

28 April 2021

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

RE: NOTICE OF RELEASE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS AND APPEAL PROCEDURE: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF NINE 175 MW (9 X 175 MW) SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR TOUWS RIVER IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

Reference Numbers: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2273; 14/12/16/3/3/1/2274; 14/12/16/3/3/1/2275; 14/12/16/3/3/1/2276; 14/12/16/3/3/1/2277; 14/12/16/3/3/1/2278; 14/12/16/3/3/1/2279; 14/12/16/3/3/1/2280; 14/12/16/3/3/1/2281; 14/12/16/3/3/1/2282; 14/12/16/3/3/1/2283; 14/12/16/3/3/1/2284; 14/12/16/3/3/1/2285; 14/12/16/3/3/1/2286; 14/12/16/3/3/1/2287; 14/12/16/3/3/1/2288; 14/12/16/3/3/1/2289; and 14/12/16/3/3/1/2290

As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) on the project database, you have been informed that the Project Developer, Veroniva (Pty) Ltd, is proposing the development of nine 175 MW (9 X 175 MW) Solar Photovoltaic (PV) power generation facilities and associated infrastructure, north-east of Ceres and north of Touws River, in the Witzenberg Local Municipality, Western Cape Province. Each solar PV facility will consist of associated infrastructure including various structures, buildings and Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) such as, but not limited to, a 132 kV power line, an on-site substation and a Lithium Ion Battery Energy Storage System. The proposed nine Solar PV facilities will connect to the national grid at the existing Eskom Kappa Substation. The proposed Solar PV facilities and associated infrastructure will be constructed on the following farm portions: Grootfontein RE/149; Grootfontein 5/149; Witte Wall RE/171; and Hoek Doornen 1/172. The power lines will traverse these aforementioned farm portions, as well as Die Brak 241 and Platfontein 240. The details of each project are indicated in the table below:

No.	Report	Project Name	Project Applicant ¹	Reference Number
1	Basic Assessment for the Proposed Development of two 175 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facilities and associated Infrastructure (i.e. Witte Wall PV 1 and Witte Wall PV 2), near Touws River, Western Cape	Witte Wall PV 1	Witte Wall PV 1 (Pty) Ltd	14/12/16/3/3/1/2273
		Witte Wall PV 2	Witte Wall PV 2 (Pty) Ltd	14/12/16/3/3/1/2274
2	Basic Assessment for the Proposed Development of three 175 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facilities and associated Infrastructure (i.e. Grootfontein PV 1, Grootfontein PV 2, and Grootfontein PV 3), near Touws River, Western Cape	Grootfontein PV 1	Grootfontein PV 1 (Pty) Ltd	14/12/16/3/3/1/2275
		Grootfontein PV 2	Grootfontein PV 2 (Pty) Ltd	14/12/16/3/3/1/2276
		Grootfontein PV 3	Grootfontein PV 3 (Pty) Ltd	14/12/16/3/3/1/2277
3	Basic Assessment for the Proposed Development of four 175 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facilities and associated Infrastructure (i.e. Hoek Doornen PV 1, Hoek Doornen PV 2, Hoek Doornen PV 3, and Hoek Doornen PV 4), near Touws River, Western Cape	Hoek Doornen PV 1	Hoek Doornen PV 1 (Pty) Ltd	14/12/16/3/3/1/2278
		Hoek Doornen PV 2	Hoek Doornen PV 2 (Pty) Ltd	14/12/16/3/3/1/2279
		Hoek Doornen PV 3	Hoek Doornen PV 3 (Pty) Ltd	14/12/16/3/3/1/2280
		Hoek Doornen PV 4	Hoek Doornen PV 4 (Pty) Ltd	14/12/16/3/3/1/2281
4	Basic Assessment for the Proposed Development of Electrical Grid Infrastructure to support the proposed nine 175 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facilities and associated Infrastructure (i.e. Witte Wall PV 1, Witte Wall PV 2, Grootfontein PV 1, Grootfontein PV 2, Grootfontein PV 3, Hoek Doornen PV 1, Hoek Doornen PV 2, Hoek Doornen PV 3, and Hoek Doornen PV 4), near Touws River, Western Cape	Witte Wall PV 1 EGI	Witte Wall PV 1 (Pty) Ltd	14/12/16/3/3/1/2282
		Witte Wall PV 2 EGI	Witte Wall PV 2 (Pty) Ltd	14/12/16/3/3/1/2283
		Grootfontein PV 1 EGI	Grootfontein PV 1 (Pty) Ltd	14/12/16/3/3/1/2284
		Grootfontein PV 2 EGI	Grootfontein PV 2 (Pty) Ltd	14/12/16/3/3/1/2285
		Grootfontein PV 3 EGI	Grootfontein PV 3 (Pty) Ltd	14/12/16/3/3/1/2286
		Hoek Doornen PV 1 EGI	Hoek Doornen PV 1 (Pty) Ltd	14/12/16/3/3/1/2287
		Hoek Doornen PV 2 EGI	Hoek Doornen PV 2 (Pty) Ltd	14/12/16/3/3/1/2288
		Hoek Doornen PV 3 EGI	Hoek Doornen PV 3 (Pty) Ltd	14/12/16/3/3/1/2289
		Hoek Doornen PV 4 EGI	Hoek Doornen PV 4 (Pty) Ltd	14/12/16/3/3/1/2290

