



**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS
FOR THE SOLAFRICA PROPOSED CSP PLANTS**

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING IN GROBLERSHOOP

29 MARCH 2016

12H00

AT

!KHEIS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Attendees	Company	Telephone	Email
Malcolm Roods	Royal HaskoningDHV	011 798 6000	malcolm.roods@rhdhv.com
Johan Blignaut	Royal HaskoningDHV	011 798 6000	johan.blignaut@rhdhv.com
Nasi Rwigema	Solafrica	011 268 4074	nasi@solafrica.co.za

List of public members is attached (See **Appendix A**)

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
1.	<p>OPENING AND INTRODUCTION:</p> <p>Mr. Johan Blignaut welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked them for making time to attend the meeting. Mr Blignaut outlined the purpose of the meeting and detailed the agenda of the meeting.</p> <p>A presentation detailing the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment was given by Mr Blignaut (please refer to attached presentation).</p> <p>Once this presentation was concluded the meeting was opened to questions from the floor.</p>
2.	<p>Questions during presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Kruger enquired if the 14/12/16/3/3/3/204, Central Receiver report Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report, has already been submitted to the DEA. • Mr Blignaut indicated that no final report has been submitted yet. He further indicated that this is the draft commenting period. • Mr Kruger wanted to know what sub-station would be used by the proposed projects and if the connected powerlines would be running over the farm Sand Draai. • Mr Blignaut indicated that the Garona sub-station will be used and that both powerline route alternatives include a portion that traverses the farm Sand Draai. • Mr Kruger wanted to know if the thermal energy (that will be used at night for generating power) was being stored in the molten salt tanks during the process. • Mr Rwigema confirmed that that was the case. • Mr Kruger indicated that, in his experience, it was found that no sound was heard from the turbines when standing roughly 100m away. He indicated that noise levels are increased within the turbine building, however there are mitigation measures and Health & Safety measures put in place to accommodate persons working on site. • Mr Kruger enquired if the heat island findings were based on theoretical findings or tests that were done practically. • Mr Roods indicated that it will be recommended in the EMP that tests be conducted

	<p>during the operational phase where temperature measurements will be monitored on site and in the surrounding areas/farms to see if there are any impacts as is suggested by the farmers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Kruger wanted more insights into the times of day that traffic counts were undertaken. He further indicated that the morning counts would have indicated that a massive count on taxis and busses would have been counted in the mornings. • Mr Roods indicated that the traffic specialist recommendations were based on traffic construction and operation phase vehicle counts during peak (morning and afternoon) times as well as off-peak times.
<p>3.</p>	<p>Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr van Eck indicated that he feels that the majority of concerns regarding the project were heard and captured after the public meeting that was undertaken during the Scoping Phase. He also feels that these concerns were sufficiently addressed in the draft EIA report. He further indicated that these projects are greatly needed to address the electricity demand in South Africa and also to take the Economy (nationally and locally) further. • Mr van Eck further indicated that he is currently assisting with the SDF and that there is a clear indication that there is not enough property and infrastructure to accommodate the development of the proposed 16 solar projects in the area. Therefore some form of assistance would be needed from these projects to help the surrounding communities. He did indicate that this would mainly be the responsibility of the municipality to address, but that assistance would be appreciated. • Mr Blignaut indicated that it was recommended in the EMPr that the Proponents assist the local municipalities to the extent possible. • Mr van Eck mentioned that the municipality supports projects like these as they create job opportunities in the area, even if it is for only three years. • Mr Batte mentioned that with large projects like this, it must also be kept in mind that similar smaller projects will arise. He indicated that the municipality was in the process of tapping into these smaller projects where the end plan was for the municipality to generate their own electricity and not be dependent on the grid. • Mr Kruger applauded this as this will definitely benefit the general community. • Mr Kruger brought to the attention of the team that the roads remain a problem, especially deaths that are occurring. He mentioned the latest incident where a Bokpoort employee was involved that lead to the death of a farmer. He also indicated that there was a death of a child on the Opwag road. He indicated that the access to site by taxis is currently being undertaken from all over. The N8 and N14 Gariep road is not the only road being used and that is a problem. • Mr Blignaut indicated it was suggested in the EMPr that access to the Sand Draai Projects only be allowed via the N10 – N8 – Gariep Road (South of the Transnet bridge). The client also indicated that this will be placed as a condition in all contractual documentation that companies accessing the site must plan for and adhere to. Mr Rwigema indicated that Solafrica will consider measures such as a boom gate

strategically placed to note the direction vehicles are coming from. If these vehicles are using the wrong roads, fines could be allocated and even termination of contracts if contractual conditions are not followed. Mr Rwigema indicated that he as the Proponent is willing to create a platform, where issues and solutions such as these can be discussed between the Proponent, the Contractors, the Municipality, Provincial and any I&APs can be discussed and solutions are then found.

