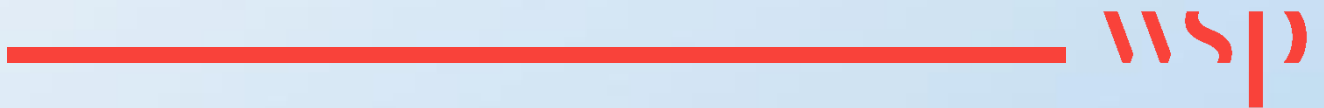


# Appendix C

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS REPORT**





Eskom Holdings SOC (Ltd)

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**KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR  
PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY, BATTERY  
ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS AND  
ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE,  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Public Participation Process Report







Eskom Holdings SOC (Ltd)

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**KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR  
PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY, BATTERY  
ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS AND  
ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE,  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Public Participation Process Report

TYPE OF DOCUMENT (VERSION) PUBLIC

PROJECT NO. 41103965

DATE: DECEMBER 2023



Eskom Holdings SOC (Ltd)

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# **KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

## **Public Participation Process Report**

WSP

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# QUALITY CONTROL

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Issue/revision	First issue	Revision 1	Revision 2	Revision 3
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Prepared by	Megan Govender	Megan Govender		
Signature	-			
Checked by	Ashlea Strong	Ashlea Strong		
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# GLOSSARY

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Abbreviation	Definition
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
CA	Competent Authority
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
Eskom	Eskom Holdings SOC (Ltd)
I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998)
PPP	Public Participation Process
PV	Photovoltaics
S&EIA	Scoping & EIA
SEF	Solar Energy Facility
PPP Report	Stakeholder Engagement Report
WSP	WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

# 1 INTRODUCTION

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WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed by Eskom Holdings SOC (Ltd) (Eskom) to undertake an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) to meet the requirements of both the World Bank Group (WBG) Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirements under the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), for the proposed 100 MW Solar Photovoltaics (PV) Energy Facility (SEF); 150 MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS); and ancillary infrastructure at the Komati Power Station located in the Mpumalanga Province, South Africa.

This Public Participation Process (PPP) Report sets the framework for the Komati SEF and BESS Facility Project to manage interactions with its neighbouring communities and other stakeholders interested in or affected by the project.

The PPP was undertaken in accordance with South African legislation, and particularly in compliance with the requirements provided within Regulations 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

PPP ReportThe proponent is committed to engaging with project stakeholders in line with NEMA requirements and international standards that include the Equator Principles and WB, and as such, endeavours to engage early and proactively with stakeholders and disclose information in a transparent and appropriate way.

## 1.1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation is understood to be a series of inclusive and culturally appropriate interactions aimed at providing stakeholders with opportunities to express their views, so that these can be considered and incorporated into the decision-making process. Effective public participation requires the prior disclosure of relevant and adequate project information to enable stakeholders to understand the risks, impacts, and opportunities of the proposed Project.

Basic reasons why the public are involved in the EIA Process:

- The environment is held in public trust, therefore use of environmental resources is everyone's concern;
- To ensure that projects meet the citizens' needs and are suitable to the affected public;
- The project carries more legitimacy, and less hostility, if interested and affected parties (I&APs) are able to influence the decision-making process; and
- The final decision is deemed informed when local knowledge and values are included and when expert knowledge is publicly examined.

### 1.1.1 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the public participation process (PPP) can be summarised as follows:

- Identify relevant individuals, organisations and communities who may be interested in or affected by the proposed project;
- Clearly outline the scope of the proposed Project, including the scale and nature of the existing and proposed activities;





- Identify viable proposed Project alternatives that will assist the relevant authorities in making an informed decision;
- Identify shortcomings and gaps in existing information;
- Identify key concerns, raised by I&APs that should be addressed in the subsequent specialist studies;
- Highlight the potential for environmental impacts, whether positive or negative; and
- To inform and provide the public with information and an understanding of the proposed Project, issues and solutions.

## 1.2 DETAILS OF KEY ROLE PLAYERS

### 1.2.1 PROJECT PROPONENT

Eskom is the project proponent with regards to this project for the construction and operation of the SEF, BESS and ancillary infrastructure. **Table 1-1** provides the relevant details of the project proponent.

**Table 1-1 – Details of Project Proponent**

<b>Proponent:</b>	<b>Eskom Holdings SOC (Ltd)</b>
Contact Person	Deidre Herbst
Postal Address	PO Box 1091, Johannesburg
Telephone	011 800 3501
Email	Deidre.Herbst@eskom.co.za

### 1.2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

WSP was appointed in the role of Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the S&EIA process and the ESIA for the proposed project. **Table 1-2** details the relevant contact details of the EAP.

**Table 1-2 – Details of the EAP**

<b>EAP:</b>	<b>WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd</b>
Contact Person:	Ashlea Strong
Physical Address:	Building C, Knightsbridge, 33 Sloane Street, Bryanston, Johannesburg
Postal Address:	P.O. Box 98867, Sloane Park 2151, Johannesburg
Telephone:	011 361 1392
Fax:	011 361 1301
Email:	<a href="mailto:Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com">Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com</a>
EAP Qualifications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Masters in Environmental Management, University of the Free State</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ B Tech, Nature Conservation, Technikon SA</li><li>■ National Diploma in Nature Conservation, Technikon SA</li></ul>
EAPASA Registration Number:	EAPASA (2019/1005)

### Statement of Independence

Neither WSP nor any of the authors of this Report have any material present or contingent interest in the outcome of this Report, nor do they have any business, financial, personal or other interest that could be reasonably regarded as being capable of affecting their independence. WSP has no beneficial interest in the outcome of the assessment.

## 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE KEY PROJECT COMPONENTS

The proposed project will comprise of the following key components:

- Solar Energy Facility;
- Grid Connection (i.e. powerlines);
- Site Substation and BESS; and
- Ancillary infrastructure.

These items are summarised in **Table 2-1** and discussed in more detail below. The SEF is intended to evacuate power to the grid. Part of the design development will be to determine the best option to charge the BESS, either with grid power or power generated from PV.

**Table 2-1 – Key Project Infrastructure**

Infrastructure	Description
<b>Solar Energy Facility</b>	Solar modules will be elevated above the ground, and will be mounted on either fixed tilt systems or tracking system
	<b>Solar Farm A:</b>
	Extent 115ha (1 150 000m <sup>2</sup> )
	AC Capacity Up to 70 MW
	DC Capacity Up to 84 MW
	<b>Solar Farm B:</b>
	Extent 21ha (210 000m <sup>2</sup> )
	AC Capacity Up to 30 MW
	DC Capacity Up to 36 MW
<b>Overhead Powerline</b>	The 132kV OHPL will follow the route of the existing powerlines and connect to the existing Komati High Voltage Yard
	New access roads or tracks may be required to provide access to sections of the powerline route, if the existing access roads are insufficient. Access roads will be mostly a two-track gravel road under the OHPL in order to access pylons for construction and maintenance purposes.
	OHPL corridor Footprint: 58ha (580 000 <sup>2</sup> )
	Servitude: Between 36m and 40m (26ha)

Infrastructure	Description
<b>Site Substation including O&amp;M Building</b>	Each of the Solar Sites will be equipped with collector substations Infrastructure associated with the substations includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operations and Maintenance (O&amp;M) buildings housing the control and communication equipment</li> <li>Site substations and collector substations</li> </ul>
	<b>Solar Site Substation A</b>
	Capacity: 132kV
	Footprint: 0.5ha (5 000m <sup>2</sup> )
	<b>Solar Site Substation B</b>
	Capacity: 132kV
	Footprint: 0.5ha (5 000m <sup>2</sup> )
<b>BESS</b>	Lithium Battery Technologies, such as Lithium Iron Phosphate, Lithium Nickel Manganese Cobalt oxides or Vanadium Redox flow technologies are being considered
	<b>Three BESS Facilities</b>
	Capacity: 150 MW with four hours standby time
	Footprint: 3 ha (30 000m <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Associated infrastructure</b>	<b>Temporary laydown area</b>
	Footprint includes temporary laydown areas; Temporary concrete batching plant; Construction camps and temporary laydown areas
	Footprint: 8ha (80 000m <sup>2</sup> )

### 2.1.1 SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY

The total site area for PV installation is approximately 200-250 hectares to allow for the construction of a PV facility with an AC capacity of up to 100 MW. Solar PV modules which convert solar radiation directly into electricity, will occupy a space of up to a total of approximately 720,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The solar PV modules will be elevated above the ground, and will be mounted on either fixed tilt systems or tracking systems (comprised of galvanised steel and aluminium). The Solar PV modules will be placed in rows in such a way that there is allowance for a perimeter road and security fencing along the boundaries, and O&M



access roads in between the PV module rows. **Table 2-2** provides a high-level project summary of the proposed Facilities.

**Table 2-2 – High-level Project Summary – Renewable Energy Facilities**

	Solar Site A	Solar Site B
Extent	115 Ha	25 Ha
AC Capacity	70 MW	30 MW

## 2.1.2 GRID CONNECTION

The Solar Facilities will be allocated a point of connection to the Komati 275 kV High Voltage (HV) yard. Each of the Solar Sites will be equipped with collector substations that will route the power output to the point of connection via a medium voltage OHPL or underground cabling. The method and final route to the points of connection will form part of the final designs. However, the OHPL will follow the route of the existing powerlines. The existing Komati points of connections will be used with the existing infrastructure to connect to the Komati 275kV HV yard. The existing power evacuation infrastructure consist of step up transformers (140 megavolt Amperes (MVA)), surge arrestors, transmission lines, HV breakers and links to the 275kV busbar.

### 2.1.2.1 Servitude

The registered servitude will likely between 36m and 40m. The length of the transmission will be determined during the design stage. The servitude area will be approximately 26ha. The servitude is required to ensure safe construction, maintenance and operation of the powerline.

### 2.1.2.2 Substations

On site substations will be established within the extent of the Solar Site A and Solar Site B. The site itself is very homogenous and there are no significant features in the immediate vicinity of the substation location that might be affected by the development. The following infrastructure is proposed but will be confirmed during the design stage:

- O&M buildings housing the control and communication equipment;
- All the access road infrastructure within the substation sites; and
- Site substations and collector substations to consolidate and distribute power to the connection points.

### 2.1.2.3 Site Access

The project area and surrounding areas are already easily accessible due to existing access roads. New access roads or tracks may be required to provide access to sections of the powerline route. Access roads will be mostly a two-track gravel road under the OHPL in order to access pylons for construction and maintenance purposes. The width of the access roads will be determined during the design phase.

### 2.1.3 BESS

Eskom proposes to establish three BESS facilities with the existing footprint of the Komati Power Station.

The BESS footprints will range from 2 ha up to 6 ha, depending on design and optimisation of the site and technology selected. The BESS capacity is envisaged to be 150 MW with four hours standby time.

It is proposed that Lithium Battery Technologies, such as Lithium Iron Phosphate, Lithium Nickel Manganese Cobalt oxides or Vanadium Redox flow technologies will be considered as the preferred battery technology however the specific technology will only be determined following EPC procurement. The main components of the BESS include the batteries, power conversion system and transformer which will all be stored in various rows of containers. The BESS components will arrive on site pre-assembled.

### 2.1.4 ANCILLARY INFRASTRUCTURE

The additional ancillary infrastructure will be confirmed once the Conceptual Design is complete, however, it is anticipated that the following will be applicable:

- Access roads;
- Perimeter roads;
- Below ground electrical cables;
- Above ground overhead lines;
- Meteorological Station;
- O&M Building including control room, server room, security equipment room, offices, boardroom, kitchen, and ablution facilities);
- Spares Warehouse and Workshop;
- Hazardous Chemical Store;
- Security Building;
- Parking areas and roads;
- Temporary laydown areas;
- Temporary concrete batching plant
- Construction camps and temporary laydown areas; and
- Onsite substations.

### 3 LEGAL FRAMEWORK REQUIREMENT

This section provides a summary of applicable policies, legislation, and guidelines relating to the stakeholder engagement process.

#### 3.1 NATIONAL LEGISLATION

The stakeholder engagement process for the proposed project was undertaken in accordance with South African legislation, and particularly in compliance with the requirements provided within Regulations 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

##### 3.1.1 APPROACH TO PPP

Our approach to PPP is based on the following principles:

- Undertake meaningful and timely participation with stakeholders;
- Focus on important issues during the process;
- Undertake due consideration of alternatives;
- Take accountability for information used;
- Encourage co-regulation, shared responsibility and a sense of ownership over the proposed Project lifecycle;
- Apply “due process” particularly with regard to public participation as provided for in the EIA Regulations; and
- Consider the needs, interests and values of stakeholders.

The Public Participation guideline in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, drafted by the DEA (now DFFE) in 2017, tabulates the level of Public Participation required for various levels of anticipated project impacts. This table has been used to identify additional Public Participation methods which are required for the Project. Highlighted cells indicate the applicable response to the anticipated impacts. Results of the process are shown in **Table 3-1** below.

**Table 3-1 - Level of Public Participation as per Public Participation Guideline (DEA, 2017)**

Scale of anticipated impacts:	Recommended Response	
	If “yes”	If “No”
Are the impacts of the project likely to extend beyond the boundaries of the local municipality?	Formal Consultation with other affected municipalities should be carried out during the PPP.	No need to have a formal consultation with other municipalities during PPP.  Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance to EIA must be met.
Are the impacts of the project likely to extend beyond the boundaries of the province?	Formal Consultation with other affected provinces should be carried out during the PPP.	No need to have a formal consultation with other provinces during PPP.

Scale of anticipated impacts:	Recommended Response	
	If “yes”	If “No”
		Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance to EIA must be met.
Is the project a Greenfields development (a new development in a previously undisturbed area)?	Extensive consultation with Registered Interested and Affected Parties (RI&APs) might be required before a decision is taken on the project to in order to gather more information, and to ensure that there is minimal impact on the environment.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance to EIA Regulations must be met.
Does the area already suffer from socio-economic problems (e.g. job losses) or environmental problems (e.g. pollution), and is the project likely to exacerbate these?	Extensive consultation with RI&APs within the area should be undertaken, to gather more information on both the socio-economic and environmental problems.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance to EIA Regulations must be met.
Is the project expected to have a wide variety of impacts (e.g. socio-economic and ecological)?	Thorough consultation needs to be conducted with RI&APs, in order to address variety of impacts.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance to EIA Regulations must be met.
<b>Public and environmental sensitivity of the project:</b>		
Are there widespread public concerns about the potential negative impacts of the project?	Broader consultation with all RI&APs will need to be undertaken.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance to EIA Regulations must be met.
Is there a high degree of conflict among RI&APs?	There might need to be more consultation to ensure that there is consensus reached among RI&APs.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance to EIA Regulations must be met.
Will the project impact on private land other than that of the applicant?	Consultation with the private land owner must be done, and all their concerns need to be addressed.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance to EIA Regulations must be met.
Does the project have the potential to create unrealistic expectations (e.g. that a new factory would create a large number of jobs)?	Thorough consultation that addresses the perceptions of unrealistic expectations needs to be carried out.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance to EIA Regulations must be met.



Scale of anticipated impacts:	Recommended Response	
	If “yes”	If “No”
<b>Potentially affected parties:</b>		
Has very little previous public participation taken place in the area?	More thorough public participation should take place within the area, to ensure that all potential and RI&APs participate.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance to EIA Regulations must be met.
Did previous public participation processes in the area result in conflict?	Additional consultation might be needed to ensure that issues of conflict are addressed effectively.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance to EIA Regulations must be met.
Are there existing organisational structures (e.g. local forums) that can represent I&APs?	Organizational structures might minimise conflict whilst maximising the participation.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance to EIA Regulations must be met.
Is the area characterised by high social diversity (i.e.. socio-economic status, language or culture)	Proper consultations that address language and cultural diversity should be promoted.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance to EIA Regulations must be met.
Were people in the area victims of unfair expropriations or relocation in the past?	PPP should be extensive and address any unfair practices that occurred in the past.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance to EIA Regulations must be met.
Is there a high level of unemployment in the area?	The PPP should ensure that there are no unrealistic expectations created due to the project. The consultation should ensure that any unrealistic expectations are adequately addressed before the project starts.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance to EIA Regulations must be met.
Do the RI&APs have special needs (e.g. a lack of skills to read or write, disability, etc)?	Consultation should include mechanisms that will ensure full participation by people with special needs.	Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance to EIA Regulations must be met. Minimum requirements for PP in accordance to the Act must be met as well as best practices relating to PP.

As per the results in **Table 3-1**, the level of public participation required is the Minimum requirements for public participation in accordance to EIA Regulations must be met. Minimum requirements for PP in accordance to the Act must be met as well as best practices relating to PP .

However, the following should also be addressed during the public participation process:

- Extensive consultation with RI&APs might be required before a decision is taken on the project in order to gather more information, and to ensure that there is minimal impact on the environment.
- Thorough consultation needs to be conducted with RI&APs, in order to address variety of impacts.
- Proper consultations that address language and cultural diversity should be promoted.
- The PPP should ensure that there are no unrealistic expectations created due to the project. The consultation should ensure that any unrealistic expectations are adequately addressed before the project starts.

The level of public participation undertaken during the ESIA Process meets the requirements of the minimum requirements as per **Section 5.2**. Extensive consultation with RI&APs has been undertaken as detailed in **Section 5.2**.

### 3.1.2 APPROVED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

As part of the pre-application consultation meeting held with DFFE on 06 July 2022, the proposed plan for public participation was discussed. A public participation plan was subsequently submitted to DFFE, along with the meeting minutes, for approval on 12 July 2022. The minutes of the meeting and the public participation plan were approved on 02 August 2022 respectively. **Table 3-2** below outlines the approved Public Participation Plan for the Komati SEF; BESS; and associated infrastructure.

**Table 3-2 - Approved Public Participation Plan**

Summary of PPP requirement (GNR 326 of EIA Regulations)	Proposed Plan/Activities
<p>41(2) The person conducting a PPP must give notice to all potential I&amp;APs by-</p> <p>(a) fixing a notice board at a place conspicuous to and accessible by the public at the boundary, on the fence or along the corridor of—</p> <p>(i) the site where the activity to which the application or proposed application relates is or is to be undertaken; and</p> <p>(ii) any alternative site;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Placement of six (6) site notices (in English, Afrikaans and isiZulu) at appropriate locations on site and in the surrounding area. Proof of placement will be included in the Final Scoping Report.</li> <li>■ This will include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Komati Power Station Entrance</li> <li>• Boundary/access road to the Solar PV Site A and B</li> <li>• Blinkplan Police Station;</li> <li>• OK Foods Super Market;</li> <li>• Komati Paypoint and Library;</li> <li>• Nkangala District Municipality Office;</li> <li>• Gerard Sekoto Library;</li> <li>• Eastdene Public Library; and</li> <li>• Hendrina Public Library.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>(b) giving written notice, in any of the manners provided for in section 47D of the Act, to—</p> <p>(i) the occupiers of the site and, if the proponent or applicant is not the owner or person in control of the site on which</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Written notification (in English, Afrikaans and isiZulu) will be sent to owners and occupiers on or adjacent to the proposed project site, municipality ward councillor, local and district municipality, and relevant state departments. Proof of placement will be included in the Final Scoping Report.</li> </ul>

Summary of PPP requirement (GNR 326 of EIA Regulations)	Proposed Plan/Activities
<p>the activity is to be undertaken, the owner or person in control of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken and to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;</p> <p>(ii) owners, persons in control of, and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken and to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;</p> <p>(iii) the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site and alternative site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represent the community in the area;</p> <p>(iv) the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area;</p> <p>(v) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and</p> <p>(vi) any other party as required by the competent authority;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site Notices were put up in public places in the local community, including areas that residents living near the proposed site would frequent. Site Notices were in English, Afrikaans and Zulu</li> <li>General communication (written notification) with I&amp;APs (public and government departments/authorities) throughout the S&amp;ESIA Process.</li> <li>All I&amp;APs on the database will be notified of the project via email and SMS. This email will invite them to participate in S&amp;ESIA process and will inform them of the public review period of the Draft Scoping and ESIA reports.</li> <li>I&amp;APs will be added to the database on request as the project progresses.</li> <li>I&amp;AP's already captured on Komati's I&amp;AP database will also be used.</li> <li>Eskom, the proponent is the landowner. Eskom leases the land to a commercial farmer located within Solar Site B. The Eskom Real Estate portfolio manager facilitated meetings with Eskom and the farmer on the proposed project and the use of the leased land. Eskom will give the farmer four months' notice for termination if there is only grazing taking place. However, if the farmer is planting crops Eskom will have to wait until harvest time, or compensate the farmer for the loss.</li> </ul>
<p>(c) placing an advertisement in—</p> <p>(i) one local newspaper; or</p> <p>(ii) any official Gazette that is published specifically for the purpose of providing public notice of applications or other submissions made in terms of these Regulations;</p>	<p>Adverts will be published in two newspapers, the Highvelder (in English and Afrikaans) and Witbank News (in in English and IsiZulu), formally announcing the commencement of the S&amp;ESIA process, requesting I&amp;APs to register their interest in the project. Proof of placement will be included in the Final Scoping Report.</p>
<p>(d) placing an advertisement in at least one provincial newspaper or national newspaper, if the activity has or may have an impact that extends beyond the boundaries of the metropolitan or district municipality in which it is or will be undertaken</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project does not extend beyond the boundaries of the District Municipality and therefore the use of provincial / national newspapers are not required.</li> <li>Adverts will be published in two newspapers, the Highvelder (in English and Afrikaans) and Witbank News (in in English and IsiZulu).</li> </ul>
<p>(e) using reasonable alternative methods, as agreed to by the competent authority, in those instances where a person is desirous of but unable to participate in the process due to—</p> <p>(i) illiteracy;</p> <p>(ii) disability; or</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I&amp;APs on the existing Komati Power Station I&amp;AP database will be contacted either telephonically or via email to verify their contact details as well as their preferred method of communication.</li> <li>The relevant ward councillor will be contacted to ensure that community-based organisations are aware of the Project and can assist in distributing and communicating relevant Project information to community members.</li> </ul>

Summary of PPP requirement (GNR 326 of EIA Regulations)	Proposed Plan/Activities
(iii) any other disadvantage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site Notices were put up in public places in the local community. Site Notices were in English, Afrikaans and Zulu. The reports were released in hard copy and digital copy in English. However, a public meeting was held which presented the findings of the Draft EIA. A Zulu translator was present.</li> </ul>
(42) A proponent or applicant must ensure the opening and maintenance of a register of interested and affected parties and submit such a register to the competent authority,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I&amp;APs with a potential interest in the project will be identified at the outset of the project.</li> <li>The I&amp;AP database will be compiled to include all affected landowners and occupiers, adjacent landowners and occupiers, I&amp;APs that formally registered during the previous EIA process, relevant authorities. As noted above, the existing database for Komati Power Station will be used as the basis of the register for this S&amp;ESIA process.</li> <li>All I&amp;APs on the database will be notified of the project via email and SMS. The email and SMS will invite them to participate in the S&amp;ESIA process and will inform them of the public review period of the draft Scoping and ESIA Reports.</li> <li>All I&amp;APs identified will be registered on the project database, and the database will be maintained throughout the S&amp;ESIA process.</li> </ul>
(43) & (44) Registered Interested and affected parties (I&APs) must be given 30 days to comment on the draft Report	<p>The Draft Scoping and EIA Reports will be made available to all I&amp;APs for a 30-day comment period. Strict adherence to all COVID-19 protocols and regulations as well as best practice measures will be ensured throughout PPP.</p> <p>The reports will be made available at the following places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Komati Paypoint and Library;</li> <li>Komati Power Station – Security Office;</li> <li>Gerard Sekoto Library;</li> <li>Eastdene Public Library; and</li> <li>Hendrina Public Library; and</li> <li>Online on the WSP website.</li> </ul> <p>A Stakeholder Engagement Register will be generated for inclusion in Final Scoping and ESIA Reports for consideration by the CA.</p> <p>An open day public meeting will be held at Komati Power Station during the Scoping Phase and additional focus group meetings will be held during the ESIA Phase if requested.</p>
(44) (2) The applicant must, in writing, within 14 days of the date of the decision on the application ensure that—	Written notification of the decision on the EAs will be sent to all registered I&APs, Registered I&APs will be informed of the appeal procedure as well as advised

Summary of PPP requirement (GNR 326 of EIA Regulations)	Proposed Plan/Activities
<p>(a) all registered interested and affected parties are provided with access to the decision and the reasons for such decision; and</p> <p>(b) the attention of all registered interested and affected parties is drawn to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeal Regulations, if such appeal is available in the circumstances of the decision.</p>	<p>that copies of the EA decisions will be provided on request.</p>

## 3.2 INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

The proponent is committed to complying with the World Bank Group's (WBG's) Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) and best practice guidelines for stakeholder engagement as prescribed by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2).

### 3.2.1 WORLD BANK PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) became effective on October 1, 2018 and applies to all Investment Policy Financing (IPF) projects initiated after this date. It makes important advances in areas such as labour, non-discrimination, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, community health and safety, and stakeholder engagement – including expanding the role of public participation and grievance mechanisms. The ESF enhances the WBG's commitment to sustainable development through ten ESS that are designed to support Borrowers' environmental and social (E&S) risk management. This Project is supported by funding from the World Bank. The ten ESS and their applicability are outlined in **Table 2-5** of the ESIA

### 3.2.2 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (IAP2)

IAP2 is an international organisation that was founded in 1990. It aims to promote values and best practices associated with public participation. It developed a set of core values and principles that are relevant to stakeholder engagement, as follows:

- The public should have a say in decisions about actions that affect their lives;
- Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision;
- The public participation process communicates the interests as well as meets the process needs of all participants;
- The public participation process seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected;
- The public participation process involves participants in defining how they participate;
- The public participation process provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way; and
- The public participation process communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

## 4 PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS

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### 4.1 INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY

An I&AP is defined as any person, group of persons or organisations interested in or affected by an activity, and any organ of state that may have jurisdiction over any aspect of the activity.

The difference between an I&AP and a registered I&AP:

- An I&AP can be directly or indirectly impacted on by a proposed activity.
- A registered I&AP is a person whose name has been placed on the register of registered I&APs. According to the PPP Guidance document, 2017, only registered I&APs will be notified:
  - Of the availability of reports and other written submissions made to the CA by the Applicant, and be entitled to comment on these reports and submissions; and
  - Of the outcome of the application, the reasons for the decision, and that an appeal may be lodged against a decision.

### 4.2 RIGHTS, ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STAKEHOLDERS

Registered stakeholders have the right to bring to the attention of the Competent Authority any issues that they believe may be of significance to the consideration of the application. The rights of stakeholder are qualified by certain obligations, namely:

- Stakeholders must ensure that their comments are submitted within the timeframes that have been approved by the DFFE, or within any extension of a timeframe agreed by the Proponent, EAP or competent authorities;
- Serve a copy of the comments submitted directly to the competent authorities, the Proponent or the EAP; and
- Disclose to the EAP any direct business, financial, personal or other interest that they might have in the approval or refusal of the application.

The roles of stakeholders in a public participation process usually include one or more of the following:

- Assisting in the identification and prioritisation of issues that need to be investigated;
- Making suggestions on alternatives and means of preventing, minimising and managing negative impacts and enhancing proposed Project benefits;
- Assisting in or commenting on the development of mutually acceptable criteria for the evaluation of decision options;
- Contributing information on public needs, values and expectations;
- Contributing local and traditional knowledge; and
- Verifying that their issues have been considered.

In order to participate effectively, stakeholders should:

- Become involved in the process as early as possible;
- Register as a stakeholder;



- Advise the EAP of other stakeholders who should be consulted;
- Contribute towards the design of the public participation process (including timeframes) to ensure that it is acceptable to all stakeholders;
- Follow the process once it has been accepted;
- Read the material provided and actively seek to understand the issues involved;
- Give timeous responses to correspondence;
- Be respectful and courteous towards other stakeholders;
- Refrain from making subjective, unfounded or ill-informed statements; and
- Recognise that the process is confined to issues that are directly relevant to the application.

### 4.3 IDENTIFICATION OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Section 41 of the EIA Regulations (2014, as amended) states that written notices must be given to identified stakeholders as outlined in **Table 4-1**.

Relevant authorities (Organs of State) have been automatically registered as I&APs. In accordance with the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), all other persons must request in writing to be placed on the register, submit written comments, or attend meetings to be registered as stakeholders, and included in future communication regarding the Project.

**Table 4-1 - Interested and Affected Parties**

NEMA Requirement	Discussion
(i) the owner or person in control of that land if the applicant is not the owner or person in control of the land	The project activity is located on property owned by the Applicant (Eskom Holdings)
(ii) the occupiers of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken	Eskom, the proponent is the landowner. Eskom leases the land to a commercial farmer located within Solar Site B. The Eskom Real Estate portfolio manager facilitated meetings with Eskom and the farmer on the proposed project and the use of the leased land. Eskom will give the farmer four months' notice for termination if there is only grazing taking place. However, if the farmer is planting crops Eskom will have to wait until harvest time, or compensate the farmer for the loss.
(iii) owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken	Adjacent landowner details were collected and have been included on the stakeholder database. Where applicable, occupiers have been included on the database.
(iv) the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site or alternative site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represent the community in the area	The Ward Councillor of Ward 4 has been included on the stakeholder database.
(v) the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area	The project is located in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality located within the Nkangala District

NEMA Requirement	Discussion
	Municipality. Both Local and District Municipalities have been included on the stakeholder database.
(vi) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity	DFFE has been, and will continue to be, consulted. The Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (MDARDLEA) has been included on the stakeholder database.
(vii) any other party as required by the competent authority.	<p>All tiers of government, namely, national, provincial, local government and parastatals have been included on the stakeholder database. Inclusive of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE);</li> <li>■ Mpumalanga Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)</li> <li>■ MDARDLEA</li> <li>■ Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DARDLEA)</li> <li>■ DFFE</li> <li>■ Mpumalanga DWS: Oliphant's Proto-CMA</li> <li>■ Mpumalanga Department of Social Development</li> <li>■ Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport</li> <li>■ Mpumalanga Department of Co-Operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA)</li> <li>■ Mpumalanga Heritage Resources Authority</li> <li>■ Department of Defence Force Mpumalanga</li> <li>■ Nkangala District Municipality</li> <li>■ Steve Tshwete Local Municipality</li> <li>■ BirdLife South Africa</li> <li>■ South African National Biodiversity Institute</li> <li>■ Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA)</li> </ul>

**Appendix A** provides a list of stakeholders registered on the Project database. The stakeholders along with the date on which they registered and reference to comments received, where applicable, are indicated in **Appendix D**.

## 4.4 STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND MAPPING

This section describes the primary and secondary stakeholders and their classification into categories or groups.

The following steps were followed to identify the local primary and secondary-level stakeholders impacted by the proponent:

- **Identification:** Stakeholders were identified using existing stakeholder databases from projects in the area, as well as databases generated from Eskom's interaction with the community.
- **Assessment:** The second step was to assess proponent's impacts on these key stakeholders (**Table 4-2**).



- **Mapping:** These stakeholders have been geographically mapped around the Komati Power Station operations and are indicated in **Table 4-3**.

**Table 4-2 – Identification of potential issues and mitigation measures as part of the stakeholder mapping process**

Potential issues	Mitigation measures
Consultations to underpin ESS10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Adverts on the proposed project were translated into local languages. The detail of the public consultation undertaken is included in Section 5.1;</li> <li>■ Stakeholders were given 30 days to review the Draft Reports and provide feedback. The detail of the public consultation undertaken is included in Section 7;</li> <li>■ A focus group meeting was held at Komati Power Station on 09 June 2022 for community representatives, stakeholder forums and NGOs for discussion on the proposed establishment of a Solar PV and BESS Facility at Komati Power Station. Refer to <b>Appendix C.2</b> for the Meeting Register and Meeting Notes; and</li> <li>■ A public meeting was held at Laerskool Koornfontein in Komati on 25 July 2023. Two sessions were held on 25 July 2023. Refer to <b>Appendix C.3</b> for the Meeting Register and Notes.</li> </ul>
Adverse health, social and environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Environmental Impact Studies are crucial so as to determine potential adverse impacts and to identify suitable mitigation measures prior to the development of the project; and</li> <li>■ Impact assessment information was made available to the public. The detail of the public consultation undertaken is included in Section 5.1.</li> </ul>
Lack of feedback to communities after review by decision-makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ All Stakeholders included on the Stakeholder Database will be informed of the authority's (DFFE) decision-making on the project. Emails will be sent out by the EAP to all stakeholders registered on the database.</li> </ul>

**Table 4-3 – Stakeholder groups**

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder
<b>Decision-Makers / Regulators</b>	
Government – Competent Authority on the EIA Process	DFFE
Government – National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ DMRE;</li> <li>■ DFFE: Biodiversity Conservation Unit;</li> <li>■ DFFE: Protected Areas;</li> <li>■ DWS;</li> <li>■ Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs;</li> <li>■ Department of Economic Development and Tourism;</li> <li>■ DFFE: Air Quality;</li> <li>■ DFFE: Climate Change;</li> <li>■ Department of Public Enterprises;</li> </ul>

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport;</li> <li>Department of Rural Development and Land Reform;</li> <li>Department of Trade, Industry and Competition;</li> <li>South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA);</li> <li>Civil Aviation Authority (CAA);</li> <li>Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS);</li> <li>Department of Defence (DD) (SA Army);</li> <li>Astronomy Management Authority (AMA);</li> <li>South African Weather Services (SAWS);</li> <li>South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL);</li> <li>National Treasury; and</li> <li>Office of the Premier.</li> </ul>
Mpumalanga Provincial Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mpumalanga Department Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (MDARDLEA);</li> <li>Mpumalanga Heritage Resources Authority (MHRA);</li> <li>Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA);</li> <li>Mpumalanga Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs;</li> <li>Department of Defence Force Mpumalanga;</li> <li>Department of Education - Mpumalanga Province;</li> <li>Mpumalanga Department of Minerals and Resources;</li> <li>Mpumalanga Department of Public Works Road and Transport;</li> <li>Mpumalanga Department of Social Development; and</li> <li>Mpumalanga Department of Water and Sanitation.</li> </ul>
District Level Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nkangala District Municipality; and</li> <li>Steve Tshwete Local Municipality.</li> </ul>
<b>Interest Group</b>	
Public, private companies, agencies and financial institutions (national & provincial level)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Middleburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry;</li> <li>Mine water Coordinating Body; and</li> <li>Minerals Council South Africa.</li> </ul>
Environmental Interest Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BirdLife South Africa;</li> <li>Endangered Wildlife Trust;</li> <li>Mpumalanga Agri SA;</li> <li>Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA);</li> <li>Mpumalanga Wetland Forum;</li> <li>South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI);</li> <li>Waterval Forum; and</li> <li>Olifants River Forum.</li> </ul>
<b>Locally Affected People: Primary Stakeholders</b>	
Local leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traditional authorities, chiefs and leaders;</li> <li>Religious or educational leaders;</li> <li>Farm Belt Community Economic Development Structure;</li> </ul>

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Farm Belt Community Economic Development Structure (Geluk Farm); and</li> <li>■ Farm Belt Community Economic Development Structure (Koorfontein Village).</li> </ul>
Affected individuals	Men, women, children, youth, elderly, and disabled within the study area.
Local institutions and service providers in the Study area of Influence	Educational and health services.
Vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Women</li> <li>■ Low income groups (these could include child-headed households)</li> <li>■ Disabled people; and</li> <li>■ Elderly people.</li> </ul>
Local business/ companies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Adaptation Network;</li> <li>■ Afsol Petroleum;</li> <li>■ Bonga Metal Steel and Industrial;</li> <li>■ Buckman Laboratories;</li> <li>■ Cafè Butchery;</li> <li>■ CanPro;</li> <li>■ Central Energy Fund;</li> <li>■ Cesar-Avante Guard Engineering;</li> <li>■ Dirotech Trading;</li> <li>■ Effective Human Intervention;</li> <li>■ ES Africa;</li> <li>■ Exxaro;</li> <li>■ F Menge Presentations and Signs;</li> <li>■ Food Zone;</li> <li>■ Igwababa Supermarket;</li> <li>■ IME-SA;</li> <li>■ Johnson Crane Hire;</li> <li>■ JV Entities Trading and Projects;</li> <li>■ Kgolane Business Enterprise;</li> <li>■ KSB Pumps and Valves;</li> <li>■ Lakama Guest House;</li> <li>■ Leads 2 Business;</li> <li>■ Mgugwana Investment;</li> <li>■ NKM2 Engineering Construction;</li> <li>■ OK Foods;</li> <li>■ Techlam Projects;</li> <li>■ Thapo Access Specialists;</li> <li>■ The Shaft Pub &amp; Grill;</li> <li>■ Thungela Resources;</li> <li>■ TUV Sud South Africa Pro-Tec;</li> <li>■ Vega Controls SA; and</li> <li>■ Villa Rosa.</li> </ul>
Local NGOs, conservation entities and civil society organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Africa Climate Alliance</li> <li>■ Centre for Environmental Rights</li> <li>■ Earthlife Africa</li> </ul>

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green Cape</li> <li>Greenpeace Africa</li> <li>Groundwork</li> <li>Just Share</li> <li>Life After Coal</li> <li>Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute</li> <li>Centre for Environmental Rights</li> <li>Eskom Transmission Grid Planning Land and Rights</li> <li>Independent Development Trust</li> <li>NEDLAC</li> <li>Project 90</li> </ul>
Community Based Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Middelburg Business and Unemployment Community Forum</li> <li>Woestallen Unemployment Forum</li> </ul>
<b>Academic / Research Organisations</b>	
Academic / research organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centre for Renewable and Sustainable Energy Studies (CRSES) at University of Stellenbosch;</li> <li>Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR);</li> <li>Development Dialogue (TIPS);</li> <li>Impact Catalyst;</li> <li>University of Cape Town; and</li> <li>University of Witwatersrand.</li> </ul>

In addition to the local stakeholders, there are a range of other internal stakeholders, as well as national and international stakeholders that are dealt with as part of the plan. The other key stakeholder groups are:

- Shareholders;
- Eskom employees;
- Eskom contractors/subcontractors;
- Business partners;
- Suppliers;
- Customers;
- International NGOs;
- Media; and
- Stakeholder Forum.

