

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

Basic Assessment for the proposed development of a 115 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility and associated electrical infrastructure (i.e. Kenhardt PV 4), north-east of Kenhardt, in the Northern Cape



APPENDIX D: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Basic Assessment for the for the Proposed Development of the Scatec Kenhardt Solar PV4 project and associated electrical infrastructure, Kenhardt, Northern Cape.

<u>Appendix D.1 Placement of Newspaper Advertisements, Site Notice Board & written</u> notices

Site Notices:

- Notice boards (in English and Afrikaans) were placed prior to the submission of the Application Form for Environmental Authorisation at the Kenhardt Public Library and Municipality; and the Farm Entrance of the Kenhardt PV4 SEF.
- These site notice boards were placed for the commencement of the BA Process. A copy of the notice boards and proof of placement thereof will be included in the Final BA Report.

Written Notices:

Ouring the project initiation and release of the BA Report phase, written notification letters will be sent to pre-identified I&APs (including the owners of the properties on which the proposed solar farm and infrastructure will be constructed, occupiers of these sites, neighbouring property owners (i.e. adjacent to the sites), and commenting authorities and key stakeholders, including (but not limited to) the local and district municipalities (i.e. the !Kheis Local Municipality, and the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality), Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Northern Cape DENC, Eskom and SKA. These letters will be sent to notify and inform the potential I&APs of the proposed project, to invite I&APs to register on the project database, and to inform them of the release of the BA Report for comment, and the associated comment period. These letters will be sent via email for I&APs and organs of state on the project database (unless email address is not available). A copy of this notice and email will be included in the Final BA Report.

Newspaper Adverts:

 During the project initiation and release of the BA Report phase, an advertisement (in English and Afrikaans) will be placed in one local newspaper, "Gemsbok" advertising the commencement of the BA Project and availability of the Draft BA Report for comment. A copy of the advertisement will be included in the Final BA Report.

Placement of the Reports on the Project Website:

- The Draft BA Report will be placed on the project website: https://www.csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment
- During the decision-making phase, the outcome of the decision-making phase (should an EA be granted for the proposed project) will also be placed on the project website.

Regulation 41 (2) (e) of the GN R326 states "using reasonable alternative methods, as agreed to by the competent authority, in those instances where a person is desiring of but unable to participate in the process due to (i) illiteracy; (ii) disability; or any other disadvantage". This particular regulation is not applicable at this stage however it will be complied with as agreed by the Competent Authority should the need arise as part of the PPP.

General

- All project information throughout the BA Process will be made available to I&APs through a project website.
- Telephonic consultations will take place with I&APs as required. Notes of telephonic consultations will be kept and included in the relevant reports.
- The I&AP database will be regularly updated throughout the BA Process to indicate, amongst others, requests to register interest, correspondence sent to I&APs and comments received from I&APs.

Appendix E.2 Database of I&APs and Organs of State

Number	First Name	Surname	Company/ Organisation	Deregister interest	Notification of Release of DBAR for comment	Email: Notice of Submission of Final BA Reports to DEFF	Notice of EA for BA	Outcome of Appeal Process
			ORGANS OF STATE (NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL)					
1.	Mmatlala	Rabothatha	National DEA: Integrated Environmental Authorisations					
2.	Muhammad	Essop	National DEA: Integrated Environmental Authorisations					
3.	Director- General		National DEA: Biodiversity and Conservation					
4.	Herman	Alberts	National DEA: Integrated Environmental Authorisations					
5.	Α	Yaphi	Provincial Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (DENC): Northern Cape					
6.	M	Mathews	Provincial DENC: Northern Cape					
7.	Samantha	De la Fontaine	Provincial DENC: Northern Cape					
8.	Elsabe	Swart	Provincial DENC: Northern Cape					
9.	Sibonelo	Mbanjwa	Provincial DENC: Northern Cape					
10.	Luzane	Tools-Bernado	Provincial DENC: Northern Cape					
11.	Eric	Ngxanga	ZF Mgcawu District Municipality - Municipal Manager					
12.	Frikkie	Ruping	ZF Mgcawu District Municipality - Environmental Manager					
13.	H.T	Scheepers	!Kheis Municipality - Municipal Manager					
14.	Gloria	Matlakala	!Kheis Municipality					
15.	JG	Lategan	Kai ! Garib Municipality - Municipal Manager					

