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Regards

Seshni Govender (Pr. Sci. Nat., EAPASA)
Environmental Consultant

D 087 352 1592 | **E** seshni.govender@rhdhv.com | **W** www.rhdhv.co.za
Royal HaskoningDHV (Pty) Ltd trading as Royal HaskoningDHV | Reg No. 1966/001916/07
Building No. 5 Country Club Estate, 21 Woodlands Drive, Woodmead, 2191
PO Box 867, Gallo Manor, 2052, Gauteng, South Africa



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From: Seshni Govender
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:05:21

Dear Stakeholder

This serves as a reminder to send your comments for the above mentioned project, if you haven't done so as yet, the closing date for comments to be submitted is tomorrow, **Tuesday, 30th April 2024**.

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From: Seshni Govender
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 7:41 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Prashika Reddy <prashika.reddy@rhdhv.com>
Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



Dear Stakeholder

Please find attached the latest correspondence regarding the project.

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Subject: Reminder of the Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:13:21

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From: Seshni Govender
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:08 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



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From: Seshni Govender
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:32:00

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From: Seshni Govender
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:54 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



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To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:17:10

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From: Seshni Govender
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:09 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



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From: Seshni Govender
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:31:03

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From: Seshni Govender
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:54 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



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Bcc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:31:43

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To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:26:28

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From: Seshni Govender
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:52 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



Dear Stakeholder

Please find attached the latest correspondence regarding the project.

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Regards

Seshni Govender (Pr. Sci. Nat., EAPASA)
Environmental Consultant

D 087 352 1592 | **E** seshni.govender@rhdhv.com | **W** www.rhdhv.co.za
Royal HaskoningDHV (Pty) Ltd trading as Royal HaskoningDHV | Reg No. 1966/001916/07
Building No. 5 Country Club Estate, 21 Woodlands Drive, Woodmead, 2191
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From: Seshni Govender
Bcc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:16:39

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From: Seshni Govender
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:09 AM
Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



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To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:27:36

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From: Seshni Govender
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:24:34

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From: Seshni Govender
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:52 AM
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Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



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To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:28:59

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Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:53 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



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From: Seshni Govender
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:26:49

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From: Seshni Govender
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:53 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



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From: Seshni Govender

Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

Chrome TFC Plant,

Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:10:35

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From: Seshni Govender

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 7:42 AM

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



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Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:32:19

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Regards

Seshni Govender (Pr. Sci. Nat., EAPASA)
Environmental Consultant

D 087 352 1592 | E seshni.govender@rhdhv.com | W www.rhdhv.co.za
Royal HaskoningDHV (Pty) Ltd trading as Royal HaskoningDHV | Reg No. 1966/001916/07
Building No. 5 Country Club Estate, 21 Woodlands Drive, Woodmead, 2191
PO Box 867, Gallo Manor, 2052, Gauteng, South Africa



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From: Seshni Govender
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:55 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



Dear Stakeholder

Please find attached the latest correspondence regarding the project.

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To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:29:54

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Bcc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:14:07

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From: Seshni Govender
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:08 AM
Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



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From: Seshni Govender
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:18:35

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From: Seshni Govender

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:09 AM

Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



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From: Seshni Govender

Bcc:

Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Monday, 29 April 2024 16:23:22

the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant,

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From: Seshni Govender

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:24 AM

Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



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Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:15:42

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From: Seshni Govender
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:53 AM
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From: Seshni Govender
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:27:13

Dear Stakeholder

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Regards

Seshni Govender (Pr. Sci. Nat., EAPASA)
Environmental Consultant

D 087 352 1592 | E seshni.govender@rhdhv.com | W www.rhdhv.co.za
Royal HaskoningDHV (Pty) Ltd trading as Royal HaskoningDHV | Reg No. 1966/001916/07
Building No. 5 Country Club Estate, 21 Woodlands Drive, Woodmead, 2191
PO Box 867, Gallo Manor, 2052, Gauteng, South Africa



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From: Seshni Govender
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:53 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



Dear Stakeholder

Please find attached the latest correspondence regarding the project.

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To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:32:39

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From: Seshni Govender
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:55 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



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Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:29:35

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Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:54 AM
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Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



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To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:20:19

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From: Seshni Govender
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:23 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



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From: Seshni Govender
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:11:27

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From: Seshni Govender
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 7:43 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Prashika Reddy <prashika.reddy@rhdhv.com>
Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



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To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:25:21

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Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:52 AM
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Environmental Consultant

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Building No. 5 Country Club Estate, 21 Woodlands Drive, Woodmead, 2191
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From: Seshni Govender
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:28:37

Dear Stakeholder

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From: Seshni Govender
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:53 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



Dear Stakeholder

Please find attached the latest correspondence regarding the project.

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To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:30:20

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Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:54 AM
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Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



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From: Seshni Govender
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:22:17

Dear Stakeholder

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From: Seshni Govender
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:24 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



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From: Seshni Govender
To: "atigladys@sarao.ac.za"; "tnape@sarao.ac.za"
Subject: Reminder of the Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:10:58

Dear Stakeholder

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From: Seshni Govender
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 7:42 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Prashika Reddy <prashika.reddy@rhdhv.com>
Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



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From: Seshni Govender
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:19:33

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Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:23 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



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Bcc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:21:52

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Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:13:01

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Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:07 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



Dear Stakeholder

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Regards

Seshni Govender (Pr. Sci. Nat, EAPASA)
Environmental Consultant

D 087 352 1592 | E seshni.govender@rhdhv.com | W www.rhdhv.co.za
Royal HaskoningDHV (Pty) Ltd trading as Royal HaskoningDHV | Reg No. 1966/001916/07
Building No. 5 Country Club Estate, 21 Woodlands Drive, Woodmead, 2191
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From: Seshni Govender
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:28:16

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Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:27:55

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Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:24:10

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Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:26:01

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To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reminder of the availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 29 April 2024 16:08:46

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From: Seshni Govender
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 7:41 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Prashika Reddy <prashika.reddy@rhdhv.com>
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Project related



Appendix C: Notification Document

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT
(OCTOBER 2023)**

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) AND WATER USE
AUTHORISATION (WUA) PROCESS FOR A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC
PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH
THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO
TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

LEDET REF: TBC

DWS REF: TBC



What does this document tell you?

The document aims to inform you as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) about the project and also provides information regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Water Use Authorisation (WUA) Processes to be undertaken. The document advises on how you can become involved in the project – by reviewing information, and making inputs thereon, including raising any possible issues and concerns. This sharing of information forms the basis of the Public Participation Process (PPP) and offers you the opportunity to become actively involved in the project from the outset.

1. Background

The rising electricity tariffs in South Africa, combined with the increasingly severe load shedding patterns experienced across the country, has a negative impact on the production and revenue of Samancor Chrome business. Climate change is also a concern for Samancor Chrome referring to the emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the use of fossil fuel electricity. This has motivated Samancor Chrome to consider renewable energy generation at their smelter plants. Implementing solar PV generation will result in improved availability of supply and reduced utility bills as well as going 'green' in terms of environmental considerations.

In 2021, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), TFC Solar (Pty) Ltd, proposed the development of a Solar PV facility of up to 100-Megawatt (MW) generation capacity over five (5) sites: 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. These five (5) sites were subject to an EIA and an Environmental Authorisation was granted on 25 April 2022 from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) (DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2079).

A General Authorisation was received from the Department of Water and Sanitation on 28 March 2022. Site 1 is no longer considered for the Solar PV development.

A total of 60MW output can be achieved from the previously authorised Sites 2 – 5. Additionally, TFC Solar (Pty) Ltd, propose the development of a 40MW Solar PV facility to be developed on Site 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B and 5B.

All previously authorised Sites 2, 3, 4 and 5 as well as new Sites 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B and 5B would achieve a total of 100MW.

TFC Solar (Pty) Ltd has appointed Royal HaskoningDHV to provide independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) services for the proposed project. As part of these environmental studies, all I&APs will be actively involved through a public participation process.

2. Property Description

Sites 2B, 3B, 3C, and 4B are located to the south of the R555, whilst Site 5B is located to the north of the R555 and to the south of the Steelpoort River, Limpopo Province. The project area falls within the Sekhukhune District Municipality and the Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality. Small settlements of Pelaneng (located to the north), Stocking, Matholeng and Mohlakwana (located to the east) exist within the project area. The town of Steelpoort is located to the east of the TFC Plant.

3. Project Description

Sites 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B and 5B will be assessed for the placement of PV infrastructure as shown in the locality map - Figure 1. The details of the sites are provided below:

Site Number	Size (ha)	Farm Details
2B	47,49	Goudmyn 337 KT Ptn 00001 & Ptn 00010
3B	2,37	Goudmyn 337KT Ptn 0000
3C	1,71	Goudmyn 337 KT Ptn 00000
4B	5,52	Goudmyn 337 KT Ptn 00000
5B	2,14	Goudmyn 337 KT Ptn 00000 & Ptn 00006

4. Project Infrastructure

The PV plant will consist of the following infrastructure:

- Solar PV panels that will be able to deliver the required 40MW output to the Samancor grid;
- Inverters that convert direct current (DC) generated by the PV modules into alternating current (AC) to be exported to the Samancor electrical grid;
- Transformer/ s that raises the system AC low voltage to medium voltage. The transformer converts the voltage of the electricity generated by the PV panels to the correct voltage for delivery to the TFC Plant;
- Transformer substation; and
- Instrumentation and Control consisting of hardware and software for remote plant monitoring and operation of the facility.

Associated infrastructure includes:

- Mounting structures for the solar panels in a fixed tilt of rotating tracking configuration;
- Cabling between the structures, to be lain underground where practical;

- New 33kV overhead powerlines between the various sites and the Tubatse East and -West substation buildings;
- Local substation and transformer yard at each PV site;
- Containerized switchgear substation at Tubatse East and -West MV substations for connecting to the Tubatse substation busbars;
- Water provision infrastructure (i.e. pipeline/ s, storage tank/ s, etc.) for PV panel cleaning;
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS); and
- Internal access roads (typically 6m) roads will be constructed, but existing roads will be used as far as possible), fencing (approximately 3m in height), gates and access control.

5. Potential Environmental Impacts Associated with the Proposed Project

A number of potential environmental impacts associated with the project have been identified. As part of the EIA and WUA studies, these potential impacts will be assessed through the following specialist studies:

Specialist Study	Organisation
Avifauna	Scientific Aquatic Services
Agriculture	Johann Lanz
Biodiversity	Bathusi Environmental Consulting
Hydrology	GCS Water & Environmental Consultants
Heritage & Palaeontology	PGS Heritage
Freshwater	Scientific Aquatic Services

EIA for the establishment of a Photovoltaic (PV) Facility and associated infrastructure on the farm Goudmyn No 337 KT at the Tubatse Ferrochrome Smelter

Locality Map

Legend

- Authorised Premises for the East and West Substations
- Existing Site Access Roads
- Reliefs
- Cuboid
- Site 2B
- Site 3B
- Site 4B
- Site 3C
- Site 5B
- Site 5A
- Previously authorized Site 2
- Previously authorized Site 3
- Previously authorized Site 4
- Previously authorized Site 5
- Not On



Source:
ESRI
DTI
MDB
Samarco Chrome Limited
Surveyor General

Scale: 1:20 000



Sites	Size (ha)
2B	47,49
3B	2,37
3C	1,71
4B	5,52
5B	2,14
Total	59,23

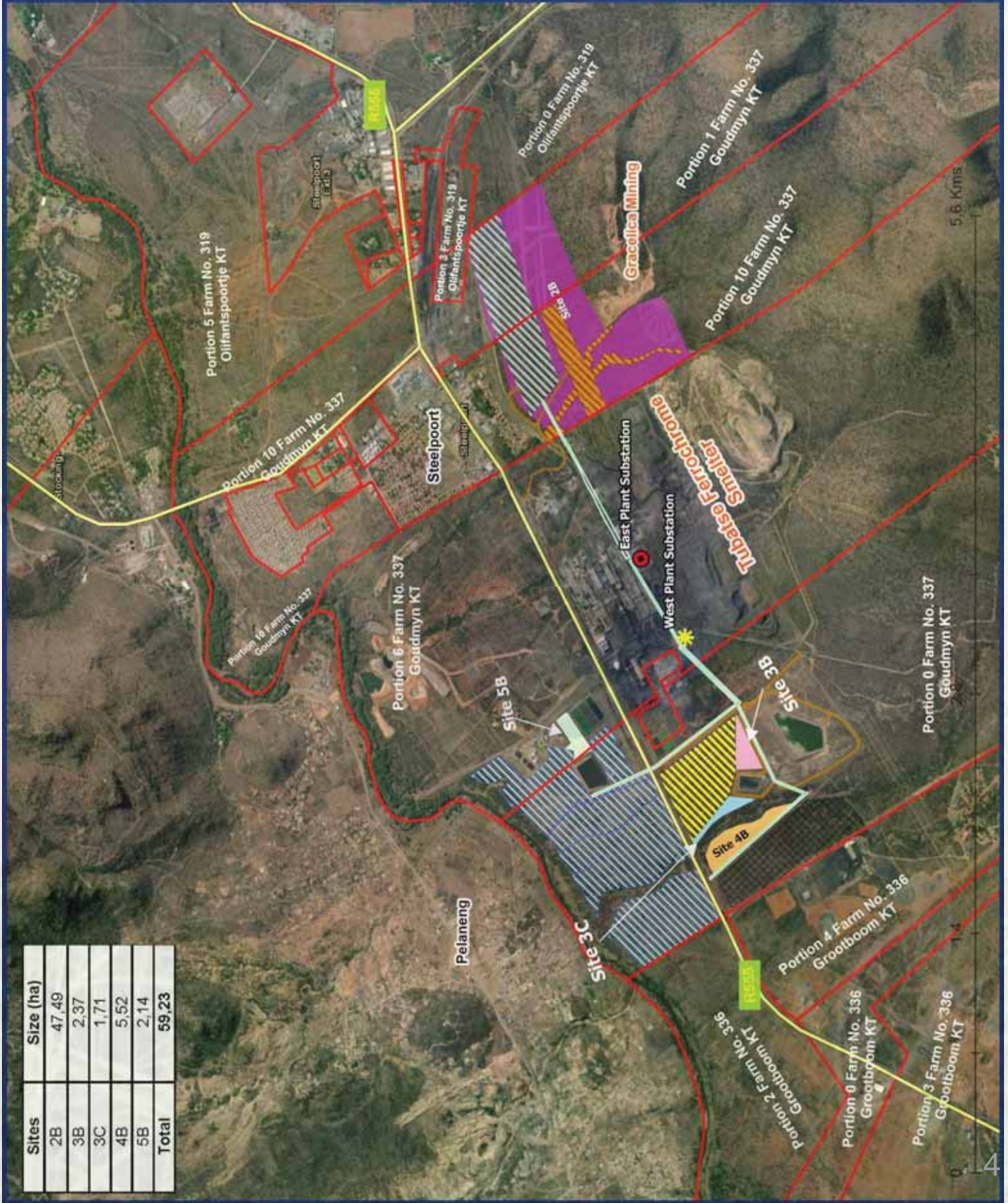


Figure 1: Locality map

6. Why are Environmental Studies Needed?

In terms of the EIA Regulations Government Notice Regulation (GNR) 324 – 327, published in terms of Section 24(5), and read with Section 44, of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998), TFC Solar (Pty) Ltd requires an Environmental Authorisation from the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environmental and Tourism (LEDET) for undertaking the proposed project as it includes electrical generation and transmission activities listed under Listing Notices 1 - 3 of the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended).

Since Listing Notice 2 activities of the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended) are triggered, a Scoping and EIA study as contemplated in Regulation 21, 22, 23 and 24 of the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended), must be followed in order to obtain Environmental Authorisation.

The following activities are triggered:

Listing Notice 1 (GNR 327)	Description and Applicability
11	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33kV but less than 275kV. <i>Applicability - new 33kV overhead powerlines between the various sites and the Tubatse East and -West substation buildings.</i>
12	The development of infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100m ² or more; where such development occurs – within a watercourse or within 32m of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse. <i>To be confirmed by the Freshwater assessment.</i>
19	The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10m ³ into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10m ³ from a watercourse. <i>To be confirmed by the Freshwater assessment.</i>
24	The development of a road - (i) for which an environmental authorisation was obtained for the route determination

Listing Notice 1 (GNR 327)	Description and Applicability
24 (cont.)	in terms of activity 5 in Government Notice 387 of 2006 or activity 18 in Government Notice 545 of 2010; or (ii) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres. <i>Applicable to the development of internal access roads associated with the project.</i>
28	Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1ha. <i>The development of the solar facility will involve the transformation of approximately 59,23ha of agricultural land. The project site is located outside an urban area.</i>
56	The widening of a road by more than 6m, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1km. <i>Applicable to the widening of existing access roads.</i>

Listing Notice 2 (GNR 325)	Description and Applicability
1	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20MW or more. <i>The electricity generation capacity of the PV plant will be 40MW.</i>
15	The clearance of an area of 20ha or more of indigenous vegetation. <i>The construction of the proposed PV plant will require the clearance of approximately 59,23ha of indigenous vegetation.</i>

Listing Notice 3 (GNR 324)	Description and Applicability
12	The clearance of an area of 300m ² or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan. <i>To be confirmed by the Biodiversity and Freshwater assessments.</i>

7. Water Use Authorisation

Additionally, as the project involves the crossing of watercourses, a **Water Use Authorisation** will be submitted to the **Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)** as per **Sections 21 (c) and (i)** of the National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998) (as amended).

The following water uses in terms of Section 21 of the NWA are being applied for:

- **Section 21 c:** Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse (applicable for water crossings and/ or infrastructure within 500m to the regulated wetland area); and
- **Section 21 i:** Altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse (applicable for water crossings and/ or infrastructure within 500m to the regulated wetland area).

8. Public Participation Process

It is important that relevant I&APs are identified and involved in the PPP from the outset of the project. To ensure effective public participation, the process includes the following key steps:



9. How can you get involved?

It is important that relevant I&APs are identified and involved in the PPP from the outset of the project. To ensure effective public participation, the process includes the following key steps:

If you consider yourself an I&AP for this proposed project, we urge you to become involved.

- By responding (by phone or e-mail) to our invitation for your involvement in the process;
- By completing the attached comment form and mailing it to Seshni Govender at Royal HaskoningDHV;
- In writing, contacting the EAP if you have a query, comment or require further project information; and
- By reviewing and commenting on the consultation Scoping and Environmental Impact Reports within the allowed 30-day review period and the WUA Application within the allowed 60-day review period.

Your input into this process forms a key part of the environmental study and we would like to hear from you to obtain your views on the proposed project.

By completing and submitting the accompanying response form, you automatically register yourself as an I&AP for this project, and ensure that your comments, concerns and/ or queries raised regarding the project will be noted.

10. Comments and Queries on the Project can be directed to:

Seshni Govender
Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Royal HaskoningDHV
PO Box 867, Gallo Manor, 2052
Tel: 087 352 1592
Email: Seshni.Govender@rhdhv.com

11. Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) Act No. 14 of 2013

The purpose of this Act is to —

1. Give effect to the constitutional right to privacy, by safeguarding personal information when processed by a responsible party, subject to justifiable limitations that are aimed at—
 - a. balancing the right to privacy against other rights, particularly the right of access to information; and
2. protecting important interests, including the free flow of information within the Republic and across international borders; Regulate the manner in which personal information may be processed, by establishing conditions, in harmony with international standards, that prescribe the minimum threshold requirements for the lawful processing of personal information;
3. Provide persons with rights and remedies to protect their personal information from processing that is not in accordance with this Act; and
4. Establish voluntary and compulsory measures, including the establishment of an Information Regulator, to ensure respect for and to promote, enforce and fulfil the rights protected by this Act.

12. POPIA and the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended)

As per Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), a Scoping and EIA Process must involve a Public Participation Process. Public participation is a process that is designed to enable all interested and affected parties (I&APs) to voice their opinion and/ or concerns which enables the practitioner to evaluate all aspects of the proposed development, with the objective of improving the project by maximising its benefits while minimising its adverse effects.