## 4.5 CLASSIFICATION OF ESKOM PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Primary and secondary stakeholders have been categorised into three groups namely:

1. Stakeholders who are affected by Eskom's operations;
2. Stakeholders who are likely to influence Eskom's operational performance; and
3. Stakeholders whom Eskom will have legal responsibilities.

#### **4.5.1 STAKEHOLDERS AFFECTED BY ESKOM OPERATIONS**

These stakeholders include:

- Community Based Organisations;
- Interest Groups;
- CSR beneficiaries;
- Local leaders;
- Stakeholder forum;
- National Government;
- District Government;
- Contractors; and
- Employees.

#### **4.5.2 STAKEHOLDERS WHO ARE LIKELY TO INFLUENCE ESKOM'S OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE**

These stakeholders include:

- Media;
- Stakeholder Forum;
- Industry Players;
- Mpumalanga Provincial Government;
- District Level Government;
- Shareholders;
- Suppliers;
- Unions; and
- Local leaders.

#### **4.5.3 STAKEHOLDERS TO WHOM ESKOM WILL HAVE LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Included in this category of stakeholders, are the:

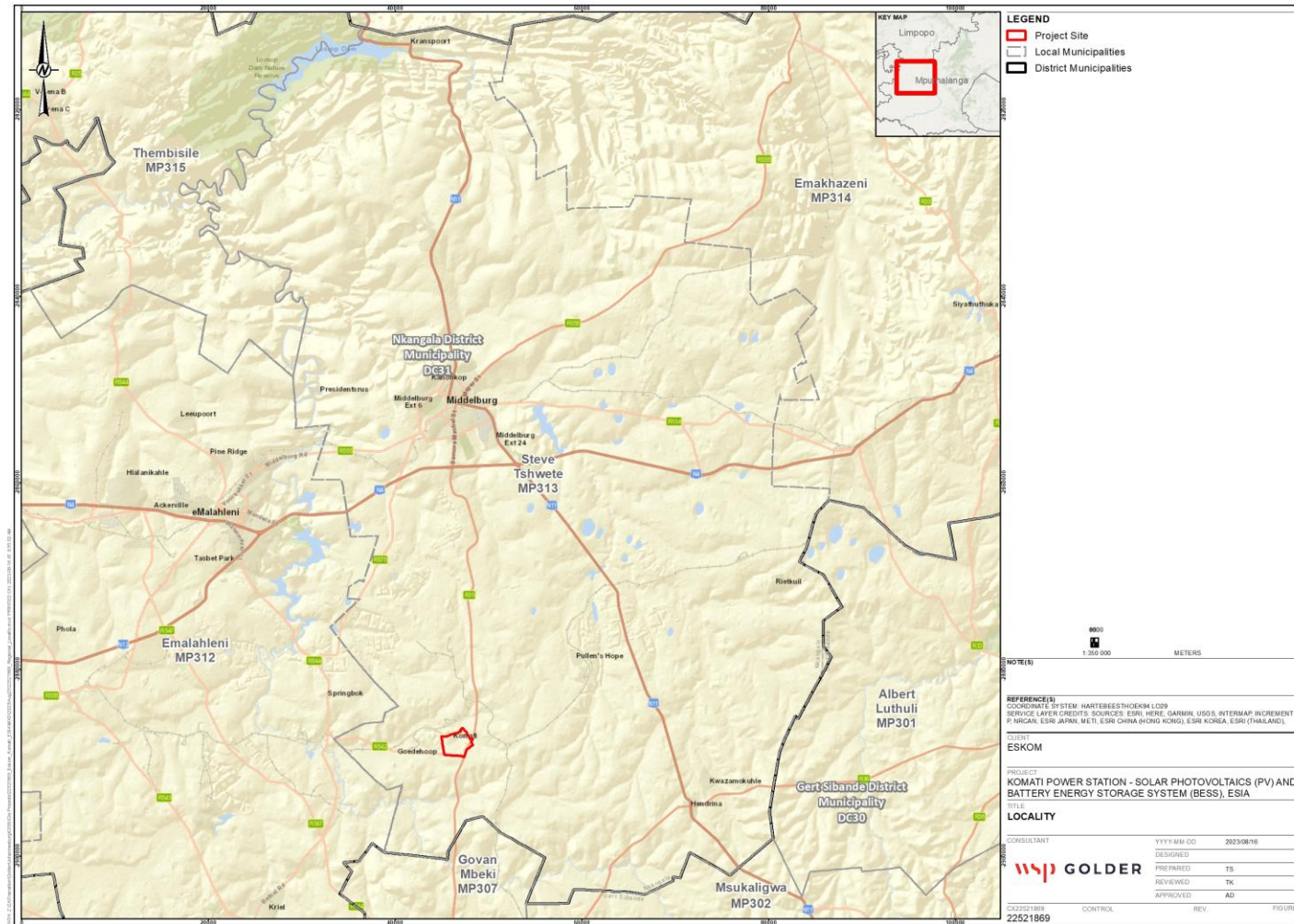
- Contractors;
- Employees;
- Shareholders;
- Suppliers;
- Unions;
- Local leaders;
- District Government; and
- National Government.

The matrices indicate that the Mpumalanga Provincial Government, Nkangala District Municipality, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, national government (DFFE), local leaders, NGOs, interest groups, local government as well as internal stakeholders such as employees, unions, contractors and suppliers may have the biggest influence and would require the proponent to invest in engagement processes to understand key concerns. A good understanding of these stakeholders' key concerns will enable the proponent to consider, and where possible, address such concerns while the company secures its social licence to operate.



Practical approaches for strategic stakeholder engagement will need to include commitments by the proponent to honour commitments made. Communication with stakeholders during an environmental authorisation process such as an ESIA should be aligned to the overarching communication strategy of the proponent and vice versa. Furthermore, stakeholders should be kept abreast of progress and information provided continuously and timely as to how the issues, questions, concerns and contributions of local knowledge have been considered in the environmental or technical specialist studies.





**Figure 4-1 – Project location in relation to Municipal boundaries**

## 5 PPP PROGRAMME

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The WB Guidance Note states that, *where applicable, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan will include differentiated measures to allow the effective participation of those identified as disadvantaged or vulnerable.*

Meetings and contact with stakeholders were conducted in a culturally appropriate manner as stipulated in the WB guidelines, as an isiZulu translator was present at the meeting. Consultants supporting the engagement process were guided by Eskom's social managers regarding the local community.

The local and district government were informed and invite to the local Public Meeting that took place on 25 July 2023 at Laerskool Koornfontein. Details of the Public Meeting are included in **Section 5.2.4.3**. The meeting was arranged in advance and all registered I&APs were informed. An isiZulu translator was present at the meeting. Scheduling of the meeting took into consideration the availability of the public as well as important days in the communities. The meeting venue chosen was easily accessible to stakeholders. The meeting minutes are included in **Appendix C.3**.

The Accountability's Practitioner's Handbook on Stakeholder Engagement, provides guidelines on levels and forms of stakeholder engagement. <sup>1</sup>It confirms that stakeholder engagement is both multi-faceted and needs to be flexible throughout the ESIA process. Effective engagement typically combines approaches - from informing to activities such as consultation or collaboration. The activities to be undertaken prior to project approval and implementation include:

- Formal announcement of the project to all stakeholders;
- Announce availability of a draft scoping report for public review;
- Announce availability of draft ESIA for public review;
- Submission of the final ESIA report and make available for public review;
- Announce decision from authorities; and
- Should the project be approved, stakeholders will be engaged throughout the implementation process, and grievance platform will be in place to capture all issues and concerns related to project activities.

PS 1 further stipulates that stakeholder consultation should include elements of capacity building to ensure the process is considered "free, prior and informed". This will be done by:

- Providing accessible and adequate information without creating undue fears (related to potential negative impacts) or expectations (regarding jobs);
- Including visual illustrations and verbal explanations for illiterate stakeholders (a PowerPoint Presentation was available); and

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ccednet-rdec.ca/sites/ccednet-rdec.ca/files/the\\_stakeholder\\_engagement\\_manual\\_-\\_volume\\_2.pdf](https://ccednet-rdec.ca/sites/ccednet-rdec.ca/files/the_stakeholder_engagement_manual_-_volume_2.pdf)



- Using local languages to ensure stakeholders do not feel intimidated (Adverts notifying the public were done in the local languages and an IsiZulu translator was present at the Public Meeting).

## 5.1 STAKEHOLDER REGISTRATION

All stakeholders that either called in or sent written correspondence, such as emails, fax, or post, to the EAP have been added to the database (**Appendix A**) and their comments and/or queries have been responded to (**Appendix D**).

## 5.2 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT UNDERTAKEN TO DATE

### 5.2.1 PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

A pre-application meeting was held on **06 July 2022** with the DFFE in order to discuss the proposed Project and the Environmental Authorisation Process to be followed. The minutes of this meeting are included in **Appendix C.1**.

### 5.2.2 NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES

#### 5.2.2.1 Direct Notification

Notification of the proposed Project was issued to potential Stakeholders, via direct correspondence (i.e., site notices) on **09 June 2022**. Proof of notification is included **Appendix B**.

#### 5.2.2.2 Newspaper Advertisements

In accordance with the requirements of GNR 982, as amended, the proposed project was advertised in two local newspapers. The purpose of the advertisement was to notify the public about the proposed project and to invite them to register as stakeholders. A copy of the advertisements are included in **Appendix B.1**. The advertisement dates are listed in **Table 5-1**.

**Table 5-1 - Dates on which the Adverts were published**

Newspaper	Publication Date	Language
Witbank News	10 June 2022	English and IsiZulu
Highvelder	10 June 2022	English and Afrikaans

#### 5.2.2.3 Site Notices

In accordance with GNR 326 Section 41(2)(a-b) site notices were developed (see **Appendix B.2**) to be placed at strategic points in close proximity to the proposed Project site, as well as in public places within Steve Tshwete Local Municipality and Nkangala District Municipality. Site notices were put up on 09 June 2022 at the following points:

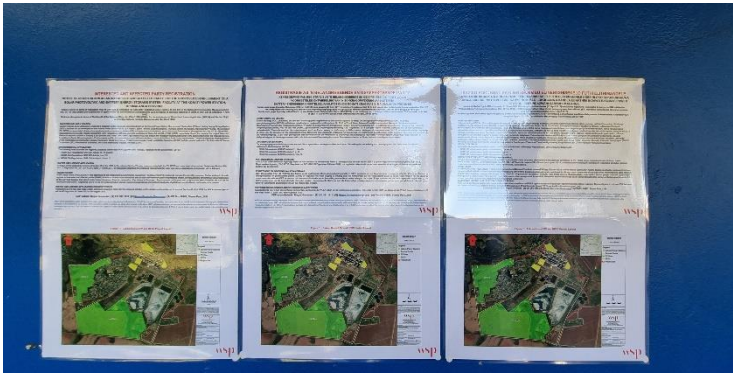
- Komati Power Station Entrance;
- Boundary/access road to the Solar PV Site A and B;
- Blinkplan Police Station;
- OK Foods Super Market;
- Komati Paypoint and Library;

- Nkangala District Municipality Office;
- Gerard Sekoto Library;
- Eastdene Public Library; and
- Hendrina Public Library.

**Table 5-2** shows details and proof of display. **Figure 5-1** shows the mapped locations of the site notice placements along the site boundary.

**Table 5-2 - Site Notice Locations**

Location	Co-Ordinates	Photographs
OK Foods Store, Komati	26°05'36" S 29°27'49" E	
Komati Paypoint and Library	26°05'42" S 29°27'44" E	

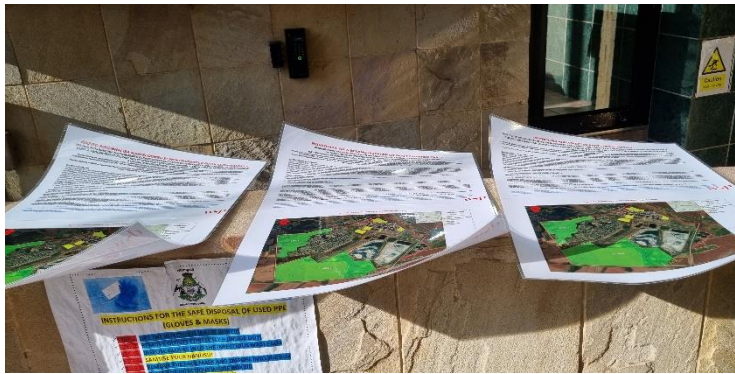

Location	Co-Ordinates	Photographs
		
Blinkplan Police Station (Community Service Centre)	26°05'58" S 29°27'01" E	 
Solar Site B Boundary Point	26°06'07" S 29°27'02" E	



Location	Co-Ordinates	Photographs
Solar Site Boundary A	26°06'36" S 29°27'09" E	
Komati Power Station Entrance	26°05'22" S 29°28'04" E	
Hendrina Public Library	26°09'38" S 29°42'58" E	

Location	Co-Ordinates	Photographs
		
Eastdene Public Library	25°46'17" S 29°28'48" E	 
Gerard Sekoto Library	25°46'24" S 29°27'20" E	



Location	Co-Ordinates	Photographs
Nkangala District Municipality	25°47'00" S 29°26'31" E	 



**Figure 5-1 - Location of Site Notices placed around the project boundary**

### 5.2.3 AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

#### 5.2.3.1 Availability of the Draft Scoping Report

Notification of the availability of the Draft Scoping Report was issued to potential Stakeholders as follows:

- Newspaper Adverts:
  - An advert was published in the Middleburg Observer on 03 February 2023 (Proof of Notification is included in **Appendix B**).
- Direct Notification:
  - Emails and SMSs were sent out to all stakeholders listed on the database included in **Appendix B** (Proof of Notification is included in **Appendix B.4** and **Appendix B.5**).

The Draft Scoping Report was placed on public review for a period of at least 30 days from **03 February 2023** to **06 March 2023**, at the venues as follows:

- Hard Copy: Komati Paypoint and Library;
- Hard Copy: Komati Power Station Entrance;
- Hard Copy: Hendrina Public Library.
- Hard Copy: Eastdene Public Library; and
- Hard Copy: Gerard Sekoto Library.
- Electronic Copy: WSP Website (<https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents>)

The Draft Reports were also made available to Commenting Authorities via a One Drive link.

Proof of display of the Draft Scoping Report is provided in **Appendix B.6**.

#### 5.2.3.2 Availability of the Final Scoping Report

The final report was submitted to the DFFE on 16 March 2023 and was made available on the WSP website. Registered I&APs were informed of the report availability.

#### 5.2.3.3 Availability of the Draft EIR

Notification of the availability of the Draft EIA Report was issued to potential Stakeholders as follows:

- Direct Notification:
  - Emails and SMSs were sent out to all stakeholders listed on the stakeholder database

The Draft EIA Report was placed on public review for a period of at least 30 days from **05 July 2023** to **04 August 2023**, at the venues as follows:

- Hard Copy: Komati Paypoint and Library;
- Hard Copy: Komati Power Station Entrance;
- Hard Copy: Hendrina Public Library.
- Hard Copy: Eastdene Public Library; and





- Hard Copy: Gerard Sekoto Library.
- Electronic Copy: WSP Website (<https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents>)

The Draft Reports were also made available to Commenting Authorities via a One Drive link.

#### 5.2.3.4 Availability of the Final EIR

The Final EIA Report (ESIA) was made available for public review for 30 days from **18 August 2023** to **18 September 2023**, at the venues as follows:

- Hard Copy: Komati Paypoint and Library;
- Hard Copy: Komati Power Station Entrance;
- Hard Copy: Hendrina Public Library.
- Hard Copy: Eastdene Public Library; and
- Hard Copy: Gerard Sekoto Library.
- Electronic Copy: WSP Website (<https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents>)

The reports were also made available to Commenting Authorities via a One Drive link.

### 5.2.4 PROJECT MEETINGS

#### 5.2.4.1 DFFE Pre-Application Meeting

A pre-application meeting was held on **06 July 2022** with the DFFE in order to discuss the proposed Project. The minutes of this meeting are included in **Appendix C.1**.

#### 5.2.4.2 Focus Group Meeting

A focus group meeting was held at Komati Power Station on **09 June 2022** for community representatives, stakeholder forums and NGOs for discussion on the proposed establishment of a Solar PV and BESS Facility at Komati Power Station. Refer to **Appendix C.2** for the Meeting Register and Meeting Notes.

#### 5.2.4.3 Public Meeting

A public meeting was held at Laerskool Koornfontein in Komati on 25 July 2023. Notification was sent out on 12 July 2023 to all registered stakeholders listed on the database via Email and SMS. Notification was also sent out on 20 July 2023 to stakeholders informing them of a change in venue. Proof of notification is included in **Appendix B.7**. Two sessions were held on 25 July 2023. Refer to **Appendix C.3** for the Meeting Register and Notes.

#### 5.2.4.4 Site Visit with Nkangala District Municipality

A site visit was requested on 20 August 2023 by the Nkangala District Municipality Environmental Compliance Team. The site visit took place on 11 September 2023. Refer to Appendix C.4 for the Attendance Register.

*In addition to the meetings held for the proposed project, Eskom has undertaken their own meetings with the public and meetings have been held with the public on the decommissioning process.*

## 5.3 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

All comments received to date during the various project phases have been responded to in the Comments and Responses Tables included in Appendix D.1. A copy of the original comments have been included in **Appendix D.2**.

### 5.3.1 ISSUES RAISED DURING THE SCOPING PHASE

During the Scoping Phase several issues were raised by the stakeholders. Below is a summary of the issues that were raised by stakeholders:

- Environmentally sensitive areas:
  - A CBA occurs at the west of the proposed site, that is largely covering the portion proposed for the establishment of the solar PV Site B. Kindly take note that according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan, 2015, PV farms and solar arrays are not compatible land-use activities to be undertaken in areas classified as CBA. Therefore, the mitigation hierarchy should be applied in full, and a Biodiversity Offset should be considered to ensure that significant residual impacts of the development are remedied.
  - PV Site A overlaps with Seep 1, which could lead to the permanent loss of wetland habitat within the project footprint. This impact has a high probability of occurrence and a high impact consequence. The impact significance is of High significance prior to the implementation of mitigation measures and can be reduced to a Medium significance with the application of recommended mitigation measures. Significant residual impacts (Medium/High) will need to be addressed via modification of the final layout to ensure that wetland loss is avoided, or design of an appropriate offset for unavoidable habitat loss. Therefore, the mitigation hierarchy should be applied in full and where significant residual impacts remain a Biodiversity Offset should be considered.
- Job Opportunities:
  - There is a concern that the BESS parts will arrive already assembled as jobs need to be created in the areas. The community would like to establish a local manufacturing facility for solar plants including the manufacturing of batteries in the Komati area. This will mitigate the negative impact of the closure of the Komati Power Station. They would like the local manufacturing facility to be in the Komati area.
  - Unless there is an end goal of a job opportunity, there is no point in re-skilling people.
  - Eskom needs to consider the local community for job opportunities within the project. Eskom should include local businesses such as guesthouses and transport companies that can be used for this project. If possible, Eskom should also give vendor numbers for small businesses in the area.
- Training and Up-Skilling:
  - A training centre can be set up in the area. The other aspect to consider is that re-skilling is focussed on the illiterate community. There are already literate

skilled people that need to be re-skilled. The type of training to be provided will need to be looked at. There will be more momentum if the skilled community is up-skilled.

- The community are used to a Power Station that utilises coal and they have been skilled in this manner. Now that there is a transition to a different technology, the community would like to be upskilled so that when new jobs arises from this project, they will have the required skill set.
- Baseload:
  - There is a concern regarding baseload. The community do not want the green energy to take away the base load required for major industries.
- Noise impact:
  - There was a query regarding how the solar structures are going to operate and if there will be any noise emanating from the solar panels.

### 5.3.2 ISSUES RAISED DURING THE EIA PHASE

During the EIA Phase several issues were raised by the stakeholders. Below is a summary of the issues were raised by stakeholders:

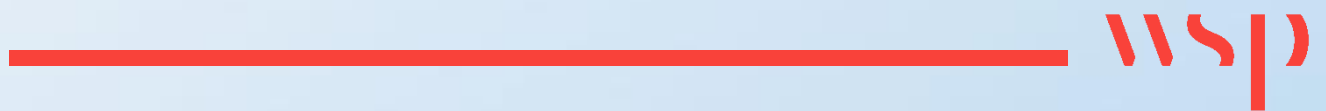
- Job Opportunities:
  - There was an enquiry if there are any business proposal or ideas who is the contact person at Eskom Komati Power station. There is a high rate of unemployment in the community and opportunities must be shared.
  - The transition from coal power to renewable energy has resulted in a deterioration of living conditions for the community.
  - Enquiries were made on whether a stipend will be provided during the training to be provided by Eskom.
  - There is a concern on what is planned for the construction workforce after the planned 4-5 years of construction.
  - The community noted the high unemployment rate and asked what positive changes will be instilled now
  - The community feel that there was never a plan for the job losses experienced or a plan to make sure people are fed.
  - It was stated that the decommissioning of coal fired power stations will have a ripple effect on the surrounding mines.
  - There was a suggestion that the use of labour brokers be done away with when the proposed facility starts employing people.
- Training and Up-Skilling:
  - There were enquiries on whether the skills offered will be transferrable to other workplaces.
  - The community requested that the Komati community be prioritised for training.
  - There was a suggestion that the skill centre could upskill learners to become lecturers.



- Electricity costs:
  - The community asked if the electricity cost will decrease considering that there are no costs relating to the sourcing of the energy.
  - There was an enquiry whether electricity will now be free.
- Electricity Generation:
  - There was an enquiry regarding the generation of solar electricity during bad weather and a suggestion that five boilers be recommissioned to help mitigate the impacts of bad weather.
- Decommissioning Impacts
  - The community was concerned that the planning of the project has not considered crime, diseases and other effects of decommissioning.
- BESS Technology
  - There was a health and safety concern from an I&AP regarding the technology for the BESS, specifically if Vanadium Pentoxide Flow Batteries will be used in the BESS.

# Appendix A

## STAKEHOLDER DATABASE



Stakeholder Type	First Name	Last Name	Company
Air Traffic and Weather Companies			Air Traffic and Navigation Service
Air Traffic and Weather Companies			SA Weather Service
Air Traffic and Weather Companies			South African Civil Aviation Authority
Authority			Department Agriculture, Rural Development Land and Environment Affairs
Authority			Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
Authority			Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
Authority			Department of Defence Force Mpumalanga
Authority			Department of Defence Force Mpumalanga
Authority			Department of Economic Development and Tourism
Authority			Department of Education - Mpumalanga Province
Authority			Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment
Authority			Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment
Authority			Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment
Authority			Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment: Air Quality
Authority			Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment: Air Quality
Authority			Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment: Biodiversity Conservation
Authority			Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment: Biodiversity Conservation
Authority			Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment: Biodiversity Conservation
Authority			Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment: Climate Change
Authority			Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment: Environmental Impact Evaluation
Authority			Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
Authority			Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
Authority			Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
Authority			Department of Public Enterprises
Authority			Department of Public Enterprises
Authority			Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport
Authority			Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
Authority			Department of Trade, Industry and Competition
Authority			Department of Water & Sanitation
Authority			Department of Water and Sanitation
Authority			Mpumalanga Co-Operative Governance & Traditional Affairs
Authority			Mpumalanga Department Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs
Authority			Mpumalanga Department Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs
Authority			Mpumalanga Department of Co-Operative Governance and Traditional Affairs
Authority			Mpumalanga Department of Minerals and Resources
Authority			Mpumalanga Department of Public Works Road and Transport
Authority			Mpumalanga Department of Public Works Road and Transport
Authority			Mpumalanga Department of Social Development
Authority			Mpumalanga Department of Water and Sanitation
Authority			Mpumalanga Department of Water and Sanitation
Authority			Mpumalanga Department of Water and Sanitation
Authority			Mpumalanga Heritage Resources Agency
Authority			Mpumalanga Heritage Resources Authority
Authority			Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency
Authority			Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency
Authority			National Treasury
Authority			Office of the Premier
Authority			Office of the Premier
Authority			South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA)
Authority			South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA)
Authority			South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA)
Authority			Mpumalanga Provincial Government - Nkangala District Municipality
Authority			Mpumalanga Provincial Government - Nkangala District Municipality
Authority			Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Business			Adaptation Network
Business			Afsol Petroleum
Business			Bonga Metal Steel and Industrial
Business			Buckman Laboratories
Business			Café Butchery
Business			CanPro
Business			Central Energy Fund
Business			Cesar-Avante Guard Engineering
Business			Dirotech Trading
Business			Effective Human Intervention
Business			ESA
Business			Exxaro
Business			F Menge Presentations and Signs
Business			Food Zone
Business			Igwababa Supermarket
Business			IME-SA
Business			Johnson Crane Hire
Business			Johnson Crane Hire
Business			JV Entities Trading and Projects
Business			Kgolane Business Enterprise
Business			KSB Pumps and Valves
Business			Lakama Guest House
Business			Leads 2 Business
Business			Mgugwana Investment
Business			Middleburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Business			Mine water Coordinating Body
Business			Minerals Council South Africa
Business			Minerals Council South Africa
Business			Minerals Council South Africa
Business			NKM2 Engineering Construction
Business			OK Foods
Business			Techlam Projects
Business			Thapo Access Specialists
Business			The Shaft Pub & Grill
Business			The Shaft Pub & Grill
Business			The Shaft Pub & Grill
Business			Thungela Resources
Business			Thungela Resources
Business			Thungela Resources

Stakeholder Type	First Name	Last Name	Company
Business			TUV Sud South Africa Pro-Tec
Business			Vega Controls SA
Business			Vega Controls SA
Community Member			Blinkpan
Community Member			Blinkpan
Community Member			Blinkpan Primary
Community Member			Blinkpan Resident
Community Member			Blinkpan Resident
Community Member			Booidnesplaas Forum
Community Member			Bultfontein Farm
Community Member			Bultfontein Farm
Community Member			Business Entrepreneur
Community Member			Community Leader
Community Member			Community Member
Community Member			Driefontein Farm
Community Member			Farm Belt Community
Community Member			Farm Belt Community
Community Member			Farm Belt Community Economic Development Structure
Community Member			Farm Belt Community Economic Development Structure (Geluk Farm)
Community Member			Farm Belt Community Economic Development Structure (Koorfontein Village)
Community Member			Goedehoop Farm
Community Member			Hlathilli
Community Member			Komati Village
Community Member			Komati Village
Community Member			Komati Village
Community Member			Komati Village
Community Member			Komati Village
Community Member			Komati Village
Community Member			Komati Village Resident
Community Member			Komati Village Resident
Community Member			Koorfontein Farm
Community Member			Koorfontein Village
Community Member			Koorfontein Village Resident
Community Member			Kroonfontein
Community Member			Landowner
Community Member			Landowner
Community Member			Landowner
Community Member			Mechanic (Flamigo Street)
Community Member			Pastor
Community Member			Traditional Leader - Inkosi
Community Member			Villa Rosa
Community Member			Villa Rosa Komati
Community Member			Ward Committee
Developer			Enertrag
Finance Institutions			Absa Group
Finance Institutions			African Development Bank
Finance Institutions			African Development Bank
Finance Institutions			Development Bank of Southern Africa
Finance Institutions			Green Climate Fund
Finance Institutions			Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa
Finance Institutions			Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa
Finance Institutions			Land Bank
Finance Institutions			Land Bank
Finance Institutions			Standard Bank
I&AP			Middelburg Business and Unemployment Community Forum
I&AP			Middelburg Business and Unemployment Community Forum
I&AP			Thembalompmarathi
I&AP			Woestallen Unemployment Forum
I&AP			
I&AP			
I&AP			
I&AP			
I&AP			
I&AP			
I&AP			
I&AP			
I&AP			Eazi Access
I&AP			Eazi Access
I&AP			SOLA
International Organisation			United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
International Organisation			USAID, Power Africa
International Organisation			World Bank
International Organisation			World Bank
Landowner			Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency
Local Facility			Laerskool Koorfontein
Local Facility			SAPS Blinkpan
Local Facility			Steve Tshwete Local Municipality Library
Municipality			Nkangala District Municipality
Municipality			Nkangala District Municipality
Municipality			Nkangala District Municipality
Municipality			Nkangala District Municipality
Municipality			Nkangala District Municipality
Municipality			Steve Tshwete Local Municipality
Municipality			Steve Tshwete Local Municipality
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Municipality			Steve Tshwete Local Municipality
Municipality			Steve Tshwete Local Municipality
Municipality			Steve Tshwete Local Municipality
NGO			BirdLife South Africa
NGO			Endangered Wildlife Trust

[illegible]



[illegible]

Stakeholder Type	First Name	Last Name	Company
I&AP			
I&AP			
I&AP			
I&AP			
I&AP			Eskom
I&AP			Mpumacare
I&AP			
I&AP			Unemployed
I&AP			Unemployed
I&AP			Mpumacare
I&AP			Mpumacare
I&AP			Magic Shine Projects
I&AP			Magic Shine Projects
I&AP			Unemployed
I&AP			Unemployed
I&AP			Mpumacare EMS
I&AP			Mpumacare
I&AP			Mpumacare
I&AP			Mpumacare
I&AP			Yellowdoor

# Appendix B

## NOTIFICATIONS



# Appendix B.1

## ADVERTISEMENT



situated on the northern part of the property. Number of erven in proposed township according to proposed zoning: Two (2) erven, proposed zoning "Commercial" including Liquor Enterprise, Place of Amusement, Place of Refreshment, Place of Instruction, Drive-thru Restaurant and Builders Yard, subject to certain conditions. Plans and/or particulars of this application may be inspected during normal office hours at the following address: Directorate Development Planning, 3rd Floor, Civic Centre, Mandela Avenue, eMalahleni, 1039. Contact details of relevant Municipal officials: Ms. D. Mkhabela (013 690 6354)/ Mr. V. Manyoni (013 690 6480) Any person or persons having any objection against the approval of this application must lodge such written objections, together with a proper motivation, in a format as contemplated in Sections 103 and 104 of the eMalahleni Spatial Planning and Land Use Management By-Law, 2016, with the Municipal Manager, PO Box 3, eMalahleni, 1039 and the undersigned, by not later than 10 August 2022. Name of agent: Origin Town and Regional Planning (Pty) Ltd Physical address of Agent: 306 Melk Street, Nieuw Muckleneuk, 0181 Postal address: PO Box 2162, Brooklyn Square, 0075 Contact details of Agent: Telephone: (012) 346-3735, Fax 012 346 4217 or E-mail: [plan@origintp.co.za](mailto:plan@origintp.co.za) Date of first publication: 10 June 2022 Date of second publication: 17 June 2022 OS016452

**EMALAHLENI PLAASLIKE MUNISIPALITEIT KENNISGEWING VAN AANSOEK VIR DIE STIGTING VAN 'N DORP, IN TERME VAN ARTIKEL 59 VAN DIE eMALAHLENI RUIMTELIKE BEPLANNING EN GRONDGEBRUIK-BESTUUR BYWET, 2016, GELEES TESAAME MET DIE BEPALINGS VAN DIE WET OP RUIMTELIKE BEPLANNING EN GRONDGEBRUIK-BESTUUR, 2013 (WET NR. 16 VAN 2013) PHOLA UITBREIDING 18** Ons Origin Stads en Streks Beplanning (Edms) Bpk, die gemagtigde agent van die eienaar van Gedeelte 20 van die plaas Prinshof 2-IS gee hiermee kennis in terme van Artikel 59 van die eMalahleni Ruimtelike Beplanning en Grondgebruikbestuur Bywet, 2016, gelees tesame met die bepaling van die Wet op Ruimtelike Beplanning en Grondgebruikbestuur, 2013 (Wet nr. 16 van 2013) dat 'n aansoek ingedien is by die eMalahleni Plaaslike Munisipaliteit vir die stigting van die voorgestelde dorp soos beskryf hieronder. **Naam van voorgestelde dorp:** Phola Uitbreiding 18 **Volle naam van aansoeker:** Origin Stads en Streks Beplanning (Edms) Bpk, **Beskrywing van grond waarop dorp gestig gaan word:** 'n Deel van Gedeelte 20 van die plaas Prinshof 2-IS **Ligging van voorgestelde dorp:** Die eiendom is geleë noord van die N12 hoofweg by die kruising van die N12 en die R545. Die eiendom is wes van die R545 geleë direk wes van bestaande dorp Phola. Die voorgestelde dorp is geleë op die noordelike deel van die eiendom. **Aantal erwe in dorp volgens voorgestelde sonerings:** Twee (2) erwe, voorgestelde sonering "Kommersieel" insluitend Drankonderneming, Vermaaklikheidsplek, Verversingsplek, Plek van

Onderrig, Deurry-Restaurant en Bouerswerf, onderhewig aan sekere voorwaardes. Planne en/of besonderhede van die aansoek mag gedurende normale kantoorure besigtig word by die volgende adres: Direkoraat Ontwikkelings Beplanning, 3de vloer, Burgersentrum, Mandelastraat, eMalahleni, 1039 Kontakbesonderhede van betrokke Munisipale Amptenare is soos volg: Me. D. Mkhabela (013 690 6354)/ Mnr. V. Manyoni (013 690 6480) Enige persoon of persone wat enige beswaar het teen die toestaan van die aansoek, moet sodanige geskrewe beswaar volledig motiveer, soos vereis in Afdeling 103 en 104 van die eMalahleni Ruimtelike Beplanning en Grondgebruikbestuur Bywet, 2016, en indien by die Munisipale Bestuurder, Posbus 3, eMalahleni, 1039 sowel as die ondergetekende, nie later as 10 Augustus 2022 nie. Naam van agent: Origin Stads en Streks Beplanning (Edms) Bpk, Fisiese adres van Agent: Melkstraat 306, Nieuw Muckleneuk, 0181 Posadres: Posbus 2162, Brooklyn Square, 0075 Kontakbesonderhede van Agent: Telefoon: (012) 346 3735, Faks: (012) 346 4217 of E-pos: [plan@origintp.co.za](mailto:plan@origintp.co.za) Datum van eerste publikasie: 10 Junie 2022 Datum van tweede publikasie: 17 Junie 2022 OS016453

**EMALAHLENI PLAASLIKE MUNISIPALITEIT KENNISGEWING VAN AANSOEK VIR VERGUNNINGSGEBRUIK IN TERME VAN ARTIKEL 26 VAN DIE eMALAHLENI GRONDGEBRUIK-BESTUUR SKEMA, 2010** Ek, Maraine Conroy van die Firma J Rossouw Stadsbeplanners & Medewerkers (Edms) Bpk synde die gemagtigde agent van die geregistreerde eienaar van Gedeelte 2 van Erf 3150, Dorp Kriel gee hiermee kennis in terme van Artikel 26 van die eMalahleni Grondgebruikbestuur Skema, 2010 van aansoek, tot die eMalahleni Plaaslike Munisipaliteit vir die vergunningsgebruik van bogemelde eiendom geleë op die hoek van Bokmakierie Laan and Nagtegal Laan, Kriel, vir die doeleindes van die bou van 'n 25 m geelhoutboom telekommunikasiemas en basisstasie vir ATC Suid-Afrika. Ingevolge die Grondgebruikbestuur skema is die grond as volg gesoneer: Besigheid 3. Enige beswaar of kommentaar insluitend gronde vir genoemde beswaar/ of kommentaar met volledige kontakbesonderhede, moet skriftelik binne 'n tydperk van 28 dae vanaf 10 Junie 2022 aan die Munisipale Bestuurder, Posbus 10, eMalahleni 1035, gerig word. Volledige besonderhede en planne lê ter insae gedurende gewone kantoorure by die kantoor van die Munisipale Bestuurder, eMalahleni Plaaslike Munisipaliteit,

Ontwikkelingsbeplanning, 3de Vloer, Burgersentrum, Mandelarylaan, 1035, Tel: 013 690 6354/ 013 690 6480/ 013 690 6220 vir 'n tydperk van 28 dae vanaf 10 Junie 2022. Adres van Applikant: **J Rossouw Stadsbeplanners & Medewerkers (Edms) Bpk**, Steekbaardstraat 708, Garsfontein Uitbreiding 10, Pretoria, Posbus 72604, Lynnwoodrif, 0040. Tel no: 010 010 5479 of Faks: 086 573 3481 of E-pos: [jrossouw@jrtpa.co.za](mailto:jrossouw@jrtpa.co.za) OS016465

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**Witbank**  
013 656 2490 or **classifieds2@witbanknews.co.za**



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- Fully equipped toolbox
- Good state of health
- Must have valid driver's license
- Good communication skills
- Ability to function within a team
- Willing to travel

Company based in Witbank / eMalahleni

Closing Date: 15 June 2022

**Please email your CV to [info@comsmining.co.za](mailto:info@comsmining.co.za)**

## VACANCIES & BETREKKINGS



A Bushveld Minerals Limited Group Company

**The vacancies listed below are now advertised externally at Bushveld Vanchem.**

## Human Resources Development

<i>Bushveld Vanchem offers exciting opportunities to students in a complex manufacturing environment</i>	
Field:	Minimum Requirements or other Relevant Qualifications/Experience:
Sponsorship for Students who must complete Practical 1 and 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diploma/Degree in Chemical Engineering or Metallurgy</li> <li>• Diploma/BA Degree in HRM</li> <li>• Diploma/Degree in Electrical Engineering</li> <li>• Diploma/ Degree in Mechanical</li> <li>• Good communication skills</li> <li>• Problem-solving skills</li> <li>• Ability to meet deadlines</li> <li>• Team player</li> <li>• Interpersonal skills</li> <li>• Planning and organising skills</li> <li>• Attention to detail</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 x Metallurgical / Chemical Engineering</li> <li>• 1 x Human Resources</li> <li>• 1 x Electrical</li> <li>• 1 x Mechanical</li> </ul>	

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 16 June 2022**

If you think you have the skills, attitudes, and experience to be considered for any of these opportunities, you are encouraged to apply by sending your updated CV to **Vanchem. Recruitment@bushveldminerals.com**. If you have not heard back from us within 3 weeks – please consider your application as unsuccessful.

