

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2025/06/30	REVISION 2	Final Scoping Phase PPR for Submission to PASA
2026/06/08	REVISION 3	EIA PPR for Public Review

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Acronyms

ATNS	Air Traffic and Navigation Services
CSA	Conservation South Africa
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
DALRRD	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIMS	Environmental Impact Management Services
ER	Exploration Right
ERA	Exploration Right Area
GNR	Government Notice Regulation
I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties
MACUA	Mining Affected Communities United in Action
MEJCON-SA	Mining and Environmental Justice Community Network of South Africa
MPRDA	Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NERSA	National Energy Regulator of South Africa
PASA	Petroleum Agency South Africa
POPIA	Protection of Personal Information Act
PPP	Public Participation Process
SACAA:	South African Civil Aviation Authority
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
SANBI:	South African National Biodiversity Institute
SANDF	South African Defence Force
SANRAL	South African National Roads Agency Ltd
TCP	Technical Cooperation Permits
VEJA	Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance
WESSA	Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa



1 INTRODUCTION

D3 Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd (previously Motuoane Energy (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as the D3 Energy / Applicant) has appointed Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS) as the Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist with undertaking the required assessment and authorisation processes (including the statutory public participation), and to compile and submit the required documentation in support of application for an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended. It must be noted that a separate application for a Water Use Authorisation (WUA) may be required prior the construction phase depending on the proximity of the final drilling site to a watercourse. Should the final drilling sites be located within the regulated area for a watercourse, the Applicant must lodge a WUA application with the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) before commencement of the activities..

The Applicant proposes to explore all saleable gases including but not limited to Methane, Carbon Dioxide, Helium, and Nitrogen within Exploration Right (ER) 386. Due to the large area and complex exploration methodology, the ER will be required for an initial period of three years with the option to renew for three additional periods of two years resulting in a total of nine years. The ER application is a consolidation of Technical Cooperation Permits (TCP) 235 and 240 and Exploration Release Area (ERA) 341, approved under Section 79 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act 28 of 2002 – MPRDA, as amended). The proposed exploration right application (ER386) is located over an area of approximately 58 000 hectares (ha), covering various farm portions near the towns of Welkom, Virginia, Hennenman and Odendaalsrus, Free State Province. The furthest boundaries of ER386 are 28°13'28.95"S; 26°55'2.76"E in the South, 27°57'37.57"S; 26°48'49.15"E in the West, 27°59'13.57"S; 27°11'13.06"E in the East and 27°46'34.45"S; 26°57'44.05"E in the North, the central coordinates are approximately 27°58'23.27"S; 26°59'38.94"E.

The proposed activities to be undertaken as part of the exploration include the following:

- Identifying existing blowers within the ER, undertaking well workover and intervention if necessary;
- The undertaking of new core exploration well drilling and undertaking well workover and intervention where necessary (at preidentified / new areas of interest);
- Undertaking seismic survey and/or magnetotellurics survey activities (at preidentified / new areas of interest);
- Perform testing and gas composition analysis on gas from existing boreholes and newly drilled wells on the ER;
- Conduct borehole and well gas flow testing of existing boreholes and any new wells drilled; and
- Conduct borehole and well wireline logging of existing boreholes and any new wells drilled..

It must be noted that there are at least fourteen (14) approved renewable energy projects from various applicants located within ER386. However, it should also be noted that the majority of the overlaps between ER386 and the renewable energy developments is largely within TA 3 (EDG) and Transects EDG1 and EDG2 which have since been removed from the current application. Therefore, **the previously affected renewable energy developments namely, Nepal Solar PV Project (ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2429), Middelpunt Solar PV Project (ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2414), Lebone Solar Farm Project (ref: 14/12/13/3/3/2/580), and Thabong Solar Farm Project (ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/581) as well as Anker Solar PV Project (ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2415) are currently not intersecting with any proposed drilling site nor any seismic transect. It is also important to note that TCP 144 was granted in 2017 over the area of ERA 341, demonstrating security of tenure over the application area before the renewable energy developments were granted any Authorisation over the same area.** Additionally, the 14 projects were only recently brought to the applicant's attention through the scoping phase screening process. It is the EAP's recommendation that D3 Energy and the affected renewable energy developers / applicants should discuss the way forward and/or make necessary arrangements for potential future overlaps within the ER. Furthermore, **the affected landowner/s and the renewable energy developer should be**



consulted accordingly by the Applicant (through a consultation process different to that undertaken by EIMS for the EIA Process) to ensure necessary agreements are in place as per the requirements stipulated in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