Number	First Name	Surname	Company/ Organisation	Deregister interest	Notification of Release of DBAR for comment	Email: Notice of Submission of Final BA Reports to DEFF	Notice of EA for BA	Outcome of Appeal Process
16.	M.	Clarke	Kai ! Garib Municipality - Manager: Electromechanical Services					
17.	Mashudu	Randwedzi	Department of Water and Sanitation					
18.	Melinda	Mei	Department of Water and Sanitation					
19.	Shaun	Cloete	Department of Water and Sanitation					
20.	Chantèl	Schwartz	Department of Water and Sanitation					
21.	Mandla	Ndzilili	Ministry of Environment and Nature Conservation					
22.	Mashudu	Marubini	National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)					
23.	Thoko	Buthelezi	National DAFF - AgriLand Liaison office					
24.	D	Nhlakad	National DAFF - AgriLand Liaison office					
25.	Anneliza	Collett	National DAFF - AgriLand Liaison office					
26.	H. J.	Buys	National DAFF (Land Use and Soil Management)					
27.	Jacoline	Mans	Provincial DAFF					
28.	Khuthala	D.	DAFF					
29.	Ali	Diteme	Provincial Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development					
30.	Pieter	Buys	National Energy Regulator of South Africa					
31.	IA	Bulane	Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport					
32.	Denver	Van Heerden	Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport					
33.	Rene	de kock	South African Roads Agency Limited - Northern Cape					

Number	First Name	Surname	Company/ Organisation (Western Region)	Deregister interest	Notification of Release of DBAR for comment	Email: Notice of Submission of Final BA Reports to DEFF	Notice of EA for BA	Outcome of Appeal Process
34.	Nicole	Abrahams	South African Roads Agency Limited (Western Region)					
35.	M	Lepheane	Department of Labour					
			·					
36.	A	Botes	Department of Social Development					
37.	Riaan	Warie	Northern Cape Economic Development Agency					
38.	Andrew	Timothy	Directorate Heritage, Department - Sports, Arts and Culture					
39.	Lizell	Stroh	South African Civilian Aviation Authority					
40.	John	Geeringh	ESKOM					
41.	Kevin	Leask	ESKOM					
42.	Justine	Wyngaardt	ESKOM (Western Operating Unit, Distribution)					
43.	Lindi	Haarhoff	ESKOM (Nieuwehoop Substation)					
44.	Sharon	Steyn	Northern Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry					
45.	P.J.J	van Rensburg	Agri Northern Cape					
46.	H.	Myburgh	Agri Northern Cape ¹					
47.	Adrian	Tiplady	SKA SA					

¹ Note that during the Project Initiation Phase for <u>Phase 1</u>, correspondence was sent to Mr. P. J. J. van Rensburgh of Agri Northern Cape. However, the CSIR was requested (via telephone), to replace Mr. P. J. J. van Rensburgh with Mr. H. Myburgh on the database. Mr. P. J. J. van Rensburgh has therefore been removed from the project database going forward. For record purposes, Mr. P. J. J. van Rensburgh will still be reflected on the database in the EIA Reporting to show interaction during the Project Initiation Phase only.

Number	First Name	Surname	Company/ Organisation	Deregister interest	Notification of Release of DBAR for comment	Email: Notice of Submission of Final BA Reports to DEFF	Notice of EA for BA	Outcome of Appeal Process
48.	Marina	Lourens	Transnet Freight Rail					
49.	Gilbert	Nortier	Transnet Freight Rail					
50.	Mayvyn	Bhana	Transnet					
51.	Clive	Stephenson	Transnet					
52.	Director		Department of Energy Northern Cape					
53.	Ragna	Redelstorff	South African Heritage Resources Agency ²					
54.	Natasha	Higgitt	South African Heritage Resources Agency					
55.	Kgauta	Mokoena	Department of Mineral Resources					
56.	Elliot	Sibeko	Department of Telecommunication & Postal Services					
57.	Director		Department of Communications					
58.	Chris	Coetzee	Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) Sutherland					
59.	Raoul	Van den Berg	Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) Sutherland					
			Stakeholders (NGOs and Conservation Organisations)					
60.	Simon	Gear	Birdlife South Africa					
61.	Janine	Goosen	Birdlife South Africa					
62.	Lubabalo	Ntsolo	C.A.P.E. Co-ordination Unit: Northern Cape					
63.	Freyni	du Toit	Grasslands Society of Southern Africa					

 $^{^{2}}$ Note that submissions to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) have been made via the online SAHRIS.