# NOTICES! KENNISGEWINGS



## EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Tel: 013 690 6707/6538  
Email: [mthombenip@emalahleni.gov.za](mailto:mthombenip@emalahleni.gov.za) or [buthanel@emalahleni.gov.za](mailto:buthanel@emalahleni.gov.za)

## NOTICE: ON THE DAM WINTER FLEA MARKET

Date : 25 June 2022

eMalahleni Local Municipality will be hosting its first flea market under the theme "On the Dam winter Flea Market". The municipality would like to invite all informal traders, SMMEs, Co-operative in different sectors and big businesses to participate in the Flea Market. The stalls will be sold at different prices for different vendors to accommodate small and big businesses as follows: Big businesses – **R1000**, Food outlets – **R500**, SMMEs – **R200**, Co-operatives – **R100**, and Informal Traders – **R50**.

The municipality will host the flea market as follows:

**Date : 25 June 2022**

Time : 09h00

Venue: eMalahleni Recreation Resort

Residents and visitors to the municipality will access stalls for good food, souvenirs, art and craft work, etc. at a reasonable price. Jumping castles will also be available for kiddies' entertainment and free music. **Entrance fee will be reduced to R30 per adult and R15 per child.**

The application forms for the stalls can be request via email and will also be made available at Municipal offices at Development Planning 3rd floor, Economic Development and Tourism Unit (LED).

For more information contact the Economic Development and Tourism Unit on 013 690 6538/6707 or email to [mthombenip@emalahleni.gov.za](mailto:mthombenip@emalahleni.gov.za) or [buthanel@emalahleni.gov.za](mailto:buthanel@emalahleni.gov.za).

**NB: COVID 19 regulations will be observed. The stall fee listed above must be paid 5 days prior to flea market day at ground floor Main Municipal Building. Proof of payment and completed forms must be forwarded to the above mentioned emails or at Development Planning 3rd floor Economic Development and Tourism Unit.**

H.S MAYISELA  
MUNICIPAL MANAGER

W/10June2022/Stadraad Winter Flea Market/LB/LO460054

## ISAZISO SOKUBHALISA NJENGEQEMBU ELINENTSHISEKELO FUTHI ELITHIMANDELE NGESIHLOKO SOKUSUNGULWA KUKA-A I-SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC KANYE NOHLELO LOKUGCINA AMANDLA EBHATHINI INDAWO E-KOMATI POWER STATION, ESIFUNDAZWENI SASEMPUMALANGA

**Isaziso sinikezwe ngokoMthethonqubo 41(2) we-GNR 326 njengoba uchitshiyelwe (07 April 2017) oshicilelwe ngaphansi kwesigaba 24 kanye no-24D soMthetho Wokuphathwa Kwemvelo Kazwelonke (No. 107 ka 1998) (NEMA) ukuze kuthunyelwe izicelo zokugunyazwa kwezeMvelo. (EA) mayelana nemisebenzi ehlonzwe ngokwe-GNR 327 njengoba Ichitshiyelwe (7 April 2017).**

**Isaziso siphinde sinikeziwe ngokweSigaba 40 soMthetho Wamanzi Kazwelonke (36 ka-1998) (NWA), sokwethulwa kweSicelo Selayisense Yokusebenzisa Amanzi (WULA) kanye neSigaba 38 (1) & (8) soMthetho Wezomagugu Kazwelonke. (25 ka-1999).**

### IKAMUVA NENDAWO

I-Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (Eskom) ihlangoza ukusungula indawo ephela ugesi welanga eSiteshini Samandla SaseKomati. Izinsiza ezihlongozwayo zeSolar Photovoltaic (PV) kanye neBattery Energy Storage System (BESS) zizothuthukiswa epulazini iKomati Power Station No 56 IS kuWadi 4, kuMasipala Wendawo waseSteve Tshwete, kuMasipala Wesifunda saseNkangala, esifundazweni saseMpumalanga. I-Solar PV ehlongozwayo, i-BESS kanye nengqalasizinda ehlobene nayo idinga ukugunyazwa kwemvelo (EA) kanye nokugunyazwa kokusetshenziswa kwamanzi ngokoMthetho Kazwelonke Wokuphathwa Kwemvelo, uMthetho we-107 ka-1998 (NEMA), ohambisana neMithethonqubo Yokuhlola Impatho Yendawo ka-2014 njengoba uchitshiyelwe kanye Nomthetho Kazwelonke. Umthetho Wamanzi, uMthetho wama-36 ka-1998 (NWA) ngokulandelayo. Ngenxa yesimo semikhawulo yephrojekthi, u-Eskom kudingeka ukuthi alandele inqubo ye-Scoping & EIA kanye nesicelo selayisensi Yokusebenzisa KwaManzi (WULA) ukuze athole ukugunyazwa okudingekayo ngaphambi kokuqala kwephrojekthi ehlongozwayo. Ngaphezu koMthetho waseNingizimu Afrika, Ukuhlolwa Komthelela Wezemvelo kanye Nomphakathi kuzokwenziwa ngokwezidingo zeQembu LeBhange Lomhlaba. Lokhu kuzohambisana nezidingo zeBhange Lomhlaba Lezemvelo & Nohlaka Lwezenhlalakahle; I-World Bank Group (WBG) Iziqondiso Zemvelo, Ezempilo Nokuphepha (EHS) kokubili jikelele kanye nomkhakha; Izilinganiso Zokusebenza Zehlengano Yezizimali Yamazwe Ngamazwe; kanye Nemikhuba Emihle Yemboni Yamazwe Ngamazwe.

### ISICELO SEZEMVELO

Le misebenzi elandelayo esohlwini iqalwa, kuncike ekuqinisekiseni koMnyango Wezamalathi, Izinhlazi kanye Nezemvelo.

- NEMA EIA Imithethonqubo: GNR 327 Umsebenzi 11, 14 and 24;
- NEMA EIA Imithethonqubo: GNR 325 Umsebenzi 1 and 15;
- NEMA EIA Imithethonqubo: GNR 324 Umsebenzi 4, 10 and 12.

### ISICELO SELAYISENSE YOKUSEBENZISWA KWAMANZI

I-WULA izofakwa isicelo ngokweSigaba 40 se-NWA ngokusetshenziswa kwamanzi okufanelekile kweSigaba 21 esihlobene ne-PV, BESS kanye nengqalasizinda ehlobene. Isaziso Sikahulumeni (GN) 40713, Umthethonqubo No. 267 (GN R.267) samhla zingama-24 kuNdas (March) wezi-2017, mayelana nemithethonqubo ephathelene nezinqubo zenqubo yokufaka izicelo zelayisensi yokusebenzisa amanzi kanye nezikhaziso, sizolandelayo.

### UKUBHALISA KANYE NOKUTHUNYELWA KWEMIVO

I-WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) yaqokwa njengoMsebenzi Ozimele Wokuhlola Imvelo (EAP) ngu-Eskom ukuze alawule inqubo yezimvume. Abantu abafisa ukubhalisa ngokusemthethweni njengama-I&APs (I&APs) ukuze bathole ulwazi olwengeziwe kanye/ noma baveze ukuphawula kwabo ngephrojekthi ehlongozwayo, bayacelwa ukuba bathumele imininingwane yabo egcwele ku-EAP futhi badalule ngokuqondile kanye/ noma ibhizinisi elingaqondile, lezezimali, elomuntu siqu noma okunye okuthakaselayo kuphrojekthi. Noma yimiphi imibono ngephrojekthi ehlongozwayo kufanele ithunyelwe ku-EAP ngemininingwane enikezwe ngezansi. Ama-I&APs abhalisiwe azodluliselwa kuzo zonke izincwadi zesikhathi esizayo ezihlobene nephrojekthi futhi aziswe ngabanye ngamathuba engeziwe okubamba iqhaza kulolu hlobo.

### ISIKHATHI SOKUFAKA ISICELO SOKUSEBENZISWA KWAMANZI

Ama-I&APs abhalisiwe angaphinde afake imibono ebhaliwe mayelana ne-WULA ngemisebenzi ehlongozwayo ngemininingwane eshiwo ngenhla. NgokweSigaba 41 (4) se-NWA isikhathi sokuphawula kwe-WULA sizoba yizinsuku ezingama-60 kusukela zi-10 kuNhlangu (June) 2022 kuya ku-09 kuNcwaba (August) 2022.

Imininingwane ye-EAP: Megan Govender (T) 011 361 1410 (E) [Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com) (A) PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

*I-WSP izocubungula ulwazi oluthile lomuntu siqu olumayelana nawe njengenhlangano enentshisekelo nethintekayo (I & AP) ngezinjongo zokwenza ukubhaliswa kwakho njenge-I & AP kanye nezinjongo zokugcina imininingwane yakho kusizindalwazi sethu, uma uvuma ukuba senze kanjalo. I-WSP isebenzisa le mininingwane ukuze ixhumane nawe mayelana namanye amaphrojekthi esikhathini esizayo. I-WSP izohlala icubungula ulwazi lwakho lomuntu siqu ngokuhambisana noMthetho Wokuvikela Ulwazi Lomuntu Siqo 4 ka-2013. Unelungelo lokusebenzisa amalungelo akho njengesihloko sedatha futhi usazise uma ufisa ukukhishwa ukubhaliswa njenge-I & AP noma uma cha. usefuna imininingwane yakho yokuxhumana ifakwe kusizindalwazi sethu*



W/10June/Eskom WSP Zulu 20X4/SV/LO460019



# Woltemade stabbing

## Suspect granted R2 000 bail

Chrisuné Vermeulen

The suspect in connection with Nelly Voyiya's murder was granted R2 000 bail.

The Witbank Magistrate's Court granted Gilbert Voyiya R2 000 bail on Friday, June 3 in connection with the gruesome murder of his wife, Nelly Voyiya.

The family of the victim was bitter and disappointed about the court's decision to grant the suspect bail in the backdrop of the rise in cases of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) in the country.

"What saddens me is that the justice system supports perpetrators instead of victims and their families," said the late Nelly's sister, Thembi Shabangu. WITBANK NEWS reported on the tragic death of Nelly that was murdered on April 19, in morning rush-hour traffic in Woltemade Street after being stabbed several times while she was on her way to work.

"The husband later handed himself over to the police in Standerton after fleeing the scene and was taken to Witbank Police Station where he was officially charged with murder," the article stated. While delivering the bail verdict, the court said the accused does not have any previous convictions or pending criminal cases.

The court further said that the state does not have evidence that the accused is a flight risk or that he will undermine the interest of justice. Voyiya was successful in showing the court that there were

exceptional circumstances to be granted bail.

The African National Congress Women's League Provincial treasurer, Leah Mabuza said if women do not stand together to fight the Criminal Procedure

Act of 1977, they will not win any cases against men.

The case is remanded to August 5 for further investigations.

Post mortem results and a photo album of the crime scene are still outstanding.



One of the many posters that was present the day of the Nelly Voyiya court case on Friday June 3.



Phindile Deborah Lusenga has not been seen since May 20. Photo supplied

## Phindile went to visit her boyfriend and has not returned home

Police officers from Phola Police Station have tried their best in finding Phindile Deborah Lusenga, and request the public to help.

It is alleged that Lusenga was last seen by her sister on Friday, May 20 at their home in Phola. Phindile's sister alleges that the 28-year-old said that she was going to visit her boyfriend in Middelburg.

Lusenga apparently met her boyfriend on Facebook, and none of her friends and family knows of the boyfriend. Since that Friday, she has

not been seen and both her phones have apparently been switched off. According to the information given to the police, she was last seen wearing white trousers with peach sneakers and a black and white striped t-shirt. A missing person's case was opened at Phola Police Station and Detective Sergeant Alucia Mathebula is investigating the matter.

Anyone who can provide information that can assist in finding the 28-year-old can contact the Phola SAPS on 013 643 8601 or 076 605 4760.

## Man wat in Wattlestraat met mes gesteek is, bekommerd oor misdaad

Opvolg



Mnr. Julian Piek se arm is met vier steke geheg.

Zita Goldswain

Die 20-jarige man wat verlede week in Wattlestraat met 'n mes gesteek is, het gesê hy is bekommerd oor misdaad in eMalahleni en veral in Hoëveldpark.

Mnr. Julian Piek het gesê dit is die tweede keer in vier maande dat hy beroof is.

Piek, wat in Carolina bly het die naweek vir sy ma kom kuier waar hy op Vrydag, 3 Junie oorval en van sy geld beroof is.

"Ek het saam met my ma werk toe geloop en op pad terug het ek 'n swart BMW sonder nommerplate opgemerk wat stadig aangery gekom het. 'n Man het uitgeklim en my gevra vir geld en my selfoon. Ek wou nog omdraai toe die man my duik en ons begin stoei. Ek het hard probeer om my geld vas te hou, want dit was my laaste," het Piek vertel.

Die rower het na bewering Piek se baadjie met 'n mes oopgesny, die geld gevat en Piek toe in die arm gesteek.

Piek is sowat vier maande gelede ook in Middelburg beroof.

"Ek is moedeloos. Dit voel net asof misdaad heeltemal ons lewens oorgeneem het en die polisie niks daaraan doen nie. Ek hoop die rowers word gevang voordat hulle iemand doodsteek vir net 'n paar rand."

Polisiewoordvoerder kaptein Eddie Hall het gesê mense moet paraat wees en liefies nie probeer om alleen te loop nie, dit maak nie saak watter tyd van die dag of aand nie. Piek se arm is met vier steke geheg.

## NOTICE OF REGISTRATION AS AN INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 326 as Amended (07 April 2017) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) for submission of applications for Environmental Authorisations (EA) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 327 as Amended (7 April 2017). Notice is also given in terms of Section 40 of the National Water Act (36 of 1998) (NWA), for the submission of Water Use Licence Application (WULA) and Section 38 (1) & (8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999).

### BACKGROUND AND LOCATION

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (Eskom) proposes to establish a solar electricity generating facility at the Komati Power Station. The proposed Solar Photovoltaic (PV) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities will be developed on farm Komati Power Station No 56 IS in Ward 4, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. The proposed Solar PV, BESS and associated infrastructure require an Environmental Authorisation (EA) and Water Use Authorisation in terms of National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA), associated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended and National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998 (NWA) respectively. Due to the nature of the project thresholds, Eskom is required to follow a Scoping & EIA process and Water Use licence Application (WULA) to acquire the necessary authorisations prior to the commencement of the proposed project. In addition to South African Legislation, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment will be undertaken in terms of the World Bank Group requirements. This will be aligned to the requirements of the World Bank Environmental & Social Framework; World Bank Group (WBG) Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSGL) both for general and sector; the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards; and Good International Industry Practices (GIIP).

### ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATION

The following listed activities are triggered, subject to confirmation from Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE):

- NEMA EIA Regulations: GNR 327 Activity 11, 14 and 24;
- NEMA EIA Regulations: GNR 325 Activity 1 and 15;
- NEMA EIA Regulations: GNR 324 Activity 4, 10 and 12.

### WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION

A WULA will be applied for in terms of Section 40 of the NWA for the relevant Section 21 water uses associated with the PV, BESS and associated infrastructure. Government Notice (GN) 40713, Regulation No. 267 (GN R.267) dated 24 March 2017, on regulations regarding the procedural requirements for water use licence applications and appeals, will be followed.

### REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) was appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by Eskom to manage the permitting process. Parties wishing to formally register as interested and affected parties (I&APs) in order to receive more information and/or raise their comment(s) on the proposed project, are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP and disclose their direct and/or indirect business, financial, personal or other interest in the project. Any comments on the proposed project should be submitted to the EAP via the details provided below. Registered I&APs will be forwarded all future project related correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

### WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION COMMENT PERIOD

Registered I&APs may also lodge written comments regarding WULA for the proposed activities on the details mentioned above. In terms of Section 41 (4) of NWA the WULA comment period will be 60 days from 10 June 2022 to 09 August 2022.

EAP Details: Megan Govender (T) 011 361 1410 (E) Megan.Govender@wsp.com (A) PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I & AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I & AP and for purposes of storing your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP uses these details to contact you about other projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database.







# Appendix B.2

## SITE NOTICES





# INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY REGISTRATION

## NOTICE OF REGISTRATION AS AN INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

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**EAP Details: Megan Govender | (T) 011 361 1410 | (E) [Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com) | (A) PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152**

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# **ISAZISO SOKUBHALISA NJENGEQEMBU ELINENTSHISEKELO FUTHI ELITHIMANDELE**

## **ISAZISO SOKUBHALISA NJENGEQEMBU ELINENTSHISEKELO FUTHI ELITHIMANDELE NGESIHLOKO SOKUSUNGULWA KUKA-A I-SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC KANYE NOHLELO LOKUGCINA AMANDLA EBHATHINI INDAWO E-KOMATI POWER STATION, ESIFUNDAZWENI SASEMPUMALANGA**

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### **IKAMUVA NENDAWO**

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### **ISICELO SEZEMVELO**

Le misebenzi elandelayo esohlwini iqalwa, kuncike ekuqinisekiseni koMnyango Wezamazweli, Izinhlanzi kanye Nezemvelo.

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- NEMA EIA Imithethonqubo: GNR 324 Umsebenzi 4, 10 and 12.

### **ISICELO SELAYISENSE YOKUSEBENZISWA KWAMANZI**

I WULA izofakwa isicelo ngokweSigaba 40 se-NWA ngokusetshenziswa kwamanzi okufanelekile kweSigaba 21 esihlobene ne-PV, BESS kanye nengqalasizinda ehlobene. Isaziso Sikahulumeni (GN) 40713, Umthethonqubo No. 267 (GN R.267) samhla zingama-24 kuNdasa (March) wezi-2017, mayelana nemithethonqubo ephathelene nezinqubo zenqubo yokufaka izicelo zelayisensi yokusebenzisa amanzi kanye nezikhalazo, sizolandelwa.

### **UKUBHALISA**

I-WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) yaqokwa njengoMsebenzi Ozimele Wokuhlola Imvelo (EAP) ngu-Eskom ukuze alawule inqubo yezimvume. Abantu abafisa ukubhalisa ngokusemthethweni njengama-I&APs (I&APs) ukuze bathole ulwazi olwengeziwe kanye/noma baveze ukuphawula kwabo ngephrojekthi ehlongozwayo, bayacelwa ukuba bathumele imininingwane yabo egcwele ku-EAP futhi badalule ngokuqondile kanye/ noma ibhizinisi elingaqondile, lezezimali, elomuntu siqu noma okunye okuthakaselayo kuphrojekthi. Noma yimiphi imibono ngephrojekthi ehlongozwayo kufanele ithunyelwe ku-EAP ngemininingwane enikezwe ngezansi. Ama-I&APs abhalisiwe azodluliselwa kuzo zonke izincwadi zesikhathi esizayo ezihlobene ngephrojekthi futhi aziswe ngabanye ngamathuba engeziwe okubamba iqhaza kulolu hlelo.

### **WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION COMMENT PERIOD**

Ama-I&APs abhalisiwe angaphinde afake imibono ebhaliwe mayelana ne-WULA ngemisebenzi ehlongozwayo ngemininingwane eshiwo ngenhla. NgokweSigaba 41 (4) se-NWA isikhathi sokuphawula kwe-WULA sizoba yizinsuku ezingama-60 kusukela zi-10 kuNhlangula (June) 2022 kuya ku-09 kuNcwaba (August) 2022.

**Imininingwane ye-EAP: Megan Govender | (T) 011 361 1410 | (E) [Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com) | (A) PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152**

*I-WSP izocubungula ulwazi oluthile lomuntu siqu olumayelana naye njengenhlangotho enentshisekelo nethintekayo (I & AP) ngezinjongo zokwenza ukubhaliswa kwakho njenge-I & AP kanye nezinjongo zokugcina imininingwane yakho kusizindlwazi sethu, uma uvuma ukuba senze kanjalo. . I-WSP isebenzisa le mininingwane ukuze ixhumane naye mayelana namanye amaphrojekthi esikhathini esizayo. I-WSP izohlala icubungula ulwazi lwakho lomuntu siqu ngokuhambisana noMthetho Wokuvikela Ulwazi Lomuntu Siqu 4 ka-2013. Unelungelo lokusebenzisa amalungelo akho njengesihloko sedatha futhi usazise uma ufisa ukukhishwa ukubhaliswa njenge-I & AP noma uma cha. usefuna imininingwane yakho yokuxhumana ifakwe kusizindlwazi sethu.*

# REGISTRASIE AS 'N BELANGHEBBENDE EN GEAFFEKTEERDE PARTY

## KENNISGEWING VAN REGISTRASIE AS 'N BELANGHEBBENDE EN GEAFFEKTEERDE PARTY VIR DIE VOORGESTELDE ONTWIKKELING VAN 'N SONKRAGOPWEKKINGSFASILITEIT EN BATTERY-ENERGIEBERGINGSTELSEL FASILITEIT BY DIE KOMATI KRAGSTASIE, MPUMALANGA PROVINSIE

Kennis word gegee ingevolge Regulasie 41(2) van GNR 326 soos gewysig (07 April 2017) gepubliseer kragtens artikel 24 en 24D van die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur (No. 107 van 1998) (NEMA) vir indiening van aansoeke om omgewingsmagtigings (EA) ten opsigte van aktiwiteite geïdentifiseer ingevolge GNR 327 soos gewysig (7 April 2017)  
Kennis word gegee ingevolge artikel 39 of 41(4) van die Nasionale Waterwet (No. 36 van 1998) (NWA) vir die indiening van 'n Watergebruiklisensie-aansoek (WULA-aansoek) en Artikel 38 (1) & (8) van die Wet op Nasionale Erfenishulpbronne (No. 25 van 1999)

### AGTERGROND EN LIGGING

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (Eskom) stel voor om 'n sonkragopwekkingsfasiliteit by die Komati-kragstasie te vestig. Die voorgestelde sonkragfotovoltaïese (PV) en battery-energiebergingstelsel (BESS) fasiliteite sal ontwikkel word op plaas Komati Kragstasie No 56 IS in Wyk 4, Steve Tshwete Plaaslike Munisipaliteit, Nkangala Distriksmunisipaliteit, Mpumalanga Provinsie. Die voorgestelde sonkrag-PV, BESS en gepaardgaande infrastruktuur vereis 'n omgewingsmagtiging (EA) en watergebruikmagtiging in terme van die Nasionale Omgewingsbestuurswet, Wet 107 van 1998 (NEMA), geassosieerde Omgewingsimpakbepaling (OIB) Regulasies, 2014 soos gewysig en Nasionale Waterwet, Wet 36 van 1998 (NWA) onderskeidelik. Weens die aard van die projekdrempels, word van Eskom verwag om 'n Omvang- en OIB-proses en Watergebruiklisensie-aansoek (WULA) te volg om die nodige magtigings te verkry voor die aanvang van die voorgestelde projek. Benewens Suid-Afrikaanse wetgewing, sal omgewings- en maatskaplike impakbepaling onderneem word ingevolge die vereistes van die Wêreldbankgroep. Dit sal in lyn gebring word met die vereistes van die Wêreldbank se omgewings- en maatskaplike raamwerk; Wêreldbankgroep Omgewings-, Gesondheids- en Veiligheidsriglyne vir beide algemene en sektor; die Internasionale Finansieringskorporasie Prestasiestandaarde; en Goeie Internasionale Nywerheidspraktyke.

### OMGEWINGSTOEPASSING

Die verwagte gelyste aktiwiteitsnommers wat met die voorgestelde projekte geassosieer word, word hieronder gelys, onderhewig aan bevestiging van die Departement van Bosbou, Visserye en die Omgewing (DFFE):

- NEMA EIA-regulasies: GNR 327 Aktiwiteit 11, 14 en 23;
- NEMA EIA-regulasies: GNR 325 Aktiwiteit 1 en 15;
- NEMA EIA-regulasies: GNR 324 Aktiwiteit 4, 10 en 12.

### WATERGEBRUIK-LISENSIE AANSOEK

A WULA sal onderneem word ingevolge Artikel 40 van die NWA vir die relevante Artikel 21-watergebruike wat met die PV, BESS en gepaardgaande infrastruktuur geassosieer word. Regeringskennisgewing (GN) 40713, Regulasie No. 267 (GN R.267) gedateer 24 Maart 2017, oor regulasies rakende die prosedurele vereistes vir watergebruiklisensie-aansoeke en appèlle, sal gevolg word.

### REGISTRASIE EN INDIENING VAN KOMMENTAAR

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) is deur Eskom as die onafhanklike Omgewingsevalueringspraktisyn (OEP) aangestel om om die onderskeie prosesse te behartig. Partye wat formeel as belanghebbende en geaffekteerde partye (I&APs) wil registreer om meer inligting te ontvang en/of hul kommentaar oor die voorgestelde projek te lewer, word versoek om hul volledige kontakbesonderhede aan OEP te stuur en hul direkte en/of indirekte sake-, finansiële, persoonlike of ander belang in die projek. Enige kommentaar oor die voorgestelde projek moet by die OEP ingedien word via die besonderhede hieronder verskaf. Geregistreerde I&APs sal aan alle toekomstige projekverwante korrespondensie gestuur word en individueel in kennis gestel word van bykomende geleenthede om aan die proses deel te neem.

### WATERGEBRUIKLISENSIEAANSOEK KOMMENTAARTYDPERK

Geregistreerde I&APs kan ook skriftelike kommentaar aangaande die WULA indien vir die voorgestelde aktiwiteite. Ingevolge Artikel 41(4) van NWA sal die WULA-kommentaartydperk 60 dae wees vanaf 10 Junie 2022 tot 9 Augustus 2022.

**OEP besonderhede: Megan Govender | (T) 011 361 1410 | (E) [Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com) | (A) Posbus 98867, Sloane Park, 2152**

*WSP sal sekere persoonlike inligting oor jou as 'n belanghebbende en geaffekteerde party verwerk (B&GP) vir doeleindes om jou registrasie moontlik te maak as 'n B & GP en vir doeleindes om jou besonderhede op ons databasis te stoor. WSP gebruik hierdie besonderhede om jou te kontak oor ander toekomstige projekte. WSP sal altyd jou persoonlike inligting verwerk in ooreenstemming met die Wet op die Beskerming van Persoonlike Inligting 4 van 2013. Jy is geregtig om jou regte as 'n datasubjek uit te oefen en ons te laat weet as jy as 'n B&GP gederegistreer wil word of as jy nie meer wil hê dat jou kontakbesonderhede op ons databasis ingesluit moet word nie*





Figure 1: Eskom Komati PV and BESS Project Layout





# **NOTICE OF REGISTRATION AS AN INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY AND AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 326 as Amended (07 April 2017) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) for submission of applications for Environmental Authorisations (EA) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 327 as Amended (7 April 2017)

Notice is also given in terms of Section 40 of the National Water Act (36 of 1998) (NWA), for the submission of Water Use Licence Application (WULA) and Section 38 (1) & (8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

## **BACKGROUND AND LOCATION**

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (Eskom) proposes to establish a solar electricity generating facility at the Komati Power Station. The proposed Solar Photovoltaic (PV) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities will be developed on farm Komati Power Station No 56 IS in Ward 4, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. The proposed Solar PV, BESS and associated infrastructure require an environmental authorisation (EA) and water use authorisation in terms of National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA), associated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended and National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998 (NWA) respectively. Due to the nature of the project thresholds, Eskom is required to follow a Scoping & EIA process and Water Use licence Application (WULA) to acquire the necessary authorisations prior to the commencement of the proposed project.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATION**

The following listed activities are triggered, subject to confirmation from Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE):

- NEMA EIA Regulations: GNR 327 Activity 11, 14 and 24;
- NEMA EIA Regulations: GNR 325 Activity 1 and 15;
- NEMA EIA Regulations: GNR 324 Activity 4, 10 and 12.

## **REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS**

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) was appointed by Eskom to manage the permitting process. Parties wishing to formally register as interested and affected parties (I&APs) in order to receive more information and/ or raise their comment(s) on the proposed project, are requested to forward their full contact details to the Social Consultant and disclose their direct and/or indirect business, financial, personal or other interest in the project. Any comments on the proposed project should be submitted to the Social Consultant via the details provided below. Registered I&APs will be forwarded all future project related correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

## **DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD**

The Draft Environmental Scoping Report will be made available from WSP on request and/or at the venues below for review and comment for 30 days from 03 February 2023 to 06 March 2023:

- Komati Paypoint and Library
- Komati Power Station Entrance
- Hendrina Public Library
- Eastdene Public Library
- Gerard Sekoto Library

**Social Consultant Details: Tumelo Mathulwe | (T) 011 254 4800 | (E) [gld.pp@wsp.com](mailto:gld.pp@wsp.com) | (A) PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152**

*WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I & AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I & AP and for purposes of storing your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP uses these details to contact you about other projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database.*





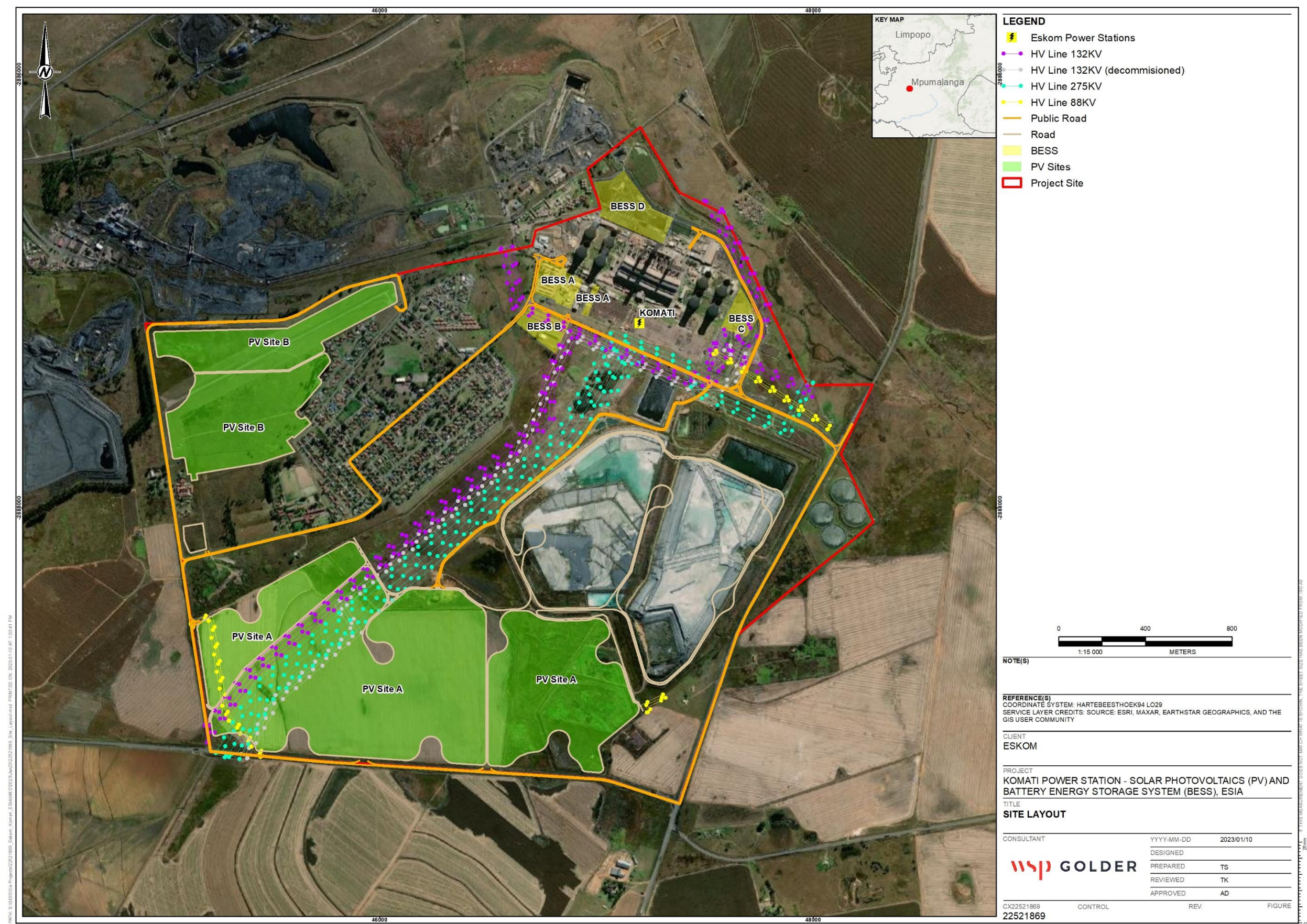
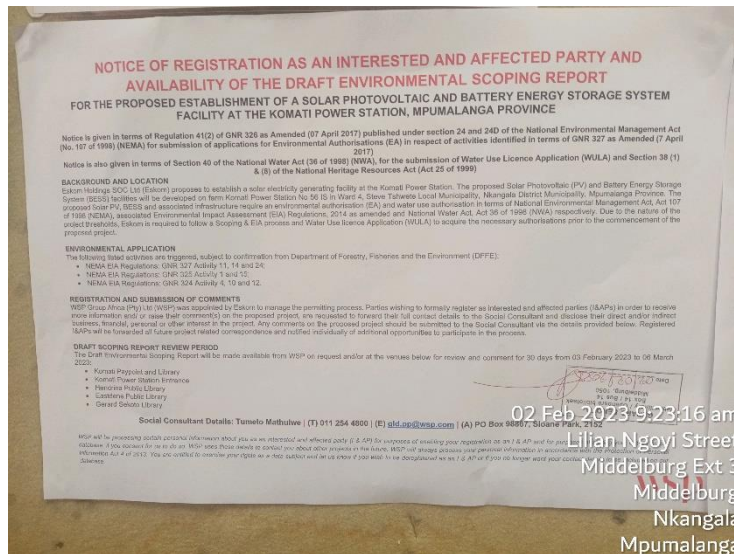


Figure 1: Eskom Komati PV and BESS Project Layout









# Appendix B.3

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**





## **PROPOSED KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV), BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT KOMATI, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Komati Power Station is situated about 37km from Middelburg, 43km from Bethal and 40km from Witbank in the Mpumalanga Province. Komati Power Station will reach its end-of-life in September 2022 when Unit 9 will be shut down. Units 1 to 8 have already been shutdown. Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (Eskom) has developed a Just Energy Transition Plan (EJET P) aimed at mitigating the negative social impacts resulting from the shutting down of plant and to implement projects for the repowering and repurposing related to the Komati power station. This is one of several initiatives in which Eskom proposes to establish a solar energy generating facility at the Komati Power Station which will include the installation of a Solar Photovoltaics (PV) energy facility as well as Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities.