As per paragraph 42 an EAP on behalf of the Applicant (i.e. TFC Solar (Pty) Ltd) must ensure

that a I&AP database containing names, contact details and addresses is opened and maintained throughout the Scoping and EIA Process.

Proof of the PP process (of which the I&AP database is included) is submitted to the relevant Competent Authority (CA) for the CA to ensure all relevant I&APs have been afforded the right to express their concerns and have these concerns documented in a comments and response register so that the CA may be able to make an informed decision on the project.

The personal information provided as part of the public participation process will be used purely to update you on the progress of the project and to inform you of any input required such as details of the commenting period, availability of the reports, public meeting etc as well as notification of the decision and subsequent appeal period. However, it must be stated that registering as an I&AP is a voluntary process, should an I&AP not consent to being registered on the I&AP database, any comment received will not be able to be recorded and shared with the CA.

The I&AP database will also be shared with the Competent Authority, and should an appeal be lodged against the project, the EAP and Applicant is obligated to share the I&AP database containing the personal information with the appellant as per paragraph 4(1) of the National Environmental Management Act: Appeals Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

Furthermore, the processing of personal information is governed by the Royal HaskoningDHV-SA Protection of Personal Information Policy, which states that, the Company will ensure that it: -

1. complies with privacy and data protection law and follows good practice;
2. protect the rights of individuals;
3. is open about how it stores and processes individuals' data; and
4. protect itself from the risks of a data breach.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) AND WATER USE AUTHORISATION (WUA) PROCESS FOR
40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE
FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

(OCTOBER 2023)

LEDET REF: TBC

DWS REF: TBC

YOUR COMMENTS AND QUERIES ARE WELCOME

Please **complete** this Comment Form **in full** and return to:

Seshni Govender	Royal HaskoningDHV		
	PO Box 867, Gallo Manor, 2052, Johannesburg		
	Tel	087 352 1592	
	Email	seshni.govender@rhdhv.com	

Title (Prof/Mr/Mrs)		First name	
Surname			
Capacity (e.g. Secretary / Director)			
Organisation			
Postal address		Postal code	
Tel No. ()		Cell No.	
Fax No. ()		Email address	

What comments / concerns would you like to raise regarding this proposed project? (Please use additional pages, if required)

.....

.....

.....

PLEASE REGISTER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) ON THE PROJECT DATABASE:

Title (Prof/Mr/Mrs)		First name	
Surname			
Capacity (e.g. Secretary / Director)			
Organisation			
Postal address		Postal code	
Tel No. ()		Cell No.	
Fax No. ()		Email address	
Signature			

IF YOU PREFER NOT TO RECEIVE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PROPOSED PROJECT, AND, WOULD PREFER TO BE REMOVED FROM THE PROJECT DATABASE AT ANY TIME DURING THE PROCESS YOU CAN CONTACT THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CONSULTANTS LISTED IN THIS DOCUMENT (CONTACT DETAILS AS PROVIDED ABOVE).

Project related



Appendix D: Proof of Advert



Jana Labuschagne (tweede prinses), Suritha Niemand (wenner) en Mahdiya Cassim (eerste prinses).



Pearl Mokwena en Siya Fakuda. Foto's: Verskaf/Hoërskool Lydenburg

Academy's pupils honoured during prize-giving ceremony

Gilbert Motseo

BURGERSFORT - It has been yet another great year for Mafadi Independent Academy, whose learners have excelled on various fronts, not least academics. Mafadi ended its year on a high note with the school's prize-giving ceremony and a farewell for the matric pupils on Saturday October 28. The event was held two days prior to the start of the National Senior Certificate exams on Monday.

The school management team, proud parents and former learners attended the event. The pupils entertained the attendees with extramural activities such as dancing, poetry and singing. Former pupil and attorney Prudence Morlene provided encouragement for the grade 12s. She urged them to study hard and to further their studies at universities. "It's possible to succeed. It doesn't matter where you come

from, as long you work hard, you will achieve your dreams. In life, in order to succeed, you have to make sacrifices. I want to see you making your parents proud. In life you have to dream big. "When you get to tertiary institutions, avoid peer pressure and only focus on your studies. If you fail your modules, regroup, work hard and you will pass. There will be challenges, but if you are dedicated, you will excel against all odds." Mafadi's director, BM Mpuru, encouraged the pupils to work hard and pass with flying colours. He thanked all the parents who honoured the event. He asked them for support and commitment. The event was concluded with the best pupils from grades R to 12 receiving trophies, certificates and medals. The sports stars were honoured, too. The school's 2024 prefects were unveiled at the event.

Glansgeleentheid tydens Face of LHS-kompetisie

Michelle Boshoff



Thapelo Moloi en Adriaan de Jager.

LYDENBURG - Sorina Erasmus, ofte wel 'die Flooze' van eMalahleni, het gewys dat sy meer is as die loskopdolla waarvoor sy jare gelede bekendheid op die sepie *7de Laan* verwerf het. Dié sanger en aktrise was op 25 Oktober by Hoërskool Lydenburg die gaskunstenaar, wat die gehoor om haar selferkende 'kommen' pinkie gedraai het. Die skool bied jaarliks die glansgeleentheid Face of LHS aan; dis meer as 'n modelkompetisie. Die finaliste het elkeen liefdadigheidsorganisasies gestig of by bestaandes betrokke geraak. Die organisasies soos die STEP Foundation, die CMRaad en die Rusoord Tehuis vir Bejaardes

word ingesluit. Die wenners van die aand, Mnr. en Mej. Face of LHS, is Adriaan de Jager en Suritha Niemand. JJ Potgieter en Thapelo Moloi is onderskeidelik as die eerste en tweede prins aangewys. Die mees fotogeniese paartjie is FJ Terblanche en Fathima Ali. Die paartjie met die meeste persoonlikheid is Pearl Mokwena en Siya Fakuda. Die Flooze het selfs Michael van der Merwe, die skoolhoof, en Ian Breitenbach, die adjunkhoof, op die verhoog genooi om te wys wie het die beste dansbewegings. Dié twee manne moet vir geen danser agteruit te tree nie! Die skool bedank graag al die beoordelaars en borge wat weer eens vir hierdie uithalgeleentheid gesorg het.

Michelle Boshoff

LYDENBURG - Hoërskool Lydenburg het op 17 Oktober sy nuwe hoofleiers vir volgende jaar bekendgemaak. Aan die stuur van leiersake vir 2024 is die nuwe hoofseun, JP van der Merwe, en die hoofdogter is Christi van Wyk. Die onderhoofseun en -dogter vir akademie is Divan Muller en Mahdiya Cassim. Taps Moloi en Reenette Mkhabela is onderskeidelik die onderhoofseun en -dogter van sport. Die onderhoofseun en -dogter van kultuur is Adrico Els en Megan Marx. Tydens die matriekprysuitdeling op 19 Oktober het die skool ook die leerdarers wat deur die loop van hul skoolloopbaan presteer het, vereer. Die volgende toekennings is uitgedeel: Hanco Barnard (veelsydigste en mees toegewyde seun, trofee vir uitnemendheid), Mia Broodryk (veelsydigste dogter), Dioné Pool (dienslewering) en Cornelius van Antwerpen (duxleerder).



Agter: Divan Muller (onderhoofseun, akademie), Adrico Els (onderhoofseun, kultuur) en Taps Moloi (onderhoofseun, sport). Voor: Mahdiya Cassim (onderhoofdogter, akademie), Megan Marx (onderhoofdogter, kultuur), Christi van Wyk (hoofdogter), JP van der Merwe (hoofseun) en Reenette Mkhabela (onderhoofdogter, sport). Foto's: Verskaf/Hoërskool Lydenburg



Links na regs: Michael van der Merwe (skoolhoof), Cornelius van Antwerpen, Dioné Pool en Hanco Barnard.



The Grade 12 Class of 2023.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AND WATER USE AUTHORISATION
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) AND WATER USE AUTHORISATION (WUA) PROCESS FOR A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
LEDET REF NUMBER: TO BE CONFIRMED

Notice is hereby given in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) published in Government Notice Regulation (GNR) 324 - GNR 327, in terms of Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act - NEMA (Act No. 107 of 1998) (as amended) and the National Water Act - NWA (Act No. 36 of 1998) (as amended) of the initiative by TFC Solar (Pty) Ltd, to apply for an environmental authorisation for a 40MW Photovoltaic (PV) Plant across sites 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B and 5B associated with the Tubatse Ferrochrome Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality.

With respect of the above, the Applicant, TFC Solar (Pty) Ltd intends undertaking an EIA process as contemplated in the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) to apply for authorisation for the above proposed development to the Competent Authority the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET), as well as applying for a Water Use Authorisation (WUA) from the Competent Authority, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) as contemplated in Chapter 4 of the NWA. In 2021, the development of a Solar PV facility of up to 100-Megawatt (MW) generation capacity over five (5) sites: 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 were subject to an EIA and the Environmental Authorisation was granted on 25 April 2022 from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) (Ref: 14/12/16/3/2/2079). A General Authorisation was received from the Department of Water and Sanitation on 28 March 2022. Please note that Site 1 is no longer to be considered for the Solar PV development.

A total of 60MW output can be achieved from the previously authorised Sites 2 - 5. Sites 2B, 3B, 3C, and 4B which are positioned around the TFC Plant will be assessed in this EIA study. Site 2B, 3B, 3C and 4B are located to the south of the R555, whilst Site 5B is located to the north of the R555 and to the south of the Steelport River. Small settlements of Pelanang (located to the north), Stacking, Matholeng and Mholikwana (located to the east) exist within the project area. The town of Steelport is located to the east of the TFC Plant.

The following Listed Activities are being applied for as per the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended) for the project:

- Listing Notice 1 - GNR 327 of April 2017: Activities 11, 12, 19, 24, 28, 56;
- Listing Notice 2 - GNR 325 of April 2017: Activities 1, 15; and
- Listing Notice 3 - GNR 324 of April 2017: Activities 12 (e) (i).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The public participation process aims to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with information regarding the proposed project and will provide an opportunity to raise any issues or concerns.

As part of the public participation process, you are invited to review the draft Environmental Scoping Report (ESR) and raise comments on the document. The report will be available for review at the following public places and websites:

- Mappedile Public Library, Ga-Mappedile-A, 1133;
- Burgersfort Public Library, Corner of Kort & Eddie Sedibe Street, Burgersfort, 1150;
- Tubatse Ferrochrome Smelter Office, Tubatse Ferrochrome, Main Road (R555), Steelport, 1133; and
- Royal HaskoningDWH website: <https://www.royalhaskoningdwh.com/en/countries/southern-africa/environmental-reports>

The draft ESR will be available for review and comments between the following dates:
 • NEMA EIA Regulations (30 days): **07 November 2023 – 06 December 2023.**

WHO SHOULD YOU CONTACT?

The Environmental Team from Royal HaskoningDWH, as independent environmental assessment practitioners, have been appointed to conduct the environmental studies.

I&APs are invited to register by submitting their name, contact information and interest in the project to the environmental consultants. Comments on the draft ESR can also be sent to the environmental consultant. Contact details are provided below.

In accordance with the Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, your contact details will only be used to record any comments that have been provided as part of the process as well as to provide updates on the progress of the project, identifying information will only be shared with the Competent Authority to provide proof for the Public Participation process as required according to Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

Seshni Govender
 Royal HaskoningDWH
 PO Box 867, Gallo Manor, 2052, Gauteng
 Tel | 087 352 1592
 E-mail | seshni.govender@rhdwh.com



Bakkie found loaded with illegal mining gear

BURGERSFORT - The Sekhukhune SAPS under Operation Vala Umgodi recovered a suspected stolen bakkie at the Phokathaba illegal mining sites outside town last Thursday.

The vehicle, a white Ford Ranger with a Mpumalanga registration number, was found at about 04:00. It was fully loaded with scrap metal.

"It is reported that a multidisciplinary force, comprising the SAPS National Intervention Unit and the SANDF, conducted the operation. They subsequently recovered a suspected stolen motor

vehicle and mining equipment, including six generators, jackhammers, shovels, electric cables, wheelbarrows, hammers and garden forks," said the Limpopo police's spokesperson, Colonel Malesela Ledwaba.

He said SAPS investigations are under way to establish circumstances surrounding the recovery and the origin of the Ford Ranger.

Anyone with information should contact the Mecklenburg SAPS on 015 619 0204. Alternatively, information can be shared via Crime Stop on 08600 10111, or the My SAPS app.



The bakkie seized by the SAPS. Photo: Supplied/Limpopo SAPS

Young girl raped in Apel

APEL - The Limpopo SAPS is on the hunt for the suspect who had raped a 12-year-old girl at about 19:00 on Friday March 8.

"Reports suggest that the minor was walking in the streets of Machakaneng Village in Atok, coming from the local shops, when the known suspect called her. It was already dark. The victim allegedly ran off and the suspect chased her. The man caught the girl, dragged her to his house, raped her and released her," said the Limpopo police spokesperson, Colonel

Malesela Ledwaba.

He said the victim arrived at home and informed her family. The police were immediately notified and a rape case was opened to track down the suspect.

Anyone with information about the whereabouts of the suspect should contact Warrant Officer Phakiso Gololo on 083 428 1261, or the Crime Stop number on 08600 10111. Alternatively, visit the nearest police station or send information via the My SAPS app. The police's investigations are ongoing.



Some of the burnt poles at Magabe Park. Photo: Gilbert Motseo

Arsonists torch electricity poles at Magabe

BURGERSFORT - The electrification project at Magabe Park in Mabocha has been halted after some alleged criminals burnt some poles in the village on the morning of March 7.

The torching of equipment will delay the expected finalisation of the project, as it was anticipated that the village would have power by the end of April.

The project had commenced back in July 2023.

Fetakgomo Tubatse Local

Municipality's (FTLM) mayor, Eddie Maila, has condemned the burning of equipment, labelling the act as sabotage.

"Maila would like to condemn these acts of sabotage by individuals who torched electricity poles at Magabe Park, Ward 30.

The FTLM will never allow such acts to derail the provision of basic services in our communities. We call upon law enforcement agencies to

act against individuals who are destroying public infrastructure. Such cowardly acts will never deter the municipality from its mission of providing services to the communities. Those with information are urged to contact the police to arrest the criminals," the FTLM said in a statement.

People with information on the burning of the poles are urged to report the matter to the Tubatse SAPS in Praktiseer.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) AND WATER USE AUTHORISATION PROCESS FOR A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

LEDET REF NUMBER: 12/1/19/2-GS88

In October 2023, Notice was given in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) published in Government Notice Regulation (GNR) 324 - GNR 327, in terms of Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act - NEMA (Act No. 107 of 1998) (as amended) and the National Water Act - NWA (Act No. 36 of 1998) (as amended) of the initiative by TFC Solar (Pty) Ltd, to apply for an environmental authorisation for a 40MW Photovoltaic (PV) Plant across Sites 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B and 5B associated with the Tubatse Ferrochrome Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality. An EIA study was initiated, and the final Environmental Scoping Report was accepted by the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) on 31 January 2024.

The following Listed Activities are being applied for as per the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended) for the project:

- Listing Notice 1 - GNR 327 of April 2017: Activities 11, 12, 19, 24, 28, 56;
- Listing Notice 2 - GNR 325 of April 2017: Activities 1, 15; and
- Listing Notice 3 - GNR 324 of April 2017: Activities 12 (e) (i).

The Applicant is also in the process of applying for a Water Use Authorisation (WUA) from the Competent Authority, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) as contemplated in Chapter 4 of the NWA.

The following Water Use triggers are applicable:

- Section 21 (c) - Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse.
- Section 21 (i) - Altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT (EIAR) FOR REVIEW

All I&As are hereby notified that the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) will be available for review and comment from 27 March to 30 April 2024 and will be available at the following places:

- Mapodile Public Library, Ga-Mapodile-A, 1133;
- Burgersfort Public Library, Corner of Kort & Eddie Sedibe Street, Burgersfort, 1150;
- Tubatse Ferrochrome Smelter Office, Tubatse Ferrochrome, Main Road (R555), Steelport, 1133; and
- Royal HaskoningDWH website

<https://www.royalhaskoningdwh.com/en/countries/south-africa/environmental-reports>

OPEN DAY

All interested and/or affected parties (I&As) are invited to attend an open day to be held at the venue listed below. The project team will be available to discuss and answer any questions you may have regarding the findings of the draft EIAR. The date, time and venue for the open day is as follows:

- Date: 09 April 2024 • Time: 14:00-17:00
- Venue: Tubatse Chrome Club, Tubatse Residence, R555, Steelport, 1133

Comments on the draft EIAR can also be sent to the environmental consultant as well as any further information you may require regarding the open day. Contact details are provided below.

In accordance with the Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013), your contact details will only be used to record any comments that have been provided as part of the process as well as to provide updates on the progress of the project, identifying information will only be shared with the Competent Authority to provide proof of the Public Participation process as required according to Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

Seshni Govender

Royal HaskoningDWH
PO Box 867, Gallo Manor, 2052, Gauteng
Tel: 011 087 352 1592
E-mail: seshni.govender@rhdhw.com



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46 Viljoen Street Lydenburg 1120

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Appendix E: Proof of Comments Received

From: [Seshni Govender](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVIN
Date: Thursday, 07 December 2023 08:50:49
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

Please see responses to your comments raised:

Comment from Directorate: Biodiversity Mainstreaming and EIA	Response
<p>The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the reports and does not have any objections the draft Scoping Reports and Plan of Study for EIA. Kindly note that the EIA report must comply with the procedures for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on the identified themes in terms of Section 24(5) (A) and (H) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.</p> <p>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 and Solar Energy for assessing and monitoring the impact of solar energy facilities on birds in Southern Africa.</p>	<p>The DFFE Environmental Screening Tool has been generated for the project and the subsequent Site-Specific Verification Report has been compiled to validate themes presented in the Draft Environmental Scoping Report which has been provided as Appendix C to the Environmental Scoping Report. The specialist studies will comply with Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020.</p> <p>The EIA Report will comply with the Guideline for Renewable Energy Projects as well as Appendix 3 and 4 of GNR 326 of the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended).</p> <p>The Avifaunal Impact Assessment will comply with the BirdLife South Africa: Guidelines for Assessing and Monitoring the Impact of Solar Power Generating Facilities on Birds in Southern Africa (2017).</p>

Regards
Seshni

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 21 November 2023 10:23
To: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVIN

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Good day Seshni.

Kindly find attached comments for the aforementioned project.



[Redacted]

Directorate: Biodiversity Mainstreaming and EIA

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]





**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: +27 86 625 1042

Reference: TFC Solar PV

Telephone: 012 399 9411 E-mail: pmakitia@dfre.gov.za

Seshni Govender
PO Box 867
GALLO MANOR
2191

Telephone Number: +27 87 352 1592
Email Address: Seshni.govender@rhdhv.com

PER E-MAIL

Dear Seshni

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the reports and does not have any objection to the draft Scoping Reports and the Plan of Study for EIA. Kindly note that 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.

The Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries should be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email; BCAdmin@dfre.gov.za for the attention of Mr. Seoka Lekota.

Yours faithfully

Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment
Date: 21/11/2023



Batho pele - putting people first.

From: [Seshni Govender](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Prashika Reddy](#)
Subject: RE: EIA and WUA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Thursday, 07 December 2023 08:47:42
Attachments: [TFC Solar PV Plant 092023.kmz](#)
[image002.png](#)

H [REDACTED]

The documents have been provided to applicant and the IPP, who will take into consideration the requirements and comply where applicable.

Attached is the KMZ.

Regards
Seshni

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 11 October 2023 10:44
To: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com>
Subject: RE: EIA and WUA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

Please find attached Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom servitudes and infrastructure, as well as a setbacks guideline for RE Developments. Please send me a KMZ file of the proposed development areas and possible grid connection.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

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From: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com>
Sent: Thursday, 05 October 2023 18:23
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Prashika Reddy <prashika.reddy@rhdhv.com>
Subject: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] EIA and WUA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

Dear Stakeholder

Notice is hereby given in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended) published in Government Notice Regulation (GNR) 324 - GNR 327, in terms of Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act - NEMA (Act No. 107 of 1998) (as amended) and the National Water Act – NWA (Act No. 36 of 1998) (as amended) of the initiative by TFC Solar (Pty) Ltd, to apply for an Environmental Authorisation for a 40MW Photovoltaic (PV) Plant across Sites 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B and 5B associated with the Tubatse Ferrochrome Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality.