2 OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

South Africa, being one of the countries with the most progressive constitutions, enshrined the public's right to be involved in decisions that may affect them in its Constitution. Section 57(1) of the new Constitution that provides: *"The National Assembly may (b) make rules and orders concerning its business, with due regard to representative and participatory democracy, accountability, transparency and public involvement"*. This provision, along with several others gave rise to many new trends in South African legislation. In environmental legislation, the idea of public participation (or stakeholder engagement) features strongly and especially the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, NEMA) and the recent regulations passed under the auspices of this Act makes very strict provisions for public participation in environmental decision-making.

Public participation can be defined as...*"a process leading to a joint effort by stakeholders, technical specialists, the authorities and the proponent who work together to produce better decisions than if they had acted independently"*¹. From this definition, it can be seen that the input of the public is regarded as very important indeed.

The Public Participation Process (PPP) is designed to provide sufficient and accessible information to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in an objective manner to assist them to:

During the Environmental Authorisation:

- Verify that their issues have been recorded;
- Comment on the findings of the environmental assessments; and
- Provide relevant local information and knowledge to the environmental assessment.

The PPP is a requirement of several pieces of South African Legislation and aims to ensure that all relevant I&APs are consulted, involved and their opinions are taken into account and a record is included in the reports submitted to Authorities. The process ensures that all stakeholders are provided this opportunity as part of a transparent process which allows for a robust and comprehensive environmental study. The PPP for the necessary authorisation required for the project needs to be managed sensitively and according to best practises in order to ensure and promote:

- Compliance with international best practice options;
- Compliance with national legislation;
- Establishment and management of relationships with key stakeholder groups; and
- Encouragement of involvement and participation in the environmental study and authorisation/approval process.

As such, the purpose of the PPP and stakeholder engagement process is to:

- Introduce the proposed project and process for the authorisation project;
- Explain the environmental authorisation;
- Determine and record issues, concerns, suggestions, and objections to the project;
- Provide opportunity for input and gathering of local knowledge;
- Establish and formalise lines of communication between the I&APs and the project team;



- Identify all significant issues for the project; and
- Identify possible mitigation measures or environmental management plans to minimise and/or prevent negative environmental impacts and maximise and/or promote positive environmental impacts associated with the project.

This Public Participation Report (PPR) lists all verbal and written issues raised by I&APs from the call to register period which commenced on the 14th of March 2025 to date. A breakdown of the PPP is given within the remaining sections of this PPR.

3 LEGAL COMPLIANCE

The PPP must comply with all environmental legislation that requires public participation as part of an application for authorisation or approval; namely, the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998).

Adherence to the requirements of the above-mentioned Act will allow for an Integrated PPP to be conducted, and in so doing, satisfy the requirements for public participation referenced in the Act. The details of the Integrated PPP are provided below.

4 IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (I&APS)

An initial I&AP database has been compiled from historic projects in the area, and Windeed searches were conducted to obtain the contact details of the surrounding landowners. The I&APs referred to in the PPR include:

- Pre-identified and registered landowners and surrounding landowners;
- Pre-identified and registered key stakeholders;
- Regulatory authorities;
- Specialist interest groups; and
- All I&APs who responded to the initial notifications and requested to be registered.

Efforts to pre-identify key I&APs involved various avenues such as consultation with the proponent and known landowners within the study area, review of related previously conducted studies, and identification of key interest groups and authorities within the vicinity of the study area and municipality. Refer to **Appendix 1** for the Key Stakeholder/I&AP Database.

