

2 September 2022

Dear Interested and Affected Party

**RE: NOTIFICATION OF THE RELEASE OF A BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID) FOR A 30-DAY COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF SEVEN SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITIES (I.E., PADLOPER PV FACILITIES 1-7) AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICITY GRID INFRASTRUCTURE (I.E., PADLOPER EGI PROJECTS 8-14), NEAR MURRAYSBURG, IN THE WESTERN AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES (DFFE REFERENCE NUMBER: 2022-08-0007)**

Notice is hereby given that the Project Applicant, Padloper PV (Pty) Ltd (hereinafter referred to as “Padloper PV”) or “the Applicant”), is proposing to develop seven Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facilities (i.e., Padloper PV 1-7) with a capacity of between 100 and 350 MW each and the associated infrastructure, and seven associated 132 kV overhead power lines and Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) projects (Padloper EGI 8-14), near Murraysburg in the Western Cape and Northern Cape provinces. Padloper PV 1 and Padloper EGI 8 will be located in the Ubuntu Local Municipality and Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape province, whilst Padloper PV 2-7 and Padloper EGI 9-14 will be located in the Beaufort West Local Municipality and the Central Karoo District Municipality in the Western Cape province.

Each Padloper PV facility will have a range of infrastructure, including, but not limited to, a solar field; building infrastructure; on-site substation complex (consisting of an on-site Independent Power Producer [IPP] or facility substation; Battery Energy Storage System [BESS]; and a switching station and collector station); and various associated infrastructure. It is estimated that the developable area (i.e., project footprint) for each Padloper PV Facility and associated infrastructure will range from approximately 175 to 700 hectares (ha). Each facility will connect to the existing Eskom Gamma Main Transmission Substation (MTS) via a 132 kV overhead power line.

All seven proposed Padloper PV Facilities fall entirely within the Beaufort West Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ) and as such require a BA Process each, instead of a full Scoping and EIA Process, and will be subjected to a reduced decision-making timeframe of 57 days in line with GN 144 dated February 2021. The northern section of the proposed power lines also falls within the Central Power Corridor, which is one of five EGI Power Corridors which were gazetted for implementation on 16 February 2018 in GG 41445, GN 113.

The proposed projects require Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) and the 2014 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations promulgated on 8 December 2014 and as amended on 7 April 2017 in Government Notice (GN) R326, R327, R325 and R324, and further amended on 11 June 2021 in GN 517 and on 3 March 2022 in GN 1816. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been appointed to undertake the required Basic Assessment (BA) processes for the proposed fourteen projects. Fourteen separate applications will be submitted to DFFE and fourteen separate EAs will be issued (should such approval be granted).

The following fourteen (14) projects are proposed, where Table 1 indicates the affected farm portions for the proposed Padloper PV and associated Padloper EGI projects:

**PROJECTS 1 TO 7:** The proposed development of seven PV Facilities with a capacity ranging between 100 – 350 MW each and associated infrastructure (i.e., Padloper PV 1 – 7); and

**PROJECTS 8 TO 14:** The proposed development of seven 132 kV overhead power lines and associated EGI from the Padloper PV Facilities to the Eskom Gamma MTS (i.e., Padloper EGI 8 - 14).

**Table 1: Affected farm portions for the proposed Padloper PV Facilities and EGI projects**

Affected Farm Portion	Padloper (PI) PV 1	PI PV 2	PI PV 3	PI PV 4	PI PV 5	PI PV 6	PI PV 7	Overhead Powerline Route
Portion 7 of Farm Klipplaat No. 109	✓							✓
Remainder of Farm Riet Poort No.9		✓						✓
Portion 1 of Farm Klipplaat No. 109			✓					✓

Portion 4 of Farm Klipplaat No. 109								✓
Portion 6 of Farm Klipplaat No. 109								✓
Portion 3 of Farm Driefontein No. 26				✓				✓
Portion 2 of Farm Driefontein No. 26					✓			✓
Portion 4 of Farm Driefontein No. 26								✓
Portion 7 of Farm Driefontein No. 26						✓	✓	✓
Remainder of Farm No.8								✓
Remainder of Farm No.6								✓
Portion 2 of Farm No.6								✓
Portion 4 of Farm No.7								✓
Remainder of Farm No.7								✓
Portion 2 of Farm No.7								✓
Portion 5 of Farm Klein Los Kop No. 5								✓
Remainder of Farm Schietkuil No. 3								✓

An integrated Public Participation Process (PPP) is being undertaken for the BA processes due to the proximity of the sites (i.e., the proposed projects will take place within the same geographical area) and comprise similar project activities for the Padloper PV and EGI projects respectively.

In line with the above, you are hereby notified of the release of the Background Information Document (BID) for the proposed projects for a 30-day comment period, which extends from **2 September 2022** to **5 October 2022** (excluding public holidays).

The BID can be accessed on the project website (<https://www.csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment>).

Should you wish to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and/or to provide comments on these proposed projects, you are kindly requested to e-mail, fax or mail your name, contact details and project-related comments to the CSIR at the contact details provided below by **5 October 2022**:

- Attention: Minnelise Levendal
- Email: [ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za)
- Postal address: P.O. Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599
- Tel: 021 888 2495/2400

I&APs will be notified of the availability of and opportunity to comment on upcoming Draft BA Reports, once available.

In accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act (PoPIA) (Act No. 4 of 2013), the CSIR will conduct itself responsibly when collecting, processing, storing and sharing any personal information collected for the purposes of PPP in terms of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended). By registering as an I&AP and/or submitting information and comments, you consent to the collection, collation, processing, and storing of such information and the use and disclosure of such information for the aforementioned purpose (<https://www.csir.co.za/csir-privacy-notice>). If you would like to opt out of communications on this project, please do so by responding to this correspondence via email.

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

Sincerely,



Paul Lochner *Registered EAP*  
EMS Manager and Project Leader  
CSIR - Environmental Management Services



Minnelise Levendal  
Project Manager  
CSIR - Environmental Management Services