### **PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT**

This background information document (BID) introduces all stakeholders to the proposed developments. This document forms part of the respective environmental authorisation processes undertaken as a component of the stakeholder consultation process and is intended to provide stakeholders with adequate information to comment on the development.

The BID details the development, the environmental authorisation processes, the role of stakeholders in the process as well as to encourage stakeholders to comment on the development, ask questions and raise issues that should be included in the various project documentation. Aside from this document, at various stages of the respective environmental authorisation processes, information and reports will be made available for stakeholders to comment on.

WSP Group Africa (WSP) has been appointed by Eskom as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the environmental authorisation processes for the project and to facilitate a consolidated stakeholder engagement process.

To become a registered stakeholder and ensure all comments and queries regarding this project are accurately documented and addressed, please forward your contact details and comments on the attached response sheet to:

**Consultant:** Megan Govender  
**Address:** P.O. Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152  
**Tel:** +27 11 361 1410  
**Email:** [megan.govender@wsp.com](mailto:megan.govender@wsp.com)

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Komati Solar PV, BESS facilities and associated infrastructure will be located in Ward 4 of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality located within the Nkangala District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province. The Solar PV facilities, BESS facilities and associated infrastructure will be located on Eskom owned land. The locality of the facilities is illustrated in **Figure 1**.

### Solar Energy Facility

**Table 1** provides a high-level project summary of the proposed Facilities.

*Table 1: High-level Project Summary – Renewable Energy Facilities*

	SOLAR PV SITE A	SOLAR PV SITE B
<b>Extent</b>	156 Ha	54 Ha
<b>Buildable Area</b>	127 Ha	50 Ha
<b>Capacity</b>	71.5 MW	28.5 MW

Additional associated infrastructure will be confirmed once concept design is finalised, however, it is anticipated to include the following:

- Access roads;
- Perimeter roads;
- Below ground electrical cables;
- Above ground overhead lines;
- Meteorological Station;
- Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Building including control room, server room, security equipment room, offices, boardroom, kitchen, and ablution facilities);
- Spares Warehouse and Workshop;
- Hazardous Chemical Store;
- Security Building;
- Parking areas and roads;
- Temporary laydown areas;
- Temporary concrete batching plant
- Construction camps and temporary laydown areas; and
- Onsite substations.

### BESS Facilities

Eskom propose to establish up to four BESS facilities with the existing footprint of the Komati Power Station.

The BESS footprints will range from 2 ha up to 6 ha. The BESS storage capacity will be up to 150MW.

It is proposed that Lithium Battery Technologies, such as Lithium Iron Phosphate, Lithium Nickel Manganese Cobalt oxides or Vanadium Redox flow technologies will be considered as the preferred battery technology however the specific technology will only be determined following Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) procurement. The main components of the BESS include the batteries, power conversion system and transformer which will all be stored in various rows of containers. The BESS components will arrive on site pre-assembled.





Figure 1: Komati Power Station Solar PV and BESS facilities.

## LEGAL FRAMEWORK

In terms of the Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) and the amended Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (GNR 982 of 2014, as amended), an Environmental Authorisation (EA) is required as the facilities trigger activities that are listed in the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The respective project triggers activities from Listing Notice 1 (GNR 983, as amended), Listing Notice 2 (GNR 984, as amended) and Listing Notice 3 (GNR 985, as amended) and therefore a Full Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process (**Figure 2**) will be undertaken.

In addition, the National Water Act (Act No.36, 1998) (NWA) aims to control the use of water, which may affect water resources through the licencing of specific water uses in terms of Section 21 of the act. The proposed projects will require an authorisation in terms of Water Use Licences (WUL) from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). The WUL application processes will be undertaken concurrently with the S&EIA process as far as possible.

Below is a depiction of the timeframes applicable to the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment process.

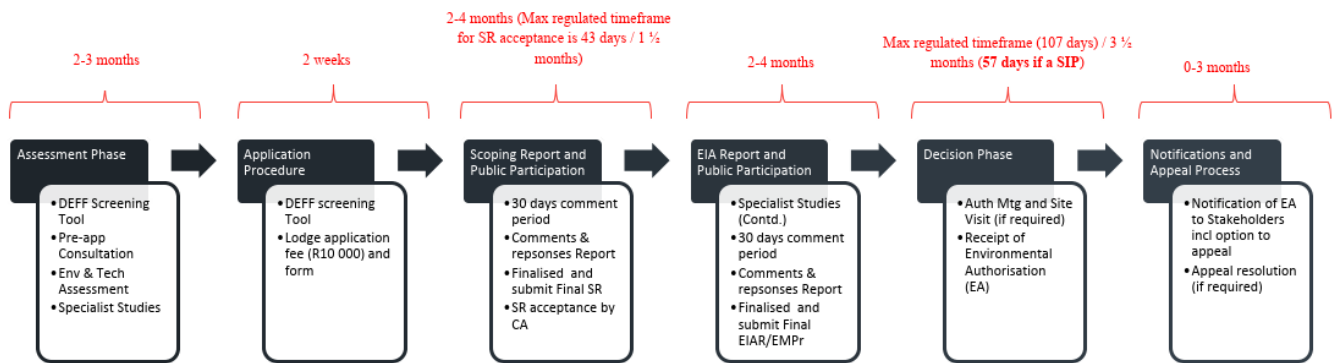


Figure 2: S&EIA Process

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The purpose of stakeholder engagement is to consult with interested and affected parties in the public and private sectors as part of the decision-making process on projects which may affect them. The process aims to develop and maintain open channels of communication between the project team and stakeholders. This process provides stakeholders with the opportunity to express their views and concerns regarding the proposed project through project correspondence. The environmental assessment practitioner documents the views and concerns of stakeholders, and makes the project team and relevant authorities aware of issues that need to be considered during the compilation and evaluation of the potential risks and impacts associated with the project.

### Who is a Stakeholder?

Any person, group of persons or organisation interested and/or affected by the proposed development.

*Register your interest by completing and returning the Registration and Comments Form attached herewith.*

The first steps are to notify the public and previously identified stakeholders of the proposed project. Notification is accomplished by various means to ensure a transparent process and will include details of the project as well as instructions on how to register as a stakeholder. WSP will notify stakeholders by means of advertisements and site notices which are to be placed in and around the project area in clearly visible locations. Additionally, notification emails and this BID will be distributed to surrounding landowners and stakeholders.

Furthermore, the draft Scoping and EIA Reports will be released for 30-day public review periods during the course of the respective processes.



## PROPOSED KOMATI SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITIES REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET

Your comments are an important contribution into this authorisation process. We would like to interact directly with you and encourage you to register as a stakeholder so that we can keep you updated as this project moves forward and respond to any questions or concerns that you may wish to raise.

To be a registered stakeholder and ensure all comments and queries regarding this project are accurately documented and addressed please forward your comments and contact details with the attached response sheet to:

**Megan Govender**  
**WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd**  
**Address: P.O. Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152**  
**Tel: +27 11 361 1410**  
**Email: [megan.govender@wsp.com](mailto:megan.govender@wsp.com)**

Please insert your personal details below:

<b>Name:</b>		
<b>Organisation &amp; Designation:</b>		
<b>Address:</b>		
<b>Telephone;</b>		
<b>Mobile:</b>		
<b>E-mail:</b>		
<b>LANDOWNERS:</b>		
If your property is adjacent to Project Area, please tell us your farm name and erf/portion number		
<b>WOULD YOU LIKE TO REGISTER AS AN INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY?</b>		
Please register me as an interested and affected party (I&AP) for this project so that I may receive further information and notifications as the project develops	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Please include my details on WSP's database to contact me about future projects in my area	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>In terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), I disclose below any direct business, financial, personal or other interest that I may have in the approval or refusal of the application:</b>	Date	
	Signature	

**Please ask the following of my colleagues / friends to register as Interested and Affected Persons for this environmental authorisation process:**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONTACT DETAILS</b>



### Protection of Personal Information:

In addition, if you give your consent for us to do so, WSP will keep your details on our database of interested parties and may contact you about other projects in the area in the future. If you do not want to be included on our database you are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered.

- *Why do we process your personal information:* WSP is an independent consulting company that conducts public participation processes in support of environmental authorisation processes, where environmental authorisation must be obtained for a project. We are required under the applicable environmental laws to keep stakeholder databases per project. If you give your consent, WSP will keep your details on our database of interested parties and may contact you about other projects in future. If you give us contact details for anyone else that you think may want to register as an I&AP, we will only use those details to contact them and will delete the contact information if they choose not to register as an I&AP for this project, or to have their details included in WSP's database for the purposes of future projects.  
WSP may share your information with its service providers but will never sell your personal information or use it for any purpose other than as set out here and in the Privacy Notice.
- *Your rights as a data subject:* You can tell us at any stage if you want to be deregistered as an I&AP for this project or if you do not want your contact details to be included in our database for us to contact you about future projects. Please refer to our Privacy Notice for more information about your rights and how to contact us regarding your rights.

# Appendix B.4

## EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS





## Govender, Megan

**From:** Govender, Megan  
**Sent:** Friday, 03 February 2023 10:04  
**To:** ZA - GLD - PPOffice  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - Draft Scoping Report Review

Dear Stakeholder

### **NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Notice is given in terms of

- Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) for submission of various applications for environmental authorisations (EAs) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended)
- Section 39 or 41(4) of the National Water Act (36 of 1998) (NWA), for the submission of a General Authorisation (GA) or Water Use Licence (WUL) Application (as applicable)

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (Eskom) proposes to establish a solar electricity generating facility at the Komati Power Station. The proposed Solar Photovoltaic (PV) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities will be developed on farm Komati Power Station No 56 IS in Ward 4, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. The proposed Solar PV, BESS and associated infrastructure require an environmental authorisation (EA) and water use authorisation in terms of National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA), associated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended and National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998 (NWA) respectively. Due to the nature of the project thresholds, Eskom is required to follow a Scoping & EIA process and Water Use licence Application (WULA) to acquire the necessary authorisations prior to the commencement of the proposed project.

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) was appointed by Eskom to manage the permitting process. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Projects are requested to forward their full contact details to the Social Consultant at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

#### **DRAFT SCOPING REVIEW PERIOD**

The Draft Environmental Scoping Report will be made available from WSP on request and/or at the venues below for review and comment for 30 days from **03 February 2023 to 06 March 2023**.

Area	Venue	Street Address	Contact No
Komati	Komati Paypoint and Library	Cnr. Falcon Dr and Weaver St	013 295 3102
	Komati Power Station Entrance	R35 Old Middelburg Bethal Road	013 295 9119
Hendrina	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St	013 293 0000
Middelburg	Eastdene Public Library	Verdoorn St	013 249 7275
	Gerard Sekoto Library	Wanderers Avenue	013 249 7314
WSP Website	<a href="https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents">https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</a>		

The contact details of the Social Consultant are:

Name: Tumelo Mathulwe  
Tel: 011 254 4800  
Email: [gld.pp@wsp.com](mailto:gld.pp@wsp.com)  
Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

**Protection of Personal Information:** WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I&AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I&AP and storing of your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP will use these details to contact you about other relevant projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database.

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300



WSP in Africa  
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand  
1685 South Africa

**wsp.com**

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**Confidential**

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WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Office: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand, Gauteng, 1685, South Africa  
Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

**From:** Govender, Megan  
**Sent:** Friday, 03 February 2023 10:03  
**To:** ZA - GLD - PPOffice  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - Draft Scoping Report Review

Dear Commenting Authority

**NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Notice is given in terms of

- Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) for submission of various applications for environmental authorisations (EAs) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended)
- Section 39 or 41(4) of the National Water Act (36 of 1998) (NWA), for the submission of a General Authorisation (GA) or Water Use Licence (WUL) Application (as applicable)

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (Eskom) proposes to establish a solar electricity generating facility at the Komati Power Station. The proposed Solar Photovoltaic (PV) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities will be developed on farm Komati Power Station No 56 IS in Ward 4, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. The proposed Solar PV, BESS and associated infrastructure require an environmental authorisation (EA) and water use authorisation in terms of National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA), associated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended and National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998 (NWA) respectively. Due to the nature of the project thresholds, Eskom is required to follow a Scoping & EIA process and Water Use licence Application (WULA) to acquire the necessary authorisations prior to the commencement of the proposed project.

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) was appointed by Eskom to manage the permitting process. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Projects are requested to forward their full contact details to the Social Consultant at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

**DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD**

The Draft Environmental Scoping Reports have been made available for 30 days from 03 February 2023 to 06 March 2023 on the WSP website and via a One Drive Link for download.

One Drive -  [Eskom Komati PV and BESS Draft Scoping Report](#)

WSP website - <https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents>

Please note that you will receive a separate email with the link to the one drive. This link will then request a verification number which will automatically be sent to your email address – if it doesn't seem to come through please check your "spam" folder.

The contact details of the Social Consultant are:

Name: Tumelo Mathulwe  
Tel: 011 254 4800  
Email: [gld.pp@wsp.com](mailto:gld.pp@wsp.com)  
Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

**Protection of Personal Information:** WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I&AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I&AP and storing of your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP will use these details to contact you about other relevant projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database.

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300



WSP in Africa  
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand  
1685 South Africa

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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

## Govender, Megan

---

**From:** Govender, Megan  
**Sent:** Monday, 20 March 2023 10:02  
**To:** ZA - GLD - PPOffice  
**Cc:** Strong, Ashlea; Chifadza, Tutayi  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - Final Scoping Report Submission to DFFE [Filed 20 Mar 2023 10:02]

Dear Stakeholder

### **NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

This notification is to inform you that the Final Environmental Scoping Report for the Proposed establishment of a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station, Mpumalanga Province (DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298 ) was submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) on 16 March 2023 for their review and decision-making.

The Final Scoping Report has been made available on the WSP website for your information:  
WSP website - <https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents>

The contact details of the Social Consultant are:

Name: Tumelo Mathulwe  
Tel: 011 254 4800  
Email: [gld.pp@wsp.com](mailto:gld.pp@wsp.com)  
Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

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We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa



## Govender, Megan

**From:** Govender, Megan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 05 July 2023 10:44  
**To:** ZA - GLD - PPOffice  
**Cc:** Strong, Ashlea  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - DRAFT EIR PUBLIC REVIEW

Dear Stakeholder

### NOTICE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

This notification is to inform you that the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the Proposed establishment of a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station, Mpumalanga Province (DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298 ) has been made available for public review for 30 days from **05 July 2023 to 04 August 2023** as follows:

Area	Venue	Street Address	Contact No
Komati	Komati Paypoint and Library	Cnr. Falcon Dr and Weaver St	013 295 3102
	Komati Power Station Entrance	R35 Old Middelburg Bethal Road	013 295 9119
Hendrina	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St	013 293 0000
Middelburg	Eastdene Public Library	Verdoorn St	013 249 7275
	Gerard Sekoto Library	Wanderers Avenue	013 249 7314
WSP Website	<a href="https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents">https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</a>		

The contact details of the Social Consultant are:

Name: Tumelo Mathulwe  
Tel: 011 254 4800  
Email: [glg.pp@wsp.com](mailto:glg.pp@wsp.com)  
Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

**Protection of Personal Information:** WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I&AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I&AP and storing of your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP will use these details to contact you about other relevant projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database.

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1410



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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

## Govender, Megan

**From:** Govender, Megan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 05 July 2023 10:47  
**To:** ZA - GLD - PPOffice  
**Cc:** Strong, Ashlea  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - DRAFT EIR PUBLIC REVIEW

Dear Commenting Authority

### **NOTICE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

This notification is to inform you that the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the Proposed establishment of a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station, Mpumalanga Province (DFFE Reference:

14/12/16/3/3/2/2298 ) has been made available for public review for 30 days from **05 July 2023 to 04 August 2023** as follows:

Area	Venue	Street Address	Contact No
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	Komati Power Station Entrance	R35 Old Middelburg Bethal Road	013 295 9119
Hendrina	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St	013 293 0000
Middelburg	Eastdene Public Library	Verdoorn St	013 249 7275
	Gerard Sekoto Library	Wanderers Avenue	013 249 7314
WSP Website	<a href="https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents">https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</a>		

The report has also been made available at the link below easy access:

One Drive Link	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Eskom Komati PV and BESS Draft EIAR - Public Review</a>
One Drive Instruction	Please note that you will receive a separate email with the link to the one drive. This link will then request a verification number which will automatically be sent to your email address – if it doesn't seem to come through please check your "spam" folder

The contact details of the Social Consultant are:

**Name:** Tumelo Mathulwe  
**Tel:** 011 254 4800  
**Email:** [glld.pp@wsp.com](mailto:glld.pp@wsp.com)  
**Address:** PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

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*Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database.*

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1410



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## Govender, Megan

**From:** Govender, Megan  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 August 2023 08:19  
**To:** ZA - GLD - PPOffice  
**Cc:** Strong, Ashlea  
**Subject:** [Pending]NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - FINAL EIR PUBLIC REVIEW

Dear Stakeholder

### NOTICE OF THE SUBMISSION AND AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

This notification is to inform you that the Final Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for the Proposed establishment of a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station, Mpumalanga Province (DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298 ) was submitted to the DFFE on **17 August 2023**. The Final EIA Report has been made available for public review for 30 days from **18 August to 18 September 2023** as follows:

Area	Venue	Street Address	Contact No
Komati	Komati Paypoint and Library	Cnr. Falcon Dr and Weaver St	013 295 3102
	Komati Power Station Entrance	R35 Old Middelburg Bethal Road	013 295 9119
Hendrina	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St	013 293 0000
Middelburg	Eastdene Public Library	Verdoorn St	013 249 7275
	Gerard Sekoto Library	Wanderers Avenue	013 249 7314
WSP Website	<a href="https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents">https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</a>		

Please forward all comments to WSP at the details below:

Name: Tumelo Mathulwe  
Tel: 011 254 4800  
Email: [gld.pp@wsp.com](mailto:gld.pp@wsp.com)  
Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

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Kind Regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant  
T +27 011 361 1300



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# Appendix B.5

## SMS NOTIFICATIONS



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## Proof of SMS Distribution

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2023-07-05		ontact WSP: 0113611410»@gld.pp@wsp.com
2023-07-05		Notice of Public Review of Draft EIR for Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility from 05/07/23-04/08/23: <a href="https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents">https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</a> . C
2023-07-05		ontact WSP: 0113611410»@gld.pp@wsp.com
2023-07-05		Notice of Public Review of Draft EIR for Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility from 05/07/23-04/08/23: <a href="https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents">https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</a> . C
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2023-07-05		ontact WSP: 0113611410»@gld.pp@wsp.com
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2023-07-05		ontact WSP: 0113611410»@gld.pp@wsp.com
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2023-07-05		ontact WSP: 0113611410»@gld.pp@wsp.com
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2023-07-05		ontact WSP: 0113611410»@gld.pp@wsp.com
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2023-07-05		ontact WSP: 0113611410»@gld.pp@wsp.com

## **SMS Distribution - Final EIA Report**

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2023-08-18 08:29:10.0		Notice of Public Review of Final EIR for Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility from 18/08/23-18/09/23: <a href="https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents">https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</a>
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2023-08-18 08:29:10.0		Notice of Public Review of Final EIR for Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility from 18/08/23-18/09/23: <a href="https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents">https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</a>
2023-08-18 08:29:10.0		Notice of Public Review of Final EIR for Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility from 18/08/23-18/09/23: <a href="https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents">https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</a>
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2023-08-18 08:29:10.0		Notice of Public Review of Final EIR for Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility from 18/08/23-18/09/23: <a href="https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents">https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</a>

# Appendix B.6

## **PROOF OF AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS**



# Environmental Reports for Public Review

## Environmental documents for review and public comment

As part of our Environment & Energy team's service to clients, certain documentation must be made available for public review. These documents are hosted here for the duration of the public review period.

—

Share

**Title of Project:** Eskom Matimba Ash Disposal Facility Pollution Control Dams Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), Limpopo Province

**Public Disclosure dates:** 03 February 2023 – 06 March 2023

**Document on Public Display:** Final Amended Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

**Contact Person:** Tumelo Mathulwe (gld.pp@wsp.com)

— Eskom Matimba PS ADF PCDs\_Final EMPr\_1Feb2023\_Signed

**Title of Project:** Komati Power Station Solar Photovoltaic Facility, Battery Energy Storage Systems and Associated Infrastructure, Mpumalanga Province

**Public Disclosure dates:** 03 February 2023 – 06 March 2023

**Document on Public Display:** Draft Environmental Scoping Report

**Contact Person:** Tumelo Mathulwe (gld.pp@wsp.com)

— Eskom Komati PV and BESS Draft Scoping Report

— Appendix A\_EAP CV and EAPASA Certificate

— Appendix B\_EAP Declaration and Oath

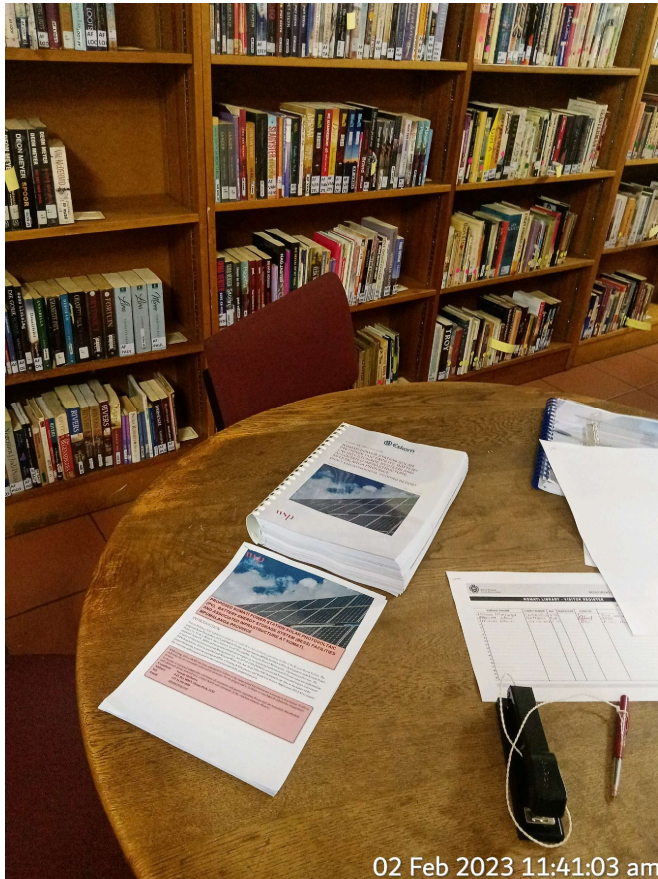
— Appendix C\_Specialist Declarations

— Appendix D\_DFFE Screening Report

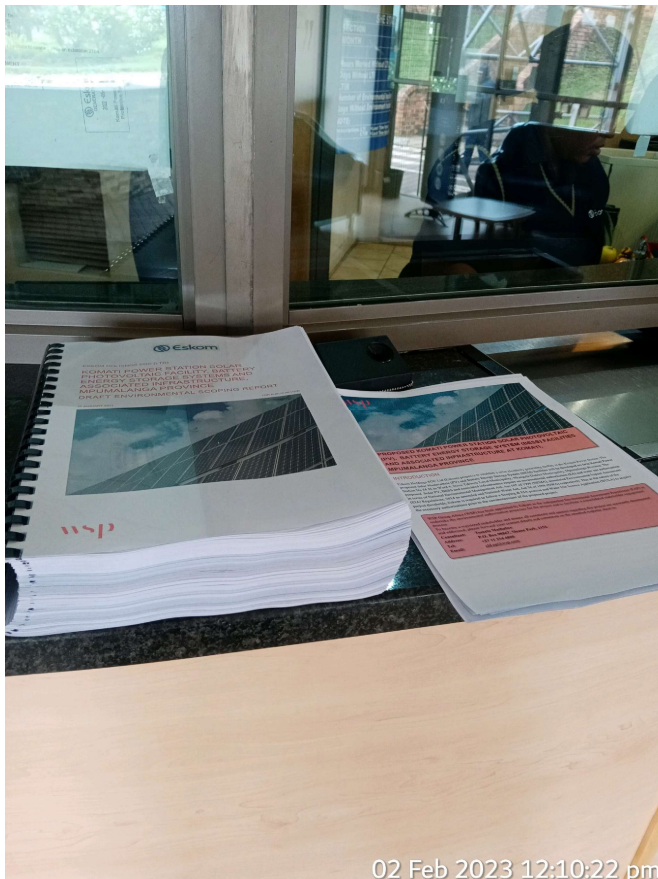
— Appendix E\_Pre-Application Meeting Minutes & Approval

— Appendix F\_Stakeholder Engagement Report\_Public Copy

## Komati Paypoint and Library

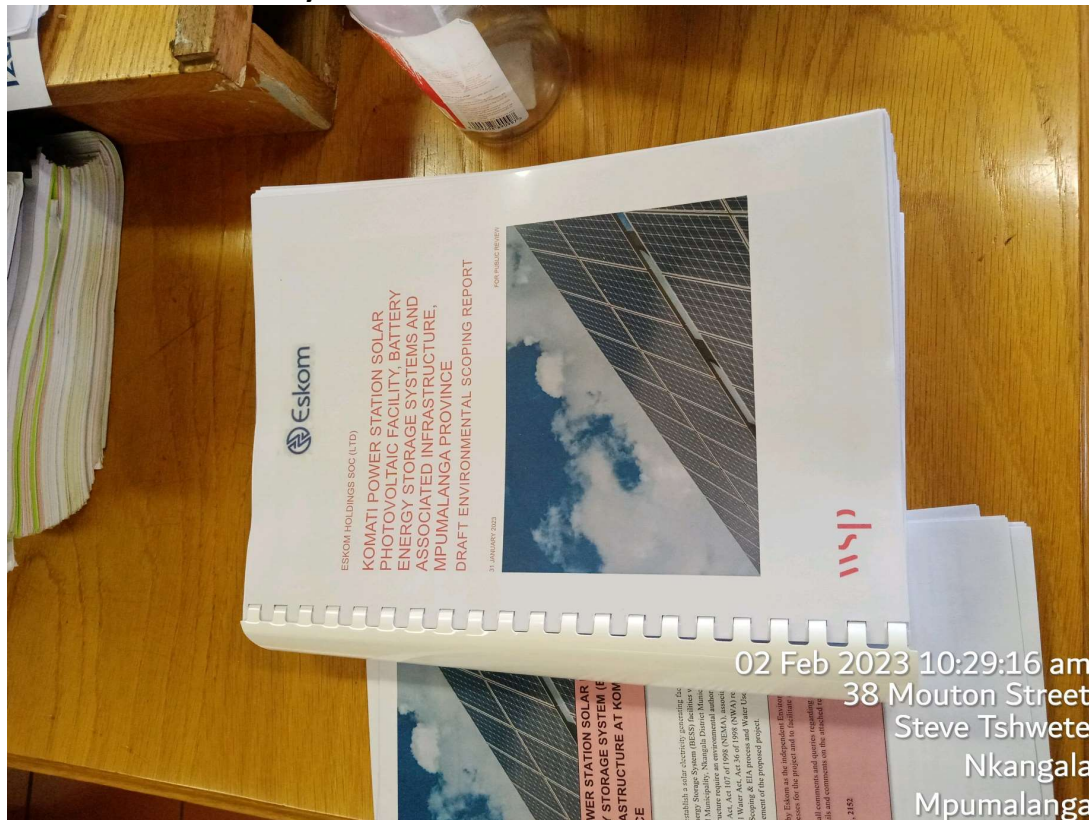


## Komati Power Station Entrance

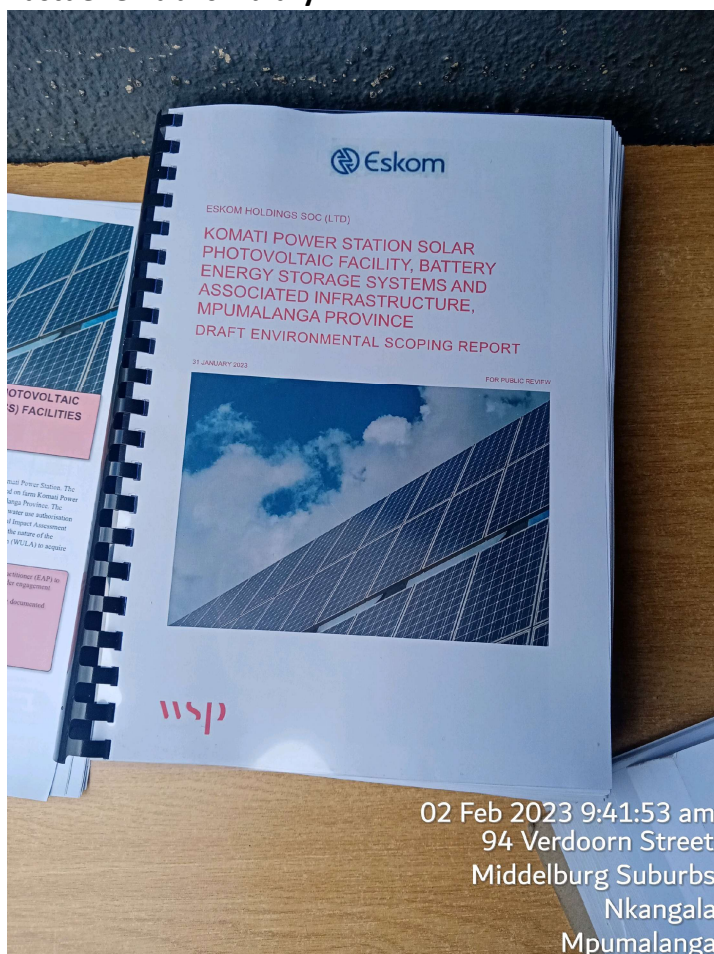




## Hendrina Public Library



## Eastdene Public Library





## Gerard Sekoto Library



02 Feb 2023 9:26:59 am  
Middelburg Ext 3  
Nkangala  
Mpumalanga

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**Title of Project:** Eskom Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility in the Mpumalanga Province

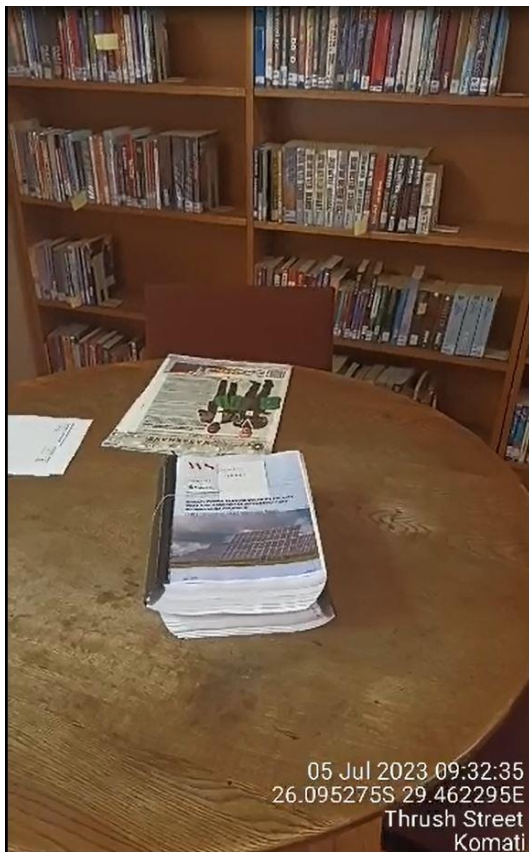
**Document on Public Display:** Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

**Public Disclosure Dates:** 05 July 2023 to 04 August 2023

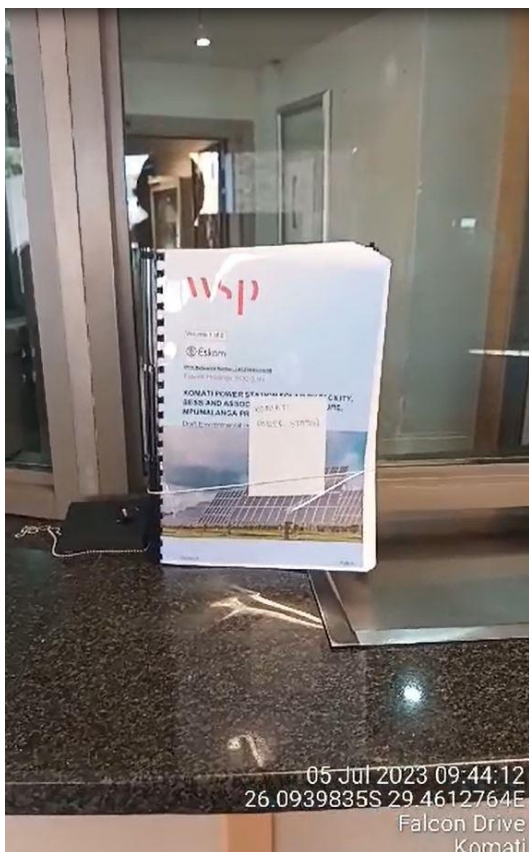
**Contact Person:** Megan Govender (Megan.Govender@wsp.com)

- Draft EIA Report\_Eskom Komati PV & BESS\_14.12.16.3.3.2.2298
- Appendix A\_EAP CV
- Appendix B\_EAP Oath and Declaration
- Appendix C\_Specialist Declarations and CVs
- Appendix D\_Stakeholder Engagement Report (Public Copy)
- Appendix E\_Maps
- Appendix F\_DFFE Screening Report
- Appendix G\_DFFE Acceptance of FSR
- Appendix H1\_Geotech Desktop Study Komati
- Appendix H2\_Air Quality Desktop Assessment
- Appendix H3\_Noise Desktop Assessment
- Appendix H4\_Surface Water Assessment
- Appendix H5\_Geohydrological Assessment
- Appendix H6\_Soil and Agricultural Assessment
- Appendix H7\_Terrestrial Animal Species Assessment Report
- Appendix H8\_Terrestrial Biodiversity & Plant Specialist Report
- Appendix H9\_Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment
- Appendix H10\_Traffic Impact Assessment
- Appendix H11\_Visual Impact Assessment
- Appendix H12\_Heritage Impact Assessment

Komati Library



Komati Power Station

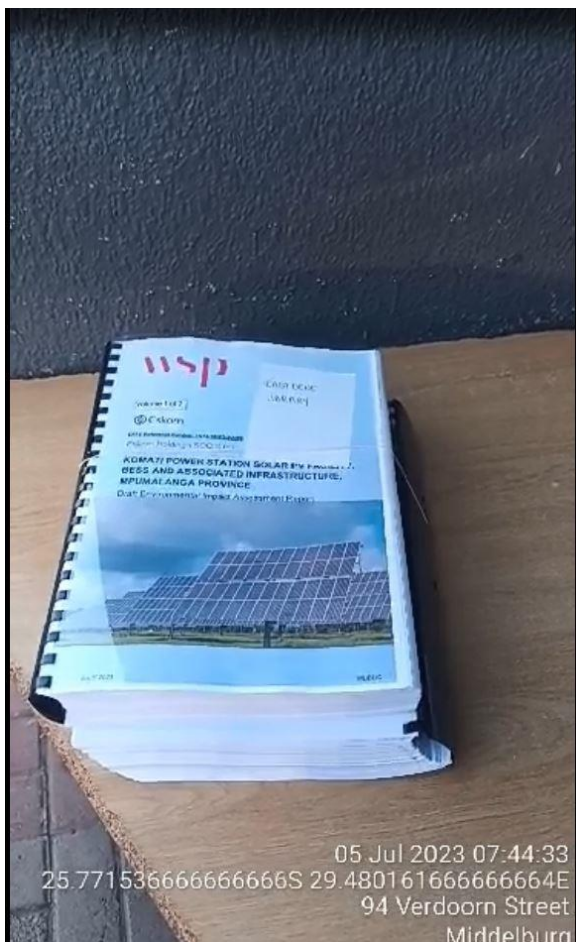




## Hendrina Public Library



## Eastdene Public Library



Gerard Sekoto Library

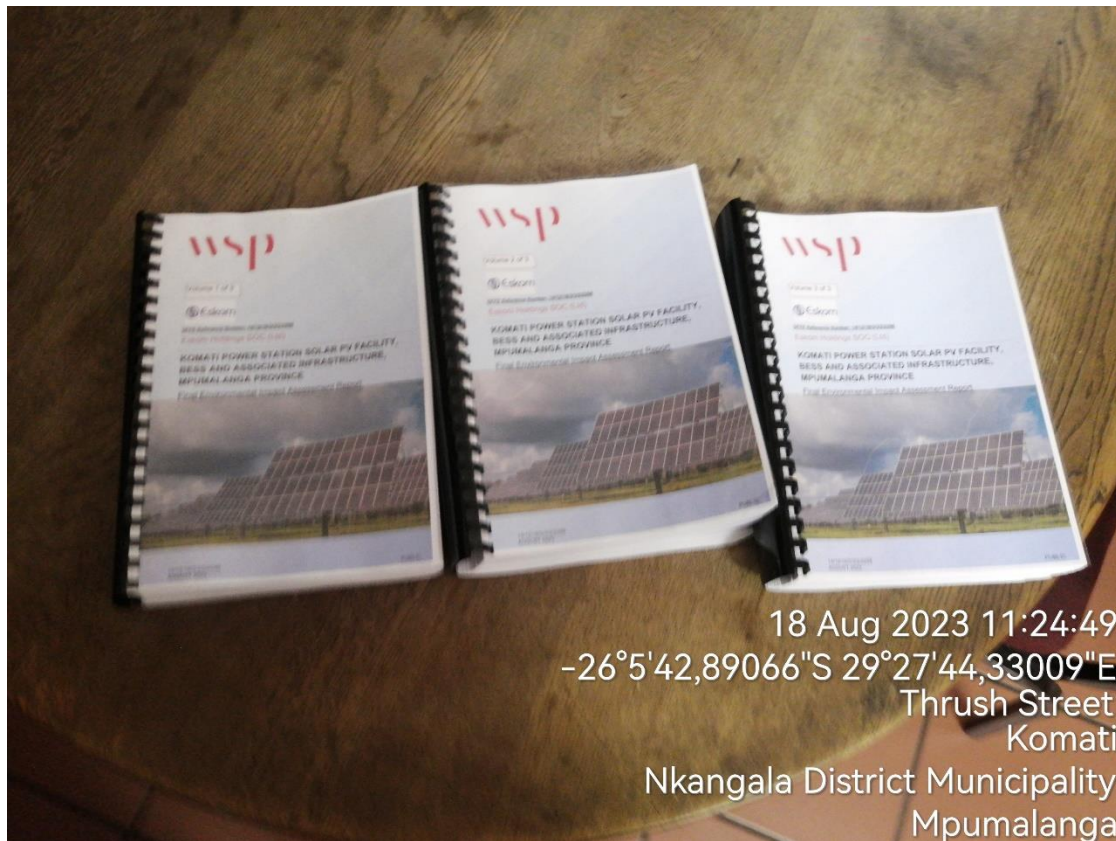


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Hospitaal Road  
Middelburg  
Nkangala District Municipality