4.1 LIST OF ORGANS OF STATE IDENTIFIED AND NOTIFIED

The following key I&APs, but not limited to, were notified of the proposed project and invited to participate in the public participation process:

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) | • Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs |
| • Department of Mineral Resources and Energy: Free State | • Free State Department of Mineral Resources and Energy |
| • Fezile Dabi District Municipality | • Free State Department of Police, Roads and Transport |
| • Free State Department of Agriculture & Rural Development | • Free State Department of Public Works and Infrastructure |
| • Free State Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs | |



- Free State Department of Water and Sanitation
- Free State Development Corporation
- Free State Heritage Resources Authority
- Free State Provincial Shared Services Centre (PSSC) Offices
- Lejweleputswa Development Agency
- Lejweleputswa District Municipality
- Matjhabeng Local Municipality
- National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)
- National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE)
- National Department of Transport
- National Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)
- National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)
- National House of Traditional Leaders
- Petroleum Agency SA
- PetroSA
- Sedibeng Water
- South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)
- South African Defence Force (SANDF)
- South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)
- South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
- South African National Roads Agency Ltd (SANRAL)
- South African Radio Astronomy Observatory
- Telkom SA SOC LTD
- Transnet SOC LTD
- Vaal Central Water

4.2 LIST OF OTHER KEY I&APS IDENTIFIED AND NOTIFIED

- Affected Landowners
- Afgri Agri Services
- African Conservation Trust
- African Carbon Energy
- AfriForum
- Agri Free State
- Agri South Africa
- Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS)
- Birdlife South Africa
- Botanical Society
- Centre for Environmental Rights
- Conservation South Africa (CSA)
- Corona Energy (Pty) Ltd / MaterEnergia Group
- Council of Geoscience
- Earth Life Africa
- Endangered Wildlife Trust
- Federation for a Sustainable Environment
- FrackFree South Africa
- Irene Lengau on behalf of Concerned Women
- Free State Wetland Forum
- GroundWork SA
- GUBICO
- Harmony Gold Mining Company
- Hennenman Farming Forum
- Lebone Solar Farm (PTY) LTD
- Matjhabeng Ratepayers Association
- Mining and Environmental Justice Community Network of South Africa (MEJCON-SA)



- Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA)
- Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty) Ltd
 - Middlepunt Solar PV (Pty) Ltd;
 - Erfdeel BESS (Pty) Ltd;
 - Aluwani Solar PV (Pty) Ltd;
 - Litha Solar PV (Pty) Ltd;
 - Masana Solar PV (Pty) Ltd;
 - Meru Solar PV (Pty) Ltd;
 - Nepal Solar PV (Pty) Ltd;
 - Anker Solar PV (Pty) Ltd; and
 - Phemelo Solar PV (Pty) Ltd.
- Wildlife and Environmental Society South Africa (WESSA)
- Natural Justice
- Pelegreen Energy
- Red Rocket South Africa (Pty) Ltd
- Richard Summers Inc
- Savannah Environmental (PTY) LTD
- Seritigreen
- Tara Wildlife SA
- Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance (VEJA)
- Vrystaat Landbou/ Free State Agriculture
- Warburtons Attorneys
- Wild Trust

5 INITIAL NOTIFICATION OF KEY I&APS

The PPP commenced on the 14th of March 2025 with an initial call to register notification. Notification during this initial consultation was given in the manner described below.

5.1.1 EMAILS, REGISTERED MAIL AND FAXES

Notification letters (in English, Afrikaans and Sesotho) were distributed to pre-identified I&APS through either faxes, SMSs, registered mail, and/or emails on the 14th of March 2025.

The notification documents included the following information:

- Authorisations required;
- Sufficient detail of the proposed development to enable I&APS to assess/surmise what impact the development will have on them or the use of their land;
- The purpose of the proposed project;
- Details of the application processes associated with proposed activities;
- Details of the affected properties;
- Details of the South African environmental legislation that must be adhered to; and
- Contact details of the EAP.

Please refer to **Appendix 2** for initial notification and proofs.

5.1.2 NEWSPAPER AND GAZETTE ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements (in English, Afrikaans and Sesotho) describing the proposed project and Environmental Impact Assessment process were placed in the Vista Newspaper with circulation in the vicinity of the study area on the 20th of March 2025. The Gazette Notice was published in the National Gazette on the 11th of April 2025. The newspaper and Gazette Notice adverts included the following information:

- Project name;
- Applicant name;



- Project location;
- Nature of the activity;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to **Appendix 3** for proof of the newspaper advert and gazette notice placed.

5.1.3 SITE NOTICE PLACEMENT

Ninety-nine (99) A1 correx board site notices and eight (8) posters (in English, Afrikaans and Sesotho) were placed at 107 locations around the proposed project study area between the 17th and 20th of March 2025. Following revisions to the project map, the site notice map was updated accordingly. Fifty (50) A1 correx board site notices were replaced with the revised version of the map at 50 locations within the proposed project study area. The on-site notices and posters included the following information:

- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Map of proposed project area;
- Project description;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to **Appendix 4** for proof of site notice and site notice distribution. Proof of revised site notices will be provided in the Final Scoping Report to be submitted to the authorities and also in the Draft EIR Phase which will be made available to I&APs.