Number	First Name	Surname	Company/ Organisation	Deregister interest	Notification of Release of DBAR for comment	Email: Notice of Submission of Final BA Reports to DEFF	Notice of EA for BA	Outcome of Appeal Process
64.			Endangered Wildlife Trust, Wildlife and Energy Programme					
65.	Dr. Howard	Hendricks	South African National Parks - Snr GM: Policy & Governance Conservation Services Division					
66.	Dr. Joh R	Henschel	SAEON Arid Lands Node					
67.	Praneel	Ruplal	Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA)					
			LANDOWNER					
68.	Andre	Van Niekerk	Van Niekerk Gesins Trust					
			ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS					
69.	Andre	Van Niekerk	Kamkuip Boerdery (Pty) Ltd					
70.	D.J/Sarel	Strauss	Kamkuip Boerdery (Pty) Ltd					
71.	Rudolph	Grobler	Farm Name: Brussel and Gerhards Puts					
72.	Hendrik	Van Wyk	Wilcaris Pty Ltd					
73.	Ernest	Connan	Ernest Connan Trust					
74.	Johan	Steenkamp	JHJ Steenkamp Trust					
75.	Handre	van Wyk	Farm Name: Narougas (Straus Heim)					
76.	Plankiesd	Van der Walt	Farm Name: Varsputs					
			OTHER STAKEHOLDERS					
77.	Mitchell	Hodgson	Scatec Solar					
78.	Claude	Bosman	Veroniva (PTY) Ltd - Renewable Energy					

Basic Assessment for the Froposed Development of the Scatec Kenhardt Solar PV4 project and associated electrical infrastructure, Kenhardt, Northern Cape.

Number	First Name	Surname	Company/ Organisation	Deregister interest	Notification of Release of DBAR for comment	Email: Notice of Submission of Final BA Reports to DEFF	Notice of EA for BA	Outcome of Appeal Process
79.	Naveenraj	Challa	Marcyrox NPC					
80.	Karen	Low	Mulilo Renewable Energy Developments					
81.	Melanie	Miles	Leads 2 Business					
82.	Morgan	Townsend						
83.	John	de Bruin	Henrohn Security					

Basic Assessment for the Froposed Development of the Scatec Kenhardt Solar PV4 project and associated electrical infrastructure, Kenhardt, Northern Cape.

Appendix D.3 Pre-Application Correspondence with the DEA (according to date)

From: Kelly Stroebel

To: Muhammad Essop <MEssop@environment.gov.za>

CC: Rohaida Abed; Coenrad Agenbach <Cagenbach@environment.gov.za>; Mmamohale Kabasa

<MKabasa@environment.gov.za>

Date: 09 Jan 2020 10:36

Subject: RE: Proposed Kenhardt PV Phase 2 Project - Pre-Application Queries via Email

Dear Mr Essop,

Thank you very much for this correspondence.

The Applicant would like some closure on the pre-application process in regards to the specialist studies. Would your Department kindly be able to confirm that based on the information provided in the pre-application meeting request form, as well as in the email from Ms Abed on 12/11/2019 (below), that the following studies are reasonably omitted from the BA process due to the fact they that are low risk:

- Civil Aviation Assessment
- Defense Assessment
- RFI Assessment
- Geotechnical Assessment

Your confirmation of the above would be greatly appreciated before application submission.

Kind Regards,

Kelly Stroebel

Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)

CSIR Stellenbosch

kstroebel@csir.co.za Tel.: 021 888 2432

PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599

>>> Muhammad Essop <MEssop@environment.gov.za> 07 Jan 2020 09:44 >>>

Dear Kelly.

Your email below refers.

Please note following a review of the information provided in the request for a pre-application meeting, and the lack of agenda attached to the pre application meeting form, we do not foresee the need for a pre application meeting.

You are welcome to proceed with the EIA process, and await the draft Basic Assessment reports for review and comment within the EIA process.

Basic Assessment for the Froposed Development of the Scatec Kenhardt Solar PV4 project and associated electrical infrastructure, Kenhardt, Northern Cape.