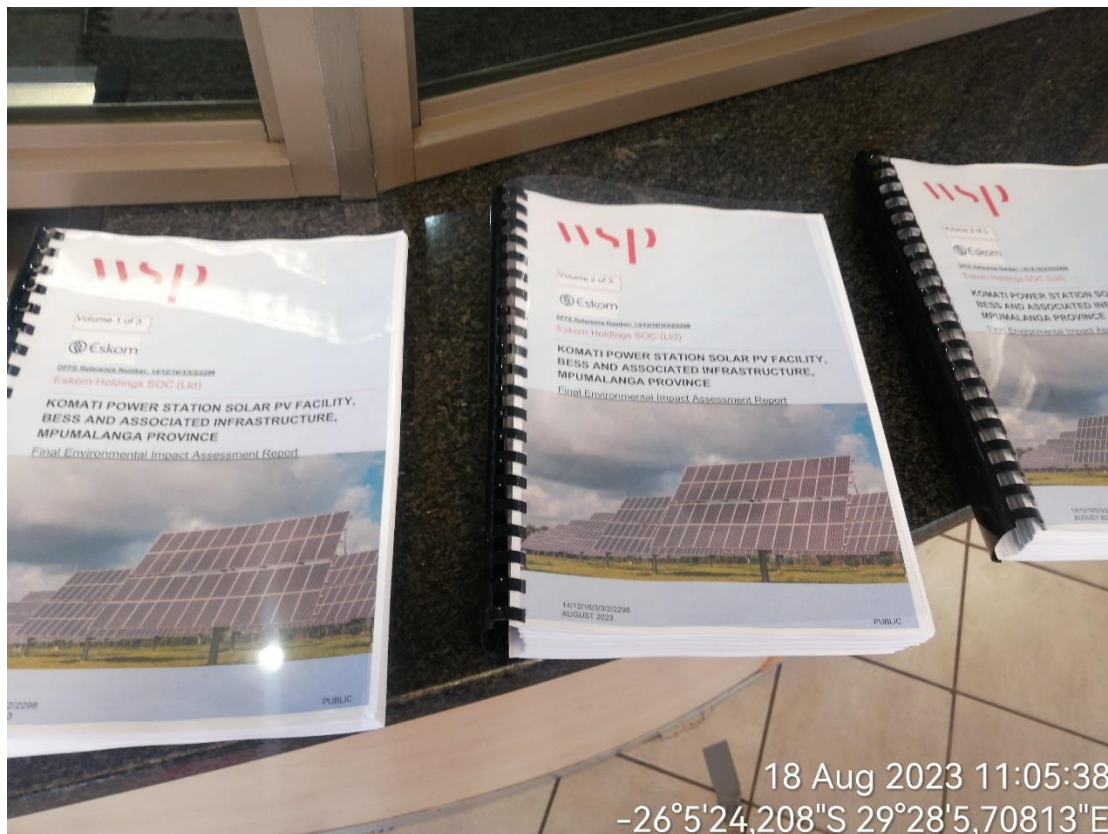




## Komati Library

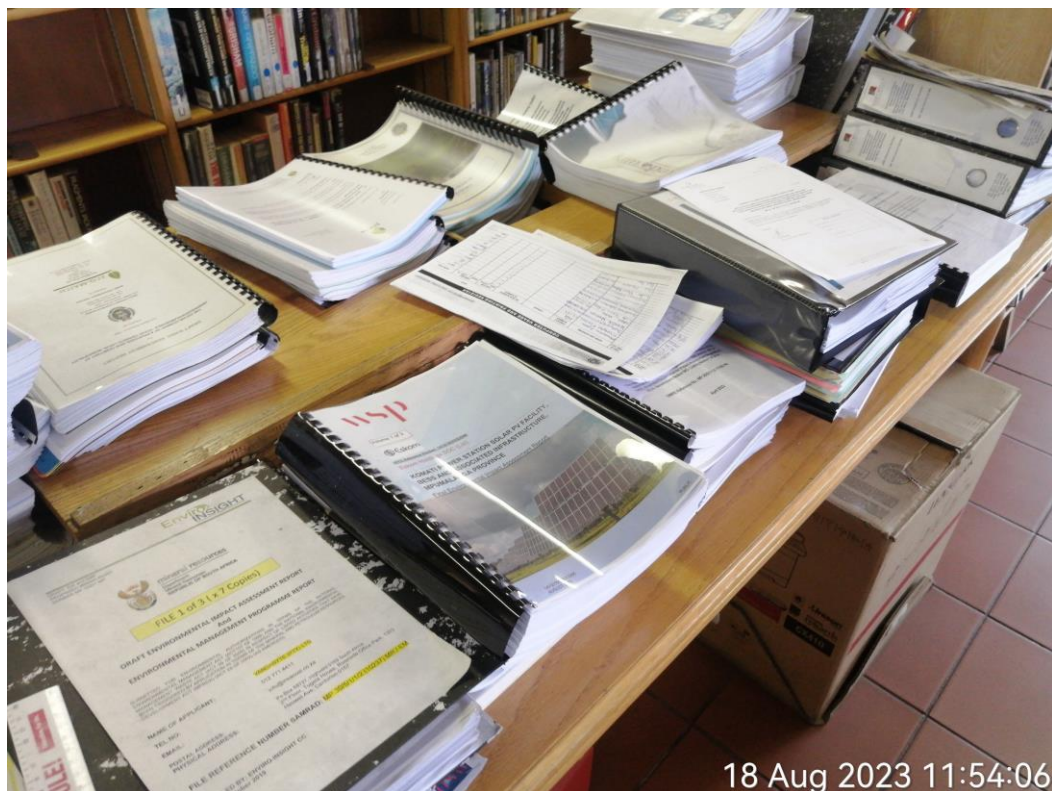


## Komati Power Station

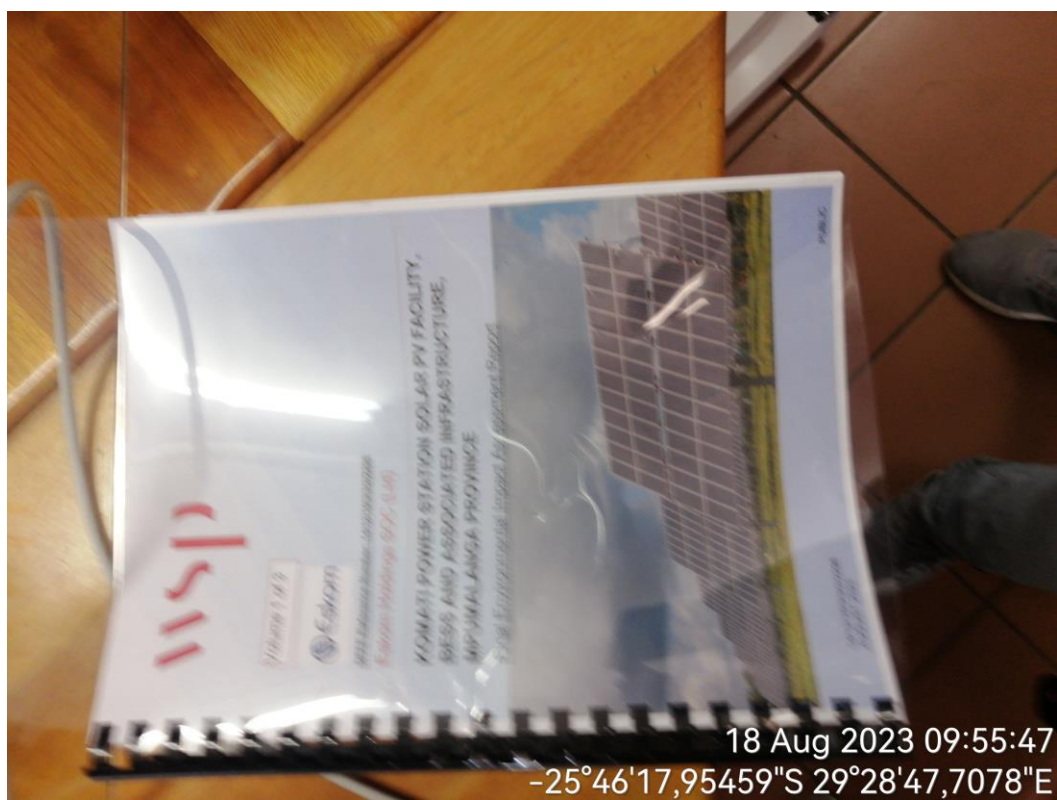




Hendrina Public Library



Eastdene Public Library



Gerard Sekoto Library



18 Aug 2023 09:40:39  
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Hospitaal Road  
Middelburg  
Nkangala District Municipality  
Mpumalanga

# Appendix B.7

## NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC MEETING





## Govender, Megan

---

**From:** Govender, Megan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 12 July 2023 07:58  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED KOMATI SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY, MPUMALANGA

Dear Stakeholders

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED KOMATI SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY, MPUMALANGA**

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the EAP by Eskom Holdings (SOC) Ltd, to manage the Environmental Authorisation Process for the Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility (DFFE

Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298).

You are hereby invited to attend either session of the Public Meeting for the above mentioned environmental project. The details are as follows:

- **Date:** Tuesday, 25 July 2023
- **Venue:** Komati Power Station – Services Building. Canteen Hall (R35 Old Middelburg Bethal Road)
- **Time:** Session 1: 09h00 – 12h00  
Session 2: 13h00 – 16h00

Please note that you only need to attend one of the planned sessions.

We look forward to your continued engagement on this project.

Regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1410



WSP in Africa  
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand  
1685 South Africa

[wsp.com](https://www.wsp.com)

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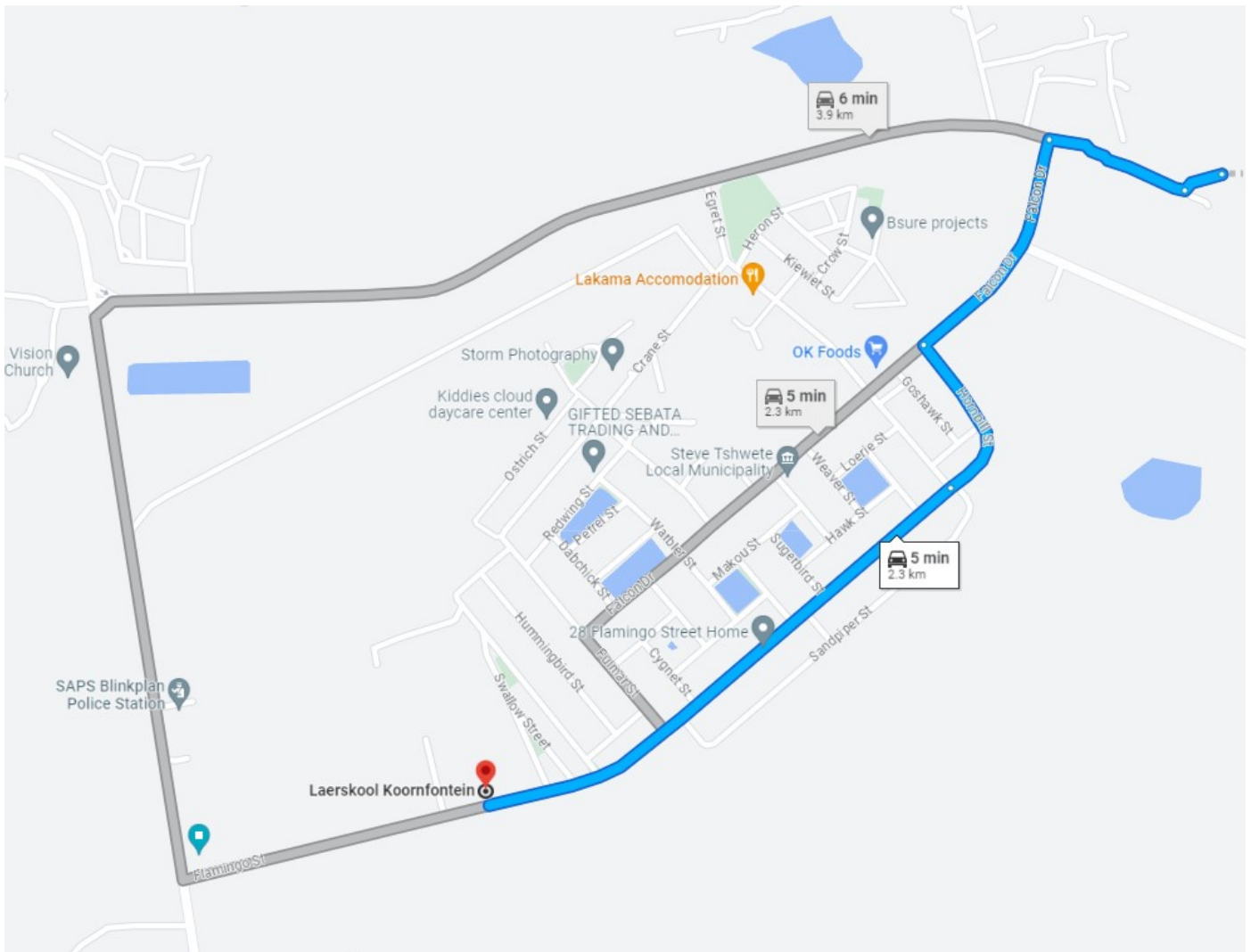
WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Office: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand, Gauteng, 1685, South Africa  
Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

## Govender, Megan

**From:** Govender, Megan  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 July 2023 14:11  
**Subject:** FW: NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED KOMATI SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY, MPUMALANGA [Filed 20 Jul 2023 14:11]

Dear Stakeholders

Please note the venue for the meeting outlined below has changed due to unforeseen circumstances. The meeting will now take place at **Laerskool Koornfontein** - Geen Pelican Boulevard, Blinkpan, Blinkpan. Please see map below showing the proximity of the changed meeting venue to the Komati Power Station:



Please feel free to contact WSP for any queries.

Kind Regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant  
T +27 011 361 1410

---

**From:** Govender, Megan

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 7:58 AM

**Subject:** NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED KOMATI SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY, MPUMALANGA

Dear Stakeholders

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Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298).

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Please note that you only need to attend one of the planned sessions.

We look forward to your continued engagement on this project.

Regards,



**Megan Govender**

Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1410



WSP in Africa

Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand  
1685 South Africa

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WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Office: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand, Gauteng, 1685, South Africa  
Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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2023-07-12 08:08:45.0	ct Megan.Govender@wsp.com	bulksms-web-app
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2023-07-12 08:08:45.0	PV & BESS Facility. 25/07/23, at Komati Power Station–Services Bui	bulksms-web-app
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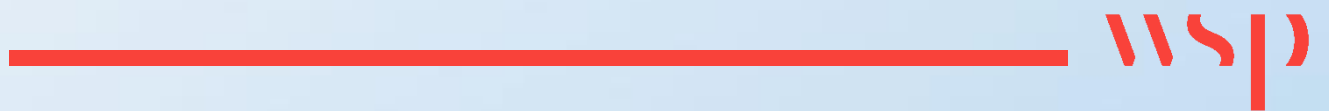


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2023-07-20 14:17:34.0	Pelican Boulevard, Blinkpan. Session 1: 9AM, Session 2: 1PM. Contact Megan.Govender@wsp.	bulksms-web-app
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2023-07-20 14:17:34.0	Pelican Boulevard, Blinkpan. Session 1: 9AM, Session 2: 1PM. Contact Megan.Govender@wsp.	bulksms-web-app



# Appendix C

## MEETINGS



# Appendix C.1

## **DFFE PRE-APPLICATION MEETING**





## MEETING NOTES

<b>JOB TITLE</b>	Eskom Komati Power Station Solar PV ESIA and WULA
<b>PROJECT NUMBER</b>	41103965
<b>DATE</b>	06 July 2022
<b>TIME</b>	09h00
<b>VENUE</b>	MS Teams
<b>SUBJECT</b>	DFFE Pre-application Meeting
<b>CLIENT</b>	Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
<b>PRESENT</b>	Tutayi Chifadza (TC) – WSP Matilda Mbazo (MM) – WSP Justice Ramagoma (JR) – Eskom Warren Funston (WF) – Eskom Mpho Muswubi (MMs) – Eskom Deidre Herbst (DH) – Eskom Coenrad Agenbach (CA) – DFFE Muhammad Essop (ME) – DFFE Trisha Rene Pillay (TP) – DFFE
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Ashlea Strong (AS) WSP Megan Govender (MG) WSP

Building C, Knightsbridge  
33 Sloane Street  
Bryanston, 2191  
South Africa

T: +27 11 361 1300  
F: +27 11 361 1301

[www.wsp.com](http://www.wsp.com)\\corp.pbwan.net\za\Central\_Data\Projects\41100xxx\41103965 - Eskom Komati PV ESIA and WULA\00 PMO\05-Project Management\08-Communication\03-Minutes\DFFE Pre-application Meeting\41103965\_Eskom Komati PV BESS\_DFFE Pre-app Meeting Minutes\_12Jul2022\_Final.docx

## MEETING NOTES

MATTERS ARISING	ACTION
<p><b>NOTE:</b> These notes constitute a summary of the key discussion points and decisions made during the discussion. They are not intended to reflect the exact discussions held.</p>	
<p><b>1.0 INTRODUCTIONS</b></p> <p>The attendees introduced themselves, starting with the WSP team. JR requested recording of meeting for minute taking and TP started the recording.</p>	
<p><b>2.0 PROJECT PRESENTATION</b></p> <p>Following the introductions, TP gave the floor to TC to proceed with the presentation of the proposed Solar Photovoltaics (PV) and Battery Energy Storage Facility.</p> <p>TC presented the project which covered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Project Background;</li> <li>– Typical Infrastructure (Solar Energy Facility (SEF), BESS and Associated Infrastructure);</li> <li>– Project Phases;</li> <li>– Environmental Authorisation Process;</li> <li>– Specialist Studies;</li> <li>– Public Participation Plan;</li> <li>– Timeframes; and</li> <li>– Clarification Questions.</li> </ul> <p>TC highlighted the following key issues during the presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Solar PV locations (A and B) as well as the four BESS locations were not to be considered as alternatives but are all proposed to be developed to attain the required capacity output.</li> <li>– Although a portion of PV site B was identified to fall within a critical biodiversity area (CBA), particularly CBA 2 as per the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan, surrounding anthropogenic activities such as the Goedehoop Colliery to the northwest, residential communities to the east and farming activity to the south renders the CBA unlikely to meet biodiversity targets for species and ecosystems and ecological processes.</li> <li>– The Project Area does not fall within any Strategic Transmission Corridors or Renewable Energy Development Zones.</li> <li>– Project will be conducted to meet the World Bank Group's (WBG) Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) for lending purposes over and above the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) requirements.</li> <li>– DFFE Screening Tool was used to identify theme sensitivities and thus define the specialist studies to be undertaken.</li> <li>– Additional specialist studies are to be undertaken to support the WBG's ESF requirements as well as support the Water Use Licence Application (WULA).</li> <li>– Highlighted that the project is not yet a strategic infrastructure project (SIP), however, Eskom are in the application process with the project expected to be gazetted as a SIP by November 2022. A revised application form will be submitted to the DFFE when this occurs.</li> </ul>	WSP
<p><b>3.0 CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS</b></p> <p>TC indicated that Eskom is proposing to add a wind energy facility (up to 100MW) within the same footprint to the SEF. It was indicated that this will be a separate application owing to the timeframes required for 12-month pre-construction monitoring on bats and avifauna studies. There was no comment from the DFFE.</p> <p>TC indicated that there is a decommissioning component to the project being undertaken by another consultant (Nemai Consulting) and asked if it would be beneficial to have the same case officer on both projects. ME wanted to clarification on why this would be beneficial. TC and DH indicated that the potential overlaps of the project, although standalone, would be made easier if one case officer was used, however, this was not a must and would be left to the DFFE's discretion. ME indicated that an internal discussion would be held within the DFFE, however, suggested that it would be unlikely with communication to be encouraged amongst the two separate case officers.</p>	All

## MEETING NOTES

<p>TC indicated that the project is still in the Design Phase and asked what level of detail would be required for the motivation for the triggering of listing notices and if ranges could be used for the Scoping Phase. ME indicated the ranges would be suitable for the scoping phase, however, specific thresholds would be required for the EIA phase.</p>	
<p><b>4.0 DISCUSSION</b></p> <p>ME wanted clarification on whether the wind facility would be on the same footprint and if so, if there will be sufficient space for both the PV and wind turbines. DH indicated that the VPC report compiled as part of the feasibility assessments took into consideration the environmental and technical aspects that showed that there will be sufficient space for the wind turbines if they are along the edge of the site from a concept phase. This would be revised later when the application process for the wind project commences.</p> <p>ME wanted clarification on whether Eskom is developing the project themselves. DH confirmed that Eskom would develop the project using funding from the WBG.</p> <p>ME wanted clarification on whether all the specialist studies identified by the screening tool were accounted for. TC illustrated how each identified sensitivity theme would be covered by a specific study and also showed the additional studies required by the WBG as well as for the WULA.</p> <p>ME wanted clarification on whether the proposed specialists are registered in their respective fields. TC indicated that all specialists (internal and sub-contractors) appointed are registered as required in their fields. ME indicated that specialists would need to follow the protocols as identified in the screening tool.</p> <p>CA wanted clarification on whether two different reports would be developed to cover for NEMA and the WBG requirements. TC indicated that the preliminary ESIA report for the WBG would be repurposed into a scoping report although the current format would be sufficient for NEMA requirements. CA highlighted that this could create an issue for the project although more information is always welcomed in informing their decision making. DH acknowledged the risk for setting a precedence for future projects meeting reporting requirements that are more onerous. However, there was already a great deal of interest regarding how the social impact would be addressed, this is likely to be a more extensive social study. DH indicated that it would be prudent to wait until the end of scoping to determine whether or not the information should be separated. CA affirmed this response.</p> <p>ME requested that site sensitivity information be included in the scoping report with motivations provided for why specialist studies are conducted or not for each sensitivity theme. TC affirmed that this would be done when reporting.</p>	<p>WSP</p>
<p><b>5.0 WAY FORWARD</b></p> <p>DFFE to conduct internal discussion and review decision on assigning one case officer on both projects.</p> <p>WSP to prepare application and begin with scoping report to initiate application process.</p>	<p>DFFE</p> <p>WSP</p>



## APPENDIX A

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR THE APPLICATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (Eskom) proposes to establish a solar energy generating facility at the Komati Power Station. The proposed Solar Photovoltaic (PV) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities will be developed on farm Komati Power Station No 56 IS in Ward 4 of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, located within the Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. The proposed Solar PV, BESS and associated infrastructure require an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA), associated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended and Water Use Licence (WUL) in terms of National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998 (NWA) respectively. Due to the nature of the project thresholds, Eskom is required to follow a Scoping & EIA process and Water Use licence Application (WULA) to acquire the necessary authorisations prior to the commencement of the proposed project. In addition to South African Legislation, the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) will be undertaken in terms of the World Bank Group (WBG) requirements. This will be aligned to the requirements of the World Bank Environmental & Social Framework; relevant WBG Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSG); the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards; and Good International Industry Practices (GIIP).

The project will be divided into three phases:

- Phase 1: Preliminary ESIA for submission to the World Bank;
- Phase 2: Scoping Phase in terms of in terms of the NEMA 2014 EIA Regulations, to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE); and
- Phase 3: ESIA Phase in terms of the NEMA 2014 EIA Regulations as amended, and WBG Requirements, to the DFFE.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR PRELIMINARY ESIA PHASE

Extensive stakeholder engagement has been undertaken by Eskom and Urban Econ for the Shutdown and Repurposing of Eskom Power Stations to notify Ward Councillors, Ward Committee Members and acknowledged representatives from various community groups who would be impacted by the shutdown of their Hendrina, Grootvlei, and Komati Power Stations which are approaching the end of their operational life.

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) will formally announce the commencement of the S&ESIA Process for the Application of an EA for the proposed establishment of a Solar PV and BESS Facilities at Komati Power Station, and request Interested and Affected Parties to register their interest in the project. **Table 1**, below provides an overview of the stakeholder engagement that will be undertaken during the preliminary ESIA Phase.

*Table 1: Notification Methods*

NOTIFICATION	PROPOSED ACTIVITIES
Notice will be given to the public by publishing newspaper adverts	Adverts will be published in in two newspapers, the Highvelder (in English and Afrikaans) and Witbank News (in in English and IsiZulu), formally announcing the commencement of the S&ESIA process, requesting I&APs to register their interest in the project.

Building C, Knightsbridge  
33 Sloane Street  
Bryanston, 2191  
South Africa

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F: +086 606 7121  
[www.wsp.com](http://www.wsp.com)

## NOTIFICATION

## PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Notice will be given to the public by placing site notices at appropriate locations on site and in the surrounding area	<p>Placement of site notices (in English, Afrikaans and isiZulu) at the following places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Komati Power Station Entrance</li> <li>— Boundary/access road to the Solar PV Site A and B</li> <li>— Blinkplan Police Station;</li> <li>— OK Foods Super Market;</li> <li>— Komati Paypoint and Library;</li> <li>— Nkangala District Municipality Office;</li> <li>— Gerard Sekoto Library;</li> <li>— Eastdene Public Library; and</li> <li>— Hendrina Public Library.</li> </ul> <p>The notices will formally announce the commencement of the S&amp;ESIA process, requesting I&amp;APs to register their interest in the project.</p>
Notice will be given to I&APs registered on existing databases	Stakeholder databases have been generated from the stakeholder engagement process undertaken by Eskom and Urban Econ for the Shutdown and Repurposing of Eskom Power Stations. These databases will be used to formally announcing the commencement of the S&ESIA process, requesting I&APs to register their interest in the project.
Focus group meetings	A focus group meetings will be held at Komati Power Station for community leaders and stakeholder forums for discussion on the proposed establishment of a Solar PV and BESS Facility at Komati Power Station. Comments and concerns raised during this meeting will be noted for inclusion in the Preliminary ESIA Report.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR S&ESIA PHASE

The following consultation process has been designed and will be implemented, on approval by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), to cater for the facilitation of the public participation process (PPP). The PPP includes I&APs, the competent authority, directly impacted landowners/occupiers, adjacent landowners/occupiers, relevant Organs of State departments, Municipalities, ward councillors and other key stakeholders and all other parties that may have interest on this project.

This plan is developed for the Scoping & ESIA process applicable to the application for an environmental authorisation (EA) for the proposed establishment of a solar electricity generating facility consisting of solar photovoltaic (PV), battery energy storage system (BESS) facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station in Mpumalanga Province.

According to Section (2)(4)(f) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), the participation of all I&APs must be promoted and all potential I&APs must be informed early and in an informative and proactive way regarding applications that may affect their lives or livelihood in order to give effect to the above sections, and that it is essential to ensure that there is adequate and appropriate opportunity for public participation in decisions that may affect the environment.

**Table 2**, below, provides the competent authority with the detailed process of the public participation process that will be undertaken during the project.

The existing Komati Power Station I&AP database will also be utilised for this S&ESIA process, due to its inclusivity. I&APs will be provided with opportunity to review and make comments on the draft scoping and ESIA reports.

Table 2: Proposed Public Participation Plan

**SUMMARY OF PPP REQUIREMENT  
(GNR 326 OF EIA REGULATIONS)**

**PROPOSED PLAN/ACTIVITIES**

<p>41(2) The person conducting a PPP must give notice to all potential I&amp;APs by-</p> <p>(a) fixing a notice board at a place conspicuous to and accessible by the public at the boundary, on the fence or along the corridor of—</p> <p>(i) the site where the activity to which the application or proposed application relates is or is to be undertaken; and</p> <p>(ii) any alternative site;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Placement of six (6) site notices (in English, Afrikaans and isiZulu) at appropriate locations on site and in the surrounding area. Proof of placement will be included in the Final Scoping Report.</li> <li>— This will include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Komati Power Station Entrance</li> <li>— Boundary/access road to the Solar PV Site A and B</li> <li>— Blinkplan Police Station;</li> <li>— OK Foods Super Market;</li> <li>— Komati Paypoint and Library;</li> <li>— Nkangala District Municipality Office;</li> <li>— Gerard Sekoto Library;</li> <li>— Eastdene Public Library; and</li> <li>— Hendrina Public Library.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>This activity will be undertaken during the preliminary ESIA phase.</i></p>
<p>(b) giving written notice, in any of the manners provided for in section 47D of the Act, to—</p> <p>(i) the occupiers of the site and, if the proponent or applicant is not the owner or person in control of the site on which the activity is to be undertaken, the owner or person in control of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken and to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;</p> <p>(ii) owners, persons in control of, and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken and to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;</p> <p>(iii) the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site and alternative site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represent the community in the area;</p> <p>(iv) the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area;</p> <p>(v) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and</p> <p>(vi) any other party as required by the competent authority;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Written notification (in English, Afrikaans and isiZulu) will be sent to owners and occupiers on or adjacent to the proposed project site, municipality ward councillor, local and district municipality, and relevant state departments. Proof of placement will be included in the Final Scoping Report.</li> <li>— General communication (written notification) with I&amp;APs (public and government departments/authorities) throughout the S&amp;ESIA Process.</li> <li>— All I&amp;APs on the database will be notified of the project via email and SMS. This email will invite them to participate in S&amp;ESIA process and will inform them of the public review period of the Draft Scoping and ESIA reports.</li> <li>— I&amp;APs will be added to the database on request as the project progresses.</li> <li>— I&amp;AP's already captured on Komati's I&amp;AP database will also be used.</li> </ul>
<p>(c) placing an advertisement in—</p> <p>(i) one local newspaper; or</p> <p>(ii) any official Gazette that is published specifically for the purpose of providing public notice of applications or other submissions made in terms of these Regulations;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Adverts will be published in two newspapers, the Highvelder (in English and Afrikaans) and Witbank News (in in English and IsiZulu), formally announcing the commencement of the S&amp;ESIA process, requesting I&amp;APs to register their interest in the project. Proof of placement will be included in the Final Scoping Report.</li> </ul> <p><i>This activity will be undertaken during the preliminary ESIA phase.</i></p>

**SUMMARY OF PPP REQUIREMENT  
(GNR 326 OF EIA REGULATIONS)**

**PROPOSED PLAN/ACTIVITIES**

<p>(d) placing an advertisement in at least one provincial newspaper or national newspaper, if the activity has or may have an impact that extends beyond the boundaries of the metropolitan or district municipality in which it is or will be undertaken</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— The project does not extend beyond the boundaries of the District Municipality and therefore the use of provincial / national newspapers are not required.</li> <li>— Adverts will be published in two newspapers, the Highvelder (in English and Afrikaans) and Witbank News (in in English and IsiZulu).</li> </ul>
<p>(e) using reasonable alternative methods, as agreed to by the competent authority, in those instances where a person is desirous of but unable to participate in the process due to—</p> <p>(i) illiteracy;</p> <p>(ii) disability; or</p> <p>(iii) any other disadvantage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— I&amp;APs on the existing Komati Power Station I&amp;AP database will be contacted either telephonically or via email to verify their contact details as well as their preferred method of communication.</li> <li>— The relevant ward councillor will be contacted to ensure that community-based organisations are aware of the Project and can assist in distributing and communicating relevant Project information to community members.</li> </ul>
<p>(42) A proponent or applicant must ensure the opening and maintenance of a register of interested and affected parties and submit such a register to the competent authority,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— I&amp;APs with a potential interest in the project will be identified at the outset of the project.</li> <li>— The I&amp;AP database will be compiled to include all affected landowners and occupiers, adjacent landowners and occupiers, I&amp;APs that formally registered during the previous EIA process, relevant authorities. As noted above, the existing database for Komati Power Station will be used as the basis of the register for this S&amp;ESIA process.</li> <li>— All I&amp;APs on the database will be notified of the project via email and SMS. The email and SMS will invite them to participate in the S&amp;ESIA process and will inform them of the public review period of the draft Scoping and ESIA Reports.</li> <li>— All I&amp;APs identified will be registered on the project database, and the database will be maintained throughout the S&amp;ESIA process.</li> </ul>
<p>(43) &amp; (44) Registered Interested and affected parties (I&amp;APs) must be given 30 days to comment on the draft Report</p>	<p>The Draft Scoping and EIA Reports will be made available to all I&amp;APs for a 30-day comment period. Strict adherence to all COVID-19 protocols and regulations as well as best practice measures will be ensured throughout PPP.</p> <p>The reports will be made available at the following places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Komati Paypoint and Library;</li> <li>— Komati Power Station – Security Office;</li> <li>— Gerard Sekoto Library;</li> <li>— Eastdene Public Library; and</li> <li>— Hendrina Public Library; and</li> <li>— Online on the WSP website.</li> </ul> <p>A Stakeholder Engagement Register will be generated for inclusion in Final Scoping and ESIA Reports for consideration by the competent authority.</p> <p>An open day public meeting will be held at Komati Power Station during the Scoping Phase and additional focus group meetings will be held during the ESIA Phase if requested.</p>
<p>(44) (2) The applicant must, in writing, within 14 days of the date of the decision on the application ensure that—</p>	<p>Written notification of the decision on the EAs will be sent to all registered I&amp;APs, Registered I&amp;APs will be informed of the appeal procedure as well as advised that copies of the EA decisions will be provided on request.</p>





**SUMMARY OF PPP REQUIREMENT**  
**(GNR 326 OF EIA REGULATIONS)**

**PROPOSED PLAN/ACTIVITIES**

<p>(a) all registered interested and affected parties are provided with access to the decision and the reasons for such decision; and</p> <p>(b) the attention of all registered interested and affected parties is drawn to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeal Regulations, if such appeal is available in the circumstances of the decision.</p>	
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## APPENDIX B

### MEETING PRESENTATION



# DFFE Pre- Application Meeting

Eskom Komati Power Station  
Solar PV and BESS Facilities



# Agenda

- 1 Introduction  
Introductions
- 2 Overview of Project  
Project Background  
Typical Infrastructure
- 3 Overview & Confirmation of Permitting Processes  
Project Phases  
Environmental Authorisation Process  
Specialist Studies  
Public Participation Plan  
Timeframes
- 5 Discussion  
Specific Clarification  
Questions and Comments

## Introductions

Applicant	<b>Eskom Holdings SOC (Ltd)</b> Deidre Herbst (Environmental Manager: Generation) Justice Ramagoma (Chief Advisor: Environmental Management) Mpho Muswabi (Senior Environmental Advisor) Warren Funston (Middle Manager)
EAP	<b>WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd</b> Tutayi Chifadza
Authority	<b>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)</b> Muhammad Essop Trisha Pillay
Interested EAP	<b>Nemai Consulting</b> Nicky Naidoo