5.2 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES OF SCOPING REPORT AVAILABILITY

Notifications (in English, Afrikaans and Sesotho) regarding the availability of the Scoping Report for public review and comment were provided to pre-identified and registered I&APs. The notifications were distributed through either email, fax, and/or SMS, where contact details were available. The notifications included details regarding where hard copies and electronic copies of the report can be accessed and contact details should I&APs require assistance accessing the information or require copies of the report.

A hard copy of the Scoping Report was made available at three (3) Public Libraries, namely, Welkom Public Library, Virginia Public Library and Phomolong Public Library.

5.3 PUBLIC MEETING

Public Meeting was held at Harmonie Primary School, 2 Vondeling Road, Glen Harmony Virginia, on the 28th of May 2025 from 16:00 to 18:00. All registered I&APs were notified of the public meeting in the Scoping Report Availability notification. A reminder of the Public Meeting was sent to all registered I&APs on the 26th of May. All attendees were asked to sign the attendance register upon entering the facility and were encouraged to fill in the comment sheet or provide comments to the project email address should they have any comments/queries regarding the project. All attendees were informed that the presentation and meeting would be recorded to ensure an accurate record for the meeting minutes. EIMS facilitated a formal presentation, followed by a Q&A session where attendees could raise any questions, concerns, or comments about the project.

Please refer to **Appendix 5** for the notification letters and **Appendix 8** for the Public Meeting Document.



5.4 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES OF THE LAPSE OF APPLICATION

Notifications (in English, Afrikaans and Sesotho) regarding the lapse of the environmental application were provided to pre-identified and registered I&APs on the 4th of December 2025. A Final Scoping Report which was subjected to the 30-day legislated public review and comment period was submitted to PASA for consideration on 30th June 2025 and accepted on 13th August 2025. According to NEMA EIA Regulation 23 (1), 2014 as amended, and as indicated in Scoping Acceptance Letter, an EIA Report which is required to be subjected to a minimum of 30-day legislated public review and comment period was required to be submitted to PASA within 106 days from date of Acceptance of the Scoping Report (i.e., by 1st December 2025). Due to delays in finalizing access agreements for specialist studies with one of the key landowners, the NEMA EIA Regulation 23 (1), 2014 as amended could not be met. As a result, the EA 12/3/386 Application lapsed and could not be considered further by the relevant authorities. Subsequently, all public participation processes and/or opportunities associated with the application were suspended until further notice. The notifications were distributed through either email and/or SMS, where contact details were available. The notifications included details of the application and reasons for the lapse.

Please refer to **Appendix 6** for proof of lapse notifications.

5.5 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES OF THE INTENTION TO RESUBMIT OF APPLICATION

Notifications (in English, Afrikaans and Sesotho) regarding the intention to resubmit the environmental application were provided to pre-identified and registered I&APs on the 13th of April 2026. Registered I&APs were notified that the Applicant (D3 Energy) intends to resubmit an Amended EA Application for the same activities (seismics and drilling wells for all saleable gases including but not limited to Methane, Carbon Dioxide, Helium, and Nitrogen), within the same approximate 58 000ha footprint (Exploration Right 386). Registered I&APs were advised that although the application area remains the same footprint (i.e., 58 000ha), the revised exploration activities were reduced from 11 drilling wells and 16 seismic transects to 5 drilling wells and 9 seismic transects respectively. The notifications were distributed through either email and/or SMS, where contact details were available. The notifications included details of the application, reasons for the lapse, and information on the resubmission.

Please refer to **Appendix 7** for proof of intension to resubmit notifications.

6 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

The table below provides a summary of the opportunities provided to I&APs for participation in the public participation process to date.