Royal HaskoningDHV has been appointed as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner and Public Participation Consultant to conduct the environmental processes for the aforementioned project. Please find attached a Background Information Document which provides details regarding the project as well as how you can become involved during the process.

In accordance with the Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, your details will be securely stored and will only be used to share information and provide updates for this project. If you wish to be removed from this database, please send an email to: seshni.govender@rhdhv.com.

Regards

Seshni Govender (Pr. Sci. Nat., EAPASA)
Environmental Consultant

D 087 352 1592 | E seshni.govender@rhdhv.com | W www.rhdhv.co.za
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From: [Seshni Govender](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: SAMANCOR SOLAR PV PLANT Reminder: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Thursday, 07 December 2023 14:05:12

Dear [REDACTED]

Samancor is currently busy with the wayleave process and have been engaged in discussions with the Department of Water and Sanitation and the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority regarding the evacuation of the powerline over the pipelines. This process is being run concurrently with the EIA process and handled directly by Samancor.

Regards
Seshni

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 07 December 2023 09:16
To: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: SAMANCOR SOLAR PV PLANT Reminder: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

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Good Morning Ms Govender,
Thank you for the response.

I am not sure if the Association can grant your client a wayleave to construct a power line to evacuate power from the PV site over the Association's pipeline until such time as appropriate due process and governance has been complied with.

Regards
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2023 8:46 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: SAMANCOR SOLAR PV PLANT Reminder: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

Dear [REDACTED]

Please see response provided by the applicant:

It is confirmed that Samancor will be using its own resources, specifically "Water will be obtained from the TFC process and no raw water sources will be required".

It is further confirmed that Samancor is in discussions with Lebalelo Water User Association regarding the overhead lines to evacuate the generated power from Site 5 that has previously been awarded an EA (60MW project). The current EIA (40MW) will not result in any additional overhead lines that need to cross the raw

water pipeline and will make use of the powerline associated with the 60MW project.

Regards
Seshni

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 28 November 2023 14:41
To: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: SAMANCOR SOLAR PV PLANT Reminder: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

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Dear Ms Govender,

Thank you, recall noted.

However, the Association has submitted its comments these include.

(1) regarding the use of water and noting that Samancor will be using its own resources (See 2.2.3 of the Report "Water will be obtained from the TFC process and no raw water sources will be required")

(2) at para 2.2.1 the report states "the solar fields will connect to the Tubatse East- and West Substations by means of power corridors to evacuate the AC power. The power corridor will comprise of overhead lines or underground cables, or a combination thereof, at a voltage level of 33kV". The Association has pointed out that one of the power corridors crosses the Association's raw water pipeline and concerns were raised regarding possible interference with the Association's cathodic protection of the pipeline. This has been discussed with Samancor and other representatives.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2023 9:12 AM
To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Prashika Reddy <prashika.reddy@rhdhv.com>
Subject: Recall: Reminder: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

Seshni Govender would like to recall the message, "Reminder: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality".

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From: Seshni Govender
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: SAMANCOR SOLAR PV PLANT Reminder: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Thursday, 07 December 2023 08:45:53

Dear [REDACTED]

Please see response provided by the applicant:

It is confirmed that Samancor will be using its own resources, specifically "Water will be obtained from the TFC process and no raw water sources will be required".

It is further confirmed that Samancor is in discussions with Lebalelo Water User Association regarding the overhead lines to evacuate the generated power from Site 5 that has previously been awarded an EA (60MW project). The current EIA (40MW) will not result in any additional overhead lines that need to cross the raw water pipeline and will make use of the powerline associated with the 60MW project.

Regards
Seshni

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 28 November 2023 14:41
To: Seshni Govender <sesbni.govender@rhdhv.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: SAMANCOR SOLAR PV PLANT Reminder: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

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Dear Ms Govender,

Thank you, recall noted.

However, the Association has submitted its comments these include.

(1) regarding the use of water and noting that Samancor will be using its own resources (See 2.2.3 of the Report "Water will be obtained from the TFC process and no raw water sources will be required")
(2) at para 2.2.1 the report states "the solar fields will connect to the Tubatse East- and West Substations by means of power corridors to evacuate the AC power. The power corridor will comprise of overhead lines or underground cables, or a combination thereof, at a voltage level of 33kV". The Association has pointed out that one of the power corridors crosses the Association's raw water pipeline and concerns were raised regarding possible interference with the Association's cathodic protection of the pipeline. This has been discussed with Samancor and other representatives.

Regards
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Seshni Govender <sesbni.govender@rhdhv.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2023 9:12 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Prashika Reddy <prashika.reddy@rhdhv.com>
Subject: Recall: Reminder: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

Seshni Govender would like to recall the message, "Reminder: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality".

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From: [Seshni Govender](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Prashika Reddy](#)
Subject: RE: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Wednesday, 08 November 2023 09:44:57

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks, I will forward the documents to her.

Regards
Seshni

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 08 November 2023 09:43
To: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com>
Cc: Prashika Reddy <prashika.reddy@rhdhv.com>
Subject: RE: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

Good day Seshni

Please note that Victoria Bota [REDACTED] is SANRAL's environmental specialist. We only dealing with Statutory matters, thus the 120 days.

Kind regards

From: [Seshni Govender](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Wednesday, 08 November 2023 10:04:49
Attachments: [Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant Steelpoort Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality.msg](#)
[image002.png](#)
RE Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant Steelpoort Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality.msg



Hi [REDACTED]

Hope you are well,

We have been appointed by Samancor Chrome as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner and Public Participation Consultant to conduct the environmental processes for the aforementioned project. We have been liaising with Mr Hannes van der Merwe and Ms Ria Barkhuizen, as Sanral is an interested and affected party for this EIA process, Ria has indicated that as you are the environmental specialist you will be dealing with this aspect of providing comments as she just deals with the SPLUMA process which is 120 days but that does not impact our process as we are dealing with the EIA regulations, 2014 as amended which provides stakeholders 30 days to provide comments.

The draft Environmental Scoping Report for the above mentioned project is now available for review and comment from the 07th of November 2023 – 06th of December 2023. please can your comments by the 06th December 2023 on behalf of SANRAL?

The report is available electronically on the following link:
<https://www.royalhaskoningdhv.com/en/countries/southern-africa/environmental-reports>

Regards

Seshni Govender (*Pr. Sci. Nat., EAPASA*)
Environmental Consultant

D 087 352 1592 | E seshni.govender@rhdhv.com | W www.rhdhv.co.za
Royal HaskoningDHV (Pty) Ltd trading as Royal HaskoningDHV | Reg No. 1966/001916/07
Building No. 5 Country Club Estate, 21 Woodlands Drive, Woodmead, 2191
PO Box 867, Gallo Manor, 2052, Gauteng, South Africa

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From: [Seshni Govender](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Prashika Reddy](#)
Subject: RE: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Tuesday, 07 November 2023 10:05:00

Hi [REDACTED]

Please note that this is not a SPLUMA Process but an EIA process as stipulated as per the EIA regulations, 2014 (as amended), Section 21 -22 of the EIA regulations prescribes the timeframes in which a scoping report needs to be submitted to the Competent Authority which in the case of this application is the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. Further to this Section 40 of the EIA regulations states that all interested and Affected Parties are to be given 30 days in which to provide comments which has been granted from the 07 November 2023 – 06 December 2023.

If we are to wait for the 90 days as per SPLUMA which does not have a bearing on this application as it is a EIA Application, we will be outside of the EIA legislated timeframes and will put our process in jeopardy and may cause the application to lapse.

Please can you provide the comments within the specified 30 day Public Participation Period from the 07 November 2023 – 06 December 2023.

Regards

Seshni

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 06 November 2023 15:22
To: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com>
Subject: RE: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

Good day

This email is an acknowledgement of receipt for your enquiry.

Please note that in line with requirements of Section 29 of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (Act No 16 of 2013) read with Section 3 of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (Act No 3 of 2000) SANRAL have 30 days to acknowledge receipt of your application and 90 days to evaluate and provide response.

Should you not receive any response within 120 days, kindly follow up on the enquiry by responding to [REDACTED] will be dealing with it and will convert back to you. He can be contacted on [REDACTED]

Tx and Regards

[REDACTED]

From: Seshni Govender
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Reminder: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Friday, 08 December 2023 15:43:33
Attachments: image002.png

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for your comments and it is acknowledged that the project is rated as Low risk.

Regards
Seshni

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 08 December 2023 15:23
To: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Reminder: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

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Dear Seshni

Kindly see the attached SARAO response letter to the 40 MW PV Plant located in the Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality.

Regards,

On Tue, Nov 28, 2023 at 8:06 AM Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com> wrote:

Dear Stakeholder

This serves as a reminder to send through any comments that you may have for the above mentioned project, comments are due on or before the 07th of November 2023.

The report is available electronically on the following link:
<https://www.royalhaskoningdhv.com/en/countries/southern-africa/environmental-reports>

Hard Copies of the report can be found at the following locations:

- Mapodile Public Library;
- Burgersfoort Public Library; and
- Tubatse Ferrochrome Smelter Office.

In accordance with the Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, your contact details will only be used to record any comments that have been provided as part of the process as well as to provide updates on the progress of the project, identifying information will only be shared with the Competent Authority to provide proof for the Public Participation process as required according to Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

Regards
Seshni Govender (*Pr. Sci. Nat., EAPASA*)
Environmental Consultant
D 087 352 1592 | E seshni.govender@rhdhv.com | W www.rhdhv.co.za

From: Seshni Govender
Sent: Thursday, 02 November 2023 15:08
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

ROYAL HASKONINGDHV (PTY) LTD
21 Woodlands Drive
Building 5
Country Club Estate
Woodmead
Johannesburg
2191

Email: seshni.govender@rhdhv.com

Date: 07 December 2023

Dear Directors

**RE: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT
ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE
FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY**

SARAO has completed a preliminary risk assessment for the above-mentioned solar energy facility and its possible impact on the Square Kilometre Array radio telescope.

The Proposed 40MW PV Solar Power Plant lies outside of the Northern Cape Province and in particular outside of the declared Astronomy Advantage Areas. At this point the relevant regulations promulgated in terms of the Astronomy Geographic Advantage Act would not apply and the facility is considered to be low risk to the SKA telescope.

Thank you for your correspondence, our office remains open to discuss any matter relating to the above.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

The South African Radio Astronomy Observatory has been identified as potentially being impacted by the above mentioned project, please find attached latest correspondence regarding the project.

The draft Environmental Scoping Report for the above mentioned project is now available for review and comment from the 07th of November 2023 – 06th of December 2023.

The report is available electronically on the following link:

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Regards

Seshni Govender (Pr. Sci. Nat., EAPASA)
Environmental Consultant

D 087 352 1592 | E seshni.govender@rhdhv.com | W www.rhdhv.co.za
Royal HaskoningDHV (Pty) Ltd trading as Royal HaskoningDHV | Reg No. 1966/001916/07
Building No. 5 Country Club Estate, 21 Woodlands Drive, Woodmead, 2191
PO Box 867, Gallo Manor, 2052, Gauteng, South Africa

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From: [Seshni Govender](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: comments in respect of proposed photovoltaic plant
Date: Thursday, 07 December 2023 08:47:26
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Mr Maboshego

Waste management will be handled through the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) to be developed during the EIA phase of the project which will include measures on the handling, storing and disposal of waste considering both the construction and operational phases of the development. The draft EMPr will be made available to the Department for comments during the review and commenting period for the Draft EIA Report expected in February 2024.

Regards
Seshni

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 10 November 2023 10:33
To: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: comments in respect of proposed photovoltaic plant

You don't often get email from maboshego@sekukhune.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

This message was sent from an e-mail domain unknown to Royal HaskoningDHV. Please be cautious.

Good morning seshni

Attached kindly the comments from SDM:MHS for your attention.

regards

[REDACTED]
*ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT INSPECTOR
(ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE)*



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Seshni Govender
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Reminder: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Thursday, 07 December 2023 08:46:28
Attachments: [image007.png](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

Please see response provided by the applicant below:

Samancor takes note and will take into consideration the requirements and comply where applicable. The IPP will be responsible for the submission of the SANS 10400 Section A 9 Fire Plans, as well as the appointment of a competent person responsible for the design (based on the risk assessment).

Regards
Seshni

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 29 November 2023 08:31
To: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Reminder: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

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This message was sent from an **e-mail domain unknown to Royal HaskoningDHV**. Please be cautious.

Good day sir

Please note that the SANS 10400 Section A 9 fire plans will be required as well as a design by a competent person in fire should their be a need for it due to the risk assessment conducted. The risk assessment and design for the proposed in terms of fire and the impact thereof when involved in a fire and prevention strategy for the 40 MW PV plant and proposed design in terms of fire must also be applied for and submitted to Sekhukhune District Municipality Emergency Management services.

Also note that Sekhukhune Town planning division, health section will also comment and I have copied them into the communique. As mentioned the local building control will guide you on their requirements.

During our previous communique I did send it to my colleagues.

Please feel free to contact this department for any clarity or questions.

Kind regards

From: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 November 2023 09:18
Cc: Prashika Reddy <prashika.reddy@rhdhv.com>
Subject: Reminder: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

Dear Stakeholder

This serves as a reminder to send through any additional comments that you may have for the above mentioned project, comments are due on or before the 06th of December 2023.

The report is available electronically on the following link:

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Regards

Seshni Govender (Pr. Sci. Nat., EAPASA)

Environmental Consultant

D 087 352 1592 | E seshni.govender@rhdhv.com | W www.rhdhv.co.za

From: Seshni Govender

Sent: Thursday, 02 November 2023 16:22

Cc: Prashika Reddy <prashika.reddy@rhdhv.com>

Subject: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



Dear Stakeholder

Please find attached latest correspondence regarding the project.

The draft Environmental Scoping Report for the above mentioned project is now available for review and comment from the 07th of November 2023 – 06th of December 2023.

The report is available electronically on the following link:

<https://www.royalhaskoningdhv.com/en/countries/southern-africa/environmental-reports>

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Regards

Seshni Govender (Pr. Sci. Nat., EAPASA)

Environmental Consultant

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From: Seshni Govender
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Thursday, 07 December 2023 08:46:06
Attachments: 20231206 - Solar PV Plant.pdf
image002.png

Hi [REDACTED]

Please see below response provided by the Applicant:

As mentioned by Southern Sphere Platinum, an indemnity commitment aligned with the above was provided for the initial PV plant. For clarity on this matter, the indemnity commitment covers the areas already approved for the 60MW project (Ref 14/12/16/3/3/2/2079). The current EIA (40MW) does not include any areas adjacent to the proposed mining activities of Southern Sphere Platinum and the areas covered in the said indemnity commitment that is already in place are at all times located between the current EIA sites and the proposed mining areas.

See attached picture(s):

"20231206 - Solar PV Plant.pdf" showing the areas for which indemnity commitment was reached, as well as the location of the proposed Southern Sphere mining activities, previously indemnity commitment areas, and the new areas applicable to the 40MW project.

Regards
Seshni

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 09 November 2023 10:38
To: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

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Dear Seshni

Thank you for the scoping notification and the opportunity to provide input into the EIA process. In order for Southern Sphere not to object to a 40MW PV plant located adjacent to its mining activities, we would require a commitment from TFC Solar (Pty) Ltd, covering;

1. Recognize that our mining activities (including blasting) will at times be contiguous to the Solar PV Plant and that Southern Sphere and their directors, employees and/or duly appointed contractors "representatives" may be unable to ensure that those activities will not negatively impact the Solar PV Plant and/or its associated infrastructure.
2. Recognize that the Southern Sphere support is on condition that, TFC Solar (Pty) Ltd (i) confirms it is aware of the proposed prospecting and mining activities to be undertaken by Southern Sphere and the close proximity of those activities to the planned site for the Solar PV Plant; (ii) undertakes to support the prospecting and mining activities of Southern Sphere regardless of the proximity of those activities to the proposed plant, and (iii) provides indemnity to Southern Sphere in respect of all and any damages or losses that TFC Solar (Pty) Ltd may suffer as a result of the permitted mining and or prospecting activities.

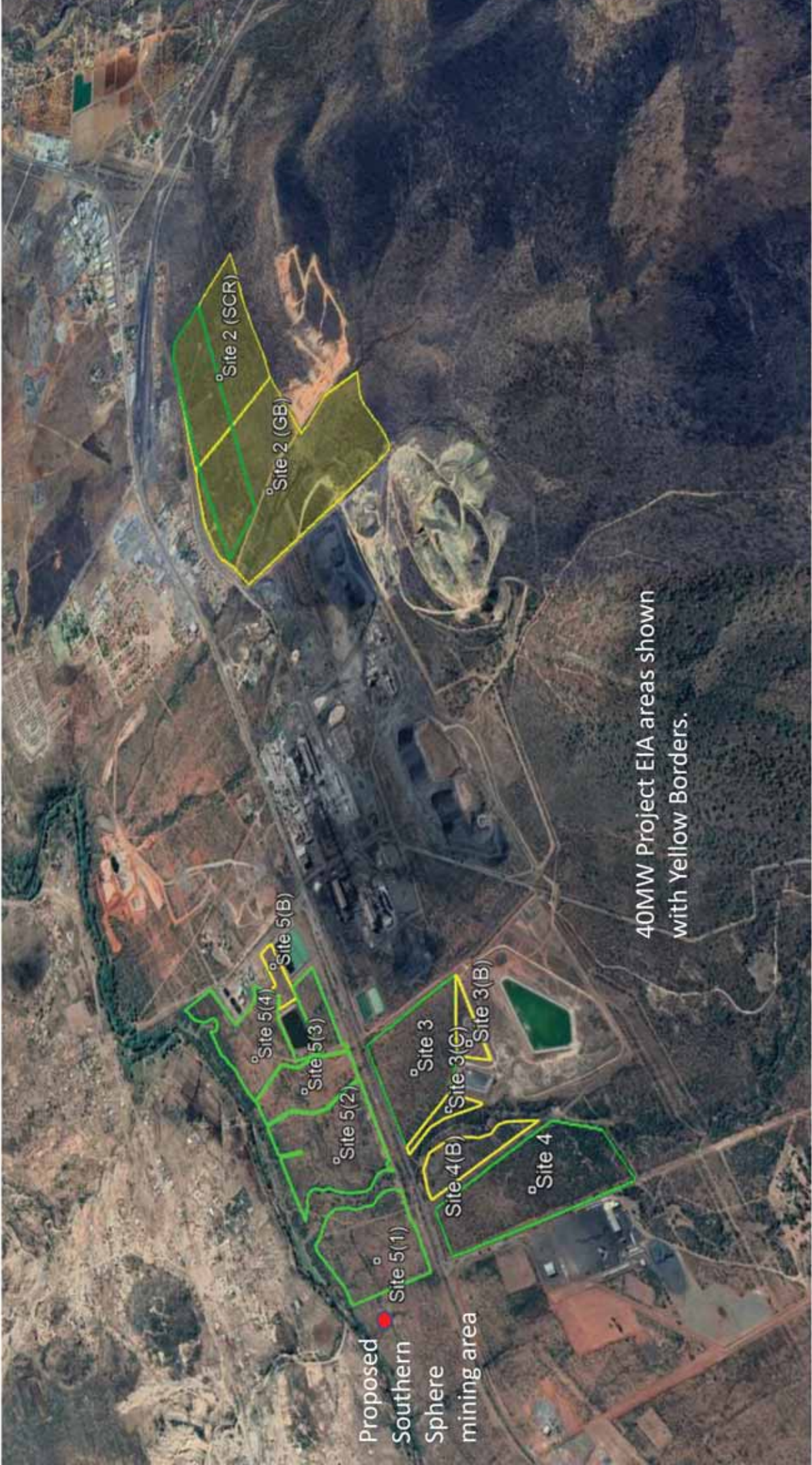
An indemnity commitment aligned with the above was provided for the initial PV plant.