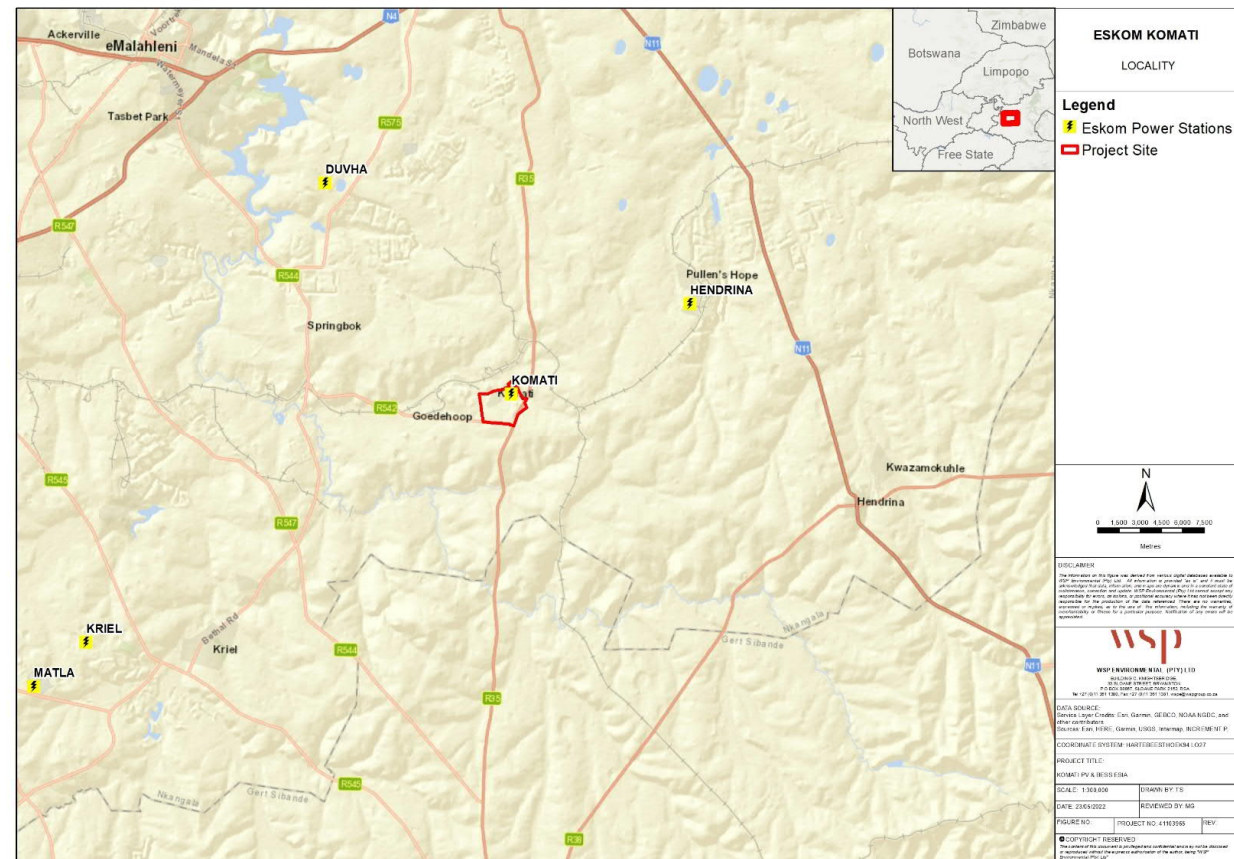
## Background

- Komati Power Station is situated in Mpumalanga Province
- End of Life - September 2022
- Just Energy Transition Plan - mitigating negative impacts resulting from the shut down
- Solar energy facility (SEF) including Solar Photovoltaics (PV) energy facility, Wind energy facility (WEF) as well as Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities



## Location

- Komati Power Station:
  - 37km from Middelburg
  - 43km from Bethal
  - 40km from Witbank
- Ward 4 of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, within the Nkangala District Municipality.
- Land owned by Eskom





## Overview of the Project



## Typical Infrastructure

- Key infrastructure:
  - SEF;
  - Site Substation and BESS; and
  - Associated infrastructure

## Typical Infrastructure

### oSEF:

- Total site area: 200 – 250 Ha
- Solar PV Panels: 72 Ha
- Total capacity of 100 MW

	SOLAR PV SITE A	SOLAR PV SITE B
Extent	156 Ha	54 Ha
Buildable Area	127 Ha	50 Ha
Capacity	71.5 MW	28.5 MW



## Typical Infrastructure

### ○ BESS:

- Four BESS facilities
- Footprint: 2 Ha - 6 Ha
- Storage: 150 MW
- Lithium Battery Technologies

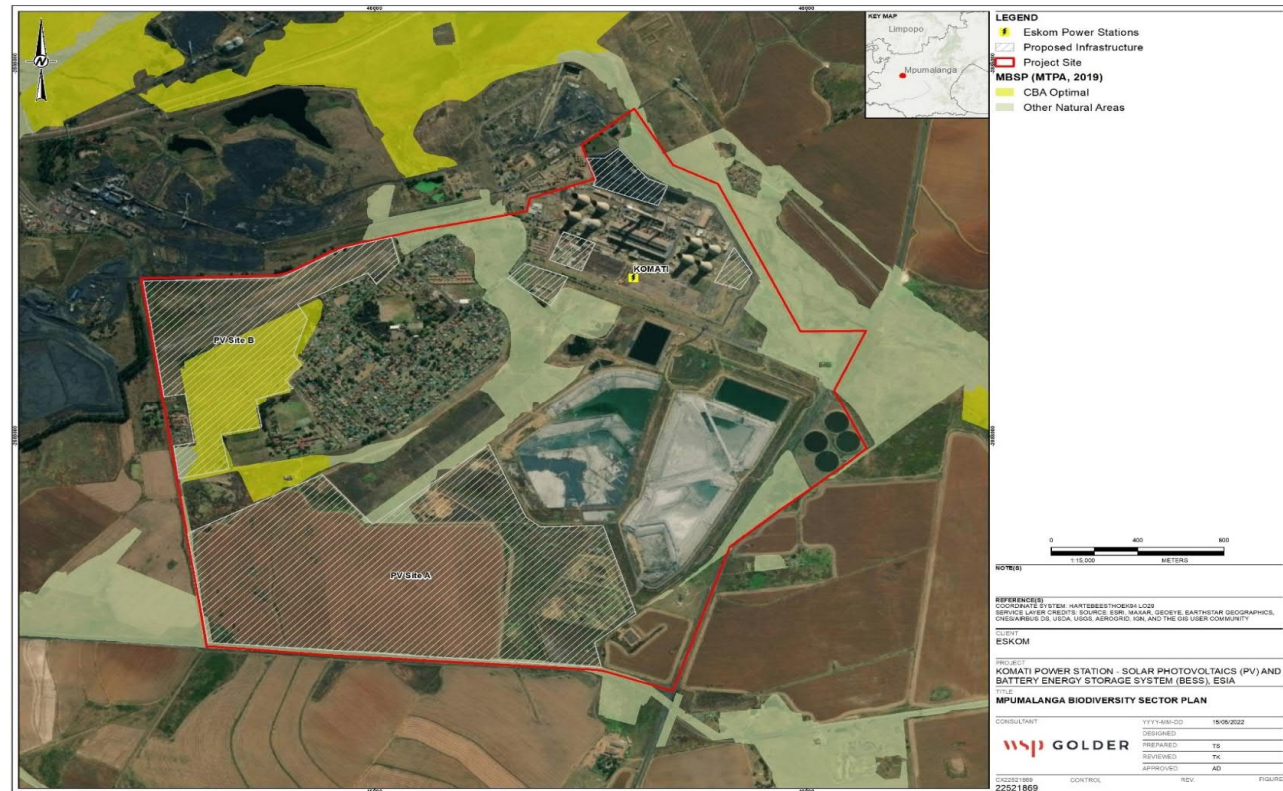
## Typical Infrastructure

### ○ Associated Infrastructure:

- Access roads;
- Perimeter roads;
- Below ground electrical cables;
- Above ground overhead lines;
- Meteorological Station;
- Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Building (Control room, server room, security equipment room, offices, boardroom, kitchen, and ablution facilities);
- Spares Warehouse and Workshop;
- Hazardous Chemical Store;
- Security Building;
- Parking areas and roads;
- Temporary laydown areas;
- Temporary concrete batching plant;
- Construction camps; and
- Onsite substations.

## Key Considerations

- The general project area falls within a Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA).
- The area is mapped as 'CBA 2' by the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan, 2019
- The CBA within which the proposed PV Site B is situated is bordered by the Goedehoop Colliery operations on the north and west, and a residential area on the east and farmlands on the south, all of which encompass Heavily or Moderately Modified Areas. Thus the level of anthropogenic disturbance renders the CBA unlikely to meet biodiversity targets for species and ecosystems and ecological processes.
- The Project Area does not fall within any Strategic Transmission Corridors or Renewable Energy Development Zones.



## Project Phases

- Undertake an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) to meet the requirements of the World Bank Group Environmental and Social Framework.
- To satisfy the WB requirements the EIA will go over and above the NEMA requirements.
- The project will be divided into three phases:
  - Phase 1: Preliminary ESIA (for submission to the WB);
  - Phase 2: Scoping Phase in terms of in terms of the NEMA 2014 EIA Regulations; and
  - Phase 3: EIA Phase and WULA

## Environmental Authorisation Process

- Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) Processes:
  - SEF (100MW)
  - BESS (150MW)
- Water Use Licence
  - Water use Licences and/or General Authorisations will be applied for as required



## Listed Activities – Listing Notice 1

Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
<b>Activity 11(i)</b> The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity—  (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts	The Komati Solar PV facility will require either a 132 KV or 275 KV powerline to transmit power to the BESS facilities. The transmission lines are outside of the urban edge.
<b>Activity 12(ii)</b> The development of -  (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;  (a) within a watercourse;	Internal access roads will be required for access to the Facility. The physical footprint of internal access roads and electrical cabling required to connect the various components of the Facilities will either traverse the delineated watercourses on site, or be located within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site.
<b>Activity 14</b> The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 cubic metres or more but not exceeding 500 cubic metres.	The proposed BESS facilities will potentially result in the handling of between 80 and 500 cubic metres of dangerous goods. This activity will only be applicable in the event that the BESS facilities are assembled on site. This is currently unknown.

## Listed Activities – Listing Notice 1

Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
<b>Activity 19</b> The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse.	The proposed infrastructure, with specific reference to access roads and the grid infrastructure, may require the removal of soil more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse.
<b>Activity 24 (ii)</b> The development of a road— (ii) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres.	The proposed access roads for the Solar facility will potentially be 8 metres wide.

## Listed Activities – Listing Notice 2

Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
<b>Activity 1</b> The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more, excluding where such development of facilities or infrastructure is for photovoltaic installations and occurs — (a) within an urban area.	The proposed solar generating facility will generate 100 MW of electricity from a renewable resource.
<b>Activity 15(ii)</b> The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation. (ii) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres.	The proposed solar generating facilities will require the clearance of vegetation between 200 and 250 ha.

## Listed Activities – Listing Notice 3

Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
<b>Activity 4</b> The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres. f. Mpumalanga i. Outside urban areas (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.	The proposed access roads for the Solar facility will potentially be wider than 4 metres but less than 13.5 metres within a critical biodiversity area (CBA).
<b>Activity 10</b> The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 30 but not exceeding 80 cubic metres. f. Mpumalanga i. Outside urban areas (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.	The proposed BESS facilities will potentially result in the handling of between 80 and 500 cubic metres of dangerous goods. This activity will only be applicable in the event that the BESS facilities are assembled on site. This is currently unknown.
<b>Activity 12</b> The clearance of an area of 300 square metres 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. f. Mpumalanga ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans.	The total footprint to be cleared is between 200 and 250 ha, the CBA portion is located within Solar Site B. The exact footprint will be determined during the ESIA process through the biodiversity impact study.

## DFFE Screening Tool Identified Sensitivities

THEME	VERY HIGH SENSITIVITY	HIGH SENSITIVITY	MEDIUM SENSITIVITY	LOW SENSITIVITY
Agricultural Theme		✓		
Animal Species Theme		✓		
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	✓			
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme				✓
Avian Theme				✓
Civil Aviation (Solar PV) Theme			✓	
Defence Theme				✓
Landscape (Solar) Theme	✓			
Palaeontology Theme	✓			
Plant Species Theme			✓	
RFI Theme			✓	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	✓			



## Specialist Studies Identified to be Included

SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT	COMMENT
Soils and Agricultural Potential Assessment	A soils and land capability survey will be undertaken.
Visual Impact Assessment	The projects could potentially negatively impact sensitive visual receptors. A Visual Impact Assessment will therefore be undertaken.
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	An Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment will be undertaken.
Palaeontology Impact Assessment	A Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be undertaken.
Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	The projects could negatively affect CBA. A Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment will be undertaken. This assessment will include both fauna and flora aspects.
Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	An Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment will be undertaken.
Socio-Economic Assessment	A Socio-Economic Assessment will be undertaken

## Specialist Studies Commissioned

ASSESSMENT	NAME OF SPECIALIST	COMPANY
Air Quality Specialist	Kirsten Collet	WSP
Avifauna Specialist	Megan Diamond	Feathers Environmental
★ Contaminated Land Specialist	Adam Sanderson	WSP
Ecology Specialist	Andrew Zinn and Aisling Dower	WSP
Groundwater Specialist	Sarah Skinner	WSP
Heritage Specialist	Anton Pelser	A Pelser Archaeological Consulting
Noise Specialist	Kirsten Collet	WSP
Palaeontology Specialist	Heidi Fourie	Independent Consultant
★ Social Specialist	Stephen Horak	WSP
Soil Specialist	Zakariya Nakhooda	WSP
Surface Water Specialist	Eugeshin Naidoo	WSP
Traffic Specialist	Nico Jonker	Innovative Transport Solutions (Pty) Ltd
Visual Specialist	Lourens du Plessis	LOGIS
Wetland & Aquatic Specialist	Bradley Graves	WSP

## Competent Authority

- Section 24C(2)(a) of NEMA
  - The Minister must be identified as the Competent Authority (CA) if the activity has implications for international environmental commitments or relations
- Section 24C(2)(d)(iii) of NEMA
  - The Minister must be identified as the Competent Authority (CA) if the activity is undertaken by a statutory body, excluding any municipality, performing an exclusive competence of the national sphere of government
- GN 779 of 01 July 2016
  - Identifies the Minister as the CA for the consideration and processing of environmental authorisations and amendments thereto for activities related the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) 2010 - 2030
- DFFE is therefore deemed to be the Competent Authority

## Public Participation Plan

### Activities Completed

- Formally announce project via:
  - Adverts (English, Afrikaans and Zulu in local newspaper)
  - Site notices
  - Utilising existing stakeholder databases
- Hold focus group meeting

### Activities to be undertaken

- Compilation and management of I&AP Database
- Written notification:
  - Owners adjacent to the proposed project site
  - Municipality Ward Councillor
  - District Municipality
  - Relevant State Departments
- Hold public meeting during Scoping Phase
- Hold focus group meetings with vulnerable groups as per the WBG requirements
- Advertisement for review of Draft Reports Review for 30 days

## Timeframes

### ○ Authority Timeframes

- Does not fall within a Strategic Transmission Corridor (GN 113)
- Does not fall within a REDZ (GN 114)
- Authority decision making timeframe is 107 days
- Eskom currently working on attaining a SIP letter which will be submitted to the DFFE once the JETP is gazetted (anticipated in November 2022)

### ○ Key Milestones:

- Submission of Application Forms - August 2022
- Draft Scoping Report Public Review - August 2022
- Submission of Final Scoping Reports - October 2022
- Draft EIA Report Public Review - January 2023
- Submission of Final EIA Report - March 2023



## ○ Specific Clarification

- Eskom is proposing to add a wind energy facility (up to 100 MW) within the same footprint of the SEF. This will be a separate application.
- There is a decommissioning component to the project being undertaken by another consultant (Nemai Consulting). Would it be beneficial to have the same case officer?
- The project is still in the Design Phase. What level of detail is required for the motivation for the triggering of listing notices? Can ranges be used for the Scoping Phase?

- Questions
- Way Forward





# Thank you



[wsp.com](http://wsp.com)

Chifadza, Tutayi

---

From: Trisha Rene Pillay <tpillay@dffe.gov.za>  
Sent: Tuesday, 02 August 2022 11:02  
To: Chifadza, Tutayi  
Cc: Coenrad Agenbach; Govender, Megan; Muhammad Essop  
Subject: RE: 2022-06-0013 Pre-app meeting for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station

Good Morning Tutayi,

The minutes are accepted and you can move forward submitting your application for review. Apologies for the delay in response.

Kind Regards,

Ms. Trisha Pillay  
Environmental Officer: Priority Infrastructure Projects  
Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
Private Bag X447  
Pretoria  
0001  
(083) 650 5511  
[tpillay@dffe.gov.za](mailto:tpillay@dffe.gov.za)



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

---

From: Chifadza, Tutayi <Tutayi.Chifadza@wsp.com>  
Sent: Monday, 01 August 2022 12:31  
To: Trisha Rene Pillay <tpillay@dffe.gov.za>  
Cc: Coenrad Agenbach <CAGENBACH@dffe.gov.za>; Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>  
Subject: RE: 2022-06-0013 Pre-app meeting for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station

Good day,

I'm following up on the approval of the minutes of the pre-application meeting we held on 6 July. I have reattached them to this email for easy reference and we also appended the public participation plan to the minutes.

Regards,



**Tutayi Chifadza**  
Principal Consultant  
Pr Sci Nat

T 011 361 1390  
M +27 73 770-1635

---

From: Chifadza, Tutayi  
Sent: Tuesday, 12 July 2022 08:02  
To: Trisha Rene Pillay <[tpillay@dfpe.gov.za](mailto:tpillay@dfpe.gov.za)>  
Cc: Coenrad Agenbach <[CAGENBACH@dfpe.gov.za](mailto:CAGENBACH@dfpe.gov.za)>; Govender, Megan <[Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com)>  
Subject: RE: 2022-06-0013 Pre-app meeting for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station

Good day,

Well received. Please find the attached final version of meeting minutes which includes the proposed public participation plan and the meeting presentation.

Regards,

**Tutayi Chifadza** Pr Sci Nat  
Principal Consultant  
WSP in Africa

T 011 361 1390  
F +27 11 361 1301  
M +27 73 770-1635

---

From: Trisha Rene Pillay <[tpillay@dfpe.gov.za](mailto:tpillay@dfpe.gov.za)>  
Sent: Friday, 08 July 2022 11:55  
To: Chifadza, Tutayi <[Tutayi.Chifadza@wsp.com](mailto:Tutayi.Chifadza@wsp.com)>  
Cc: Coenrad Agenbach <[CAGENBACH@dfpe.gov.za](mailto:CAGENBACH@dfpe.gov.za)>  
Subject: 2022-06-0013 Pre-app meeting for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station

Good Morning Mr. Chifadza,

Please find attached the transcript and the link to listen to the recording.

The Password to get access to the recording 2022-06-0013

[2022-06-0013 Pre-app meeting for Solar Photovoltaic \(PV\) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System \(BESS\) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Kom-20220706\\_090555-Meeting Recording.mp4](#)

Kind Regards,

Ms. Trisha Pillay  
Environmental Officer: Priority Infrastructure Projects  
Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
Private Bag X447  
Pretoria  
0001  
(083) 650 5511  
[tpillay@dfpe.gov.za](mailto:tpillay@dfpe.gov.za)



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



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# Appendix C.2

## FOCUS GROUP MEETING





## MEETING NOTES

<b>JOB TITLE</b>	Eskom Komati Power Station Solar PV and BESS ESIA
<b>PROJECT NUMBER</b>	41103965
<b>DATE</b>	09 June 2022
<b>TIME</b>	10h00
<b>VENUE</b>	SSB Hall – Komati Power Station
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Focus Group Meeting
<b>CLIENT</b>	Eskom Holdings SOC (Ltd)
<b>PRESENT</b>	<p><b>In person:</b></p> <p>Deidre Herbst (DH) – Eskom Felicia Sono (FS) – Eskom Justice Ramagoma (JR) – Eskom Mokgadi Mvambo (MM) – Eskom Sasavona Baloyi (SB) – Eskom Zekhethelo Ndlovu (ZN) – Eskom Anna Marth Ott (AO) – Stakeholder (MCCT) Alta de Bruin (AB) – Stakeholder (Villa Rosa Guesthouse) Mathews Zwane (MZ) – Stakeholder (Church Representative) Nomsa Dlamini (ND) – Stakeholder (Community Representative) Othaniel Sibembo (OS) – Stakeholder (B&amp;K Komati) Simphiwe Mnisi (SM) – Stakeholder (Komati Farmbelt) Wickus de Bruin (WB) – Stakeholder (Villa Rosa Guesthouse) Megan Govender (MG) – WSP Tumelo Mathulwe (TM) – WSP</p> <p><b>On-line:</b></p> <p>Collins Nyamadzawo (CN) – Mpumalanga Green Cluster Agency Matjaka Ketsi (MK) – Mpumalanga Green Cluster Agency Stephen Horak (SH) - WSP</p>

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[www.wsp.com](http://www.wsp.com)\\corp.pbwan.net\za\Central\_Data\Projects\41100xxx\41103965 - Eskom Komati PV ESIA and WULA\41 ES\04-Public Participation\05-Public Meetings\Focus Group Meeting\_20220609\41103965\_Eskom Komati PV and BESS\_Focus Group Meeting Notes\_Final.docx

MATTERS ARISING	ACTION
<p><b>NOTE:</b></p> <p>These notes constitute a summary of the key discussion points made during the meeting. They are not intended to reflect the exact discussions held.</p>	
<p><b>1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</b></p> <p>MM welcomed everyone to the meeting. MM clarified the evacuation route should the need arise.</p>	
<p><b>2.0 JUST ENERGY TRANSITION PROJECT</b></p> <p>MM presented the Just Energy Transition Plan (Refer to Appendix A for a copy of the presentation) with the following to be noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Eskom will shut down many of its fossil-fired power plants due to ageing fleet, environmental compliance requirements, decarbonisation goals and overall end of plant life.</li> <li>— Komati is one of the power stations that will be shut down as it will reach its end of life in September 2022.</li> <li>— Shutting down of the power station will have a socio-economic impact on existing employees, and surrounding communities. Eskom has therefore explored options for the repurposing and repowering of the power station</li> <li>— Renewable energy requires using vast amounts of land surface area, therefore there could be competition for usable land in transitioning to cleaner sources of fuel.</li> <li>— Solar PV and wind are the preferred main technologies to be used for the re-purposing of Komati with the addition of batteries (BESS) and the repurposing of the generators that are in good condition to synchronous condensers units.</li> <li>— A Gas Power Plant was also considered as one of the technologies.</li> <li>— The retiring process will include the dismantling and removal of several buildings, structures, and dams, as well as the decontamination and rehabilitation of waste and dirty areas.</li> <li>— The move away from coal-fired power stations will have a significantly positive impact on the environment.</li> <li>— However, the demolition of cooling towers and other distinctive features of the “old coal power station” may be perceived as negative from a sense of place perspective.</li> </ul> <p>DH: The focus of the meeting today is on the Solar PV and BESS project, however the presentation by MM puts the entire project into perspective. This is the first Environmental Impact Assessment being undertaken. There are several other projects however the EIAs will have to be done individually. This will unfortunately result in repetition of meetings however we will try to align the meetings and projects as much as possible.</p>	
<p><b>3.0 SOLAR PV AND BESS EIA</b></p> <p>MG: WSP was appointed to undertake the Environmental Authorisation Process for the Komati Solar PV, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and Associated Infrastructure. The aim of today’s focus group meeting is to present the project and listen to the input stakeholders may have regarding the project.</p> <p>MM presented the Komati Power Station Solar Photovoltaic, Battery Energy Storage System Facilities and Associated Infrastructure Project (Refer to Appendix B for a copy of the presentation) with the following to be noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Just Energy Transition Plan is aimed at mitigating the negative social impacts resulting from the shutting down of the Komati Power Station. The solar energy generating facility is one of several initiatives Eskom is proposing.</li> <li>— Solar energy facility is made up of Solar Photovoltaics energy facility as well as BESS facilities</li> <li>— The land earmarked for this development is owned by Eskom</li> <li>— The PV facility will have a capacity of up to 100 MW. Solar PV modules will convert solar radiation directly into electricity. They will be elevated above the ground and will be mounted on either fixed tilt systems or tracking systems.</li> </ul>	

## MEETING NOTES

- There are four BESS facilities proposed. The BESS storage capacity will be up to 150MW.
- It is proposed that Lithium Battery Technologies will be considered as the preferred battery technology however the specific technology will only be determined following the appointment of an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor. The BESS components will arrive on site pre-assembled.
- Additional associated infrastructure will be confirmed once the Conceptual Design is complete.
- The general project area falls within a Critical Biodiversity Areas.
- The Project Area does not fall within any Strategic Transmission Corridors or Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZ).
- Due to the nature of the project thresholds, the proposed project will require a Scoping & EIA process to obtain an environmental authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act. A Water Use Licence (WUL) in terms of the National Water Act will also be required. The WUL application processes will be undertaken concurrently with the S&EIA process as far as possible.
- In addition to South African Legislation, the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) will be undertaken in terms of the World Bank Group requirements. The assessment will be aligned to the requirements of the World Bank Environmental & Social Framework; relevant World Bank Group Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines; the International Finance Corporation Performance Standards; and Good International Industry Practices.
- Specialist studies are required to support the ESIA, and several have been commissioned already.
- Public Participation will be undertaken for the project in line with legislative requirements. This will include formally announcing the project, holding a focus group meeting (this meeting), hosting public meetings and providing the Draft Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Reports for public review. These reports will contain information about the project including specialist inputs and environmental and socio-economic impacts.
- The EIA will take approximately eighteen months to undertake including public participation and authority review timeframes.

### 4.0 DISCUSSION

AO: What happens in Komati will impact the whole country therefore it is important to repurpose the power station otherwise we will have an economic crisis on our hands. How do we go about getting a REDZ allocated to the area? Hendrina is the next power station to be decommissioned and the power stations fall outside the REDZ.

MG: We will investigate this and provide you with feedback outside of this meeting.

AO: It was mentioned that the BESS parts will arrive already assembled. This is a concern as we need to be creating jobs in the area. We would like to establish a local manufacturing facility for solar plants including the manufacturing of batteries in the Komati area. How do we go about doing this? This will mitigate the negative impact of the closure of the Komati Power Station. The other concern is baseload as this will still be needed for major industries. We do not want the green energy to take away the base load required for major industries.

MG: Your comment is noted and we will provide you with feedback outside of this meeting.

AB: A local manufacturing facility must be in Komati and not in Middelburg. The problem is here in Komati. There is a need to create work for the people here.

AO: There are several ideas of what can be done at Komati and how it can be used as an example. A training centre can be set up in the area. It was mentioned that the Secunda FET is excellent and training is going to be moved there. This was mentioned in the presentation made by Res4Africa, an Italian Organisation, that has funding for re-skilling. The other aspect to consider is that re-skilling is focussed on the illiterate community. There are already literate skilled people that need to be re-skilled. The type of training to be provided will need to be looked at. There will be more momentum if the skilled community is up-skilled.

AB: They must come here to Komati first because the people of the area have no work.

AO: The worst thing would be if Eskom imported pre-assembled panels and batteries from China.

MG to provide AO with feedback



## MEETING NOTES

AB: Eskom must make use of the local businesses Eskom does not make use of local guest houses. Eskom uses businesses outside of Komati.

AO: This Project needs to be linked to the Master Steel Plan and localisation initiatives that are being driven for the region.

CN: Regarding the issue of localisation and producing batteries and solar panels, has Eskom decided on the battery technology that will be used and the battery manufacturer that will be used? It has been noted that the solar panels will occupy 75 hectares of the available land which is only a quarter of the available land. What is the reasoning behind the 100 MW cap when there is still ample land to install additional solar panels?

DH: Eskom are going the route of appointing an EPC contractor. They will determine the procurement of the BESS and solar panels. Eskom will provide you with additional feedback outside of this meeting after consulting with the engineers.

MG: Additional feedback outside of this meeting on the layout of the project and the utilisation of the land will be provided.

TM: Is there anyone else that should be made aware of the project?

DH: There was a Socio-Economic study and stakeholder engagement undertaken by UrbanEcon. The stakeholder databases generated from that project has been shared with WSP to include in the stakeholder database for this project.

AO: Could a copy of the UrbanEcon study be made available?

DH: Ms Beauty Mazibuko will be requested to make the final report available. There was a draft report and finalisation was planned for June 2022.

AO: The scope of the UrbanEcon study was not wide enough. The study seemed to only look at the Komati area and not at the bigger municipal area. This will be necessary to get an idea of the actual economy of the municipality.

DH: WSP will also be undertaking their own Socio-Economic Study and will be drawing from the report undertaken from UrbanEcon. WSP can address your comments in their study, if it falls within their scope and if it has not been done so already within the UrbanEcon Report.

OS: Eskom needs to consider the local community for job opportunities within the project. Eskom should include local businesses such as guesthouses and transport companies that can be used for this project. If possible, Eskom should also give vendor numbers for small businesses in the area.

SM: How are the solar structures going to operate, will there be any noise from the solar panels?

MG: There is no operational noise emitting from the solar panels. However, there is a full suite of specialists appointed to assess how the project will impact the environment as well as the community. The specialists appointed include noise, air quality, surface and ground water quality and ecology. The noise specialist study will highlight any impacts this would mainly be during the construction phase. The specialist studies as well as the impacts identified will be made available for the public to review and provide any comments or concerns, they may have.

SM: As a community, we are used to a Power Station that utilises coal and we have been skilled in this manner. Now that there is a transition to a different technology, we as the community would like to be upskilled so that when new jobs arises from this project, we will have the required skill set. As noted by others, local businesses should be used where possible.

MG to provide CN with feedback

DH to request the final UrbanEcon report from Beauty Mazibuko

## MEETING NOTES

AB: What are the project timeframes? The community cannot wait three years for the project to start, there are no jobs. Training should start now.

AO: What re-skilling will be done? Unless there is an end goal of a job opportunity, there is no point in re-skilling people. On the other hand, for businesses to survive, they need to be able to take their own future in their hands and continuous handouts will also not help.

Meeting concluded.

# Proposed Komati Power Station Solar PV, BESS Facilities And Associated Infrastructure








Focus Group Meeting, Komati Power Station – 09 June 2022 - 10:00am

Attendance register & COVID-19 Health Screening Questionnaire

The safety of our employees, visitors, tenants or members of public that may come into contact with us, remain our first priority. To prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the potential risk of exposure to our employees, contractors and visitors, we are conducting a simple screening questionnaire. Your participation is important to help us take precautionary measures to protect you and everyone in this premises, thank you for your participation and effort.

Effective immediately, all visitors entering our offices or controlled areas, are required to complete the WSP Visitors COVID-19 Health Screening Questionnaire.





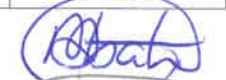


If any questions are answered with a “YES”, or your temperature is above 37.5°C, access to our controlled premises will subsequently be denied, and you will be asked to reschedule your meeting or make alternative arrangements.

Attendees			COVID -19 Screening							Have you had contact in the last 14 days, with someone who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID 19?	Signature
Name & Surname	Company / Affiliation	Contact details	Temperature	Cough?	Shortness of breath?	Fever?	Fatigue?	Respiratory Issues?			
Ndlovu Zekhethelo	Eskom	072 92 46 723	30,4	No	No	No	No	No	No		
MEGAN GOVENDER	WSP	083 228 5288	36	No	No	No	No	No	No		
Nomsa Dlamini	Ward com	082 753 1767		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO		
SADAVONA DALONI	Eskom	083 298 0560		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO		
Wichus + Alida	Villa Rosa	082 579 4652		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO		
Othaniel Sibambo	Bek komati	071 613 1498		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO		
SIMPHINK Mlisi	Lambell komati	0788 233 924		YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO		

# Proposed Komati Power Station Solar PV, BESS Facilities And Associated Infrastructure

Focus Group Meeting, Komati Power Station – 09 June 2022 - 10:00am

Attendance register & COVID-19 Health Screening Questionnaire

Attendees			COVID -19 Screening							
Name & Surname	Company / Affiliation	Contact details	Temperature	Cough?	Shortness of breath?	Fever?	Fatigue?	Respiratory Issues?	Have you had contact in the last 14 days, with someone who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID 19?	Signature
Timelo Makhulue	WSP	011 254 4800	32°C	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	
Mokgadi MAMBO	Esikom	061 1672890		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO.	
Justice Ramagoma	ESKOM	0822619361		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	
Deidre Herbst	Esikom	0836601141	36	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Felicia Sono	Esikom	083 297 4328		No	No	No	No	No	No	
Matthews Zesame	Church Rep.	0724219835	32	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	
Anna-Marth Ott	MCCJ	0834582865	36	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	

# Appendix C.3

## PUBLIC MEETING





## SESSION 1: 09H00

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## AGENDA & MEETING NOTES

<b>PROJECT NUMBER</b>	41103965	<b>MEETING DATE</b>	25 July 2023
<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	Eskom Komati PV and BESS Facility	<b>VENUE and Time</b>	Laerskool Koorfontein 09:00
<b>CLIENT</b>	Eskom	<b>RECORDED BY</b>	Matilda Mbazo
<b>MEETING SUBJECT</b>	Environmental Authorisation Application for the Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility		

<b>PRESENT</b>	Beauty Mazibuko (BM) – Eskom; Deidre Herbst (DH) – Eskom; Justice Ramafoma (JR) -Eskom; Jurie Pieterse (JP) – Eskom; Megan Govender (MG) – WSP; Tumelo Mathulwe (TM) – WSP; and Matilda Mbazo (MM) – WSP.  For a list of Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) present please refer to the Attendance Registers in Appendix A.
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	N/A
<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>	Meeting Attendees
<b>CONFIDENTIALITY</b>	<b>Confidential</b>

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION	DUE
<b>NOTE</b>			
These notes constitute a summary of the key discussion points and decisions made during the progress discussion. They are not intended to reflect the exact discussions held.			
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>			
	<b>The meeting was opened at 09:15</b> <b>TM</b> opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing the standard protocol and the meeting's agenda.	N/A	N/A
	<b>JP</b> proceeded to introduce the Komati team and shared the Eskom background and presented the proposed project.		