- Mr Rwigema stated that it would be inconsiderate for Solafrica to be too specific about its commitments as they pertain to the Gariiep Road at this stage, and in doing so limit its responsibilities towards issues that emerge between now and construction. It will also be necessary for Solafrica to liaise and collaborate with other developers that have similar interests and plans in the neighbouring area. Solafrica therefore commits to an inclusive and on-going process that will result in feasible solutions that are supported by all stakeholder groups prior to the commencement of construction. This process will include representatives from all the developers of the different projects in the area.
- Mr Kruger stated that these solutions and commitments must be placed in a contract and not in a Memorandum of Understanding as was suggested by the social specialist. He also stated that no construction is to be undertaken until this contract has been set up.
- Mr Kruger indicated that there are three solutions to the problem road (N8 South Gariiep road). These proposed solutions are tarring, paving and dustaside. He further indicated that dustaside has worked perfectly at Redstone. He also indicated that if paving is considered, a localised project where bricks are created, could be considered. This will create even more jobs in the area.
- Mr Kruger mentioned that the foreigners from Spain, working on site, are causing major social problems in the surrounding area. This includes prostitution, drugs etc.
- Mr Roods indicated that this is a problem and a challenge that arises and is found with all major projects throughout South Africa.
- Mr Kruger mentioned that nowhere in the reports is anything mentioned on the ordinance to protect vultures and raptor species in the area.
- Mr Blignaut indicated that he will undertake a follow-up regarding this with the avifaunal specialist.
- Mr Kruger enquired how much water would be pumped from the river for this project and then how much water would be lost due to evaporation when not being used. He indicated that the area was a drought stricken area that cannot afford unnecessary water loss.
- Mr Rwigema indicated that the Sand Draai projects would be based on dry cooling system. Therefore these projects would each only use approximately 10% per megawatt of what is currently being used at Bokpoort which is a wet cooling system. Mr Rwigema indicated that he would not currently be able to provide Mr Kruger on the exact quantities of water that would be recycled, lost and used on site. However he will supply him with such information once it has been obtained.
- Mr Kruger mentioned that he noticed flamingos at the Bokpoort site as well as Egyptian

	<p>Goose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Blignaut indicated that monitoring of flamingos and Egyptian Geese (together with all other avifauna) will be recommended in the EMPr, especially during the operational phase after construction has been completed. • Mr Kruger indicated that he had concerns about the tubes that used to run the HTF oil along the troughs. He indicated that hail will break these pipes and the oil would leak into the soils. • Mr Rwigema indicated that these pipes have gone through vigorous testing and have been found to withstand very intense hail situations. • Mr Blignaut also indicated that there is also mitigation process, where if there is contamination, all spills are to be collected and disposed of as hazardous waste. • Mr Kruger suggested that all sewage water that has gone through the treatment process should be re-introduced into the water system somehow. He suggested that a French drain system be considered for during the Operational phase of the project. • Mr Rwigema indicated that this would be considered during the planning of the projects. • Mr Kruger indicated that socio-economic impacts are a major problem due to the projects. He indicated that a broader base of representatives be accessed when a community representative board is created for the Sand Draai projects. He indicated that currently there is very little variation of representatives in the current meetings taking place for Bokpoort. • Mr Blignaut indicated that this will be recommended as a condition in the EMPr. • Mr Kruger indicated that these projects do create job opportunities. But after construction was completed, theft, robberies and poaching has increased dramatically. This is due to labourers not being willing to go back to minimum wage salaries. He also indicated that foreign labourers become a problem and also cause problems. He indicated that some of these labourers do not have legal documentation to be in South Africa. • Mr Blignaut indicated that a recommendation was made in the social report to address the situation of illegal labourers. It was recommended that each project's Human Resource department make sure that all labourers on site have the necessary documentation. He also indicated that a condition be placed in the EMPr where developers and the municipality work closely together to raise awareness on social matters like drug and alcohol abuse.
4.	<p>WAY FORWARD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes of this meeting will be distributed to all attendees. • The draft EIA report will be finalised with the comments from I&APs and the final will be submitted to the DEA.

5.	CLOSURE: The meeting adjourned at 15h00.
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APPENDIX A

APPENDIX B