Table 1: Summary of Public Participation Opportunities

Action	Description	Publication/Place	Date
Initial Call to Register	Notification of landowners, occupiers, and other key I&APs.	Affected landowners and key I&APs were notified via email, fax, SMSs and/or post.	14 March 2025
	Placement of site notices.	Ninety-nine (99) A1 correx board site notices and eighty (8) posters (in English, Afrikaans, Sesotho) were placed at 107 locations along the proposed project study area.	17 - 20 March 2025



Action	Description	Publication/Place	Date
	Newspaper advertisement and Gazette Notice.	Advertisements (in English, Afrikaans, Sesotho) describing the proposed project and EIA process were placed in the Vista Newspaper. The Gazette Notice was published in the National Gazette.	20 March 2025 (Newspaper) 11 April 2025 (Gazette Notice)
Availability of Scoping Report for public review	Placement of hard copy Scoping Report.	One (1) hard copy of the report was submitted to three (3) Public Libraries, namely, Welkom Public Library, Virginia Public Library and Phomolong Public Library where members of the public can access the report.	15 May 2025
	Placement of Scoping Report electronic copy.	An electronic copy of the report was placed on the EIMS website.	15 May 2025
Public Meeting	Scoping Public Meeting	A Public Meeting to provide feedback on the Scoping Report was held at the Harmonie Primary School.	28 May 2025
Availability of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for public review	Placement of hard copy EIA Report.	One (1) hard copy of the report was submitted to three (3) Public Libraries, namely, Welkom Public Library, Virginia Public Library and Phomolong Public Library where members of the public can access the report.	08 June 2026
	Placement of EIA Report electronic copy.	An electronic copy of the report has been placed on the EIMS website (https://www.eims.co.za/2025/05/14/1681-motuoane-er386-eia-2/).	08 June 2026
Public Meetings	EIA Phase Public Meeting	Public Meetings to provide feedback on the EIA Report will be held at the three (3) locations to suit all I&APs.	25, 26 & 29 June 2026
Focus Group Meeting	EIA Phase Focus Group Meeting	A virtual Focus Group Meeting to provide feedback on the EIA Report will be held online (Motuoane ER386 EA 12/3/386 Public Meeting) to suit all I&APs who cannot physically make the public meetings.	29 June 2026

Any changes to the public meeting venue/s, date/s and/or time/s will be communicated to registered I&APs.

7 RECORD OF ISSUES RAISED

Comments on the proposed project were solicited from pre-identified and registered I&APs and key stakeholders. To date, the following comments have been received:



- South African Heritage Resources Agency request for an application to made.
- AgriSA request to redirect the initial notification to the relevant person.
- I&APs requesting to register for the project.
- South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL) request to redirect the initial notification to the relevant region/department.
- I&APs requesting to register for the project.
- I&APs requesting to register for the project.
- Request for shapefiles, maps, and KMZ files for the proposed project.
- Transnet wayleave application outcome - Transnet Pipelines not affected by the proposed project.
- Request for information on the impact of the proposed project on specific farm portions.
- Goldfields Community Forum request to engage directly with Motuoane Community Liaison Officer.
- Moolman, Nel & Pienaar request to be removed from the I&AP database.
- South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) request to redirect the initial notification to the relevant region/department.
- Objections submitted by Centre for Environmental Rights (CER), on behalf of Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA), Mining and Environmental Justice Community Network of South Africa (MEJCON-SA), and Natural Justice. Here are the key points raised in the document:
 - CER noted that the Scoping Report makes premature claims that emissions will be minimal without properly quantifying greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. They indicated that the Scoping Report lacks detailed methodologies and fails to assess the full climate impact, including Scope 3 emissions and tools.
 - The report overlooks many pollution sources (e.g. diesel engines, dust, flaring). No adequate baseline air monitoring exists, especially in nearby communities such as Welkom, making any air quality assessment incomplete and potentially misleading. CER indicated that the deterioration of air quality will have detrimental impacts on the health and wellbeing of affected communities and the nation at large.
 - CER highlighted that hydrogeological investigation and Groundwater Impact Assessment lacks site-specific data. It does not include adequate borehole testing, tracer analysis, or risk modelling for contamination, well failure, or groundwater drawdown—critical in a water-scarce country like South Africa.
 - CER pointed out that the rationale for gas exploration is weak. The report does not consider renewable energy alternatives or the long-term economic and environmental risks of fossil fuel dependence, which contradict global energy trends and climate goals.
 - CER commented that the public engagement process was flawed with limited access to information, inaccessible venues, low attendance, poor notification, and communication barriers (use of English only), all undermining meaningful community involvement.
 - The report only accounts for formal landowners and ignores people with informal/customary rights. This violates the Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights Act (IPILRA), which requires their consent before any development.