## MEETING NOTES

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION	DUE
	<p><b>MG</b> presented the overview of the proposed Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility Project as well as an overview of the EIA and public participation process. A copy of the presentation is included in Appendix B.</p> <p><b>MG</b> concluded the presentation and opened the floor for question and discussion with Interested and Affected Parties (I&amp;APs).</p>		
<b>2. DISCUSSION</b>			
2.1	<p><b>Richard Muswubi</b> asked why I&amp;APs have not been informed about the project and that they are only learning about it with ten days until the comment period closes.</p> <p><b>MG</b> stated that notification about the project as well as the availability of hardcopies and electronic copies was sent to registered I&amp;APs on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2023 by email and SMS's. She added that should I&amp;APs require additional time to comment they can submit directly to the Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).</p>	N/A	N/A
2.2	<p><b>Dira Marule</b> enquired about Eskom and Government's efforts to mitigate the impact on the Komati community of the transition of the Komati Power Station to renewable energy. He added that the transition has resulted in a deterioration of living standards for those previously employed by the power station.</p> <p><b>BM</b> stated that the Eskom transition plan includes community development initiatives, workers development and stakeholder engagement among others.</p>		
2.3	<p><b>Zanele Sekgobela</b> raised concern over the issue of unemployment in the community and further asked whether there will be a stipend during the training to be provided by Eskom.</p> <p><b>BM</b> confirmed that there will be stipend for long-term trainees.</p>		
2.4	<p><b>December Motau</b> enquired what is planned for the construction workforce after the planned 4-5 years of construction.</p> <p><b>MG</b> reiterated that there will be initiatives and training programmes facilitated by Eskom to train people for the long-term employment.</p> <p><b>BM</b> added that there will be approximately 8700 vacancies during construction and approximately 600 for the operational phase.</p>		
2.5	<p><b>Khanyo Siphilakuhle</b> asked whether the skills offered will be transferrable to other workplaces.</p> <p><b>JP</b> stated that it will depend on the requirements of the job, however, Eskom strives to provide training that will create sustainability for the individual and the community at large.</p>		
2.6	<p><b>Khanyo Siphilakuhle</b> further enquired if the electricity cost will decrease considering that there are no costs relating to the sourcing of the energy.</p> <p><b>JP</b> stated that the cost of electricity is determined by NERSA and not ESKOM.</p>		

## MEETING NOTES

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION	DUE
2.7	<p><b>Dira Marule</b> queried whether this type of project has been executed elsewhere and should it fail, what will happen?</p> <p><b>JP</b> stated that this is the first project of this kind that is at this scale and Eskom is committed to making it a success.</p>		
2.8	<p><b>Manqoba Msomba</b> asked what positive changes will be instilled now considering the high employment.</p> <p><b>JP</b> clarified that there will be short term projects by December 2023 and commissioning of the project is set to occur early 2024. Moreover, there will be a training facility to kick-off training for employment.</p> <p><b>MG</b> further clarify that the project has phases that are set for different time periods and it's important that all procedures are followed accordingly. <b>MG</b> added that WSP and ESKOM acknowledges the grievances of the Komati community.</p>		
2.9	<p><b>Ntabiseng Marule</b> raised a concern that there was never a plan for the job losses experienced or a plan to make sure people are fed.</p> <p><b>BM</b> acknowledged the concern.</p>		
2.10	<p><b>December Motau</b> suggested that five boilers be recommissioned to help mitigate the impacts of bad weather.</p> <p><b>MG</b> stated that there is a Battery Energy Storage System component to the proposed project.</p> <p><b>December Motau</b> stated that the decommissioning of coal fired power stations will have a ripple effect on the surrounding mine as well. He further suggested that the use of labour brokers be done away with when the proposed facility starts employing people.</p>		
2.11	<p><b>Alta de Bruin</b> stated that Eskom does not make use of local businesses.</p>		
2.12	<p><b>Evans Lusenga</b> stated his desire for the Komati community to be included during the transitioning of the power station.</p>		
2.13	<p><b>I&amp;AP (Name was not given):</b> What kind of jobs will the training centre offer.</p> <p><b>JP</b> stated that soft skills, welding, painting and other skills will be offered. He further added that other skills may be added to the centre and that these skills will skill the community to be employable by other renewable energy developments.</p>		
2.14	<p><b>Evans Lusenga</b> stated that the Komati community must be prioritised for training.</p> <p><b>JP</b> stated that from the onset the focus has been on developing Ward 4 of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality when training is rolled out. He added that the training centre is not yet complete, and the intake of trainees will increase once it has been built.</p>		
2.15	<p><b>Bongani</b> enquired about the training requirements.</p> <p><b>JP</b> stated that there will be different requirements for different fields.</p>		

## MEETING NOTES

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION	DUE
2.16	<b>I&amp;AP (Name was not given):</b> stated his desire for training to facilitate growth into senior positions.		
2.17	<b>I&amp;AP (Name was not given):</b> requested that more time is allocated for meetings in future.		
2.18	<b>Dira Marule</b> stated that the planning of the project has not considered crime, diseases and other effects of decommissioning. He also suggested that the skill centre could upskill learners to become lecturers.		
2.19	<b>December Motau</b> suggested that legacy projects are built/implemented as part of the development of the proposed facility.		
<b>3.0 CONCLUDING</b>			
	The meeting was adjourned at <b>11h00</b> .	N/A	N/A

## Appendix A: Meeting Registers

NAME & SURNAME	COMPANY	JOB TITLE / DESIGNATION	TEL NO.	EMAIL	SIGNATURE
	Eskom Komati P. Station	Environmental Officer			
	Komati	Quality Manager			
	Komati	Manager			
	Eskom Komati	ENGINEER / ENGINEERING			
	Komati				
	Komati				
	PACTA SA	Finance			
	Phuelo Media Empire	Director			
	Komati Sports	Owner			
	Komati	N/A			
	Komati	N/A			
	Komati	N/A			
	Komati	N/A			
	Komati	N/A			
	N/A	N/A			
	Komati	N/A			
	N/A	Student			
	WSP	Consultant			
	Komati P/S	Acting GM			
	Komati				
	Choeman	N/A			
	Emabhasini	N/A			
	Emabhasini	N/A			
	BLINKPAN	N/A			
	N/A	N/A			
	N/A	N/A			



NAME & SURNAME	COMPANY	JOB TITLE / DESIGNATION	TEL NO.	EMAIL	SIGNATURE
	M/A	General worker			
	Lukama	General worker			
	M/A	General worker			
	N/A	-			
	12 B/DK PAV	-			
	N/A	-			
	N/A	-			
	N/A	-			
	N/A	-			
	N/A	-			
	N/A	-			
	N/A	-			
	N/A	General worker			
	HAMSIA	General worker			
	N/A	General worker			
	N/A	General worker			
	N/A	General worker			
	Myanmar	General worker			
	<del>N/A</del> N/A	General worker			
	N/A	General			
	Ezi Access	Industry Specialist			
	Ezi Access	Sales & Marketing			
	Ezi Access	Konah Projects			
	Ezi Access	Konah Projects			
	Ezi Access	Konah Projects			
	N/A	Konah Projects			
	N/A	General worker			

NAME & SURNAME	COMPANY	JOB TITLE / DESIGNATION	TEL NO.	EMAIL	SIGNATURE
	ESKOM EIA CoE	Chief Advisor			
	Community member	engineer skills			
	NOT working	N/A			
	M/A	N/A			
	N/A	N/A			
	N/A	N/A			
	BOZINA	Director			
	N/A	N/A			
	N/A	N/A			
	Sinosenzo Trading	Director			
	Sinosenzo Trading	Accountant			
	Sinosenzo Trading	Hr			
	Community member				
	N/A				
	Community member				
	Community member	N/A			
	Community member	N/A			
	Community member	N/A			
	Community member	N/A			
	Community member	N/A			
	COMMUNITY MEMBER	N/A			
	Community member				
	mpunacape ems	Fire fighter			
	Two days	for			
	Community	N/A			
	Maklango Place	N/A			
	M/A TS ST	Clipping			

NAME & SURNAME		COMPANY	JOB TITLE / DESIGNATION	TEL NO.	EMAIL	SIGNATURE

NAME & SURNAME	COMPANY	JOB TITLE / DESIGNATION	TEL NO.	EMAIL	SIGNATURE
	RSC	C/IT			
	BSC	Sign			
	RAGA SA	Legal			
	Konati Sparks	Secretary			
	"	Secretary			
	Konati				
	WSP				
	Community Member	—			
	Jurie Trading	M/H			
	" R/A	Rep. d' M. d' e			
	Konati	word committee			
	E. d' obosini	N/A			
	"	N/A			
		N/A			
	Estom	Quality officer			
	Konati	N/A			
	Sinosco Trading	M.O			
	Blinkpan	N/A			
	Koondorlein	N/A			
	Estom Konati	Manage			
	Estom Konati	Manags			
	Estom R d' S	Senior consultant			



## **Appendix B: Meeting Presentation**



# Environmental Authorisation Application for the Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility

Public Meeting

July 2023



1

## Meeting Objectives

- Share information about Eskom's proposed Solar Photovoltaic (PV) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facility at Komati Power Station
- Provide information about the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and public participation process that form part of the proposed Environmental Authorisation (EA) project
- For Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to ask questions, raise issues of concern and identify potential impacts for consideration as part of the EIA

2 | Eskom Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility

wsp

2

## Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction of Project Teams
2. Formal acceptance of Agenda
3. Meeting objectives
4. Meeting administration
5. Overview of the proposed Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility Project
6. Overview of the EIA and public participation process
  - 6.1 Environmental baseline, proposed specialist studies, identification of potential impacts
  - 6.2 Public participation process
7. Questions / Discussion
8. Next steps

3 | Eskom Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility

wsp

3

## Meeting Protocols

- Before asking a question / commenting, please state your name, surname and organisation
- Please work through the facilitator
- Respect one another
- Give fellow meeting attendees a fair opportunity to participate during discussions
- Agree to disagree
- Please be patient when there are many hands

4 | Eskom Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility

wsp

4

# Introduction to Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility Project

5

## Project Location



6 Eskom Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility

6

## Proposed Project

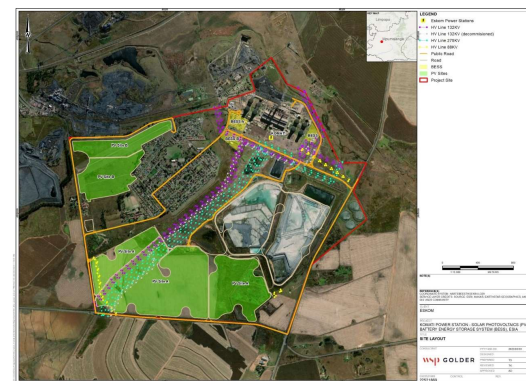
- Komati Power Station reached its end-of-life in October 2022.
- Eskom has developed the Eskom Just Energy Transition Project (EJETP) to implement projects for the repowering and repurposing related to the Komati Power Station.
- Eskom proposes to establish a solar energy generating facility which will include the installation of a 100MW Solar Energy Facility as well as 150MW BESS facilities.
- The proposed project is located on Eskom owned land, adjacent to the Komati Power Station.
- The proposed project will comprise the following key components:
  - SEF
  - Grid Connection (i.e. powerlines)
  - Site Substation and BESS
  - Associated infrastructure
- The SEF is intended to evacuate power to the grid.



7 Eskom Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility

7

## Project Layout



8 Eskom Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility

8

# EIA Process

9

## Regulatory Framework – National Environmental Management Act (Act no. 107 of 1998)

Application for Environmental Authorisation in terms of the **National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998)**

In terms of Section 24(2) of the NEMA, the Minister may identify activities, which may not commence without prior authorisation. The Minister thus published GNR 983 (as amended) (Listing Notice 1), GNR 984 (as amended) (Listing Notice 2) and GNR 985 (as amended) (Listing Notice 3), listing activities that may not commence prior to authorisation.

Project triggers activities from:

- **Listing Notice 1 (GN R983)**
- **Listing Notice 2 (GN 984)**

Therefore, a Scoping and EIA Process is being followed.

10

## Environmental Authorisation Process



11

## Stakeholder Engagement Process

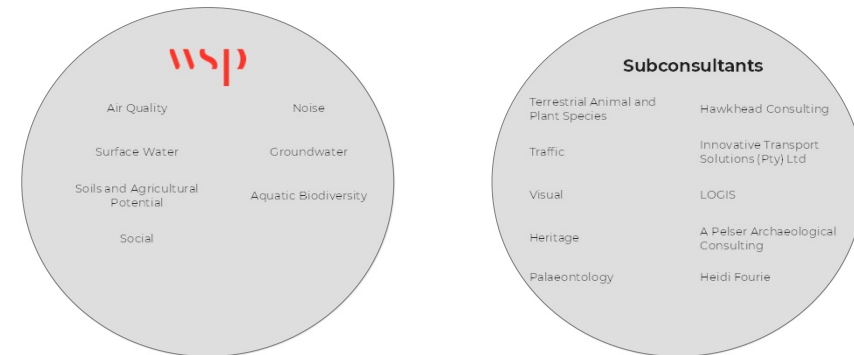
- Notification of Proposed Project and invitation to register as an I&AP:
  - Focus Group Meeting at Komati Power Station (09 June 2023)
  - Site Notices (09 June 2023) placed at strategic points near the proposed Project site, as well as in public places within Steve Tshwete Local Municipality and Nkangala District Municipality
  - Newspaper Advert in Witbank News (English and IsiZulu) and Highvelder (English and Afrikaans) (10 June 2023)
- Pre-Application Consultation with DFFE (06 July 2023)
- Availability of Reports for Public Review:
  - Notifications:
    - Middleburg Observer on 03 February 2023 for Draft Scoping Report Review
    - Emails and SMSs were sent out to registered to I&APs listed on the database
  - Draft Scoping Report - 03 February 2023 to 06 March 2023
  - Final Scoping Report - 16 March 2023
  - Draft EIA Report - 05 July 2023 to 04 August 2023

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# Environmental Impact Assessment

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## Specialist Studies



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## Impacts Assessed in EIA

### Physical Environmental Impacts

- Surface Water Impacts
- Groundwater Impacts
- Soil and Agricultural Potential Impacts

### Biological Impacts

- Terrestrial Animal Species Impacts
- Terrestrial Plant Species Impacts
- Aquatic Biodiversity Impacts

### Socio-Economic Impacts

- Traffic Impacts
- Visual Impacts
- Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impacts
- Palaeontology Impacts
- Social Impacts

With the implementation of the mitigation measures prescribed by the specialists, the residual impact significance is rated as Moderate to Very Low.

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## Environmental Sensitivities



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- **Air Quality Assessment:**
  - Sensitive receptors within a 10 km radius of the proposed project
- **Noise Assessment:**
  - Sensitive receptors within a 5 km radius of the proposed project
- **Visual Assessment:**
  - High and Medium visual sensitive receptors
- **Surface Water Assessment:**
  - Rivers
- **Terrestrial Plant and Animal Assessment:**
  - CBAs
  - High Ecological Importance Areas
- **Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment:**
  - Wetlands

## Impact Summary

Aspect	Impact Description	Phase	Character	Without Mitigation		With Mitigation	
Surface water	Stormwater Runoff	C	(-)	20	Low	12	Very Low
	Erosion	C	(-)	36	Moderate	12	Very Low
	Flooding	O	(-)	18	Low	12	Very Low
	Stormwater Runoff	O	(-)	20	Low	12	Very Low
	Erosion	O	(-)	36	Moderate	12	Very Low
Groundwater	Stormwater Runoff	D	(-)	20	Low	12	Very Low
	Hydrocarbon Spills	C	(-)	24	Low	12	Very Low
	Leachate/spills	C	(-)	24	Low	12	Very Low
	Spoil from excavated trenches	C	(-)	24	Low	12	Very Low
	Reduced recharge due to increase in handstanding footprint	O	(-)	33	Moderate	20	Low
	Localised artificial recharge due to washing of solar panels	O	(-)	30	Low	12	Very Low
	Reduced leachate from contaminated soils	C	(+)	33	Moderate	16	Moderate
	Localised leachate from equipment	O	(-)	39	Moderate	22	Low
	Localised increased leachate from contaminated soils due to following washing of solar panels	O	(-)	39	Moderate	22	Low
	Hydrocarbon Spills	D	(-)	24	Low	12	Very Low
	Leachate from equipment no longer in use	D	(-)	39	Moderate	30	Low

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## Impact Summary

Aspect	Impact Description	Phase	Character	Without Mitigation		With Mitigation	
Soils and Agricultural Potential	Loss of soil	C	(-)	60	Moderate	22	Low
	Erosion and sedimentation	C	(-)	60	Moderate	30	Low
	Loss of Agricultural Land	C	(-)	60	Moderate	30	Low
	Soil contamination	C	(-)	16	High	22	Low
	Loss of soil	O	(-)	45	Moderate	9	Very Low
	Erosion and sedimentation	O	(-)	50	Moderate	18	Low
	Loss of Agricultural Land	O	(-)	50	Moderate	30	Low
	Soil contamination	O	(-)	60	Moderate	30	Low
	Loss of soil	D	(-)	27	Low	9	Very Low
	Erosion and sedimentation	D	(-)	55	Moderate	20	Low
	Loss of Agricultural Land	D	(-)	9	Very Low	9	Very Low
	Soil contamination	D	(-)	22	Low	18	Low

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## Impact Summary

Aspect	Impact Description	Phase	Character	Without Mitigation		With Mitigation	
Terrestrial Animal Species	Loss and disturbance of natural habitat - Mixed Themedra triandra Grassland	C	(-)	36	Moderate	36	Moderate
	Loss and disturbance of natural habitat - Moist Mixed Grassland	C	(-)	27	High	27	Low
	Establishment and spread of alien invasive species	C	(-)	44	Moderate	12	Very Low
	Direct mortality, injury and disturbance of fauna	C	(-)	48	Moderate	14	Very Low
	Loss of fauna species of conservation concern	C	(-)	51	Moderate	24	Low
	Establishment and spread of alien invasive species	O	(-)	44	Moderate	12	Very Low
	Establishment and spread of alien invasive species	D	(-)	44	Moderate	12	Very Low
	Loss and disturbance of natural habitat - Mixed Themedra triandra Grassland	C	(-)	48	Moderate	48	Moderate
	Loss and disturbance of natural habitat - Moist Mixed Grassland	C	(-)	36	High	36	Moderate
Terrestrial Plant Species	Establishment and spread of alien invasive species	C	(-)	44	Moderate	12	Very Low
	Loss of flora SCC	C	(-)	24	High	24	Low
	Establishment and spread of alien invasive species	O	(-)	44	Moderate	12	Very Low
	Establishment and spread of alien invasive species	D	(-)	44	Moderate	12	Very Low

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## Impact Summary

Aspect	Impact Description	Phase	Character	Without Mitigation		With Mitigation	
Aquatic Biodiversity	Loss of wetland habitat	C	(-)	24	High	N/A	
	Changes in wetland health/functioning	C	(-)	44	Moderate	24	Low
	Contamination of riparian systems	C	(-)	40	Moderate	10	Very Low
	Wetland soil erosion	C	(-)	44	Moderate	24	Low
	Spread of AIS	C	(-)	48	Moderate	12	Very Low
	Spread of AIS	O	(-)	48	Moderate	10	Very Low
	Wetland soil erosion	O	(-)	55	Moderate	21	Low
	Water quality deterioration and contamination of wetland soils	O	(-)	48	Moderate	10	Very Low
Traffic	Impact of construction vehicles on roads and access roads	C	(-)	28	Low	28	Low
	Transportation activities during operations	O	(-)	28	Low	28	Low
	Impact of construction vehicles on roads and access roads	D	(-)	28	Low	28	Low

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## Impact Summary

Aspect	Impact Description	Phase	Character	Without Mitigation	With Mitigation
Visual	Impact of visual effect on sensitive visual receptors in close proximity (within 1km)	C	(-)	40	26
	Impact of visual effect on sensitive visual receptors in close proximity (within 1km)	O	(-)	40	42
	Impact of visual effect of the proposed PV facility within 1-3km radius	O	(-)	45	26
	Impact of visual effect of the proposed PV facility within 3-6km radius	O	(-)	24	20
	Impact of visual effect of the proposed PV facility within the greater area (beyond 6km radius)	O	(-)	15	9
	Impact of operational, safety and security lighting of the facility at night during the operational phase	O	(-)	39	22
	Impact of solar glint and glare as a visual distraction and possible arrival level hazard	O	(-)	54	42
	Impact of solar glint and glare on static ground-based receptors (residents of homesites) in close proximity (within 1km)	O	(-)	40	42
	Impact of ancillary infrastructure during the operational phase	O	(-)	24	24
	Impact of sense of place during the operational phase (indirect impact)	O	(-)	26	26
	Visual impact of construction activities on sensitive visual receptors in close proximity (within 1km)	D	(-)	52	33

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## Impact Summary

Aspect	Impact Description	Phase	Character	Without Mitigation	With Mitigation
Heritage	Impact to known cultural heritage sites	C	(-)	12	12
Palaeontology	Destruction of fossil heritage	C	(-)	20	33
Social	Economic Impact	C	(+)	14	45
	Employment	C	(+)	20	56
	Noise	C	(-)	16	12
	Dust	C	(-)	36	20
	Visual	C	(-)	40	48
	Population influx	C	(-)	33	14
	Low Carbon Generation	O	(+)	20	54
	Employment Opportunities	O	(+)	30	66
	Visual	O	(-)	40	33
	Solar glint and glare	O	(-)	54	30
	Loss of employment	D	(-)	45	27
	Reduced community investment	D	(-)	30	27
	Associated infrastructure	D	(-)	48	16

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## Key Positive Outcomes

- Groundwater:
  - Reduced leachate from contaminated soils:
    - Solar Panels limiting the infiltration of rain through contaminated soils
- Social:
  - Economic Impact:
    - Construction workers spending wages in local community
    - Hawkers are expected to increase in and around the construction site
  - Employment:
    - Procurement of labour should largely favour the local community
    - maintenance of the facility and the functioning of the facility will create long-term employment opportunities
  - Low Carbon Generation:
    - This project will aid in reducing the carbon footprint and emissions

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## Availability of Draft EIA Report

The Draft EIA Report, Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and Specialist Studies have been made available for public review for 30 days from **05 July 2023 to 04 August 2023** as follows:

Area	Venue	Street Address	Contact No
Komati	Komati Paypoint and Library	Cnr. Falcon Dr and Weaver St	013 295 3102
	Komati Power Station Entrance	R35 Old Middelburg Bethal Road	013 295 9119
	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St	013 293 0000
Middelburg	Eastdene Public Library	Verdoorn St	013 249 7275
	Gerard Sekoto Library	Wanderers Avenue	013 249 7314
WSP Website	<a href="https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents">https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</a>		

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## WSP Public Consultation Office

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685

**Tel: +27 (0) 11 254 4800, or +27 (0) 11 361 1410**

**Fax: +27 (0) 11 315 0317**

**Email: [gld.pp@wsp.com](mailto:gld.pp@wsp.com)**

The last day for comments on the Draft EIA Report is **04 August 2023**.

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## Next Steps in EIA

- Prepare Comment and Responses register (after 04 August 2023)
- Prepare the Final EIA Report and Environmental Management Plan
- Submit to DFFE for decision-making

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## Questions / Discussion

27



## SESSION 2: 13H00

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## AGENDA & MEETING NOTES

<b>PROJECT NUMBER</b>	41103965	<b>MEETING DATE</b>	25 July 2023
<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	Eskom Komati PV and BESS Facility	<b>VENUE and Time</b>	Laerskool Koorfontein 13:00
<b>CLIENT</b>	Eskom	<b>RECORDED BY</b>	Matilda Mbazo
<b>MEETING SUBJECT</b>	Environmental Authorisation Application for the Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility		

<b>PRESENT</b>	Beauty Mazibuko (BM) – Eskom; Deidre Herbst (DH) – Eskom; Justice Ramafoma (JR) -Eskom; Thevan Pillay (TP) – Eskom; Megan Govender (MG) – WSP; Tumelo Mathulwe (TM) – WSP; and Matilda Mbazo (MM) – WSP.  For a list of Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) present please refer to the Attendance Registers in Appendix A.
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	N/A
<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>	Meeting Attendees
<b>CONFIDENTIALITY</b>	<b>Confidential</b>

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION	DUE
<b>NOTE</b>			
These notes constitute a summary of the key discussion points and decisions made during the progress discussion. They are not intended to reflect the exact discussions held.			
<b>1.1 INTRODUCTION</b>			
	<b>The meeting was opened at 13:10</b> <b>TM</b> opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing the standard protocol and the meeting's agenda.	N/A	N/A
	<b>TP</b> proceeded to introduce the Komati team and shared the Eskom background and presented the proposed project.	N/A	N/A

## MEETING NOTES

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION	DUE
	<b>MG</b> presented the overview of the proposed Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility Project as well as an overview of the EIA and public participation process. A copy of the presentation is included in Appendix B.	N/A	N/A
<b>2. DISCUSSION</b>			
2.1	<p><b>Brian</b> asked whether there will be micro-grids developed as part of the project.</p> <p><b>TP</b> that micro grids form a part of distribution and they will be developed based on the need.</p>	N/A	N/A
2.2	<p><b>Brian</b> enquired whether electricity will be free.</p> <p><b>TP</b> stated that electricity will be paid for.</p>		
2.3	<p><b>Brian</b> stated that the reports are in English which is not what most of the community speaks.</p> <p><b>MG</b> responded that all reports are in English, but public notices are made in three different languages. However, should there be a request for the report to be translated, provisions can be made.</p>		
<b>3.0 CONCLUDING</b>			
	The meeting was adjourned at <b>14h00</b> .	N/A	N/A

## **Appendix A: Meeting Registers**

[illegible]



[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

## **Appendix B: Meeting Presentation**

# Environmental Authorisation Application for the Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility

Public Meeting

July 2023



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## Meeting Objectives

- Share information about Eskom's proposed Solar Photovoltaic (PV) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facility at Komati Power Station
- Provide information about the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and public participation process that form part of the proposed Environmental Authorisation (EA) project
- For Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to ask questions, raise issues of concern and identify potential impacts for consideration as part of the EIA

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## Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction of Project Teams
2. Formal acceptance of Agenda
3. Meeting objectives
4. Meeting administration
5. Overview of the proposed Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility Project
6. Overview of the EIA and public participation process
  - 6.1 Environmental baseline, proposed specialist studies, identification of potential impacts
  - 6.2 Public participation process
7. Questions / Discussion
8. Next steps

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## Meeting Protocols

- Before asking a question / commenting, please state your name, surname and organisation
- Please work through the facilitator
- Respect one another
- Give fellow meeting attendees a fair opportunity to participate during discussions
- Agree to disagree
- Please be patient when there are many hands

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# Introduction to Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility Project

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## Project Location



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## Proposed Project

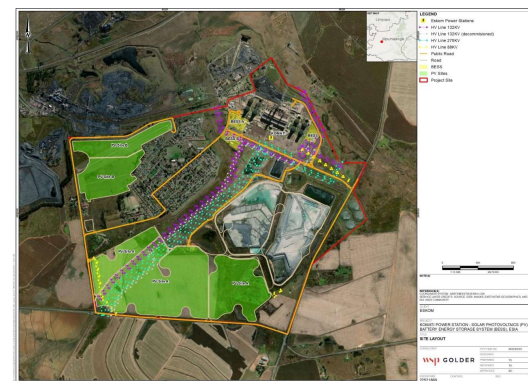
- Komati Power Station reached its end-of-life in October 2022.
- Eskom has developed the Eskom Just Energy Transition Project (EJETP) to implement projects for the repowering and repurposing related to the Komati Power Station.
- Eskom proposes to establish a solar energy generating facility which will include the installation of a 100MW Solar Energy Facility as well as 150MW BESS facilities.
- The proposed project is located on Eskom owned land, adjacent to the Komati Power Station.
- The proposed project will comprise the following key components:
  - SEF
  - Grid Connection (i.e. powerlines)
  - Site Substation and BESS
  - Associated infrastructure
- The SEF is intended to evacuate power to the grid.



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## Project Layout



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# EIA Process

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## Regulatory Framework – National Environmental Management Act (Act no. 107 of 1998)

Application for Environmental Authorisation in terms of the **National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998)**

In terms of Section 24(2) of the NEMA, the Minister may identify activities, which may not commence without prior authorisation. The Minister thus published GNR 983 (as amended) (Listing Notice 1), GNR 984 (as amended) (Listing Notice 2) and GNR 985 (as amended) (Listing Notice 3), listing activities that may not commence prior to authorisation.

Project triggers activities from:

- **Listing Notice 1 (GN R983)**
- **Listing Notice 2 (GN 984)**

Therefore, a Scoping and EIA Process is being followed.

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## Environmental Authorisation Process



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## Stakeholder Engagement Process

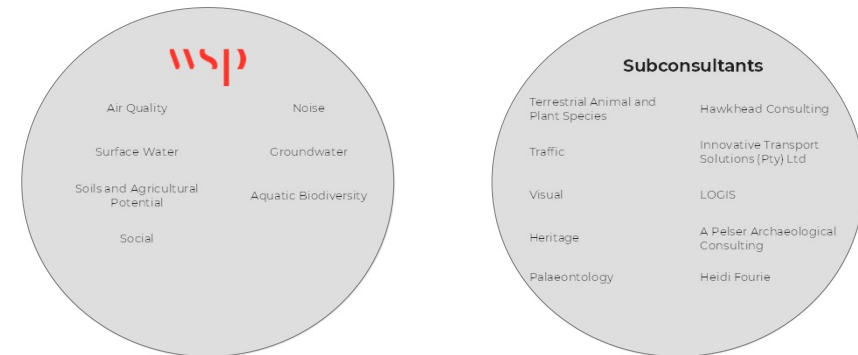
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# Environmental Impact Assessment

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## Specialist Studies



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## Impacts Assessed in EIA

### Physical Environmental Impacts

- Surface Water Impacts
- Groundwater Impacts
- Soil and Agricultural Potential Impacts

### Biological Impacts

- Terrestrial Animal Species Impacts
- Terrestrial Plant Species Impacts
- Aquatic Biodiversity Impacts

### Socio-Economic Impacts

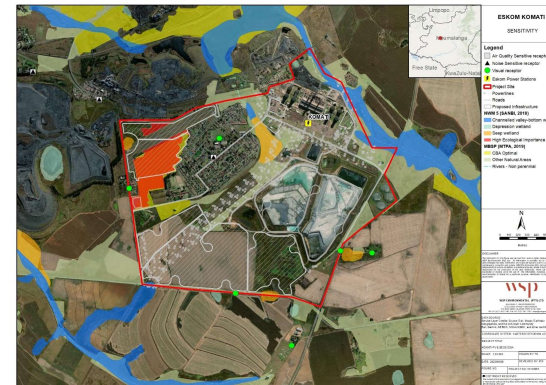
- Traffic Impacts
- Visual Impacts
- Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impacts
- Palaeontology Impacts
- Social Impacts

With the implementation of the mitigation measures prescribed by the specialists, the residual impact significance is rated as Moderate to Very Low.

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## Environmental Sensitivities



- **Air Quality Assessment:**
  - Sensitive receptors within a 10 km radius of the proposed project
- **Noise Assessment:**
  - Sensitive receptors within a 5 km radius of the proposed project
- **Visual Assessment:**
  - High and Medium visual sensitive receptors
- **Surface Water Assessment:**
  - Rivers
- **Terrestrial Plant and Animal Assessment:**
  - CBAs
  - High Ecological Importance Areas
- **Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment:**
  - Wetlands

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## Impact Summary

Aspect	Impact Description	Phase	Character	Without Mitigation		With Mitigation	
Surface water	Stormwater Runoff	C	(-)	20	Low	12	Very Low
	Erosion	C	(-)	36	Moderate	12	Very Low
	Flooding	O	(-)	18	Low	12	Very Low
	Stormwater Runoff	O	(-)	20	Low	12	Very Low
	Erosion	O	(-)	36	Moderate	12	Very Low
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	Leachate/spills	C	(-)	24	Low	12	Very Low
	Spoil from excavated trenches	C	(-)	24	Low	12	Very Low
	Reduced recharge due to increase in handstanding footprint	O	(-)	33	Moderate	20	Low
	Localised artificial recharge due to washing of solar panels	O	(-)	30	Low	12	Very Low
	Reduced leachate from contaminated soils	C	(+)	33	Moderate	16	Moderate
	Localised leachate from equipment	O	(-)	39	Moderate	22	Low
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	Leachate from equipment no longer in use	D	(-)	39	Moderate	30	Low

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## Impact Summary

Aspect	Impact Description	Phase	Character	Without Mitigation		With Mitigation	
Soils and Agricultural Potential	Loss of soil	C	(-)	60	Moderate	22	Low
	Erosion and sedimentation	C	(-)	60	Moderate	30	Low
	Loss of Agricultural Land	C	(-)	60	Moderate	30	Low
	Soil contamination	C	(-)	16	High	22	Low
	Loss of soil	O	(-)	45	Moderate	9	Very Low
	Erosion and sedimentation	O	(-)	50	Moderate	18	Low
	Loss of Agricultural Land	O	(-)	50	Moderate	30	Low
	Soil contamination	O	(-)	60	Moderate	30	Low
	Loss of soil	D	(-)	27	Low	9	Very Low
	Erosion and sedimentation	D	(-)	55	Moderate	20	Low
	Loss of Agricultural Land	D	(-)	9	Very Low	9	Very Low
	Soil contamination	D	(-)	22	Low	18	Low

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## Impact Summary

Aspect	Impact Description	Phase	Character	Without Mitigation		With Mitigation	
Terrestrial Animal Species	Loss and disturbance of natural habitat - Mixed Themedia Triandra Grassland	C	(-)	36	Moderate	36	Moderate
	Loss and disturbance of natural habitat - Moist Mixed Grassland	C	(-)	27	High	27	Low
	Establishment and spread of alien invasive species	C	(-)	44	Moderate	12	Very Low
	Direct mortality, injury and disturbance of fauna	C	(-)	48	Moderate	14	Very Low
	Loss of fauna species of conservation concern	C	(-)	51	Moderate	24	Low
	Establishment and spread of alien invasive species	O	(-)	44	Moderate	12	Very Low
	Establishment and spread of alien invasive species	D	(-)	44	Moderate	12	Very Low
	Establishment and spread of alien invasive species	D	(-)	44	Moderate	12	Very Low
Terrestrial Plant Species	Loss and disturbance of natural habitat - Mixed Themedia Triandra Grassland	C	(-)	48	Moderate	48	Moderate
	Loss and disturbance of natural habitat - Moist Mixed Grassland	C	(-)	36	High	36	Moderate
	Establishment and spread of alien invasive species	C	(-)	44	Moderate	12	Very Low
	Loss of flora SCC	C	(-)	44	High	24	Low
	Establishment and spread of alien invasive species	O	(-)	44	Moderate	12	Very Low
	Establishment and spread of alien invasive species	D	(-)	44	Moderate	12	Very Low

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## Impact Summary

Aspect	Impact Description	Phase	Character	Without Mitigation		With Mitigation	
Aquatic Biodiversity	Loss of wetland habitat	C	(-)	44	High	N/A	
	Changes in wetland health/functioning	C	(-)	44	Moderate	24	Low
	Contamination of riparian systems	C	(-)	40	Moderate	10	Very Low
	Wetland soil erosion	C	(-)	44	Moderate	24	Low
	Spread of AIS	C	(-)	48	Moderate	12	Very Low
	Spread of AIS	O	(-)	48	Moderate	10	Very Low
	Wetland soil erosion	O	(-)	55	Moderate	21	Low
	Water quality deterioration and contamination of wetland soils	O	(-)	48	Moderate	10	Very Low
Traffic	Impact of construction vehicles on roads and access roads	C	(-)	28	Low	28	Low
	Transportation activities during operations	O	(-)	28	Low	28	Low
	Impact of construction vehicles on roads and access roads	D	(-)	28	Low	28	Low

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## Impact Summary

Aspect	Impact Description	Phase	Character	Without Mitigation	With Mitigation
Visual	Impact of visual effect on sensitive visual receptors in close proximity (within 1km)	C	(-)	40	26
	Impact of visual effect on sensitive visual receptors in close proximity (within 1km)	O	(-)	40	42
	Impact of visual effect of the proposed PV facility within 1-3km radius	O	(-)	45	26
	Impact of visual effect of the proposed PV facility within 3-6km radius	O	(-)	24	20
	Impact of visual effect of the proposed PV facility within the greater area (beyond 6km radius)	O	(-)	15	9
	Impact of operational, safety and security lighting of the facility at night during the operational phase	O	(-)	39	22
	Impact of solar glint and glare as a visual distraction and possible arrival level hazard	O	(-)	54	42
	Impact of solar glint and glare on static ground-based receptors (residents of homes/fields) in close proximity (within 1km)	O	(-)	40	42
	Impact of ancillary infrastructure during the operational phase	O	(-)	24	24
	Impact of sense of place during the operational phase (indirect impact)	O	(-)	26	26
	Visual impact of construction activities on sensitive visual receptors in close proximity (within 1km)	D	(-)	52	33

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## Impact Summary

Aspect	Impact Description	Phase	Character	Without Mitigation	With Mitigation
Heritage	Impact to known cultural heritage sites	C	(-)	12	12
Palaeontology	Destruction of fossil heritage	C	(-)	20	33
Social	Economic Impact	C	(+)	14	45
	Employment	C	(+)	20	56
	Noise	C	(-)	16	12
	Dust	C	(-)	36	20
	Visual	C	(-)	40	48
	Population influx	C	(-)	33	14
	Low Carbon Generation	O	(+)	20	54
	Employment Opportunities	O	(+)	30	66
	Visual	O	(-)	40	33
	Solar glint and glare	O	(-)	54	30
	Loss of employment	D	(-)	45	27
	Reduced community investment	D	(-)	30	27
	Associated infrastructure	D	(-)	48	16

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## Key Positive Outcomes

- Groundwater:
  - Reduced leachate from contaminated soils:
    - Solar Panels limiting the infiltration of rain through contaminated soils
- Social:
  - Economic Impact:
    - Construction workers spending wages in local community
    - Hawkers are expected to increase in and around the construction site
  - Employment:
    - Procurement of labour should largely favour the local community
    - maintenance of the facility and the functioning of the facility will create long-term employment opportunities
  - Low Carbon Generation:
    - This project will aid in reducing the carbon footprint and emissions

23 | Eskom Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility



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## Availability of Draft EIA Report

The Draft EIA Report, Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and Specialist Studies have been made available for public review for 30 days from **05 July 2023 to 04 August 2023** as follows:

Area	Venue	Street Address	Contact No
Komati	Komati Paypoint and Library	Cnr. Falcon Dr and Weaver St	013 295 3102
	Komati Power Station Entrance	R35 Old Middelburg Bethal Road	013 295 9119
	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St	013 293 0000
Middelburg	Eastdene Public Library	Verdoorn St	013 249 7275
	Gerard Sekoto Library	Wanderers Avenue	013 249 7314
WSP Website	<a href="https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents">https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</a>		

24 | Eskom Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility



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## WSP Public Consultation Office

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685

**Tel: +27 (0) 11 254 4800, or +27 (0) 11 361 1410**

**Fax: +27 (0) 11 315 0317**

**Email: [gld.pp@wsp.com](mailto:gld.pp@wsp.com)**

The last day for comments on the Draft EIA Report is **04 August 2023**.