Kind Regards

Muhammad Essop
Assistant Director - Strategic Infrastructure Developments
Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs
+Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001
((012) 399 9406
(tel:0123951734)
:MEssop@environment.gov.za

From: Kelly Stroebel <KStroebel@csir.co.za>

Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 09:28

To: Muhammad Essop <MEssop@environment.gov.za>

Cc: Rohaida Abed <RAbed@csir.co.za>

Subject: RE: Proposed Kenhardt PV Phase 2 Project - Pre-Application Queries via Email

Good Day Mr Essop,

Compliments of the new year.

The email from Rohaida Abed below and your response refers.

I am working on this project with Rohaida and she is currently out of office, I just wanted to follow up with you if you have sent her any further communication with regards to our request below? We are hoping to have a decision from your Department on whether or not we can conduct the pre-application process via email soonest.

Please can you kindly advise.

Regards, Kelly Stroebel Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) CSIR Stellenbosch

kstroebel@csir.co.za
Tel.: 021 888 2432

PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599

Basic Assessment for the Froposed Development of the Scatec Kenhardt Solar PV4 project and associated electrical infrastructure, Kenhardt, Northern Cape.

>>> Muhammad Essop <MEssop@environment.gov.za> 04/12/2019 14:00 >>> Dear Ms Abed.

Your email below refers.

We have received your request for a pre application meeting.

We will revert back to determine if we need the pre app, and if yes, will provide you with possible dates and times.

Regards

Muhammad Essop

Assistant Director - Strategic Infrastructure Developments

Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs

+Private Bag X447

Pretoria

0001

((012) 399 9406

(tel:0123951734)

:MEssop@environment.gov.za

From: Mmamohale Kabasa < MKabasa@environment.gov.za>

Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 12:44

To: Muhammad Essop <MEssop@environment.gov.za>

Subject: FW: Proposed Kenhardt PV Phase 2 Project - Pre-Application Queries via Email

Please advise

From: Rohaida Abed [mailto:RAbed@csir.co.za]

Sent: 04 December 2019 08:37 AM

To: Mmamohale Kabasa < MKabasa@environment.gov.za>

Cc: Kelly Stroebel < KStroebel@csir.co.za>

Subject: RE: Proposed Kenhardt PV Phase 2 Project - Pre-Application Queries via Email

Dear Mmamohale

I hope that you are well. Please kindly confirm if you have received the email below? We look forward to your assistance with this.

Kind Regards

Rohaida

Basic Assessment for the Froposed Development of the Scatec Kenhardt Solar PV4 project and associated electrical infrastructure, Kenhardt, Northern Cape.

>>> Rohaida Abed 29/11/2019 09:03 >>> Dear Mmamohale

I hope that you are well. Please could you kindly refer to our email trail below, specifically the email dated 12/11 from myself to Ephron, Toinette and Samke.

We have been appointed to undertake three BA Processes for Phase 2 of the Scatec Kenhardt projects. This is a follow on from the Phase 1 project which consisted of the following applications:

- Three EIA Projects for three 75 MW Solar PV Facilities referred to as Kenhardt PV 1; Kenhardt PV 2; and Kenhardt PV 3 (DEA REFERENCES: 14/12/16/3/3/2/837, 14/12/16/3/3/2/838, 14/12/16/3/3/2/836); and
- Three BA Projects for EGI to support the above three PV Facilities referred to as Kenhardt PV 1 Transmission Line; Kenhardt PV 2 Transmission Line; and Kenhardt PV 3 Transmission Line (DEA REFERENCES: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1547, 14/12/16/3/3/1/1546, 14/12/16/3/3/1/1545).

Please could the DEFF confirm, via email, whether the specialist studies that we have commissioned as part of the BA Process (listed below) are sufficient? This is the main query we have, and would greatly appreciate if you could respond via email so as to maximize efficiency.

Thank you for your assistance with this and for your consideration.

Kind Regards, Rohaida

Tel: 031 242 2318

>>> Rohaida Abed 29/11/2019 08:54 >>>

Dear Ephron

Thank you very much for your assistance with this and the discussion earlier, we appreciate it. We will communicate with Mmamohale.