I would like to request that TFC Solar (Pty) Ltd legal representative contacts our legal representative [REDACTED] - cc'ed in on this email) to draw up and sign an applicable indemnity agreement.

I reserve the right to submit additional comments into the EIA process.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

From: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com>



Proposed
Southern
Sphere
mining area

Site 5(1)

Site 5(2)

Site 5(3)

Site 5(4)

Site 5(B)

Site 4(B)

Site 3

Site 3(C)

Site 3(B)

Site 4

Site 2 (GB)

Site 2 (SCR)

40MW Project EIA areas shown
with Yellow Borders.

Solar PV Plant

Site 2

RE 1 Goudmyn 337KT

Ptn 10 Goudmyn 337KT

Ptn 6 Goudmyn 337KT

Re of Goudmyn 337KT

Site 5

Site 3

Site 4

Proposed Southern
Sphere mining area

Indemnity commitment reached
for Solar PV areas (Site 2, 3, 4 & 5)
as part of the 60MW project.



Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 3:25 PM

Cc:

Subject: Availability of the ESR for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



H

Please find attached latest correspondence regarding the project.

The draft Environmental Scoping Report for the above mentioned project is now available for review and comment from the 07th of November 2023 – 06th of December 2023.

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Regards

Seshni Govender (*Pr. Sci. Nat., EAPASA*)
Environmental Consultant

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From: Seshni Govender
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 13 May 2024 10:38:15
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hello Mr Boschoff

Samancor takes note and will take into consideration the requirements and comply where applicable.

1. The Independent Power Producer (IPP) will be responsible the design, construction and operations of the Solar PV facility for the duration of the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). The IPP will be responsible for the risk assessment and rational design by a by a SANS 101400-A19 registered competent person.
2. This further includes the submission of the SANS 10400-A9 fire plan by the IPP, including installation layouts emergency evacuation plans as per SDMEMS by-laws and the National building regulation and Standards Act. Safe house keeping and placement in line with the National veld and forest act is also the responsibility of the IPP.
3. Local Municipality protocols to be followed by the IPP as well that of Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality and the Department of Minerals and Energy and all other relevant acts and standards are to be adhered to in relation to fire safety requirements

Regards
Seshni

From: Seshni Govender

Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 12:20 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your comments, we will provide a response in due course.

Regards
Seshni

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 12:11 PM

To: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

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Good day

I have forwarded the report to all my colleague within the local and district offices for comments.

As for fire the following must please be noted in terms of fire.

1. A risk assessment and rational design based on the risk assessment by a SANS 101400-A19 registered competent person in terms of fire and dangerous goods eg PV system and its batteries storage and response when involved in a fire or other emergencies. Safe house keeping and placement in line with the National veld and forest act. I have copied our FPO into the communique for his input should the location and placement require fire breaks etc depending on

the location thereof.

2. All the buildings and any associated risks to be addressed as mentioned in the report through the submission of SANS 10400-A9 fire plan. Installation layouts Emergency Evacuation plans etc as per our SDMEMS by laws and the National building regulation and standards act.
3. All Local Municipality protocols to be followed as well that of Fetakgomo Tubatse local Municipality and the Department of Minerals and energy and all other act and standards to be followed as these are mostly in relation to fire requirements.

Should you have any further enquires please feel free to contact this department.

Kind regards

[Redacted signature block]



From: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:24 AM

Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



Dear Stakeholder

Please find attached the latest correspondence regarding the project.

The draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report is available for review, review and comment from the 27th of March 2024 – 30th of April 2024.

The report is available electronically on the following link:

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Regards

Seshni Govender (*Pr. Sci. Nat., EAPASA*)
Environmental Consultant

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From: [Seshni Govender](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 13 May 2024 10:46:30
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

A conditional approval was received from the SACAA for the obstacle study conducted by ATNS for the up to 100MW project. Samancor is currently in consultation with the ATNS regarding the approval and will adhere to any additional requirements that they may have.

The proposed project is to be constructed approximately 7.72km from Winterveldt Mine Airport (FAWT), therefore a glint and glare study is not required.

Regards
Seshni

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 12:53 PM
To: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

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.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 11:22 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



[REDACTED] and corruption: 0800 204 911 | sacaa@thehotline.co.za | SMS 30916

From: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 9:13 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

"This message was sent from outside of SACAA. Please use caution when opening links and/ or attachments"

From: Seshni Govender
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:23 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

Dear Stakeholder

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Regards

Seshni Govender (*Pr. Sci. Nat., EAPASA*)
Environmental Consultant

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From: [Seshni Govender](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Thursday, 25 April 2024 14:37:27
Attachments: [SKM_28723031710200.pdf](#)

H [REDACTED]

Please find attached as requested.

Regards
Seshni

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 2:33 PM
To: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com>
Subject: RE: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

Good day Seshni

Please provide SANRAL with a copy of the approval mentioned in your email below.

Regards
[REDACTED]

From: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 2:17 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Prashika Reddy <prashika.reddy@rhdhv.com>
Subject: RE: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

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Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for your comment just to note, there will be no new access points off the R555, existing access will be used. A wayleave permission was granted on 17 February 2023 for the installation of overhead powerline across the R555. Please find attached the Locality Map and the respective co-ordinates for the project.

Regards
Seshni

Locality Map

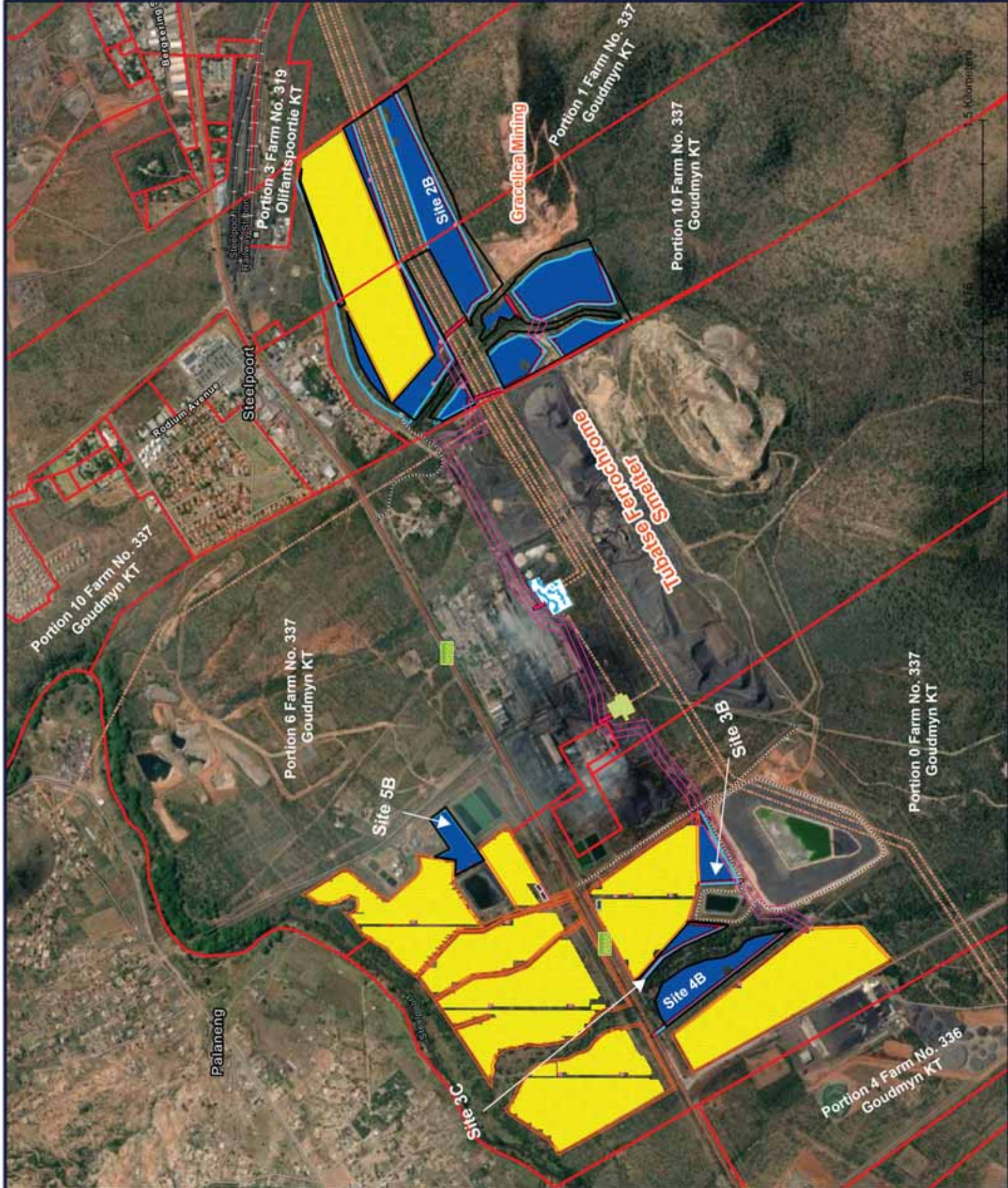
Legend

- Phase 1 Arrays
- Phase 2 Arrays
- Proposed Phase 2 Powerlines
- Existing Eskom Powerlines
- Storage Yard
- Warehouse
- Underground Cables
- Existing Access Road
- Cadastral Boundary
- West Plant Substation
- East Plant Substation
- Switching Stations
- Phase 2 Project Boundaries
- Phase 1 Project Boundaries
- Internal Access Road
- Box transformers



Source:
ESRI
Samancor Chrome
SIGMA

Scale: 1:15 000



Project Co-ordinates

Table 1: Site co-ordinates

Site Corner points	Latitude (S)			Longitude (E)		
Site 2B						
1	24°	44'	4.66"	30°	12'	34.26"
2	24°	43'	59.68"	30°	12'	51.72"
3	24°	43'	59.97"	30°	12'	53.39"
4	24°	43'	59.80"	30°	12'	51.74"
5	24°	44'	5.44"	30°	12'	34.65"
6	24°	44'	6.14"	30°	12'	32.90"
7	24°	44'	7.74"	30°	12'	25.72"
8	24°	44'	9.17"	30°	12'	23.05"
9	24°	44'	11.16"	30°	12'	20.70"
10	24°	44'	11.70"	30°	12'	20.29"
11	24°	44'	11.91"	30°	12'	20.21"
12	24°	44'	11.91"	30°	12'	20.18"
13	24°	44'	14.73"	30°	12'	17.86"
14	24°	44'	17.53"	30°	12'	21.60"
15	24°	44'	17.94"	30°	12'	22.54"
16	24°	44'	18.54"	30°	12'	23.76"
17	24°	44'	19.29"	30°	12'	24.74"
18	24°	44'	20.10"	30°	12'	25.87"
19	24°	44'	13.56"	30°	12'	39.79"
20	24°	44'	16.57"	30°	12'	41.55"
21	24°	44'	21.77"	30°	12'	31.00"
22	24°	44'	22.07"	30°	12'	30.99"
23	24°	44'	21.91"	30°	12'	31.50"
24	24°	44'	21.82"	30°	12'	31.96"
25	24°	44'	22.47"	30°	12'	33.15"
26	24°	44'	22.93"	30°	12'	33.97"
27	24°	44'	23.25"	30°	12'	34.13"
28	24°	44'	23.98"	30°	12'	34.56"
29	24°	44'	25.87"	30°	12'	36.71"
30	24°	44'	20.82"	30°	12'	45.22"
31	24°	44'	15.84"	30°	12'	56.89"
32	24°	44'	13.78"	30°	13'	4.32"
33	24°	44'	5.78"	30°	12'	58.30"
34	24°	44'	17.34"	30°	12'	26.98"
35	24°	44'	27.42"	30°	12'	37.51"
36	24°	44'	27.35"	30°	12'	37.17"

Site Corner points	Latitude (S)			Longitude (E)		
37	24°	44'	24.79"	30°	12'	34.08"
38	24°	44'	24.00"	30°	12'	33.45"
39	24°	44'	23.13"	30°	12'	32.39"
40	24°	44'	23.21"	30°	12'	31.53"
41	24°	44'	23.62"	30°	12'	30.73"
42	24°	44'	22.86"	30°	12'	29.27"
43	24°	44'	23.19"	30°	12'	28.83"
44	24°	44'	24.91"	30°	12'	30.45"
45	24°	44'	25.48"	30°	12'	32.23"
46	24°	44'	26.75"	30°	12'	31.68"
47	24°	44'	27.50"	30°	12'	32.42"
48	24°	44'	28.77"	30°	12'	31.34"
49	24°	44'	31.79"	30°	12'	31.30"
50	24°	44'	33.65"	30°	12'	32.01"
51	24°	44'	36.17"	30°	12'	33.29"
52	24°	44'	40.19"	30°	12'	32.81"
53	24°	44'	40.60"	30°	12'	32.04"
54	24°	44'	36.27"	30°	12'	32.51"
55	24°	44'	34.99"	30°	12'	32.26"
56	24°	44'	33.36"	30°	12'	31.12"
57	24°	44'	32.65"	30°	12'	30.77"
58	24°	44'	31.14"	30°	12'	30.33"
59	24°	44'	30.42"	30°	12'	30.03"
60	24°	44'	26.86"	30°	12'	30.27"
61	24°	44'	23.75"	30°	12'	27.43"
62	24°	44'	26.04"	30°	12'	22.32"
63	24°	44'	42.06"	30°	12'	31.68"
64	24°	44'	39.06"	30°	12'	37.75"
65	24°	44'	36.52"	30°	12'	42.94"
66	24°	44'	30.81"	30°	12'	40.97"
67	24°	44'	20.65"	30°	12'	24.25"
68	24°	44'	16.57"	30°	12'	18.29"
69	24°	44'	18.38"	30°	12'	17.78"
70	24°	44'	22.44"	30°	12'	20.19"
Site 3B						
71	24°	44'	50,65"S	30°	11'	13,24"
72	24°	44'	50,72"	30°	11'	23,61"
73	24°	44'	55,66"	30°	11'	13,5"
Site 3C						
74	24°	44'	42,3"S	30°	10'	59,68"

Site Corner points	Latitude (S)			Longitude (E)		
75	24°	44'	49,27"	30°	11'	8,34"
76	24°	44'	54,17"	30°	11'	7,75"
77	24°	44'	42,72"	30°	10'	58,77"
Site 4B						
78	24°	44'	46,32"	30°	10'	53,63"
79	24°	44'	44,86"	30°	10'	57,16"
80	24°	44'	57,56"	30°	11'	6,08"
81	24°	45'	2,19"	30°	11'	7,14"
Site 5B						
82	24°	44'	19,9"	30°	11'	14,82"
83	24°	44'	16,6"	30°	11'	22,44"
84	24°	44'	18,61"	30°	11'	24,14"
85	24°	44'	23,39"	30°	11'	17,0"

Table 2: Overhead powerline co-ordinates

Route	Latitude (S)			Longitude (E)		
Powerline 50m Assessment Corridor – Main						
Start point of the activity	24°	45'	5"	30°	11'	8"
Point 1 (Bend Point)	24°	45'	1"	30°	11'	10"
Point 2 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	59"	30°	11'	10"
Point 3	24°	44'	55"	30°	11'	17"
Point 4 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	52"	30°	11'	23"
Point 5 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	51"	30°	11'	23"
Point 6 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	51"	30°	11'	23"
Point 7	24°	44'	51"	30°	11'	25"
Point 8 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	51"	30°	11'	26"
Point 9 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	46"	30°	11'	32"
Point 10 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	44"	30°	11'	36"
Point 11 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	40"	30°	11'	36"
Point 12 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	39"	30°	11'	36"
Point 13 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	38"	30°	11'	40"
Point 14	24°	44'	36"	30°	11'	46"
Point 15 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	34"	30°	11'	50"
Point 16 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	32"	30°	11'	51"
Point 17 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	28"	30°	11'	55"

Route	Latitude (S)			Longitude (E)		
Point 18	24°	44'	25"	30°	12'	3"
Point 19	24°	44'	22"	30°	12'	9"
Point 20 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	19"	30°	12'	14"
Point 21 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	24"	30°	12'	16"
Point 22	24°	44'	22"	30°	12'	21"
Point 23	24°	44'	21"	30°	12'	20"
Point 24 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	22"	30°	12'	17"
Point 25 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	17"	30°	12'	15"
Point 26	24°	44'	21"	30°	12'	8"
Point 27	24°	44'	24"	30°	12'	1"
Point 28 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	27"	30°	11'	54"
Point 29 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	31"	30°	11'	49"
Point 30 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	33"	30°	11'	49"
Point 31	24°	44'	35"	30°	11'	45"
Point 32 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	37"	30°	11'	39"
Point 33 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	37"	30°	11'	35"
Point 34 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	39"	30°	11'	34"
Point 35 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	43"	30°	11'	34"
Point 36 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	45"	30°	11'	31"
Point 37 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	49"	30°	11'	25"
Point 38 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	49"	30°	11'	24"
Point 39 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	50"	30°	11'	22"
Point 40 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	51"	30°	11'	22"
Point 41	24°	44'	55"	30°	11'	14"
Point 42 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	58"	30°	11'	9"
Point 43 (Bend Point)	24°	45'	1"	30°	11'	9"
End point of the activity	24°	45'	4"	30°	11'	7"
Powerline 50m Assessment Corridor - Section A within Site 2B						
Start point of the activity	24°	44'	20"	30°	12'	22"
Point 1 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	17"	30°	12'	28"
Point 2 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	19"	30°	12'	29"
End point of the activity	24°	44'	22"	30°	12'	23"

Route	Latitude (S)			Longitude (E)		
Powerline 50m Assessment Corridor - Section B within Site 2B						
Start point of the activity	24°	44'	29"	30°	12'	30"
Point 1 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	30"	30°	12'	32"
Point 2 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	31"	30°	12'	31"
End point of the activity	24°	44'	30"	30°	12'	29"

Table 3: Internal access roads co-ordinates

Route	Latitude (S)			Longitude (E)		
Internal Access Road 1-Site 2B						
Start point of the activity	24°	44'	0"	30°	12'	51"
Point 1 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	1"	30°	12'	47"
Point 2	24°	44'	2"	30°	12'	43"
Point 3 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	2"	30°	12'	38"
Point 4 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	3"	30°	12'	38"
Point 5 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	5"	30°	12'	34"
Point 6	24°	44'	5"	30°	12'	30"
Point 7 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	6"	30°	12'	26"
Point 8 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	7"	30°	12'	24"
Point 9 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	10"	30°	12'	21"
Point 10 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	11"	30°	12'	19"
Point 11 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	13"	30°	12'	18"
Point 12 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	14"	30°	12'	17"
Point 13	24°	44'	16"	30°	12'	21"
Point 14	24°	44'	18"	30°	12'	24"
Point 15 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	20"	30°	12'	26"
Point 16	24°	44'	16"	30°	12'	33"
Point 17 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	13"	30°	12'	40"
Point 18	24°	44'	10"	30°	12'	50"
End point of the activity	24°	44'	6"	30°	12'	58"
Internal Access Road 2-Site 2B						
Start point of the activity	24°	44'	21"	30°	12'	32"
Point 1	24°	44'	19"	30°	12'	38"

Route	Latitude (S)			Longitude (E)		
Point 2 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	16"	30°	12'	42"
Point 3	24°	44'	13"	30°	12'	52"
Point 4 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	10"	30°	13'	2"
Point 5 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	12"	30°	13'	3"
Point 6	24°	44'	16"	30°	12'	54"
Point 7	24°	44'	19"	30°	12'	48"
Point 8	24°	44'	22"	30°	12'	40"
Point 9 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	24"	30°	12'	36"
Point 10 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	22"	30°	12'	34"
End point of the activity	24°	44'	22"	30°	12'	33"
Internal Access Road 3-Site 2B						
Start point of the activity	24°	44'	29"	30°	12'	32"
Point 1 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	27"	30°	12'	36"
Point 2 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	28"	30°	12'	37"
Point 3 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	29"	30°	12'	38"
Point 4 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	31"	30°	12'	40"
Point 5	24°	44'	33"	30°	12'	40"
Point 6 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	35"	30°	12'	41"
Point 7 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	37"	30°	12'	42"
Point 8	24°	44'	39"	30°	12'	38"
Point 9 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	40"	30°	12'	34"
Point 10 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	39"	30°	12'	39"
Point 11 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	35"	30°	12'	34"
Point 12	24°	44'	33"	30°	12'	33"
Point 13 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	31"	30°	12'	32"
End point of the activity	24°	44'	29"	30°	12'	32"
Internal Access Road 4-Site 2B						
Start point of the activity	24°	44'	34"	30°	12'	26"
Point 1 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	32"	30°	12'	28"
Point 2 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	32"	30°	12'	29"
Point 3 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	33"	30°	12'	30"
Point 4	24°	44'	34"	30°	12'	31"