As previously noted, the Project Developer appointed the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to undertake the Environmental Assessment Processes required for the abovementioned proposed projects. The proposed projects were assessed in terms of the 2014 National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations promulgated on 8 December 2014 and as amended on 7 April 2017 in Government

¹ The Project Developer is Veroniva (Pty) Ltd; and each project has a separate Project Applicant.

Notice (GN) R326, R327, R325 and R324. The proposed Solar PV projects and associated infrastructure are located entirely within the Komsberg Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ 2) (as gazetted in GN 114; 16 February 2018). Therefore, the proposed projects have been subjected to a Basic Assessment (BA) process, with a reduced decision making period of 57 days. Approval was granted by the Competent Authority, the National Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF), now operating as the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) to submit combined Applications for Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of Regulation 11 (4) of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended), and the issuing of multiple EAs in terms of Regulation 25 (1) and (2) of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended). Therefore, four separate BA Reports were compiled (as indicated in the table above), which were made available to all I&APs, Organs of State and stakeholders for a 30-day review period extending from 3 December 2020 to 25 January 2021. The Final BA Reports were submitted to the DFFE, on 24 February 2021, for decision-making in terms of Regulations 19 (1) (a) and Regulation 20 of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended).

As a registered I&AP on the projects, in terms of Regulation 4 (2) of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended), you are hereby notified that the DFFE has granted EAs, for the abovementioned proposed projects. **Nine** separate EAs have been issued i.e. one for each solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure, as well as **nine** separate EAs for the power lines and associated EGI that are required to support the nine solar PV Facilities. The EAs are dated 26 April 2021. The reasons for the decision are detailed in Annexure 1 of the EAs, and for ease of reference have been extracted and separately attached to this correspondence.

The EAs (including the reasons for decision) can be downloaded from the project website (<https://www.csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment>), as well as the following link on Google Drive: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1V3Ehq6JJUfKzCjq5wH7IF_vbifbQi7Wo?usp=sharing

A copy of the EAs can also be provided to I&APs upon request, by contacting the CSIR Project Manager using the contact details provided above.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the National Appeal Regulations published in GN R993 on 8 December 2014, and as amended in GN R205 on 12 March 2015, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. These regulations have been attached to this correspondence. Should you wish to appeal any aspect of the decision, an appeal must be submitted to the Appeal Administrator by the Appellant, and a copy thereof must be submitted to the Applicant, any registered I&AP and any Organ of State that has interest in the matter, within 20 days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered I&APs by the Applicant. Based on the above, you are hereby informed that the appeal period extends from 28 April 2021 to 19 May 2021.

The appeals must be submitted in writing in the prescribed form (obtainable from the Appeal Administrator or DFFE website) to:

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review of the National DFFE, at the below mentioned addresses:
By Email: appeals@environment.gov.za
By Hand: Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0083
By Post: Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001.

Please visit the DFFE's website at https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authoristions to obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, or request a copy of the documents by sending an e-mail to: appeals@environment.gov.za

Should you have any queries or require additional information please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned using the contact details provided above. We would like thank you for your participation in these BA processes.



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