Kind Regards

Rohaida

>>> Ephron Maradwa <EMaradwa@environment.gov.za> 29/11/2019 08:52 >>>

Dear Rohaida

Please note that the Pre-App was allocated to the Case Officer (Mmamohale), also CC on this email

Regards

Ephron

Basic Assessment for the Froposed Development of the Scatec Kenhardt Solar PV4 project and associated electrical infrastructure, Kenhardt, Northern Cape.

From: Rohaida Abed [mailto:RAbed@csir.co.za] Sent: Thursday, 28 November 2019 13:47

To: Ephron Maradwa < EMaradwa@environment.gov.za>

Cc: Kelly Stroebel < KStroebel@csir.co.za>

Subject: Re: Proposed Kenhardt PV Phase 2 Project - Pre-Application Queries via Email

Hi Ephron

I hope that you are well. I tried calling you earlier. Sorry for the pressure - I just wanted to find out if you received the form below and if you were able to assign the case officer?

Thanks

Rohaida

>>> Rohaida Abed 21/11/2019 15:58 >>>

Dear Ephron

Thank you so much for the discussions last week.

As discussed, please find attached our request for pre-application meeting form. As noted over the phone, we have explained in the form that we wish to undertake pre-application communication via email instead of a physical meeting, based on the baseline information available and the timeframes for completion. Further information is provided below and in Appendix 1 of the request form.

Please could you kindly confirm who the case officer is for these 3 projects (once assigned), and then we will communicate via email with the case officer.

We highly appreciate all your assistance thus far.

Kind Regards

Rohaida

>>> Rohaida Abed 13/11/2019 09:16 >>>

Dear Ephron

I hope that you are well. I tried calling you earlier this week and this morning.

I spoke to Samke earlier this morning. Please let me know when you are available to speak regarding the email below?

Is it possible for you to please confirm which case officer will be assigned to the 3 Applications noted below?

Thank you and kind regards,

Rohaida

Tel: 031 242 2318

Basic Assessment for the Froposed Development of the Scatec Kenhardt Solar PV4 project and associated electrical infrastructure, Kenhardt, Northern Cape.

>>> Rohaida Abed 12/11/2019 13:24 >>> Dear Samke, Toinette and Ephron

I hope that you are well. You assisted us last year with pre-application communication via email for the proposed Vryburg Solar PV Development.

The CSIR Environmental Management Services (EMS) group has been appointed by Scatec Solar Africa (PTY) Ltd (the Project Applicant) to conduct three Basic Assessment (BA) Processes for the development of three Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facilities and supporting Electricity Grid Infrastructure (EGI) (i.e. including power lines and on-site substations). The proposed infrastructure will be constructed near Kenhardt, south of Upington in the Northern Cape. The PV facilities will each have a capacity of 100 MW and a footprint of approximately 250 hectares, and will be constructed on the remaining extent of Onder Rugzeer Farm 168 and will connect to the proposed Eskom Nieuwehoop Substation via power lines. The proposed projects are referred to as Kenhardt PV 4; Kenhardt PV 5; and Kenhardt PV 6.

The CSIR was also appointed by the Project Applicant in 2015 to undertake Phase 1 of the above projects, which consisted of the following:

- Three EIA Projects for three 75 MW Solar PV Facilities referred to as Kenhardt PV 1; Kenhardt PV 2; and Kenhardt PV 3 (DEA REFERENCES: 14/12/16/3/3/2/837, 14/12/16/3/3/2/838, 14/12/16/3/3/2/836); and
- Three BA Projects for EGI to support the above three PV Facilities referred to as Kenhardt PV 1 Transmission Line; Kenhardt PV 2 Transmission Line; and Kenhardt PV 3 Transmission Line (DEA REFERENCES: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1547, 14/12/16/3/3/1/1546, 14/12/16/3/3/1/1545).

The above Phase 1 projects received Environmental Authorisation on 7 August 2017 (for the three EIA Projects), and 22 September 2017 (for the three BA projects).

The Phase 2 projects i.e. Kenhardt PV 4; Kenhardt PV 5 and Kenhardt PV 6 will take place on the same properties as the above Phase 1 projects. In addition, the Phase 2 projects also fall within the areas assessed as part of the Phase 1 projects (Note that Kenhardt PV 6 includes small portions that were not assessed during Phase 1). In addition, the CSIR has undertaken EIAs and BAs for 10 additional PV and EGI projects in the vicinity of the Scatec Solar Africa (PTY) Ltd Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects. As a result, a significant amount of baseline information exists for the current project.