Route	Latitude (S)			Longitude (E)		
Point 5 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	36"	30°	12'	32"
Point 6 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	38"	30°	12'	31"
Point 7 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	31"	30°	12'	31"
Point 8 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	41"	30°	12'	32"
Point 9 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	41"	30°	12'	31"
Point 10	24°	44'	39"	30°	12'	30"
Point 11	24°	44'	36"	30°	12'	28"
End point of the activity	24°	44'	34"	30°	12'	27"
Internal Access Road 5-Site 2B						
Start point of the activity	24°	44'	26"	30°	12'	22"
Point 1 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	24"	30°	12'	27"
Point 2 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	25"	30°	12'	28"
Point 3 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	28"	30°	12'	20"
Point 4 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	30"	30°	12'	29"
Point 5 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	31"	30°	12'	27"
Point 6 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	29"	30°	12'	24"
End point of the activity	24°	44'	26"	30°	12'	22"
Internal Access Road 6-Site 2B						
Start point of the activity	24°	44'	17"	30°	12'	18"
Point 1 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	19"	30°	12'	20"
Point 2 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	20"	30°	12'	21"
Point 3 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	21"	30°	12'	23"
Point 4 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	22"	30°	12'	20"
Point 5	24°	44'	20"	30°	12'	19"
End point of the activity	24°	44'	17"	30°	12'	18"
Internal Access Road-Site 3B						
Start point of the activity	24°	44'	51"	30°	11'	13"
Point 1	24°	44'	53"	30°	11'	14"
Point 2 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	55"	30°	11'	14"
Point 3	24°	44'	53"	30°	11'	19"
Point 4 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	51"	30°	11'	24"
End point of the activity	24°	44'	50"	30°	11'	24"

Route	Latitude (S)			Longitude (E)		
Internal Access Road-Site 3C						
Start point of the activity	24°	44'	43"	30°	11'	24"
Point 1 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	43"	30°	10'	59"
Point 2 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	46"	30°	11'	3"
Point 3 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	48"	30°	11'	5"
Point 4	24°	44'	51"	30°	11'	6"
Point 5 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	54"	30°	11'	8"
Point 6	24°	44'	51"	30°	11'	8"
End point of the activity	24°	44'	49"	30°	11'	8"
Internal Access Road-Site 4B						
Start point of the activity	24°	44'	45"	30°	11'	53"
Point 1	24°	44'	51"	30°	10'	58"
Point 2	24°	44'	55"	30°	11'	2"
Point 3 (Bend Point)	24°	45'	1"	30°	11'	6"
End point of the activity	24°	45'	1"	30°	11'	7"
Internal Access Road-Site 5B						
Start point of the activity	24°	44'	18"	30°	11'	7"
Point 1 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	19"	30°	11'	18"
Point 2	24°	44'	18"	30°	11'	20"
Point 3 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	17"	30°	11'	22"
Point 4 (Bend Point)	24°	44'	19"	30°	11'	24"
Point 5	24°	44'	21"	30°	11'	21"
End point of the activity	24°	44'	23"	30°	11'	18"

From: Serhii Govender
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Feedback on the draft EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelport, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 13 May 2024 12:57:49

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your comments, please see responses provided below:

A 30-day review and commenting period has been provided to all I&APs for the review of the draft EIA Report, EMPs and supporting appendices as per Section 40(b) of the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended).

Southern Sphere's indemnity requirement has been captured in Section 6.8.1 of the Final EIAR.

Your knowledge of the baseline environmental and social conditions of the area are noted however, none of the specialist studies conducted for the Southern Sphere project has been provided to the EAPs or specialist team for review.

Comment	Response
<p>Traffic impacts: Has a traffic impact assessment (TIA) been completed for the EIA? Based on a TIA we have recently undertaken there are a number of intersections already under pressured as a result of existing traffic levels. There is a potential that the traffic associated with the project may have a significant impact on the R555 and existing intersections. The potential impact and appropriate mitigation measures would be determined through completing a TIA.</p>	<p>No TIA has been conducted for the project and further to this no TIA has been identified as a specialist assessment according to the DFFE Screening Tool for the PV Project. Further to this no TIA was required for Phase 1 or Phase 2 by the Competent Authorities.</p> <p>Based on the TIA that Southern Sphere have undertaken, the nature and significance of impacts associated with a new and operational mine is assumed to be significant throughout the life cycle of the mine.</p> <p>The Solar PV plant will only have delivery of panels and structures to laydown areas applicable during the construction phase which extend over a 12 - 24 month period. Deliveries by truck will be periodical in nature.</p> <p>SANRAL is a key stakeholder on the project and have been notified of both phases of the project. During Phase 1, SANRAL were concerned about access off the R555 and preferred that existing access roads are used. No new access points off the R555 are proposed for the project. Traffic management outcomes and objectives including impact management actions are included in the PV Plant EMPr.</p>
<p>Biodiversity impacts: I took note of the following conclusions made in the specialist biodiversity assessment:</p> <p>"Portions of the proposed sites are considered diverse and sensitive, and retaining these areas for conservation purposes is highly recommended, although technical considerations for the proposed development might not allow for much mitigation in this sense. The presence of numerous and abundant conservation important plant and animal species, which provides for an elevated ecological sensitivity and importance of certain parts, are noted throughout the study areas. An existing offset plan has been prepared for Phase 1 of the project; it is strongly recommended that previous recommendations be augmented to compensate for the loss of these sensitive areas, should the authorities grant the</p>	<p>The magnitude of mining activities on the terrestrial biodiversity environment will definitely be more significant compared to a PV development. While loss of habitat is from the actual activities are largely in the same bracket, for mining you also need to consider activities such as excavation, storage heaps, water accumulation issues, haul roads, blasting and disturbance factors, rehabilitation requirements and potential success, etc. Once completed, a PV development is largely inactive and 'inert', or passive, compared to persistent and continued high level activities associated with mining.</p> <p>The existing offset strategy has not yet been amended to allow for loss of habitat from this Phase of the development, the Biodiversity Report only recommends an amendment of the strategy. Changes to the strategy will, most likely, related to an appropriate amendment in the recommended size of land, or an increase in the monetary value of the compensation, in the event that it is requested by the Competent Authority. Further to this, an Offset Plan was not required for Phase 1 of the project.</p> <p>Samancor is preparing a Biodiversity Management Plan (which will be drawn up over a two-year period using the Locate-Evaluate-Assess-Prepare [LEAP] approach as well disclosure recommendations and guidance set up by the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) as to compensate for any losses.</p>

application."

Please advise how the existing offset plan has been augmented to compensate for the loss of sensitive areas associated with this project.

Surface

Hydrology/floodlines: A significant portion of "extension 4" will be located within a flood inundation zone. Developing within the flood zone is a risk. There is a recommendation to construct a 3.5 to 4m precast wall to divert any flood water away from the extension 4 area. Has this wall been captured within the visual impact assessment? How does the change of flow path, as a result of the proposed wall impact the R555? Are the existing culverts / "bridge" adequate for the proposed change to flow path and peak flow intensity created by the storm water controls?

Southern Sphere have recently completed a detailed floodline for our project and when comparing our specialist study to your study, the following stood out:

- The Mean Annual Precipitation (MAP) used seemed low compared to what other specialist are using. Has a sensitivity analysis using other MAP being done?
- The accuracy of the Digital Terrain Model (DTM) used seems very coarse and may result in coarse estimates of the floodlines. As flooding is a real risk specifically for extension 4 would it not be better to obtain site specific data through obtaining a suitable lidar survey and then rerunning the

- The 3.5 to 4m precast wall is one of the recommendations made by the Hydrologist to protect panels should the Applicant decide to place panels in the inundation zone. An alternative recommendation is to mount the panels approximately 5m high, as the floodwaters will be approximately 4m in depth where the panels are closest to the drainage line. Then there is no obstruction or alteration of the flow regime in the drainage line and the bridge would function as intended).
The detail design will determine which of the recommendations will be implemented and the necessary water use authorisation process will be undertaken.
- The Visual Compliance Statement has taken the precast wall recommendation into consideration. Firstly, the wall would be located on the edge of the Site 4B development and in relatively close proximity to the drainage line. Accordingly, the wall would form part of the expanded solar development as viewed from public access areas, the closest of which is the R555 road to the north of Site 4. Due to its landscape position in a valley, the wall would not be a prominent feature by virtue of its position in the valley bottom, and viewers on the R555 road would view the wall within the enclosed setting of the valley through which the drainage line runs. Secondly, the height of the wall is slightly lower than the average height of the panels which is 5m. The wall will thus not exceed the height of the panels, and a viewer on the R555 road would be able to view the wall with the panels rising up the valley slopes behind it. If a strip of natural woody vegetation were to be retained in the area between the road reserve and the northern boundaries of Sites 3 and Site 4/4B, this vegetation would assist in partly screening the wall from view. If able to be viewed, it is concluded that the proposed wall would not be visually prominent and would form a component of the altered local landscape context that would result from the replacement of natural vegetation with solar panel arrays.
- The MAP used by the Hydrologist is deemed correct as GCS used the average of various rainfall stations in the area from a verified and widely used source (i.e. WRC 2012). Further to this, GCS used Design Rainfall (the upper case) for floodline modelling, therefore, the worst-case scenario is represented for the delineated floodlines. Thus, even if the MAP presented might differ from the other specialists, the Design Rainfall used is standardised and is standard industry practice to use according to the Drainage Manual from SANRAL.
- Accuracy of the DTM - Samancor commissioned drone surveys for the sites of 0.5m accuracy and this made up the base for the floodline models. This DTM is deemed sufficient for the flood risk analysis. When GCS updated the floodlines to use the higher resolution drone survey data as opposed to the ALOS 30m DTM, the floodlines did not massively change. They were still in the same order. Therefore, even finer resolution DTM data will not likely bring about vastly different results.
- Dam Safety Analysis - A Dam Break Analysis is not required for a PV Plant project and therefore has not been conducted.

<p>floodline assessment?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the impact of the Tubatse dam (located directly upstream of the project) been considered in terms of determining the floodlines and has a dam break analysis being completed to determine the risks on the project? <p>FYI, we completed a dam break analysis of the De Hoop Dam and can confirm that in the extremely unlikely event of a failure of the De Hoop Dam, Site 5 would be severely impacted by flood water.</p>	
<p>Freshwater: Based on an Aquatic specialist study we have recently completed, the proposed 20m buffer for the drainage lines and the Steelport River is inadequate to act as a suitable aquatic buffer. I would like to suggest that this Freshwater study is peer-reviewed by an appropriate specialist, and, if an alternative buffer is recommended this is presented.</p>	<p>The 20m buffer for the watercourses on Sites 3, 4, and 5 was determined through the application of the scientific buffer tool, considering the physical characteristics of the watercourses. The 20m buffer as provided by the tool mitigates against the risk of edge effects associated with development of solar panel arrays. The local environment is not characterised by significant volumes of recharge, hence the buffer tool did not need to preserve a wider buffer to mitigate against the loss of such recharge. Finally, the nature of solar panel arrays, having a lesser footprint and impact as compared to developments of much greater footprint and impact – such as mining – was taken into account by the tool.</p> <p>We would like to request a copy of the Aquatic Specialist Study undertaken by Southern Sphere to determine the context of the 68m-wide buffer (as indicated by Mr Buys at the Open Day) and the reasoning and assessment behind such a buffer in the context of the mining operations. The Competent Authority can request a peer review after reviewing the Southern Sphere Aquatic Study.</p>
<p>Land claims / Graves: Have you investigated whether there are any land claims on the properties impacted by the project? If land claims exist have the claimants being appropriately consulted? I noted that a number of graves have been identified and the appropriate procedure has been recommended to be followed should these graves be impacted.</p>	<p>A number of land claims, that were lodged by various claimants, have been published in respect of the properties described as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Remaining Extent of the farm Goudmyn 337 KT ("farm Goudmyn"); The Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the farm Goudmyn; and Portion 6 of the farm Goudmyn. <p>Samancor have given notice of the intended PV site development in its representations delivered to the land claims commissions on 21 December 2023.</p> <p>Potential burial grounds and graves have been identified and as per the recommendation from the Heritage Specialist, all burial grounds and graves should be retained and avoided with a buffer zone of 30m as per SAHRA guidelines. All recommended buffers have been incorporated into the layout and environmental sensitivity mapping.</p>
<p>Climate change physical risk assessment: I would recommend undertaking a climate change physical risk assessment to better understand the potential impacts / opportunities climate change may have on the project and how these impacts / opportunities can be appropriated considered in terms of the mitigation hierarchy.</p>	<p>A Climate Change Assessment was conducted for Phase 1 that considered the climate change impacts associated with a 100MW PV Plant. Impact management actions were included in the approved EMP. The following was also added to PV Plant EMP - Section 4.3.4 Environmental Emergency Response - <i>An Emergency Preparedness Plan must be developed and implemented for the operational phase to deal with any climate-related disaster occurrences such as a major floods or water shortage due to prevailing drought conditions. The plan must include emergency contact details, a list of emergency equipment on site and maintenance schedule, emergency operational procedures, evacuation routes and points. Operational staff have regular toolbox talks regarding emergency procedures.</i></p>

<p>General comments on the draft EIA and EMP: I noted that some of your social background information referred to the 2011 census data from StatsSA. I am aware that some 2021 census data was released in October 2023. Where appropriate the baseline information should be updated to reflect the latest available data.</p>	<p>The final EIA Report (Section 5.9) has been updated with latest data where available.</p>
<p>I personally found your environmental sensitivity maps confusing and hard to decipher. In order for the authorities to make an informed decision, clear presentation of information is key.</p>	<p>The sensitivity map has been compiled according to the requirements of Appendix 3 of GN R326 whereby (ii) a map at an appropriate scale which superimposes the proposed activity and its associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred development footprint on the approved site as contemplated in the accepted scoping report indicating any areas that should be avoided, including buffers, must be provided. Further to this, it is usually stipulated by the Competent Authority to include layout and sensitivity maps that include the following: the proposed grid infrastructure for the PV facility, overlain by the sensitivity map; all supporting on-site infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed); location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs), heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected; buffer areas; and all "no-go" areas. Therefore, the sensitivity map is presented in a format as requested by the Competent Authority to make an informed decision.</p>
<p>The document correctly recommends the stripping and stockpiling of topsoil and sub soil separately during construction. Where do you intend to place the topsoil and subsoil stockpiles as I did not pick this up on any of the plans?</p>	<p>The area for stockpiling will be determined prior to construction and placed in a suitable area with the PV field. A Method Statement as recommended in the EMP for Soil management (including topsoil, subsoils and stockpiles) must be compiled by the IPP's Contractor.</p>

Regards
Seshni

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 3:49 PM
To: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Feedback on the draft EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

This message was sent from an e-mail domain unknown to Royal HaskoningDHV. Please be cautious.

Dear Seshni

RE: Comments on the draft EIA (and associated specialist studies) for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant

Your notification concerning the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report and associated specialist studies been available for review and comment from the 27th of March 2024 – 30th of April 2024 has reference. Please find below my comments based on a high-level review of the documents. Due to the volume of information provided, it is challenging to review all documents in detail in the timeline provided and I reserve the right to submit additional feedback in future.

I appreciate you capturing Southern Sphere's indemnity requirement in the "Key issues raised by I&AP's".

Southern Sphere are in the process of undertaking several specialist studies for their project, which lies adjacent to the proposed 40MW PV Plant areas. As a result, I have a good baseline environmental and social knowledge about the area. My comments below have been raised through using my baseline knowledge and I trust they add value to the EIA process.

Traffic impacts: Has a traffic impact assessment (TIA) been completed for the EIA? Based on a TIA we have recently undertaken there are a number of intersections already under pressured as a result of existing traffic levels. There is a potential that the traffic associated with the project may have a significant impact on the R555 and existing intersections. The potential impact and appropriate mitigation measures would be determined through completing a TIA.

Biodiversity impacts: I took note of the following conclusions made in the specialist biodiversity assessment:

"Portions of the proposed sites are considered diverse and sensitive, and retaining these areas for conservation purposes is highly

recommended, although technical considerations for the proposed development might not allow for much mitigation in this sense. The presence of numerous and abundant conservation important plant and animal species, which provides for an elevated ecological sensitivity and importance of certain parts, are noted throughout the study areas. An existing offset plan has been prepared for Phase 1 of the project; it is strongly recommended that previous recommendations be augmented to compensate for the loss of these sensitive areas, should the authorities grant the application."

Please advise how the existing offset plan has been augmented to compensate for the loss of sensitive areas associated with this project.

Surface Hydrology / flood lines: A significant portion of "extension 4" will be located within a flood inundation zone. Developing within the flood zone is a risk. There is a recommendation to construct a 3.5 to 4m precast wall to divert any flood water away from the extension 4 area. Has this wall been captured within the visual impact assessment? How does the change of flow path, as a result of the proposed wall impact the R555? Are the existing culverts / "bridge" adequate for the proposed change to flow path and peak flow intensity created by the storm water controls?

Southern Sphere have recently completed a detailed flood line for our project and when comparing our specialist study to your study, the following stood out;

- The MAP used seemed low compared to what other specialist are using. Has a sensitivity analysis using other MAP being done?
- The accuracy of the DTM used seems very coarse and may result in coarse estimates of the flood lines. As flooding is a real risk specifically for extension 4 would it not be better to obtain site specific data through obtaining a suitable lidar survey and then rerunning the flood line assessment?
- Has the impact of the Tubatse dam (located directly upstream of the project) been considered in terms of determining the flood lines and has a dam break analysis being completed to determine the risks on the project?

FYI, we completed a dam break analysis of the De Hoop Dam and can confirm that in the extremely unlikely event of a failure of the De Hoop Dam, Site 5 would be severely impacted by flood water.

Freshwater: Based on an Aquatic specialist study we have recently completed, the proposed 20m buffer for the drainage lines and the Steelpoort River is inadequate to act as a suitable aquatic buffer. I would like to suggest that this Freshwater study is peer-reviewed by an appropriate specialist, and, if an alternative buffer is recommended this is presented.

Land claims / Graves: Have you investigated whether there are any land claims on the properties impacted by the project? If land claims exist have the claimants being appropriately consulted? I noted that a number of graves have been identified and the appropriate procedure has been recommended to be followed should these graves be impacted.

Climate change physical risk assessment: I would recommend undertaking a climate change physical risk assessment to better understand the potential impacts / opportunities climate change may have on the project and how these impacts / opportunities can be appropriated considered in terms of the mitigation hierarchy.

General comments on the draft EIA and EMP:

- I noted that some of your social background information referred to the 2011 census data from StatsSA. I am aware that some 2021 census data was released in October 2023. Where appropriate the baseline information should be updated to reflect the latest available data.
- I personally found your environmental sensitivity maps confusing and hard to decipher. In order for the authorities to make an informed decision, clear presentation of information is key.
- The document correctly recommends the stripping and stockpiling of topsoil and sub soil separately during construction. Where do you intend to place the topsoil and subsoil stockpiles as I did not pick this up on any of the plans?

Thank you in anticipation of capturing and considering my feedback provided.

Kind regards

██████████

From: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhy.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 5:58 AM

To: ██████████

Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

Dear Stakeholder

Please find attached the latest correspondence regarding the project.

The draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report is available for review, review and comment from the 27th of March 2024 – 30th of April 2024.

The report is available electronically on the following link:

<https://www.royalhaskoningdhv.com/en/countries/south-africa/environmental-reports>

Hard Copies of the report can be found at the following locations:

- Mapodile Public Library;
- Burgersfoort Public Library and
- Tubatse Ferrochrome Smelter Office.