- CER raised a concern about the exploration activities, that it may contaminate land and water, threatening agriculture and local food systems, particularly impacting small-scale and subsistence farmers who rely on the land for survival.
- CER highlighted that, South Africa lacks capacity to enforce environmental compliance in the oil and gas sector, no dedicated inspectors (EMRIs) for oil and gas, and only one PASA office nationally, which undermines oversight.
- The submission concludes that due to all the above issues, the environmental assessment and public participation process must be revisited and improved to meet legal and ethical standards.
- Wesboerdery (Pty) Ltd request for information with regards to proposed project and how their farms may be impacted.
- Webber Wentzel submission on behalf of Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty) Ltd.
- Key points raised in the Webber Wentzel submission on behalf of Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty) Ltd and its subsidiaries, objecting to Motuoane Energy's EA application (ER386) due to direct overlaps with their already approved renewable energy projects, which include solar PV and battery storage facilities in the Free State. Here are the key points raised in the document:
 - Webber Wentzel notes that Scoping Report (SR) lists the wrong Mulilo entity and omits several of its project companies as Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs). Mulilo requests corrections.
 - Webber Wentzel notes that eight Mulilo renewable energy projects already have environmental approvals and grid infrastructure planned or under development in the exact same area covered by Motuoane's application.
 - Webber Wentzel highlighted that although the SR suggests coexistence is possible, Motuoane has not engaged meaningfully with Mulilo. Early communication from Motuoane indicated that coexistence may not be viable due to critical gas zones overlapping with Mulilo's project sites.
 - The SR fails to assess the impact of Motuoane's exploration on Mulilo's authorised projects and does not address climate impacts, ignoring legal precedent that such assessments are required.
 - They commented that do not consider excluding overlapping areas or a proper "no-go" alternative. It also overstates the benefits of possible gas finds without comparing them to the real and immediate benefits of the renewable projects.
 - Mulilo asks the authority to refuse the EA application outright. Alternatively, it asks that overlapping areas be excluded or that exploration only proceed with strict measures to protect its projects.
- The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) indicated that no exploration activities must be located within 100-meter distance from the edge of a water course or within 1:100-year flood-line of any watercourse and within 500m radius from the delineated boundary (extent) of any wetland unless a Water Use Authorisation is obtained from DWS before commencing with exploration activities.
- DWS request to be informed in the event of any leakages or spillages of hydrocarbons and immediate clean up must be conducted as stipulated in section 19 of National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998).
- DWS request Motuoane to perform the responsibility of identifying any sources or potential sources of pollution and take the necessary measures to prevent any pollution of the environment.



- DWS request the applicant to ensure that all hazardous and domestic waste generated is disposed of at licensed landfill site.
- Landowners and Trusts with properties identified for the exploration phase expressed concern that the exploration area proposed by Motuoane overlaps with the land designated for the solar project. They noted that that Motuoane has not consulted them regarding the exploration application. The landowners and Trusts have taken a stance to either:
 - Object to the inclusion of their properties in the exploration application, or
 - Request proper consultation and negotiation of a co-existence agreement to ensure the solar project is not disrupted.
- Richards Summers Inc submission on behalf of:
 - Red Rocket Energy (Pty) Ltd
 - Piscis Energy (Pty) Ltd;
 - Lupus Energy (Pty) Ltd;
 - URSA Energy (RF) (Pty) Ltd;
 - Norma Energy (Pty) Ltd;
 - Fornax Energy (Pty) Ltd;
 - Volans Energy (Pty) Ltd; and
 - K2022579146 (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd.
 - Key points raised in the Richards Summers submission:
 - The multiple energy companies requested to be registered as I&APs in the EIA processes.
 - Request for essential information including ER315 EA (12/3/315), EA12/3/315 Amended EA, locations of proposed boreholes, and a copy of the appeal against EA12/3/315 (appeal has since been dismissed by the Minister).
 - Concern over overlapping land use and competing developments which may affect the renewable energy developer's rights and interests.
 - Inability to assess environmental and operational risks due to missing information (requested information has since been provided).
- Requirements for the EIA as part of the Scoping Report acceptance by PASA:
 - In undertaking the EIA process, the EAP is required to consider the following:
 - Adequate public meetings and stakeholder engagements must be scheduled to ensure that interested and affected parties (I&APs) are given a fair and reasonable opportunity to participate or be represented. The EAP must provide I&APs with timely and sufficient notice of all scheduled meeting date(s) and ensure that the meeting times are convenient and accessible, without prejudicing or disadvantaging any stakeholders who wish to be involved.
 - Planned focus group meetings must be extended to the affected stakeholders such as renewable energy companies, property-owning trusts (e.g., SGB Boerdery Trust) and non-



governmental and community-based organisations (e.g., the Centre for Environmental Rights and Natural Justice).