The Phase 2 projects also occur within the gazetted Western Strategic Transmission Corridor and REDZ 7: Upington (as gazetted in Government Notices 113 and 114 in February 2018). Therefore, a BA process will be undertaken for the proposed Phase 2 projects with a reduced decision-making timeframe of 57 days.

Refer to the attached Figure showing the location of the authorised Kenhardt PV 1 - 3 projects and the proposed location of the Kenhardt PV 4 - 6 projects.

Considering the strategic nature of the project and the timeframes of the next Bidding Window of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP), there is a consequential importance of submitting the Final BA Reports to the DEFF for decision-making as soon as possible. As such, we have commenced with the BA Processes, however, we understand that communication with the DEFF prior to submission of the Application Form and Draft BA Report is important, and we would still like to achieve this communication in the most efficient manner, which will also assist us with finalising the Draft BA Reports for release for Stakeholder and Public Comment.

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We have therefore captured a few minor queries below; that we hope the DEFF would consider and provide us with feedback as soon as possible, i.e. by 18 November 2019? If there are no major changes required, we would then proceed with the release the Draft BA Reports to stakeholders for comment as soon as possible (taking into consideration Regulation 3 (2) of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations).

It is understood that a physical pre-application meeting is not warranted in this case due to the significant amount of existing baseline information that exists, the solid understanding of the affected environment and potential issues to be raised during the public participation process, owing to previous assessments undertaken in the region by the CSIR.

Specialist Assessments:

The following specialist assessments have been commissioned as part of this BA Process:

- Soils and Agricultural Impact Assessment
- Visual Impact Assessment
- Heritage Impact Assessment: Archaeology and Cultural Landscape; and Palaeontology
- Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology Biodiversity Impact Assessment
- Avifauna Assessment
- Socio-Economic Assessment
- Traffic Impact Statement

In addition, the DEFF online screening tool identified the following specialist assessments to be required:

- Civil Aviation Assessment
- Defense Assessment
- RFI Assessment
- Geotechnical Assessment

As allowed for the Screening Tool Report, we provide a reasoned response below as to why these four assessments are not required as "full" specialist studies and confirm that these issues will certainly be addressed effectively in the BA (as applicable).

A formal Civil Aviation and Defence Assessment will not be undertaken as part of the BA Process because the proposed sites fall within an area designated as low sensitivity (in terms of Civil Aviation and Defence) on the National Screening Tool; and the proposed project infrastructure is not expected to have a significant impact on these features. Nevertheless, the relevant Authorities (such as the Department of Defence and Civil Aviation Authority) have been included on the project stakeholder database. They will be informed of the proposed projects, and comment will be sought from these authorities as applicable.

Furthermore, a Geotechnical Assessment will not be undertaken as part of the BA Process as this will be undertaken during the design phase, once preferred bidder status is obtained.

An Electro Magnetic Interference (EMI) and Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) Study will also not be undertaken as part of the BA Process because this has been closed out and not raised as a concern in the last three and most recent EIA projects undertaken by the CSIR for PV facilities near Kenhardt. Refer to the following projects: Skeerhok PV 1: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1033; Skeerhok PV 2: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1034; and Skeerhok PV 3: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1035. Furthermore, the aspect of EMI and RFI falls within the mandate of the Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology in terms of the Astronomy Geographic Advantage Act.

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The above list of specialist studies has been commissioned based on the issues that are linked to the proposed Solar PV and EGI development in the Kenhardt area, findings from the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that informed the Gazetting of the REDZs and Strategic Transmission Corridors, as well as based on research undertaken of similar projects surrounding the proposed project, including our previous experience in Solar PV EIAs and BAs. We believe that the specialist studies captured above are comprehensive and best suited to cover the range of issues and impacts linked to the proposed projects.

Please could the DEFF confirm that the specialist studies commissioned as part of the BA Process (listed above) are sufficient?

We would like to thank you for your assistance with this.

Kind Regards,
Rohaida Abed
CSIR - Environmental Management Services
P. O. Box 59081, Umbilo, 4075
Tel: 031 242 2300

Fax: 031 261 8172 Email:rabed@csir.co.za