In accordance with the Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, your contact details will only be used to record any comments that have been provided as part of the process as well as to provide updates on the progress of the project, identifying information will only be shared with the Competent Authority to provide proof for the Public Participation process as required according to Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

Regards

Seshni Govender (*Pr. Sci. Nat., EAPASA*)

Environmental Consultant

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From: Seshni Govender
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Reminder of the Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Tuesday, 30 April 2024 10:08:19

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you, I have captured those comments during the scoping phase and noted that there are no additional comments.

Regards
Seshni

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 8:21 AM
To: Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Reminder of the Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

Dear Seshni

Thank you for your email.

The SARAO previously issued a response letter for the 40MW Solar facility in the Tubatse Local Municipality.

Kindly see the attached letter for your reference.

Regards,

On Mon, Apr 29, 2024 at 4:11 PM Seshni Govender <seshni.govender@rhdhv.com> wrote:

Dear Stakeholder

This serves as a reminder to send your comments for the above mentioned project, if you haven't done so as yet, the closing date for comments to be submitted is tomorrow, **Tuesday, 30th April 2024**

The report is available electronically on the following link:
<https://www.royalhaskoningdhv.com/en/countries/south-africa/environmental-reports>


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Regards
Seshni Govender (Pr. Sci. Nat., EAPASA)
Environmental Consultant

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From: Seshni Govender

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 7:42 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Prashika Reddy <prashika.reddy@rhdhv.com>

Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



Dear Stakeholder

Please find attached the latest correspondence regarding the project.

The draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report is available for review, review and comment from the 27th of March 2024 – 30th of April 2024.

The report is available electronically on the following link:

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Regards

Seshni Govender (Pr. Sci. Nat., EAPASA)
Environmental Consultant

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From: [Seshni Govender](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE
Date: Monday, 13 May 2024 12:43:24
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for your comments, please see below responses provided:

Comments	Response
<p>Development within the highly sensitive areas, especially southern sections of Site 2B, is not supported. The project layout plan must set aside this area as a no-go area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The project layout plan cannot exclude the southern sections of Site 2B. The motivation is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The sensitivity, as indicated in the Terrestrial Biodiversity Report is acknowledged. The presence of several protected species, and the pristine nature of the vegetation contributes to the high sensitivity ascribed to these parts, and the sensitivity is not contested. However, the DFFE Biodiversity Directorate categorised these areas as 'No Go', which would generally relate to the area being fatally flawed. It is the Biodiversity Specialist's interpretation that fatally flawed areas generally comprise of, either large expanses of pristine habitat that has a threatened (Endangered, Critically Endangered, etc.) conservation status, or with the known presence of threatened plant and animal species. ○ While these areas do provide habitat for the Mountain Reedbuck, their presence is considered opportunistic, particularly in view of existing mining, smelting impacts from the immediate surrounds. The ecological habitat is currently categorised as Least Concern. The presence of several protected plant species within the site is furthermore considered typical of the larger environment and limited losses, on a regional scale, is anticipated. Ultimately, the results of the assessment indicated that habitat from the site is considered ubiquitous to the wider region and does not constitute critical habitat that is restricted on a local or regional scale. ○ From the accepted mitigation hierarchy, an overall Biodiversity Management Plan (which is to be drawn up over a two year period for Samancor properties in the Steelpoort area using the Locate-Evaluate-Assess-Prepare [LEAP] approach, is recommended, to compensate for any biodiversity losses. It should also be noted that the area that will ultimately be affected is also comparatively small. ○ The assessment of cumulative impacts indicated a moderate significance. Specifically, the presence of surface mining activities (Gracelica) and the Tubatse Smelter and logistics

	<p>area immediately adjacent to the proposed site, within habitat that is considered similar to the proposed site in terms of attributes and sensitivity, is mentioned as an important consideration our assessment. A similar consideration should therefore be applied to the proposed PV activity by the Competent Authority.</p>
<p>The 'no-go' areas of the development property must be clearly demarcated and excluded from the final layout plan. No construction camps, temporary or permanent laydown areas or any activities associated with the development are to be located within the important conservation areas.</p>	<p>The 'no-go' areas have been indicated in the sensitivity maps for the project sites which are considered development exclusion zones. These include amongst others – episodic drainage lines (EDLs), heritage buffers, Eskom existing powerline servitudes, Wahlberg Eagle nest.</p>
<p>Disturbed areas must be rehabilitated as soon as possible after construction with locally indigenous plants to enhance the conservation of existing natural vegetation on site.</p>	<p>Rehabilitation of disturbed area has been included in Section 9 of the PV Plant EMPr (Appendix G).</p>
<p>A Search and Rescue Plan to remove and relocate protected species identified within the study area must be developed by a professional and qualified ecologist.</p>	<p>It is stipulated in the EMPr (Section 6.4) that – Prior to the stripping and clearing of the terrestrial habitat within the development footprint/corridor, a search and rescue of indigenous vegetation must be undertaken and relocated to suitable habitat out of the development footprint/corridor. A Plant Rescue and Protection Report must be compiled and must be made available to the LEDET on request.</p>
<p>Wetlands, rivers and river riparian areas must be treated as 'no-go' areas and appropriately demarcated as such.</p>	<p>The 'no-go' areas have been indicated in the sensitivity maps for the project sites which are considered development exclusion zones. These include amongst others – episodic drainage lines (EDLs), heritage buffers, Eskom existing powerline servitudes, Wahlberg Eagle nest.</p>
<p>Permit from relevant authorities must be obtained prior commencement of any construction activities for the disturbance and removal of any national or provincially protected species.</p>	<p>All applications for licences in respect of protected trees must be obtained from the DFFE. Permits for the removal of protected plant species must be obtained from the LEDET.</p>
<p>Alien Invasive Plant Species Management and Rehabilitation Plans must be developed and submitted as part of the final report to mitigate habitat degradation due to erosion and alien plant invasion.</p>	<p>An Alien Invasive Plant (AIP) Management Plan has been included in the Terrestrial Biodiversity Report (Section 41.2), this plan has been extracted and attached as Annexure C of the PV Plant EMPr. The Post-construction and Rehabilitation Plan is included in Section 9 of the PV Plant EMPr.</p>

Regards
Seshni

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 2:24 PM

To: Seshni Govender <sesbni.govender@rhdhv.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

This message was sent from an e-mail domain unknown to Royal HaskoningDHV. Please be cautious.

Good day Seshni

Kindly find the attached comments for the aforementioned project.

Regards 

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: +27 86 625 1042

Reference: 12/11/9/2-GS88

Enquiries
Telephone

Seshni Govender
Royal HaskoningDHV
PO Box 867
GALLO MANOR
2191

Telephone Number: +27 87 352 1592
Email Address: Seshni.govender@rhdhv.com

PER E-MAIL

Dear Seshni.

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the reports.

According to the information provided in the report, most of the proposed development footprints is situated in the Sekhukhune Plains Bushveld and is encountered on the plains and flat areas around Steelpoort, noticeably with a modified and deteriorated appearance because of anthropogenic disturbances and high utilisation factors. The Limpopo Bioregional Conservation Plan (2018) categorised much of the remaining portions of natural habitat as ESA1, which is generally considered an accurate and acceptable assessment. Land use within the larger region is decidedly rural, characterised by commercial agriculture and extensive livestock farming.

Considering the above, it is recommended that the final assessment report must implement the following recommendations:

- Development within highly sensitive areas, especially southern sections of Site 2B, is not supported. The project layout plan must be set aside this area as a no-go area.
- The 'no-go' areas of the development property must be clearly demarcated and excluded from the final layout plan. No construction camps, temporary or permanent laydown areas or any activities associated with the development are to be located within the important conservation areas.
- Disturbed areas must be rehabilitated as soon as possible after construction with locally indigenous plants to enhance the conservation of existing natural vegetation on site.



Batho pele- putting people first.

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

- A Search and Rescue Plan to remove and relocate protected species identified within the study area must be developed by a professional and qualified ecologist.
- Wetlands, rivers and rivers riparian areas must be treated as "no-go" areas and appropriately demarcated as such.
- Permit from relevant authorities must be obtained prior commencement of any construction activities for the disturbance or removal of any nationally or provincially protected species.
- Alien Invasive Plant Species Management and Rehabilitation Plans must be developed and submitted as part of the final report to mitigate habitat degradation due to erosion and alien plant invasion.

The Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries should be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email; BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za for the attention of Mr. Seoka Lekota.

Yours faithfully



Batho pele- putting people first.

From: Seshni Govender
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Prashika Reddy
Subject: Response to Comments provided from SAHRA for Case: 2230
Date: Monday, 13 May 2024 13:03:12



Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your comments, please see below responses to comments raised:

Comments	Response
<p>The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final EIAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Application Unit (DAU) has no objections to the proposed development; b. 38(4)b – The recommendations provided by the heritage specialists are supported and must be adhered to. These further additional comments apply; c. The Chance Finds Procedures in section 6.2 and the management plans in table 9 of the HIA must be implemented; d. A Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the EMPr; e. A 30m no-go buffer zone around sites TFC002-1 – TFC002-8 must be implemented to avoid potential infant burials; f. The sites Site 2-1, Site 2-2, Site 2-4, TFC001, TFC004, and TFC005 must be fenced with a 30m buffer zone; g. A social consultation process in terms of in terms of Chapter XI of the NHRA 2000 Regulations must be undertaken, to identify the descendent families of the burials at the aforementioned site and permission must be obtained from them to fence the burial grounds; h. If long term conservation of sites Site 2-1, Site 2-2, Site 2-4, TFC001, TFC004, and TFC005 is not possible then, a section 36 of the NHRA permit application in terms of Chapter XI of the NHRA 2000 Regulations must be applied for by a suitably qualified archaeologist for the relocation of the graves; i. 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA DAU (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule; j. 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA DAU (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule; k. 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. SAHRA's no objection to the project is noted. b. The recommendations provided by the heritage specialists are included in the final EIAR and EMPr. c. The Chance Finds Procedures in section 6.2 and the management plans in table 9 of the HIA have been integrated into the EMPr. d. The Fossil Chance Find Protocol has been added to the Annexure D of the PV Plant EMPr. e. A 30m no-go buffer zone has been demarcated around sites TFC002-1 – TFC002-8. f. The sites Site 2-1, Site 2-2, Site 2-4, TFC001, TFC004, and TFC005 have been demarcated with a 30m buffer zone and will be no-go areas and fenced and investigated further. g. A social consultation process in terms of in terms of Chapter XI of the NHRA Regulations (2000) must be undertaken, only if the structures are confirmed to be graves as for now only indicated as potential graves, to identify the descendent families of the burials at the aforementioned sites. Thus far no next-of kin, have claimed any of the potential or actual graves during the EIA process. The overall site will be fenced off as this is private property owned by Samancor and Goldbroz in order to protect the equipment and the people. h. If it is found that there are burials present the remains must be relocated after completion of a detailed grave relocation process, that includes a thorough stakeholder engagement component, adhering to the requirements of Section 36 of the NHRA and its regulations as well as the National Health Act and its regulations. i. This mitigation measure has been included in the EMPr. j. This mitigation measure has been included in the EMPr. k. Section 51(1) of the NHRA relating to offences and penalties is noted. l. This mitigation measure has been included in the

- l. 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists: If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
- m. The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.


EMPr.
m. The Environmental Authorisation will be uploaded onto SAHRIS as soon as it is received.

Regards

Seshni Govender (*Pr. Sci. Nat., EAPASA*)
Environmental Consultant

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**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) AND WATER USE
AUTHORISATION PROCESS FOR A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS
SITES 2B, 3B,3C,4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE
FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY**



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Date: Monday, 6 May, 2024

Case ID: 22230

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Seshni Govender
Royal HaskoningDHV
Building No. 5 Country Club Estate,
21 Woodlands Drive,
Woodmead,
2191

TFC Solar (Pty) Ltd has appointed Royal Haskoning DHV (Pty) Ltd, to undertake a Basic Assessment application process in support for an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) as amended, for activities that trigger the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 2014 Regulations, as amended for the construction of a 40MW Solar PV energy facility, on Portion 0, 1, 6 and 10 of the farm Goudmyn No.337 KT, on sites across sites 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B and 5B within the area of the Tubatse Ferrochrome Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality, Limpopo Province.

The Solar PV facility will be 59.43 ha in extent consisting of internal roads, cabling between solar PV stands, a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), onsite substation and transformer yard at each PV site, admin area, and various 33kV power lines that will evacuate the electricity from the onsite substation to either the Tubatse East and/or West Substation.

The Final EIA report, along with the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report by PGS Heritage, and the Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) report by Banzai Environmental (Pty) Ltd have been submitted to the SAHRA for commenting in terms of section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA.

Tasker, D. and Fourie, W. February 2024. HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO.

The author undertook a field assessment of the proposed additional areas for the solar energy facility and identified 12 heritage sites. These consist of three potential burial grounds with approximately five graves



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(TFC001), two graves (TFC004) and 3 graves (TFC005), one locality with recent historic structures (TFC002-1 – TFC002-8) and one low-significance archaeological site (TFC003). A previous study (Fourie 2001) identified 3 sites as well, consisting of Site 2-1 is a gravesite with Site 2-2, being a potential gravesite and Site 2-4 is another low significance archaeological site. PV area site 3B and 5B will have a low impact and PV area site 2B, 3C and 4B due to the presence of burial grounds and graves, historical structures and archaeological sites. The author recommends the following:

The author recommends the following:

- The Chance Finds Procedures in section 6.2 and the management plans in table 9 of the HIA must be implemented;
- 30m no-go bufferzone around Site 2-1, Site 2-2, Site 2-4, TFC001, TFC004, and TFC005;
- If this is not possible to implement this no-go buffer then, it is recommended that the structures at TFC001, TFC004, TFC005 and site 2- 2 be investigated though test excavation to determine if there are graves;
- Sites TFC002-1 – TFC002-8 must be conserved in situ because there maybe a possibility of infant burials;
- Further investigation through test excavations is recommended to determine if there are any infant burials;
- An archaeologist must be appointed to monitor ground clearance activities, especially around sites TFC003 and Site2-4 through the implementing of an archaeological watching brief.

Butler, E. October 2023. PALAEOLOGICAL DESKTOP ASSESSMENT FOR THE 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO.

The proposed site lies on mostly on Quaternary Aged alluvium, colluvium, eluvium and gravel, and to the south by rocks of the Magaliesberg Formation, Pretoria Goup, Transvaal Supergroup. The potential impact to fossil heritage resources is low after the implementation of mitigation measures. The author recommends the following:

- A Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the EMPr.
- No further palaeontological impact assessment is required unless fossils are found by the contractor, environmental officer or other designated responsible person once excavations or drilling for

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) AND WATER USE
AUTHORISATION PROCESS FOR A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS
SITES 2B, 3B,3C,4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE
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Date: Monday, 6 May, 2024

Case ID: 22230

foundations and infrastructure have commenced.

- The ECO for this project must be informed that the Magaliesberg Formation has a High Palaeontological Sensitivity.
- Preceding any collection of fossil material, the specialist would need to apply for a collection permit from SAHRA.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final EIAR:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Application Unit (DAU) has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations provided by the heritage specialists are supported and must be adhered to. These further additional comments apply:
 - The Chance Finds Procedures in section 6.2 and the management plans in table 9 of the HIA must be implemented;
 - A Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the EMPr;
 - A 30m no-go bufferzone around sites TFC002-1 – TFC002-8 must be implemented to avoid potential infant burials;
 - The sites Site 2-1, Site 2-2, Site 2-4, TFC001, TFC004, and TFC005 must be fenced with a 30m buffer zone;
 - A social consultation process in terms of in terms of Chapter XI of the NHRA 2000 Regulations must be undertaken, to identify the descendent families of the burials at the aforementioned site and permission must be obtained from them to fence the burial grounds;
 - If long term conservation of sites Site 2-1, Site 2-2, Site 2-4, TFC001, TFC004, and TFC005 is not possible then, a section 36 of the NHRA permit application in terms of Chapter XI of the NHRA 2000 Regulations must be applied for by a suitably qualified archaeologist for the relocation of the graves;
- 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA DAU (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) AND WATER USE
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Date: Monday, 6 May, 2024

Case ID: 22230

- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA DAU (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
 - The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) AND WATER USE
AUTHORISATION PROCESS FOR A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS
SITES 2B, 3B,3C,4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE
FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL
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[REDACTED]
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Date: Monday, 6 May, 2024

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Case ID: 22230

[REDACTED]
Manager: Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.org.za/node/348512>

Project related



Appendix F: Public Open Day

From: [Seshni Govender](#)
Bcc:



Subject: Reminder: Public Open day for the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 08 April 2024 13:20:57

Dear Stakeholder

As per the Notification sent on the 25th March 2024, this serves as a reminder for the Public Open day for the aforementioned project, details as contained in the notification are provided below:

Date: 09 April 2024

Time: 14:00-17:00

Venue: Tubatse Chrome Club, Tubatse Residence, R555, Steelpoort, 1133

Regards

Seshni Govender (*Pr. Sci. Nat., EAPASA*)
Environmental Consultant

D 087 352 1592 | E seshni.govender@rhdhv.com | W www.rhdhv.co.za
Royal HaskoningDHV (Pty) Ltd trading as Royal HaskoningDHV | Reg No. 1966/001916/07
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From: Seshni Govender

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:08 AM

Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



Dear Stakeholder

Please find attached the latest correspondence regarding the project.

The draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report is available for review, review and comment from the 27th of March 2024 – 30th of April 2024.

The report is available electronically on the following link:

<https://www.royalhaskoningdhv.com/en/countries/south-africa/environmental-reports>

Hard Copies of the report can be found at the following locations:

- Mapodile Public Library;
- Burgersfoort Public Library and
- Tubatse Ferrochrome Smelter Office.

In accordance with the Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, your contact details will only be used to record any comments that have been provided as part of the process as well as to provide updates on the progress of the project, identifying information will only be shared with the Competent Authority to provide proof for the Public Participation process as required according to Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

Regards

Seshni Govender (*Pr. Sci. Nat., EAPASA*)
Environmental Consultant

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From: [Seshni Govender](#)
Cc: [Prashika Reddy](#)
Bcc:



Subject: Public Open day Presentation and Minutes for the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
Date: Thursday, 25 April 2024 15:02:14
Attachments: MD6154-RHD-XX-XX-PP-X-0001-TFC Solar 40MW PV Plant Public Open Day Presentation_F01.pdf
MD6154-RHD-XX-XX-MI-X-0001-Public Open Day Minutes_F01.pdf

Dear Stakeholder

Please find attached the Presentation and the minutes for the Public Open Day held on the 09 April 2024.

Just a reminder that the comments on the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report is due by the 30th of April 2024, please can you send your comment if you haven't done so as yet.

The report is available electronically on the following link:
<https://www.royalhaskoningdhv.com/en/countries/south-africa/environmental-reports>

Hard Copies of the report can be found at the following locations:

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Regards
Seshni Govender (*Pr. Sci. Nat., EAPASA*)
Environmental Consultant

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From: Seshni Govender

Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 1:21 PM

Subject: Reminder: Public Open day for the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

Dear Stakeholder

As per the Notification sent on the 25th March 2024, this serves as a reminder for the Public Open day for the aforementioned project, details as contained in the notification are provided below:

Date: 09 April 2024

Time: 14:00-17:00

Venue: Tubatse Chrome Club, Tubatse Residence, R555, Steelpoort, 1133

Regards

Seshni Govender (Pr. Sci. Nat., EAPASA)
Environmental Consultant

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From: Seshni Govender

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:08 AM

Subject: Availability of the EIA for the 40MW PV Plant across various sites associated with the Samancor Chrome TFC Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality



Dear Stakeholder

Please find attached the latest correspondence regarding the project.

The draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report is available for review, review and comment from the 27th of March 2024 – 30th of April 2024.