- Direct engagement with affected renewable energy companies is essential to understand the potential interactions and impacts between ongoing/proposed renewable energy operations and the proposed exploration project. These engagements will inform a robust environmental impact assessment, including cumulative impact assessment and the development of mitigation measures.
- All objections, comments and concerns must be thoroughly considered and appropriately addressed as part of the EIA process.
- All potential impacts associated with vibration-related activities such as those resulting from the use of vibroseis technique must be comprehensively identified and assessed during the EIA process. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - (a) detailed evaluation of noise and ground vibration effects on fauna;
 - (b) assessment of habitat disturbance and potential ecological displacement;
 - (c) Assessment of risks of soil compaction and erosion;
- (d) consideration of socio-economic implications for the surrounding communities
- An I&AP requested that all public participation opportunities be inclusive of all affected groups.

All comments and/or queries received to date are included in this report and presented in **Appendix 9** Please refer to **Appendix 10** for proof of correspondence.

8 CONCLUSIONS

The comments received during the initial call to register period to date were used to inform the compilation of this PPR. This report will be updated for submission to the administrative authority, the Petroleum Agency South Africa (PASA) following the 30-day public participation period.



9 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: IAP Database

Please note that in an effort to protect the personal information of the Registered I&AP's the contact information of the I&APs will not be made publicly available. Should you require access to this document for the purposes of fulfilling your obligations under the NEMA EIA Regulations or other lawful right, please feel free to contact the EIMS Information officer at 011 789 7170 or popia@eims.co.za



Appendix 2: Initial Notification Proof

Please note that in an effort to protect the personal information of the Registered I&AP's the contact information of the I&APs will not be made publicly available. Should you require access to this document for the purposes of fulfilling your obligations under the NEMA EIA Regulations or other lawful right, please feel free to contact the EIMS Information officer at 011 789 7170 or popia@eims.co.za



Appendix 3: Newspaper and Gazette Notice Proof



Appendix 4: Site Notice Proof



Appendix 5: Scoping Report Availability and Public Meeting Notification

Please note that in an effort to protect the personal information of the Registered I&AP's the contact information of the I&APs will not be made publicly available. Should you require access to this document for the purposes of fulfilling your obligations under the NEMA EIA Regulations or other lawful right, please feel free to contact the EIMS Information officer at 011 789 7170 or popia@eims.co.za



Appendix 6: Lapse of Application Notification

Please note that in an effort to protect the personal information of the Registered I&AP's the contact information of the I&APs will not be made publicly available. Should you require access to this document for the purposes of fulfilling your obligations under the NEMA EIA Regulations or other lawful right, please feel free to contact the EIMS Information officer at 011 789 7170 or popia@eims.co.za



Appendix 7: Intention to Resubmit Notification

Please note that in an effort to protect the personal information of the Registered I&AP's the contact information of the I&APs will not be made publicly available. Should you require access to this document for the purposes of fulfilling your obligations under the NEMA EIA Regulations or other lawful right, please feel free to contact the EIMS Information officer at 011 789 7170 or popia@eims.co.za



Appendix 8: Public Meeting Document

Please note that in an effort to protect the personal information of the Registered I&AP's the contact information of the I&APs will not be made publicly available. Should you require access to this document for the purposes of fulfilling your obligations under the NEMA EIA Regulations or other lawful right, please feel free to contact the EIMS Information officer at 011 789 7170 or popia@eims.co.za



Appendix 9: Table of Correspondence



Appendix 10: Document of Correspondence

Please note that in an effort to protect the personal information of the Registered I&AP's the contact information of the I&APs will not be made publicly available. Should you require access to this document for the purposes of fulfilling your obligations under the NEMA EIA Regulations or other lawful right, please feel free to contact the EIMS Information officer at 011 789 7170 or popia@eims.co.za