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Regards

Seshni Govender (Pr. Sci. Nat., EAPASA)
Environmental Consultant

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Minutes

Royal HaskoningDHV (Pty) Ltd
Southern Africa

Present: [REDACTED] (Samancor Chrome), Seshni Govender (SG) (Royal HaskoningDHV), Prashika Reddy (PR) (Royal HaskoningDHV) and [REDACTED] (Southern Sphere Platinum)

Apologies: N/A

From: Seshni Govender

Date: 09 April 2024

Location: Tubatse Chrome Club, Tubatse Residence, Steelpoort, 1133

Copy: N/A

Our reference: MD6154-RHD-XX-XX-MI-X-0001

Classification: Project related

Enclosures: Presentation

Subject: Open Day Minutes for the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Development of a 40MW PV Plant across Sites 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B and 5B associated with the Tubatse Ferrochrome Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

Number	Discussion	Response
1	<p>A brief introduction of the project was provided to Southern Sphere:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe load shedding patterns, rising electricity tariffs has a negative impact and sustainability of the production and revenue of Samancor Chrome's business. In 2021, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), TFC Solar (Pty), proposed the development of a Solar PV facility of up to 100 Megawatt (MW) generation capacity over five (5) sites: 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. These five (5) sites were subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and an Environmental Authorisation (EA) was granted on 25 April 2022 from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) (DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2079). Site 1 is no longer considered for the Solar PV development. A total of 60MW output can be achieved from the previously authorised Sites 2 – 5 (Phase 1). Additionally, TFC Solar, proposes the development of a 40MW Solar PV facility to be developed on Site 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B and 5B (Phase 2), which is subject to the new EIA process. All previously authorised Sites 2, 3, 4 and 5 as well as new Sites 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B and 5B would achieve a total of 100MW. 	
2	<p>[REDACTED] indicated that Southern Sphere is in the process of applying for a mining right to operate a Platinum Mine on neighbouring properties (Grootboom Rem 336KT) to the TFC Solar PV Plant project and is leasing the land from Samancor Chrome.</p> <p>[REDACTED] enquired if there had been any land claims on the properties and what is the status?</p>	<p>[REDACTED] indicated that he is aware of land claims on Goudmyn 337KT, will consult with the applicable Samancor Department for clarity.</p>

Number	Discussion	Response
3	<p>█ - How has the heritage features been dealt with especially grave and has a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) been conducted?</p>	<p>█ indicated that a HIA has been conducted for Phase 1 (authorised 60MW PV Plant) and Phase 2 (40MW PV Plant). Heritage features have been identified and have been indicated in the sensitivity map for the respective sites and no-go buffers have been incorporated in the layout. Where potential graves have been suspected or highlighted by the community in Phase 1, an excavation permit has been issued by SAHRA and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey has been undertaken and no graves were found.</p>
4	<p>█ - Has there been any objections from the <i>Kgosi</i> and the Royal Family to the project and the status of the relationship between Samancor and the <i>Kgosi</i>?</p>	<p>█ stated that no objections have been received, the relationship between the <i>Kgosi</i> and Tubatse Ferrochrome is managed through the Transformation Office and no issue/s has been noted.</p>
5	<p>█ - Has a Dam Break Study been conducted due to the proximity of the Steelpoort River.</p>	<p>█ indicates that no Dam Break Study has been conducted as it is not relevant to this type of application but a Hydrological Assessment has been conducted that has indicated the respective floodlines as well as a Conceptual Stormwater Management Plan. A General Authorisation (GA) is also in place for Phase 1 and the consultants are busy with the Phase 2 Water Use Authorisation.</p>
6	<p>█ - Has the biodiversity permits for species of conservation concern (SCC) been received from the respective authorities.</p>	<p>The biodiversity permits from the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) for protected plants and from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) for protected trees has been received for Phase 1.</p>
		<p>For Phase 2 (this EIA application), a site walkthrough by the biodiversity specialist will be conducted once the Environmental Authorisation has been received in order to identify the respective SCCs. Thereafter the relevant permit applications will be submitted to the respective competent authorities.</p>
7	<p>█ - How was the 20m buffer around the freshwater features determined and why was the 32m as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) not used.</p>	<p>█ stated that the Freshwater specialist applied a scientific buffer guideline tool to the freshwater systems which was used to determine a more accurate buffer that would still protect the freshwater systems but also</p>

Number	Discussion	Response
8	<p>█ - Was a Biodiversity Offset compiled for the project and what was the recommendation from the authority.</p>	<p>maximise the area for the development of arrays.</p> <p>The 32m as stated in the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) is what is described as a Zone of Regulation whereby any activity occurring within this 32m will need to obtain environmental authorisation before the activity can commence. The 20m buffer as prescribed by the Freshwater Specialist is a development exclusion zone.</p> <p>█ responded that an offset strategy was developed for Phase 1. In the permit conditions, the DFFE recommended a 1:3 offset ratio and that they will provide the beneficiaries and the areas where trees will be planted.</p>
9	<p>█ indicated that Southern Sphere Mine has no objection to the proposed project and will submit an official response.</p>	<p>The team thanked █ █ for his participation and indicated that the review period ends on 30 April 2024 and any and all comments, questions and queries should be forwarded to the EAP timeously.</p>

Environmental Impact Assessment for the Development of a 40MW Photovoltaic
Plant across Sites 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B and 5B associated with the Tubatse
Ferrochrome Plant, Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality

LEDET Reference: 12/1/1/9/2-GS88

9 April 2024

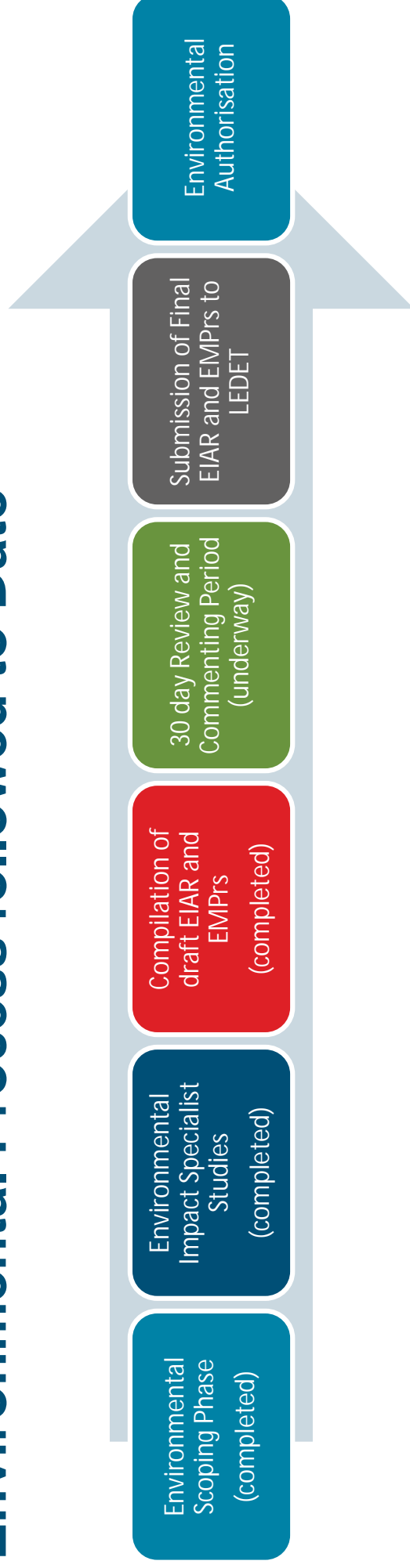
Agenda

- Purpose of the Meeting
- Environmental Process followed to Date
- Project Background and Location
- Project Details
- Specialist Findings and Assessment
- Project Sensitivity
- Environmental Impact Statement
- Key Recommendations
- Public Participation Process
- Way Forward

Purpose of the Meeting

- Project introduction
- Outline the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & Public Participation Process (PPP)
- Present the findings of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)
- Provide an opportunity for stakeholders to seek clarity and provide input into the project
- To record comments raised and include in the Final EIAR
- Interaction with the project team

Environmental Process followed to Date



- Competent Authority - Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET)
- EIA process undertaken in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended)
- Public Review Period – **27 March - 30 April 2024**
- Submission of the Final EIAR and Environmental Management Programmes (EMPrs) to LEDET – **May 2024**
- Application for a Water Use Licence from the Department of Water and Sanitation – **May/June 2024**

DEVELOPMENT OF A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY | 9 April 2024

Project Background

- Severe load shedding patterns, rising electricity tariffs has a negative impact and sustainability of the production and revenue of Samancor Chrome's business.
- In 2021, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), TFC Solar (Pty), proposed the development of a Solar PV facility of up to 100 Megawatt (MW) generation capacity over five (5) sites: 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. These five (5) sites were subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and an Environmental Authorisation (EA) was granted on 25 April 2022 from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) (DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/2/2079). Site 1 is no longer considered for the Solar PV development.
- A total of 60MW output can be achieved from the previously authorised Sites 2 – 5 (Phase 1).
- Additionally, TFC Solar, proposes the development of a 40MW Solar PV facility to be developed on Site 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B and 5B (Phase 2), which is subject to the new EIA process.
- All previously authorised Sites 2, 3, 4 and 5 as well as new Sites 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B and 5B would achieve a total of 100MW.

DEVELOPMENT OF A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY | 9 April 2024

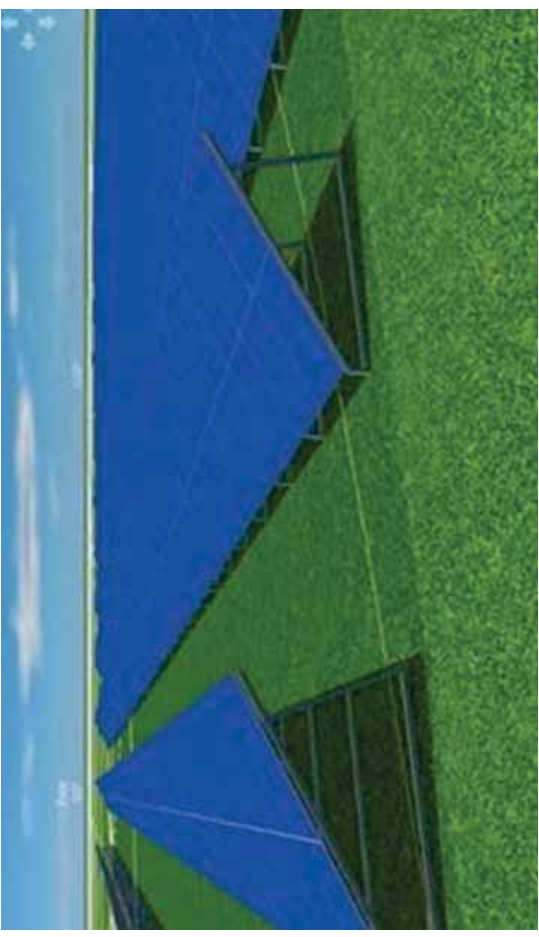
Project Details

- The PV plant will consist of the following infrastructure:
 - Solar PV panels that will be able to deliver the required 40MW output to the Samancor grid;
 - Inverters that convert direct current (DC) generated by the PV modules into alternating current (AC) to be exported to the Samancor electrical grid;
 - Transformer/s that raises the system AC low voltage to medium voltage. The transformer converts the voltage of the electricity generated by the PV panels to the correct voltage for delivery to the TFC Plant;
 - Transformer substation; and
 - Instrumentation and Control consisting of hardware and software for remote plant monitoring and operation of the facility.
- Associated infrastructure includes:
 - Mounting structures for the solar panels in a fixed tilt or rotating tracking configuration;
 - Cabling between the structures, to be laid underground where practical;
 - 33kV overhead powerlines between the various sites and the Tubatse East and -West substation buildings;
 - Two switching stations at Site 2B and 3B as well as transformer yard at each PV site;
 - Containerised switching station connecting to Tubatse East and West MV substations;
 - Water provision infrastructure (i.e. pipeline/s, storage tank/s, etc.) for PV panel cleaning; and
 - Internal access roads (typically 6m) roads will be constructed, but existing roads will be used as far as possible, fencing (approximately 3m in height), gates and access control.

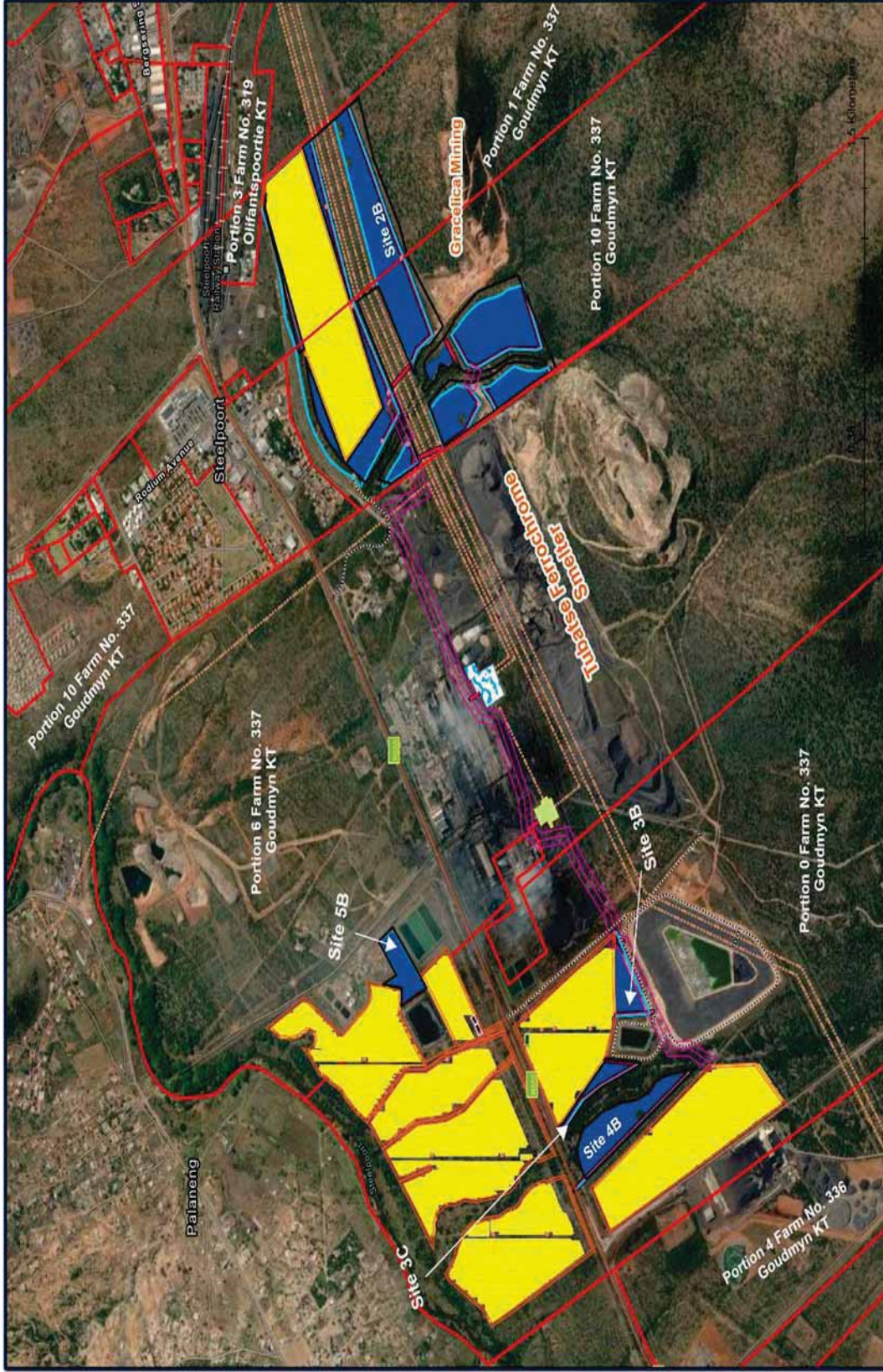
Project Details: Shared Infrastructure

- On-site Substations: The solar fields will connect to the Tubatse East- and West Substations by means of power corridors to evacuate the AC power. On-site substation upgrades have been approved in the previous EIA study (DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2079).
- Construction Camps/Laydown Areas: Only one construction camp and laydown area will be used for the project. The proposed size of laydown areas is defined as follows: 6000m² for west region and 5000m² for the east region. The construction camp is ~2000m² and has been approved in the previous EIA study (DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2079).
- Water provision: Water will be obtained from the TFC process and no raw water sources will be required. During construction, it is estimated that 2 x 15000ℓ water tankers will be used for dust suppression and other construction activities. During operations, it is estimated that the proposed PV plant will require approximately 1200m³ per cleaning cycle (based on best practice)
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): No additional BESS will be required for this phase of the project. As per Phase 1, a Lithium-ion technology will be used for the BESS. The BESS will have an on-board inverter system and will connect directly to the 33kV switchboard of the connector substation.

Solar Field Visualisation



DEVELOPMENT OF A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY | 9 April 2024



DEVELOPMENT OF A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY | 9 April 2024

Specialist Assessments

Specialist Study	Organisation
Hydrology	GCS Water and Environmental Consultants
Freshwater	Scientific Aquatic Services
Agriculture	SoilZA
Biodiversity	Bathusi Environmental Consultants
Avifauna	Scientific Aquatic Services
Heritage and Palaeontology	PGS Heritage & Banzai Environmental
Visual	Scientific Aquatic Services

Key Findings of the Specialist Assessments

- **Agriculture:**
 - The proposed development will not result in the loss of any viable, productive agricultural land, the overall negative agricultural impact of the development (loss of future agricultural production potential) is assessed as being of low significance and as acceptable.
- **Hydrology:**
 - The 1:100 year and 1:50 year floodlines produced suggest that some infrastructure at the site is situated inside probable zones of inundation.
 - Due to space constraints within the sites and the number of panels needed to generate the desired 100MW, some panel arrays will have to be placed within the inundation zones as well as some internal roads on the perimeter of the panel arrays are also located within these zones.
 - A conceptual stormwater management plan for the sites have been developed as a means to mitigate impacts relating to stormwater and flooding. The mitigation measures will not hinder the flow of flood waters within the drainage line, but merely divert it around the site, allowing the drainage system to function as it normally would and ensuring flood waters are allowed to flow to the downstream Steelpoort River system.



12 DEVELOPMENT OF A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY | 9 April 2024



DEVELOPMENT OF A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY | 9 April 2024



14 DEVELOPMENT OF A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY | 9 April 2024

Key Findings of the Specialist Assessments

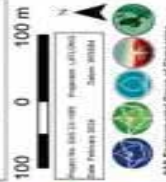
- **Freshwater:**
 - The identification of freshwater ecosystems indicated that eight (8) non-perennial drainage lines are located in the investigation area, as well as two small portions of the riparian zone of the Steelpoort River.
 - The Site 2B development areas are located in close proximity to two drainage lines, but no part of the physical development footprint extends into the delineated extent of the drainage lines or an associated 20m development exclusion buffer.
 - All activities associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed PV facility pose a “Low” risk significance to the freshwater ecosystems within the study and investigation areas. To a large degree the assessment of low risk is due to the exclusion of the drainage line reaches and a 20m development exclusion buffer around their delineated extents from the development footprint.
 - Two powerline crossings are proposed, but it is likely that with careful planning the freshwater drainage lines can be fully spanned.

DEVELOPMENT OF A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY | 9 April 2024

SAMANCOR TUBATSE PHASE 2 SOLAR PROJECT- 20m BUFFER - SITES 3B/C &4C



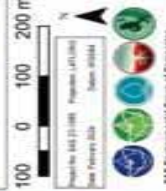
- Study Area - Development Site Name**
- Site 3B
 - Site 3C
 - Site 4B
- Investigation Area**
- Proposed Phase 2 Solar PV Arrays
 - Proposed Power Line Corridor and Centreline
 - Existing Access Roads
- Freshwater Ecosystems**
- Episodic Drainage Line
 - Freshwater 20m
 - Development Exclusion Buffer
 - Phase 1 (previously authorised) Sites



SAMANCOR TUBATSE PHASE 2 SOLAR PROJECT- 20M BUFFER - SITE 2 EXTENSION



- Study Area - Development Site Name**
- Site 2 extension
- Investigation Area**
- Proposed Phase 2 Solar PV Arrays
 - Proposed Power Line Corridor and Centreline
 - Phase 1 (previously authorised) Sites
- Freshwater Ecosystems**
- Episodic Drainage Line
 - Freshwater 20m
 - Development Exclusion Buffer
 - Site 2 Existing Access Road



DEVELOPMENT OF A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY | 9 April 2024

Key Findings of the Specialist Assessments

- **Biodiversity:**
 - Most of the project sites are situated in proximity to, or are surrounded by, industrial infrastructure or areas where human activities are relatively of high frequency, remaining portions of natural habitat conforms to short, open and deteriorated woodland habitat or habitat that are fragmented.
 - Extensive parts of the proposed sites comprise of deteriorated types that are characterised by unspecialised and generalist taxa and communities that are also well represented in the wider region.
 - Natural habitat will be lost through unavoidable land clearance, and the application of a recommended mitigation approach will allow for some moderation of anticipated impacts.
 - Despite the loss of minor portions of highly sensitive habitat associated with southern sections of Site 2B, no specific objections to the project are raised in its current configuration provided that the suggested mitigation protocol is timeous and comprehensively implemented during all phases of the project.

Key Findings of the Specialist Assessments

■ Avifauna:

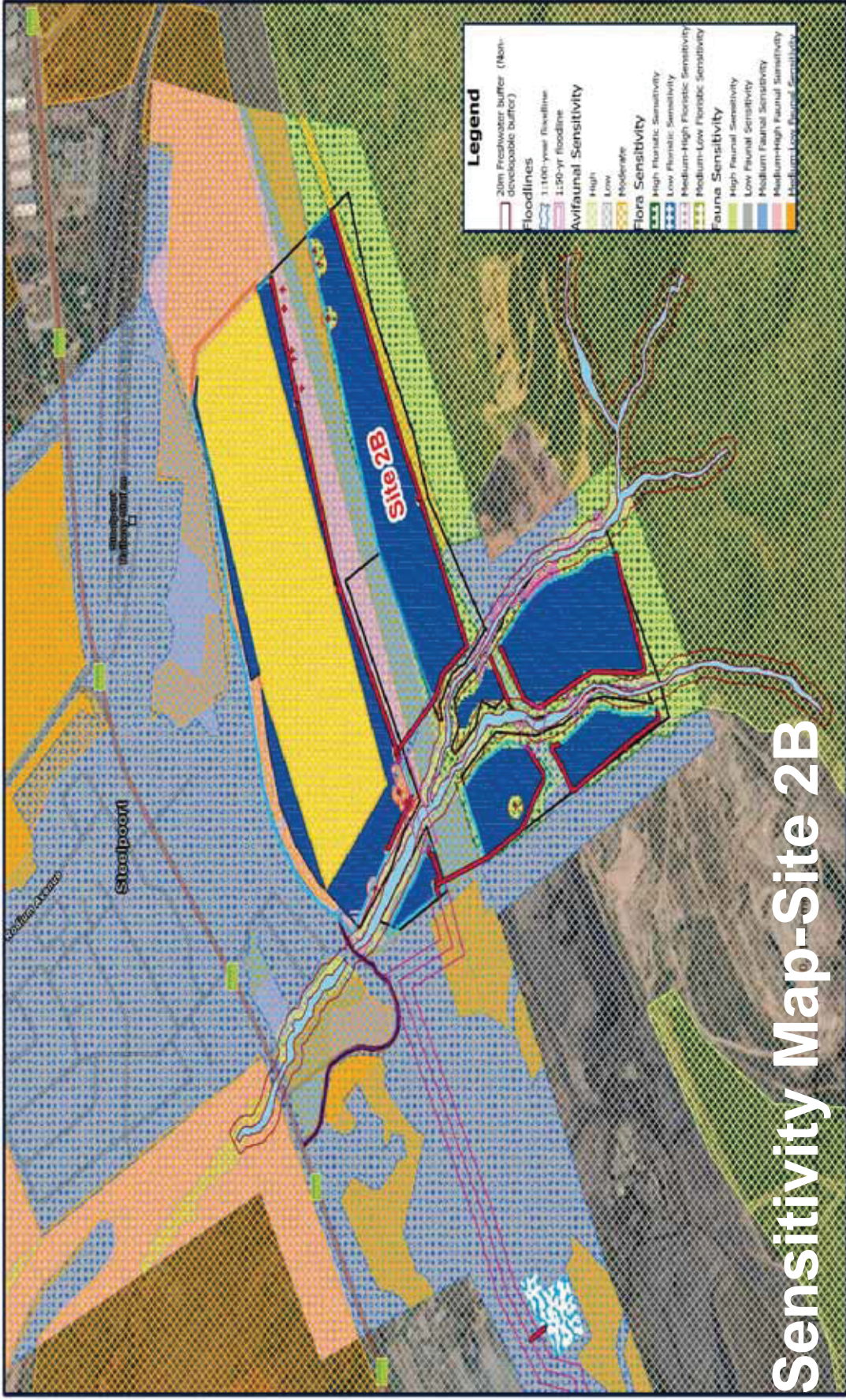
- A number of priority species were identified in the study area.
- The Wahlberg's Eagle (*Hieraaetus wahlbergi*) although not classified as a species of conservation concern has been confirmed within the study area with a nest site close to the previously authorised Site 4 (located south of Site 4B).
- On its own the Phase 2 development would impact relatively small land parcels and areas of residual natural habitat. Taking into consideration the Phase 1 development, the Phase 2 development constitutes a cumulative impact resulting in further transformation of areas of residual natural habitat that should have been kept free of development based on the Phase 1 Avifaunal assessment. Despite this cumulative impact, the riparian corridors of drainage lines in the vicinity of the Phase 2 development sites and a 20m development exclusion buffer have been left as non-developable areas to mitigate this impact.
- Further impacts that may result from the proposed project are as a result of potential collisions with the solar arrays and overhead powerlines.
- It is essential mitigation measures and recommendations presented in the EMPs should be adhered to where practical so as to ensure the ecology within the proposed construction areas as well as surrounding zone of influence is protected or adequately rehabilitated in order to minimise the deviations from the Present Ecological State as much as possible.

Key Findings of the Specialist Assessments

- **Heritage and Palaeontology:**
- Heritage features and resources were identified, consisting of:
 - Three potential burial grounds with approximately five graves;
 - Five Graves;
 - One locality with recent and historic structures; and
 - One archaeological site.
- Three sites previously identified in the Phase 1 assessment comprising of burial grounds, gravesites and an archaeological site.
- The Palaeontological Sensitivity of the proposed development area is rated as low for superficial deposits, however, the small portion of Site 2B's southern section is within the Magaliesberg Formation of the Pretoria Group (Transvaal Supergroup) which has a high palaeontological sensitivity.

Key Findings of the Specialist Assessments

- **Visual:**
 - Visual impacts are only experienced when there are receptors present to experience the impact.
 - The study area situated in an anthropogenically altered visual landscape the visual receptors in the receiving environment are accustomed to such a landscape. The proposed solar development is expected to have a minimal visual impact on the receiving environment.
- **Social:**
 - Construction activities and impacts that pose a danger to proximate residents (Mohlakwana, Matholeng, Stocking, Steelpoort Town) through increased road traffic, dust and potential noise.
 - The influx of Contractors and staff may result in the proliferation of social ills and issues such as crime, prostitution, alcohol consumption, abuse and the spread of HIV/ AIDs.
 - The potential job creation at the construction phase of the project will be a positive for the local and regional economy as unemployment in the country is increasing.



EIA for the Establishment of a Solar Based Electricity Facility for Samuncor at the Tubatse Plant

Site 2B

Environmental Sensitivity Map

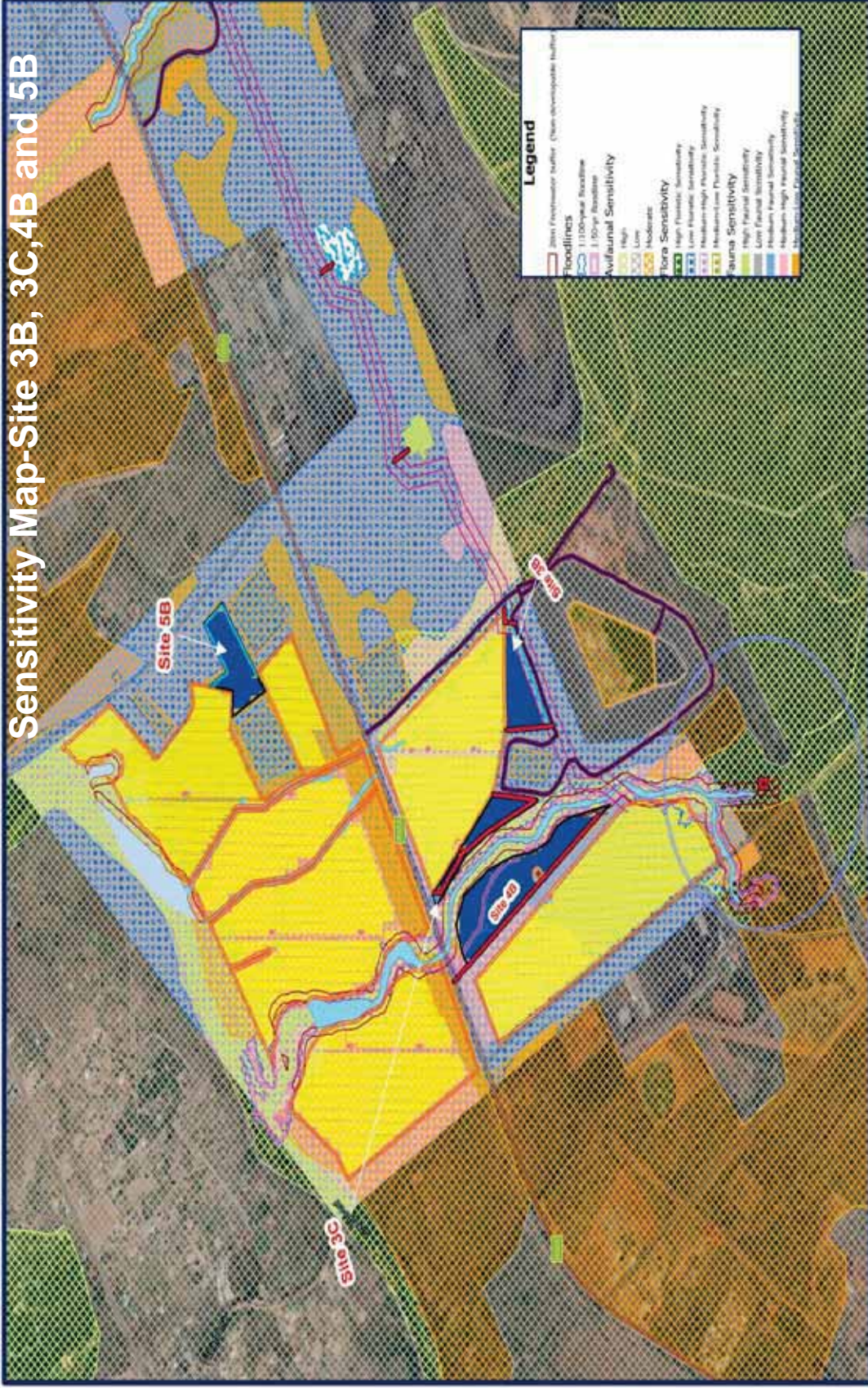
Sensitivity Map-Site 2B

DEVELOPMENT OF A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY | 9 April 2024

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Sensitivity Map-Site 3B, 3C,4B and 5B



EIA for the Establishment of a Solar Based Electricity Facility for Samancor (Site extensions) at the Tubatse Plant

Site 3B, 3C, 4B and 5B Environmental Sensitivity Map

- Legend**
- Wahlbergs Eagle nest
 - Wahlbergs Eagle Nest - 350m buffer
 - Heritage Features
 - Heritage Buffer
 - Underground Cables
 - Phase 2 Arrays
 - Phase 1 Arrays
 - Existing Access Road
 - Proposed Phase 2 Powerlines
 - Phase 2 Project Boundaries
 - Phase 1 Project Boundaries
 - East Plant Substation
 - West Plant Substation
 - Box transformers
- Delineation Watercourses**
- Episodic Drainage Line
 - River

Source: ESRI, Samancor Chrome, SAS, BEC, GCS, PGS

Scale: 1:10 500



Royal HaskoningDHV

DEVELOPMENT OF A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY | 9 April 2024

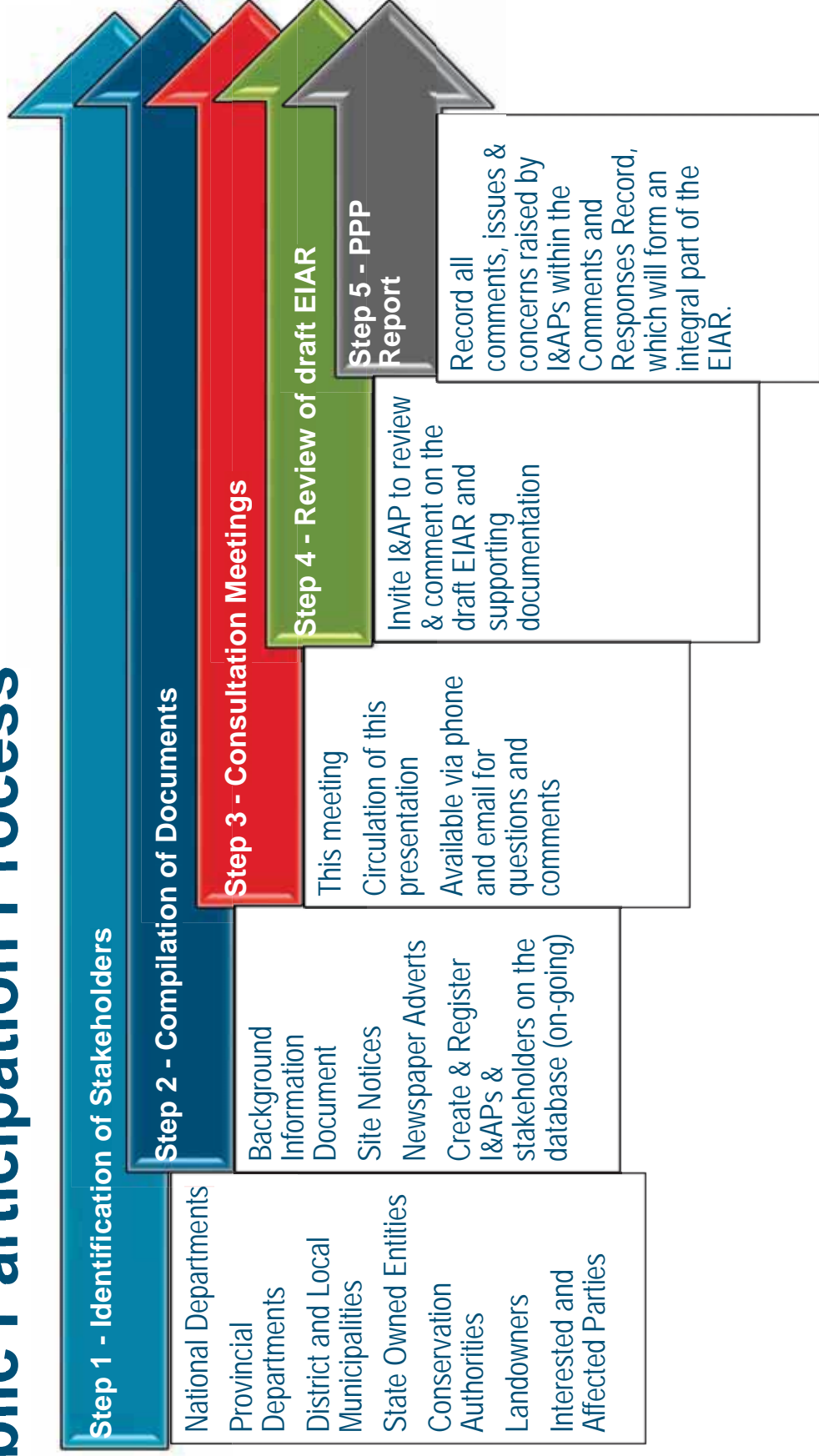
Environmental Impact Statement

- The project, in the EAPs opinion, does not pose a detrimental impact on the receiving environment and its inhabitants and although there are potentially high to moderate significant impacts, these impacts can be mitigated. There are no fatal flaws prohibiting the project from going ahead.
- Cumulative Impact Statement:
 - There is one project within a 30km radius, which is the linked Phase 1 project for the TFC Solar (Pty) Ltd proposed development of a Solar PV facility of up to 100-Megawatt (MW) generation capacity over five (5) sites. Four projects have been located outside the 30km radius, the closest project is the Proposed construction of 10MW solar farm to be established on Portion 121 Mapochsgronde JS in Rossenekal within Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, Greater Sekhukhune District, which is ~65km away.
 - From a cumulative impact assessment perspective, the project is considered acceptable provided that the recommended mitigation approach is timeously and comprehensively implemented and adhered to during all stages of the development.

Key Recommendations

- The Developer must appoint a suitably experienced (independent) Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase.
- All other necessary permits, licences and approvals must be obtained prior to the commencement of construction.
- Prior to site clearance, a detailed 'walkthrough' must be conducted of the proposed site to ascertain the number, abundance and physical conditions of all protected tree species to assist with permit applications (DFFE).
- Prior to site clearance, a detailed 'walkthrough' must be conducted of the proposed site to ascertain the number, abundance and physical conditions of all protected plants to assist with permit applications (LEDET).
- Maintenance of the integrity of the 350m Wahlberg's Eagle nest buffer throughout the lifespan of the proposed development and must be seen as a no-go area for development.
- A 20m development exclusion area (buffer) around all freshwater ecosystems where no development should occur is recommended.

Public Participation Process



DEVELOPMENT OF A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY | 9 April 2024

Way Forward

- Provide comments on the draft EIAR and EMPs.
- The report is available electronically on the following link:
 - <https://www.royalhasconingdhv.com/en/countries/south-africa/environmental-reports>
 - Hard copies of the report can be found at the following locations:
 - Mapodile Public Library, Ga-Mapodile-A, 1133
 - Burgersfort Public Library, Corner of Kort & Eddie Sedibe Street, Burgersfort, 1150
 - Tubatse Ferrochrome Smelter Office, Tubatse Ferrochrome, Main Road (R555), Steelpoort, 1133
- Comments to be included and addressed in the Comments and Response Record.
- Comments to be incorporated into the Final EIAR and EMPs, where applicable.
- Submit Final EIAR and supporting documentation to LEDET for decision-making.
- Submission of Final EIAR and supporting documentation: May 2024.
- Application of Water Use Licence: May/June 2024
- Environmental Authorisation (EA) expected after a 107-day review period from LEDET.
- EA notification to be sent to all registered I&APs.

Contact Details

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DEVELOPMENT OF A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B,
3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT,
STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY | 9 April 2024

THANK YOU

DEVELOPMENT OF A 40MW PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ACROSS SITES 2B, 3B, 3C, 4B AND 5B ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUBATSE FERROCHROME PLANT, STEELPOORT, FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY | 9 April 2024



Regional Office Locations

Royal HaskoningDHV is an independent consultancy which integrates 140 years of engineering expertise with digital technologies and software solutions. As consulting engineers, we care deeply about our people, our clients and society at large. Through our mission Enhancing Society Together, we take responsibility for having a positive impact on the world. We constantly challenge ourselves and others to develop sustainable solutions to local and global issues related to the built environment and the industry.

Change is happening. And it's happening fast – from climate and digital transformation to customer demands and hybrid working. The speed and extent of these changes create complex challenges which cannot be addressed in isolation. New perspectives are needed to accommodate the broader societal and technological picture and meet the needs of our ever-changing world.

Backed by the expertise of over 6,000 colleagues working from offices in more than 20 countries across the world, we are helping organisations to turn these challenges into opportunities and make the transition to smart and sustainable operations. We do this by seamlessly integrating engineering and design knowledge, consulting skills, software and technology to deliver more added value for our clients and their asset lifecycle.

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