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## Next Steps in EIA

- Prepare Comment and Responses register (after 04 August 2023)
- Prepare the Final EIA Report and Environmental Management Plan
- Submit to DFFE for decision-making

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## Questions / Discussion

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# Appendix C.4

## **ATTENDANCE REGISTER - NKANGALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY SITE VISIT**







**NKANGALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**  
**NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - FINAL EIR PUBLIC REVIEW**  
**INSPECTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT: SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION**  
**VENUE: ESKOM KOMATI POWER STATION, R35 OLD MIDDELBURG BETHAL ROAD, STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**  
**DATE: 11 SEPTEMBER 2023**  
**TIME: 10:00**

NO	NAME & SURNAME	ORGANISATION	DESIGNATION	CONTACT NUMBER E-MAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
01		Nkangala District Municipality	Environmental Compliance Officer		
02		Nkangala District Municipality	Environmental Compliance officer		
03		Nkangala District Municipality	Environmental Compliance officer		
04		KOMATI POWER STATION	ENGINEER		
05		DFPE	Control Environ- officer		
06		KOMATI ENVIRONMENTAL	ENV OFFICER		
07		Komati PS	Risk and Assurance Manager		
08		Komati P/S	Chemistry Senior Technician		
09		Komati P/S	Chemistry Manager		
10		WSP	Environmental Consultant		

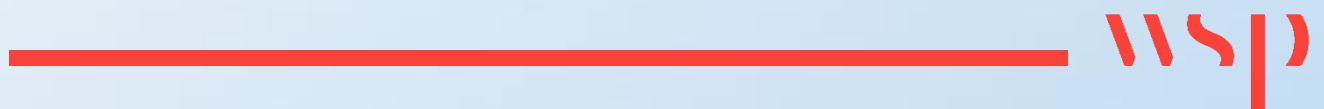


**NKANGALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**  
**NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - FINAL EIR PUBLIC REVIEW**  
**INSPECTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT: SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION**  
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**DATE: 11 SEPTEMBER 2023**  
**TIME: 10:00**

NO	NAME & SURNAME	ORGANISATION	DESIGNATION	CONTACT NUMBER E-MAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
11		Eskom	Engineering Manager		
12		Eskom	ENGINEER		
13		Eskom	ENGINEER		
14				Tel:	
				E-mail:	
15				Tel:	
				E-mail:	
16				Tel:	
				E-mail:	
17				Tel:	
				E-mail:	
18				Tel:	
				E-mail:	
19				Tel:	
				E-mail:	
20				Tel:	
				E-mail:	

# Appendix D

**COMMENTS RECEIVED**



# Appendix D.1

## COMMENTS AND RESPONSES TABLE





## COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT

Table D-1 – Comments received during project announcement

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
I&APs			
Debbie Wessels 15 June 2022 Email Leeds to Business	<p>Debbie Wessels requested to be added as an I&amp;AP:</p> <p>Good afternoon Megan</p> <p>With reference to the EIA and WULA for the solar photovoltaic and battery energy storage system facility at the Komati Power Station in Mpumalanga.</p> <p>Please could I be registered as I&amp;AP and if I could get a copy of the BID?</p> <p>Looking forward wo hearing from you.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p> <p>Debbie Wessels   Content Regulator</p> <p>T : +27 86 083 6337   E: DebbieW@L2B.co.za   W: www.L2B.co.za</p>	<p>WSP responded to Debbie Wessels:</p> <p>Good Day Debbie</p> <p>I can confirm that you have been added as an I&amp;AP to the database. Please find the BID attached as requested.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p> <p>Megan Govender</p> <p>Senior Consultant</p> <p>WSP in Africa</p>	Appendix A Appendix D



## COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM DRAFT SCOPING REPORT

Table D-2 - Comments received from Draft Scoping Report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
I&APs			
MM Mahlangu 05 February 2023 Email	Good afternoon  I am Moti Mahlangu from Komati village would like to submit my details to be included in participation in the process of Komati Power Station  My contact number: 072 633 8266  Kind regards  MM Mahlangu	Stakeholder has been added to the Stakeholder Database (Appendix A).	Appendix A Appendix D
Thami Mkhonza 20 February 2023 Email Impact Catalyst	Hi Tumelo,  I hope my email finds you well.  We would like to register as stakeholders interested in making comments.  Company: Impact Catalyst  Representations: Thami Mkhonza Rory Baker Noeleen Greyling Charl Harding	Stakeholder has been added to the Stakeholder Database (Appendix A).	Appendix A Appendix D





Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
Nicole Loser 03 February 2023 Email CER	Hi Megan  Could you add the following people to this mailing list please?  Brandon Abdinor - babdinor@cer.org.zac Ntombi Maphosa - nmaphosa@cer.org.za Thomas Mnguni - thomas@groundwork.org.za  Michelle Cruywagen - michelle@groundwork.org.za  Yegeshni Moodley - yegeshni@groundwork.org.za  Please also note that I will no longer be working at the CER as from 1 March 2023, and therefore no longer contactable on this email address from the end of this month.  Kind regards  Nicole Loser	WSP responded on 06 February 2023:  Good Morning Nicole  I have added the people below onto our stakeholder database. They will still be able to access the documents from one of the methods stated in the email below. However, if there are any issues with accessing the documents, please let me know.  I have also removed your email address from the database. If you would like me to add you on with another email please let me know.  Kind Regards	
<b>Mpumalanga Provincial Government</b>			
Sindisiwe Mbuyane 03 February 2023 Email Mpumalanga Provincial Government - Gert Sibande District Municipality	Good day Megan Govender,  Thank you for the email.  Komati Power Station falls within the Nkangala District Municipality. For issues relating to it or any Nkangala projects kindly sent to Ms. Dineo Tswai and Ms. Charity Mthimunya both managers at the Witbank office (copied herein), they will assist and guide you going forward.	-	Appendix A Appendix D



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	I am responsible for Gert Sibande District. Kind Regards, Sindisiwe Mbuyane		
Charity Mthimunye 03 February 2023 Email Mpumalanga Provincial Government - Nkangala District Municipality	Good Afternoon Mr. Govender The below e-mail is noted from Ms. Sindisiswe Mbuyane. You are therefore welcome to submit your documents in our offices and we can be contacted on: (013) 880 1080 /(078) 086 3395. Kind Regards Charity	WSP response: Good Morning Charity I have added yourself and Ms. Dineo Tswai to our database. I have also sent you both a link to One Drive to download the Draft Scoping Report. Please use this link: Eskom Komati PV and BESS Draft Scoping Report  Please note you will also receive a separate email with the link to the one drive. This link will then request a verification number which will automatically be sent to your email address – if it doesn't seem to come through please check your "spam" folder.  If you have any issues or would prefer a hard copy of the report please let me know. Kind Regards,	Appendix A Appendix D
DFFE			
Ephron Maradwa 02 February 2023 Email DFFE - Integrated Environmental Authorisations	Dear Megan 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOLLOWING A SCOPING	-	Appendix D



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.</p> <p>The Department confirms having received the Application form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 02 February 2023. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.</p> <p>Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested &amp; Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an</p>		



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.</p> <p>Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.</p> <p>EIA Applications Integrated Environmental Authorisations Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment</p>		
<p>Lydia Kutu 01 March 2023 Email DFFE - Integrated Environmental Authorisations:</p>	<p>Good day.</p> <p>Please find herein the attached letter for the above mentioned.</p> <p>Please do not respond to this mailbox with any queries related to the decision been issued. All queries on the attached decision must be</p>	-	Appendix D



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>directed to official whose contact details is listed as enquiries.</p> <p>I hope you find all in order.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p> <p>Lydia Kutu</p> <p>Integrated Environmental Authorisations: Priority Infrastructure Developments</p>		
<p>Ms Milicent Solomons</p> <p>01 March 2023</p> <p>Letter (via Email)</p> <p>DFFE - Integrated Environmental Authorisations:</p>	<p>Dear Mr Chifadza</p> <p>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION IN MPUMALANGA PROVINCE</p> <p>The Application for Environmental Authorisation and the draft Scoping Report (SR) dated January 2023 and received by the Department on 02 February 2023, refer.</p> <p>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the final SR:</p> <p>(a) Specific Comments</p> <p>(i) The co-ordinates in the SR must be specific to each activity and infrastructure that is</p>	<p><b>WSP response:</b></p> <p>The outer coordinates of Solar Site A and Solar Site B are indicated in Table 4.3, the BESS is indicated in Table 4.4, and the powerlines are indicated in Table 4.5 of the Final Scoping Report (FSR).</p>	<p>Appendix D</p> <p>Table 4.3, Table 4.4, and Table 4.5 of the FSR</p>

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	proposed on the site. The co-ordinates for each corner of the solar fields, substations and battery energy storage systems (BESS) must be included in the report, i.e., we require that you provide us with the specific development footprints for each development parameter, and not an area outlining the entire site.		
	(ii) Please provide a concise, but complete, summary and bullet list of the project description and associated infrastructure (or project scope). This must include a list of all development components and associated infrastructure.	A summary of the key project infrastructure has been included in Table 4.6 of the FSR.	Table 4.6 of the FSR
	(iii) Kindly ensure the development footprints (hectares/square metres) and specifications of all proposed infrastructure and associated infrastructure during all phases are included in the final SR.	A summary of the key project infrastructure has been included in Table 4.6 of the FSR. The extent of the various infrastructure is included in this table.	Table 4.6 of the FSR
	(iv) Kindly take note that when finalising the layout plan the position of all proposed infrastructure and linear activities, which includes but not limited to the following must be illustrated:  Solar fields;  Construction camp laydown areas;  Substations;  Internal roads;  Battery energy storage systems (BESS);	A preliminary layout map of the development is included in Figure 4.3 of the FSR. This layout map will be updated as require in the EIA phase. Please note that corridors have been included for the connection routes as pylon positions will only be confirmed subject to micro-siting and final design.	Figure 4. 3 of the FSR



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Operation and maintenance buildings; and Power lines.		
	(v) The final SR must clearly provide a detailed section which addresses the site sensitivity verification requirements where a specialist assessment is required but no specific assessment protocol has been prescribed, as well as the site sensitivity verification and minimum report content requirements for all specialist assessments undertaken, which were included in the screening tool report.	The site sensitivity verification information provided in the DSR has been consolidated into Section 6 of the FSR. A summary of specialist assessments identified for inclusion in the assessment report as identified by the DFFE screening tool is indicated in Table 6.1 of the FSR. The table also identifies the applicable assessment protocol to be followed, the sensitivity of the environmental theme as identified by the DFFE Screening Tool and where applicable, a sensitivity verification has been included. Specialist screening assessments were undertaken for the Scoping Phase. The required specialist impact assessments will be undertaken in the EIA Phase and will be conducted in accordance with the Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), or Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations, depending on which legislation apply to the assessment under consideration. The plan of study for the EIA Phase is detailed in Section 9 of the FSR.	Section 6 of the FSR Table 6.1 of the FSR Section 9 of the FSR
	(vi) Further to the above take note that a site sensitivity verification report should be included in the final SR which can be undertaken by either an EAP or specialist, which must clearly confirm or dispute the environmental sensitivity as identified in the screening tool report for each theme.		
	(vii) According to the Terrestrial Biodiversity Report (Appendix G-5) Critical Biodiversity Area occurs at the west of the proposed site, that is largely covering the portion proposed for the establishment of the solar PV Site B (Figure 4). Kindly take note that according to the	While the area is mapped as a CBA, the lands on which the CBA occurs appear modified or disturbed, and the CBA occurs in isolation to other mapped CBA areas. It is important to understand that CBA mapping is based on high-level spatial datasets that require ground-truthing in the field for verification.	Section 9.5.4 of the FSR

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan, 2015, PV farms and solar arrays are not compatible land-use activities to be undertaken in areas classified as CBA. Therefore, the mitigation hierarchy should be applied in full, and a Biodiversity Offset should be considered to ensure that significant residual impacts of the development are remedied.	As noted in Section 9.5.4 of the FSR, the plan of study for the EIA Phase includes confirming vegetation mapping and flora surveys. Following which, the mitigation hierarchy will be applied if required.	
	<p>(b) Listed Activities</p> <p>(i) Kindly take note that the activity listed in the application form and the draft SR as Activity 15 (ii) of Listing Notice 2 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended "Activity 15(ii) The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation. (ii) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres." Is quoted incorrectly as Activity 15 of Listing Notice 2 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended makes no reference to reserves. Please ensure that all applicable activities are applied for in the final SR and quoted correctly as listed in the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>	Activity 15 of Listing Notice 2 has been corrected in the FSR and Application Form. An Amended Application Form will be re-submitted with the FSR.	Table 2-1 of the FSR.
	(ii) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.	WSP can confirm that all relevant listed activities have been applied for and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. An Amended Application Form will be re-submitted with the FSR.	Table 2-1 of the FSR.

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	(iii) The listed activities represented in the SR, and the application form must be the same and correct.	WSP can confirm that an amended application form will be submitted with the FSR as the listed activity descriptions have been amended.	Table 2-1 of the FSR.
	(iv) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted.	WSP can confirm that an amended application form will be submitted with the FSR as the listed activity descriptions have been amended.	Table 2-1 of the FSR.
	(v) Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <a href="https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms">https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms</a> .	WSP can confirm that the most recent application form template has been utilised.	
	<p>(c) Layout &amp; Sensitivity Maps</p> <p>(i) The final SR must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.</p>	The outer coordinates of Solar Site A and Solar Site B are indicated in Table 4.3, the BESS is indicated in Table 4.4, and the powerlines are indicated in Table 4.5 of the FSR.	Table 4.3, Table 4.4, and Table 4.5 of the FSR
	<p>(ii) Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:</p> <p>a) A clear indication of the envisioned area for the proposed solar fields;</p> <p>b) Position of the solar panels;</p> <p>c) Power lines;</p> <p>d) Internal roads;</p>	<p>A layout map of the development is included in Figure 4-3 of the FSR. The outer coordinates of Solar Site A and Solar Site B are indicated in Table 4.3, the BESS is indicated in Table 4.4, and the powerlines are indicated in Table 4.5</p> <p>This layout map will be updated as require in the EIA phase. Please note that corridors have been included for the connection routes as pylon positions will only be confirmed subject to micro-siting and final design.</p>	<p>Figure 4-3 of the FSR</p> <p>Table 4.3, Table 4.4, and Table 4.5 of the FSR</p>

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>e) All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house and control room etc. (existing and proposed);</p> <p>f) Substations, transformers, switching stations and inverters;</p> <p>g) Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS);</p> <p>h) Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;</p> <p>i) All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads; and</p> <p>j) Buildings.</p>		
	<p>(iii) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:</p> <p>a) The location of sensitive environmental features identified on site, e.g. CBAs, protected areas, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;</p> <p>b) Buffer areas; and</p> <p>c) All “no-go” areas.</p>	A Preliminary Consolidated Sensitivity Map (Figure 6-13) has been included in the FSR.	Figure 6-13 of the FSR
	<p>(iv) The above layout map must be superimposed (overlain) with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring and existing infrastructure.</p>	The Site layout has been overlain onto a Preliminary Consolidated Sensitivity Map (Figure 6-13) as well as a cumulative map showing renewable Energy Projects within 30km of the proposed Komati Solar PV and BESS facility (Figure 8-1).	Figure 6-13 and Figure 8-1 of the FSR

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	(v) Google maps will not be accepted.	WSP can confirm that the preliminary sensitivity map (Figure 6-13) and cumulative map were made using data from Esri (Figure 8-1).	Figure 6-13 and Figure 8-1 of the FSR
	(d) Alternatives (i) Please provide a description of any identified alternatives for the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity as per Appendix 2 of GN R.982 of 2014 (as amended). (ii) Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2.	The project alternatives are discussed in Section 4.6 of the FSR. The “no project” alternative will be considered in the EIA phase as a baseline against which the impacts of the proposed project will be assessed.	Section 4.6 of the FSR
	(e) Public Participation Process (i) Comments must be obtained from this Department's Biodiversity Conservation Directorate at BCAdmin@dfre.gov.za.	WSP can confirm that comments from the Biodiversity Directorate of the DFFE were received and are included in the PPP Report (Table 2.5 of the PPP Report).	Table 2.5 of the PPP Report Appendix D of the PPP Report
	(ii) Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR, including comments from this	WSP can confirm that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state have been included in the PPP Report and adequately addressed and responded to.	Table 2.5 of the PPP Report Appendix D of the PPP Report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Department, and must be incorporated into a Comments and Response Report (CRR).		
	(iii) Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.	Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders is included in Appendix B and Appendix D of the PPP Report.	Appendix B and Appendix D of the PPP Report
	(iv) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.	WSP confirm that the Public Participation Process is being conducted in terms of Regulations 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended	
	(v) A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “Noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP’s comments.	WSP can confirm that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state have been included in a comment of response report included in Section 2.5 of the PPP Report. WSP can confirm that the PPP Report will also be submitted as a separate report  WSP confirm that all comments from I&APs have been copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Furthermore the response “Noted” has not been utilised.	Section 2.5 of the PPP Report  Table 2.5 of the PPP Report  Appendix D of the PPP Report
	(vi) The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development.	WSP confirms that the FSR provides evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development including Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land	Appendix B and Appendix D of the PPP Report



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		and Environmental Affairs (MDARDLEA), South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), the District and Local Municipalities.	
	(f) Specialist Assessments (i) All Specialists Curriculum Vitae and Declaration of Interest forms must be signed by the relevant specialists and attached to the final SR. The Declaration of Interest forms are available on the Department's website (please use the Department's template).	Specialist Declarations and CVs are included in Appendix C of the FSR.	Appendix C of the FSR
	(ii) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies include the following: a) A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint (solar arrays) and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.	WSP can confirm that the specialist studies to be undertaken in the EIA phase will be undertaken in line with Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, or as required under the gazetted specialist protocols (GNR 320 of 20 March 2020 and GNR 1150 of 30 October 2020). Therefore, the requested information will be included.	Section 6 of the FSR
	b) Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.	All relevant specialist assumptions and limitations have been included Section 1.6 of the FSR. These will be updated as required during the EIA Phase.	Section 1.6 of the FSR
	c) Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.	WSP acknowledge the DFFE's definition of 'No-go' areas. No-go areas will be re-evaluated and assessed during the EIA phase, based on further specialist field assessments. Where specialist definitions of 'no-go' areas differ from the	Section 6.2 of the FSR

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	d) Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Department's definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.	Department's definition; these will be clearly indicated.	
	e) Bird specialist studies must have support from Birdlife South Africa.	An avifaunal assessment will be undertaken during the EIA Phase. Birdlife South Africa is included in the I&AP database.	Appendix A of the PPP Report
	f) All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.	All specialist studies to be appended to the Final EIA Report will be final. Specialist reports will provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and will not recommend further studies to be completed post EA with the exception of pre-construction walkthroughs, search and rescue and micro-siting. The Specialist Studies will sufficiently inform the EA decision phase.	
	g) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.	All specific mitigation measures, will be clearly indicated and included in the EMPr during the EIA Phase.	
	(iii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and were necessary, include further expertise advice.	In the EMPr, WSP will clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons should any specialist recommendations be contradictory.  To date no contradictory recommendations have been received.	



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	(iv) Please ensure that all mitigation recommendations are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines.	WSP will ensure that all mitigation recommendations included in the EMPr during the EIA Phase are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines	
	(v) It is further brought to your attention that 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, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.	WSP can confirm that the Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes (as per the Screening Report), which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols") are being considered as applicable.	Section 6.1 of the FSR
	(vi) As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.	Specialist Declarations included in the FSR do indicate the name of scientific organisation/council and member number and the status of the registration/membership of each specialist as applicable.	Appendix C of the FSR
	(vii) Please also ensure that the final SR includes the Site Verification Report as required by the relevant environmental themes and assessments.	The site sensitivity verification information provided in the DSR has been consolidated into Section 6 of the FSR. A summary of specialist assessments identified for inclusion in the assessment report as identified by the DFFE screening tool is indicated in Table 6.1 of the FSR. The table also identifies the applicable assessment protocol to be followed, the sensitivity of the environmental theme as identified	Section 6 of the FSR Table 6.1 of the FSR Section 9 of the FSR

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		by the DFFE Screening Tool and where applicable, a sensitivity verification has been included. Specialist screening assessments were undertaken for the Scoping Phase. The required specialist impact assessments will be undertaken in the EIA Phase and will be conducted in accordance with the Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”), or Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations, depending on which legislation apply to the assessment under consideration. The plan of study for the EIA Phase is detailed in Section 9 of the FSR.	
	(viii) Please note further that the protocols, if applicable, require certain specialists’ to be SACNASP registered. Please ensure that the relevant specialist certificates are attached to the relevant reports.	Specialist Declarations included in the FSR do indicate the name of scientific organisation/council and member number and the status of the registration/membership of each specialist as applicable.	Appendix C of the FSR
	(g) Cumulative Assessment (i) Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:	A preliminary assessment of the cumulative impacts is included in Section 8.3 of the FSR. The renewable energy projects within a 30 km radius of the project site has been identified and included in Figure 8-1 of the FSR. This will be re-affirmed during the EIA Phase.  WSP confirm that cumulative impacts will be considered in the EIA phase.	Section 8.3 of the FSR Figure 8-1 of the FSR
	a) Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and		

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land.		
	b) Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.	This information will be included in the EIA Report to be compiled in the EIA Phase, along with the related impact and cumulative assessments, and concluding remarks.	
	c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.	This information will be included in the EIA Report to be compiled in the EIA Phase, along with the related impact and cumulative assessments, and concluding remarks.	
	d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.	This information will be included in the EIA Report to be compiled in the EIA Phase, along with the related impact and cumulative assessments, and concluding remarks.	
	(h) General You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that: "If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments	WSP confirms that the FSR will be submitted to the DFFE within 44 days of the receipt of the application, in line with the regulated timeframes.	



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	received, including any comments of the competent authority"		
	You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.	WSP confirm that the FSR complies with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping report in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended. Please refer to Table 1-5 of the FSR for the checklist against the regulatory requirements.	Table 1-5 of the FSR
	Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).	WSP notes that the application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations.	
	<p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Yours sincerely</p> <p>Ms Milicent Solomons</p> <p>Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations</p> <p>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment</p> <p>Signed by: Mr Coenrad Agenbach</p>	WSP and the Applicant take note of this reminder.	





Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Designation: Deputy Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects Date: 01 March 2023		
<b>DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation</b>			
Kamogelo Mathetja 06 February 2023 Email	Dear Sir/Madam  DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the project mentioned on the subject line. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Mrs M Rabothata and Mr K Mathetja (Both copied on this email). In addition, kindly share the shapefiles of the development footprints/application site with the Case Officers.  Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota  Regards, Kamogelo	-	Appendix D
Mmatlala Rabothata 06 March 2023 Email	Good Afternoon,  Please receive the attached comments from Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation for your attention and implementation.	-	Appendix D



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation	Regards  Ms Mmatlala Rabothata  Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment		
Mr T Seoka Lekota  06 March 2023 (Letter dated 03 March 2023)  Letter (Via Email)  DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation	Dear Sir/Madam  COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the reports and doesn't have any objection to the draft Scoping Report. The final 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.	WSP response:  WSP can confirm that the Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes (as per the Screening Report), which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols") are being considered as applicable.	Section 6.1 of the FSR
	Notwithstanding the above, the following recommendations must be considered in the final report:  The final sensitivity Layout Map overlaid with sensitivities and indicating the final footprint for the proposed development avoiding environmentally sensitive areas must be included in the Final Scoping report.	WSP response:  A Preliminary Consolidated Sensitivity Map (Figure 6-13) has been included in the FSR.	Figure 6-13 of the FSR



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>The plan of study for the EIA of the proposed PV facility, that describes how the EIA phase will proceed, including details of the specialist studies required to be undertaken to assess the significance of those impacts identified within the scoping study must be submitted.</p>	<p>WSP response:</p> <p>A plan of study for the EIA Phase has been included in Section 9 of the FSR. Details of the specialist studies to be undertaken are included in Section 9.5 of the PPP Report.</p>	<p>Section 9 of the FSR</p> <p>Section 9.5 of the FSR</p>
	<p>All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota.</p> <p>Yours faithfully</p> <p>Mr T Seoka Lekota</p> <p>Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation Department of Forestry, Fisheries &amp; the Environment</p> <p>Date: 03/03/2023</p>	<p>WSP response:</p> <p>WSP acknowledges this statement. Mr Seoka Lekota is included in the Stakeholder Database.</p>	<p>Appendix of the PPP Report</p>
<b>South African Heritage Resources</b>			
<p>Natasha Higgitt</p> <p>06 February 2023</p> <p>Email</p>	<p>Good day,</p> <p>Please note that all development applications are processed via our online portal, the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) found at the following link: <a href="http://sahra.org.za/sahris/">http://sahra.org.za/sahris/</a>. We do not accept</p>	<p>WSP responded on 07 February 2023:</p> <p>Good Morning Natasha</p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report and Heritage Report has been uploaded and submitted to SAHRIS, including the Proof of Payment. The case ID is: 20607.</p>	<p>Appendix D</p>

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>emailed, posted, hardcopy, faxed, website links or DropBox links as official submissions.</p> <p>Please create an application on SAHRIS and upload all documents pertaining to the Environmental Authorisation Application Process. As per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA), an assessment of heritage resources must form part of the process and the assessment must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA. If a case already exists on SAHRIS regarding the development, please upload the documents to that case.</p> <p>Once all documents including all appendices are uploaded to the case applications, please ensure that the status of the case is changed from DRAFT to SUBMITTED. Please ensure that all documents produced as part of the EA process are submitted as part of the application.</p> <p><b>**PLEASE NOTE**</b></p> <p>An application fee is now required for all section 38 applications. Please ensure that the SAHRIS application contains a proof of payment as per the notice at the following link:  <a href="https://sahris.sahra.org.za/content/what-are-sahra-processing-fees-and-banking-details">https://sahris.sahra.org.za/content/what-are-sahra-processing-fees-and-banking-details</a>. A payment of R 2 000.00 for this application is required. Applications that do not include a proof of payment will be considered incomplete</p>	<p>We typically include SAHRA on our stakeholder database and as such you will receive emails regarding the project development and the availability of reports for review but all reports will be uploaded to SAHRIS for comment.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>	



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	and will not be processed until proof of payment is provided.		
Natasha Higgitt 10 March 2023 Letter via SAHRIS	<p>Interim Comment</p> <p>In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)</p> <p>The proposed establishment of a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station, Mpumalanga Province</p> <p>WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd have been appointed by Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed construction of a solar photovoltaic and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at the Komati Power Station, near Komati, Mpumalanga Province.</p> <p>A draft Scoping Report (DSR) was submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA EIA Regulations (As amended). The proposed development will include the construction of PV panels, overhead or underground cabling between components, collector substations, access roads, BESS, perimeter roads, meteorological station, operation and maintenance building, warehouse and workshop, hazardous chemical store, security building, parking areas and roads, temporary laydown areas, temporary concrete batching plant, construction camp and</p>	<p>WSP response:</p> <p>WSP acknowledges the interim comment. A site visit will be undertaken and the HIA that will be undertaken during the EIA Phase, will consider the historical structures associated with the Komati Power Station and any historical structures in the surrounding residential areas that may be impacted by the proposed development.</p> <p>A plan of study for the EIA Phase has been included in Section 9 of the FSR. Details of the specialist studies to be undertaken are included in Section 9.5 of the PPP Report.</p>	<p>Section 9 of the FSR</p> <p>Section 9.5 of the FSR</p>

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>onsite substations within an application area of 200 – 250 ha.</p> <p>Dr Heidi Fourie and APelser Archaeological Consulting have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process in terms of section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).</p> <p>Fourie, H. 2022. Eskom Komati Power Station Solar PV and BESS ESIA: Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Phase 1 Field Study</p> <p>The proposed development area is underlain by the Vryheid Formation that may contain plant fossils, aquatic reptiles, fossil fish and insects. A field assessment will be undertaken.</p> <p>Pelser, A. 2022. A desktop Heritage Impact Assessment Report for the Eskom Komati Power Station Solar PV ESIA</p> <p>The proposed PV facility will be located in areas that have been heavily disturbed and therefore the likelihood of in-situ heritage resources is low. It is recommended that a site visit be undertaken.</p> <p>Interim Comment</p> <p>The SAHRA notes the submitted heritage reports and awaits further heritage reports during the EIA phase. As portions of the Komati Power Station are older than 60 years, the HIA must consider the historical structures associated with the Komati Power Station and</p>		





Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>any historical structures in the surrounding residential areas that may be impacted by the proposed development.</p> <p>Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the EIA and associated appendices.</p> <p>Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.</p> <p>Yours faithfully</p> <p>Natasha Higgitt</p> <p>Manager: Development Applications Unit</p> <p>South African Heritage Resources Agency</p>		



## COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM FINAL SCOPING REPORT

Table D-3 - Comments received from Final Scoping Report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
DFFE			
Ephron Maradwa 17 March 2023 Email	<p>Dear Megan</p> <p>14/12/16/3/3/2/2298</p> <p>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.</p> <p>The Department confirms having received the Updated Application Form and final Scoping Report for the abovementioned project on 16 March 2023. You have submitted these documents to comply with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p>	<p><b>WSP Response:</b></p> <p>WSP confirms that the I&amp;APs were provided with an opportunity to comment on the DSR from 06 March 2023 to 06 April 2023.</p> <p>WSP notes that the application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations.</p> <p>WSP and the Applicant take note that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p>	Appendix D of the PPP Report



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.</p> <p>Yours sincerely</p> <p>EIA Applications</p>		
<p>Mr Sabelo Malaza</p> <p>03 May 2023</p> <p>Letter</p>	<p>Dear Mr Chifadza</p> <p>ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION IN MPUMALANGA PROVINCE</p> <p>The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated March 2023 and received by the Department on 16 March 2023, refer.</p> <p>The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated March 2023 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The final SR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the</p>	<p><b>WSP Response:</b></p> <p>WSP acknowledges the DFFE acceptance of the Scoping Report. Specific requests have been responded to below.</p>	<p>Appendix D of the PPP Report</p>

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the EIAR:</p>		
	<p>(a) Specific Comments</p> <p>(i) The co-ordinates in the EIAR must be specific to each activity and infrastructure that is proposed on the site. The co-ordinates for each corner of the solar fields, the substation, BESS, power line route, and laydown areas must be included in the EIAR, i.e., we require that you provide us with the specific development footprints for each development parameter, and not an area outlining the entire site.</p>	Coordinates for the Solar field development area, powerline route and BESS have been included in Section 4.1 of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).	Section 4.1 of the Draft EIR
	<p>(ii) Please provide a concise, but complete, summary and bullet list of the project description and associated infrastructure (or project scope) to be included in the decision (or as it should appear in the decision), should a positive Environmental Authorisation be granted. This must include a list of all development components and associated infrastructure.</p>	Table 4-6 of the Draft EIR includes a summary in bullet form of the Key Project Infrastructure required for environmental authorisation.	Table 4-6 of the Draft EIR
	<p>(iii) Kindly ensure the development footprints (hectares/square metres) and specifications of all proposed infrastructure and associated infrastructure during all phases are included in the EIAR.</p>	Table 4-6 of the Draft EIR includes a summary in bullet form of the Key Project Infrastructure and includes the footprints of the various infrastructure.	Table 4-6 of the Draft EIR

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	(iv) According to the Terrestrial Biodiversity Report (Appendix G-5) Critical Biodiversity Areas occur at the western portion of the proposed site, that is largely covering the portion proposed for the establishment of the solar PV Site B (Figure 4). Kindly take note that according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan, 2015, PV farms and solar arrays are not compatible land-use activities to be undertaken in areas classified as CBA. Therefore, the mitigation hierarchy should be applied in full, and a Biodiversity Offset should be considered to ensure that significant residual impacts of the development are remedied.	<p>An area categorised as CBA Optimal, overlaps with the proposed PV Site B development footprint. Other patches of land designated as CBA Optimal are located to the north and east of the Local Study Area.</p> <p>The Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment (Appendix H8 of the Draft EIR) recommends that in order to achieve the IFC PS6 requirement of 'no net loss' of natural habitat, a biodiversity offset will be required.</p>	<p>Appendix H8 of the Draft EIR</p> <p>Section 11.3 of the EIR</p>
	(v) Further to the above, the Aquatic Biodiversity Report (Appendix G-9) Page 36 stipulates "Site establishment and construction of the proposed project infrastructure, particularly PV Site A which overlaps with Seep 1, could lead to the permanent loss of wetland habitat within the project footprint. This impact has a high probability of occurrence and a high impact consequence. The impact significance is of High significance prior to the implementation of mitigation measures and can be reduced to a Medium significance with the application of recommended mitigation measures. Significant residual impacts (Medium/High) will need to be addressed via modification of the final layout to ensure that wetland loss is avoided, or design of an appropriate offset for unavoidable habitat loss." Kindly take note that the mitigation	<p>The aquatic biodiversity assessment (Appendix H9 of the Draft EIR) recommends compensation or offset for the permanent loss of wetland habitat. A biodiversity offset will be required.</p>	<p>Appendix H9 of the Draft EIR</p> <p>Section 11.3 of the EIR</p>

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	hierarchy should be applied inf full and where significant residual impacts remain a Biodiversity Offset should be considered		
	(b) Listed Activities (i) The EIAr must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.	An environmental impact assessment is included in Section 9 of the Draft EIR that considers the listed activities applied for under Section 6. Each impact contains mitigation measures where applicable.	Section 6 and Section 9 of the Draft EIR
	(ii) The listed activities represented in the EIAr and the application form must be the same and correct.	An updated application form will be submitted with Draft EIR. The listed activities represented in the Draft EIR and application form are the same.	Section 6 of the Draft EIR
	(iii) The EIAr must assess the correct sub listed activity for each listed activity applied for.	The listed activities and sub listed activities are included in Table 6-1 of the Draft EIR.	Table 6-1 of the Draft EIR
	(c) Public Participation (i) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAr. This includes but is not limited to the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (MDARDLEA), the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, the Nkangala District Municipality, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), BirdLife SA, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation.	WSP confirms that comments from all relevant stakeholders as indicated in the Stakeholder Database (Appendix A of the PPP Report) that have been received to date, have been included in the PPP Report and responded to.	Appendix A of the PPP Report  Appendix D of the PPP Report





Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	(ii) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR and draft EIAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final EIAR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.	WSP can confirm that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the DSR and draft EIR, as well as those received on the FSR, from registered I&APs and organs of state have been and will be included in the final EIR and adequately addressed and responded to.	Appendix D of the PPP Report
	(iii) A Comments and Response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAR. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP’s comments.	WSP can confirm that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state have been included in a comment of response table in Section 3 of the PPP Report. All comments received from the circulation of the Draft EIR will be included in the PPP Report and responded do accordingly.  WSP can confirm that the PPP Report will also be submitted as a separate report	Section 3 of the PPP Report  Appendix D of the PPP Report
	(iv) Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.	All comments from I&APs have been included in chronological order in Section 3 of the PPP Report. All comments have been responded to individually.	Section 3 of the PPP Report
	v) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42,	WSP confirm that the Public Participation Process is being conducted in terms of Regulations 39, 40,	-

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.	41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.	
	<p>(d) Layout &amp; Sensitivity Maps</p> <p>(i) The EIAr must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site and all proposed infrastructure (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.</p>	Coordinates for the Solar field development area, powerline route and BESS have been included in Section 4.1 of the Draft EIR. This includes bend point coordinates as well as the start, middle and end point coordinates.	Section 4.1 of the Draft EIR
	<p>(ii) The EIAr must provide a copy of the final preferred layout map. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g., roads. The layout map must indicate the following:</p> <p>a) A clear indication of the envisioned area for the proposed solar fields;</p> <p>b) Internal roads;</p> <p>c) All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house and control room etc.; d) Substations, transformers, switching stations and inverters;</p> <p>e) Battery Energy Storage System;</p> <p>f) Power line route (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network; and</p> <p>g) All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads.</p>	<p>A layout map has been included as Figure 4-1 of the Draft EIR.</p> <p>It is important to note that the project layout included in the EIR is not final. Although the layout is included in the EIR, it is not submitted for approval at this stage. Subsequent to the decision-making phase, if environmental authorisation is granted for the Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility, the EMPr will have to be amended to include measures as dictated by the final layout map and micro-siting, including the requirements of the EA.</p>	<p>Figure 4-1 of the Draft EIR</p> <p>Section 11.6 of the Draft EIR</p>

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>(iii) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:</p> <p>a) The location of sensitive environmental features identified on site, e.g. CBAs, protected areas, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines, nesting and roosting sites, etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;</p> <p>b) Buffer areas; and c) All “no-go” areas.</p>	An environmental sensitivity map has been included in Figure 8-22 of the Draft EIR which includes the project layout.	Figure 8-22 of the Draft EIR
	(iv) The above layout map must be superimposed (overlain) with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring and existing infrastructure.	An environmental sensitivity map has been included in Figure 8-22 of the Draft EIR which includes the project layout. A map showing Renewable Energy Projects with 30km of the proposed Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility has been included in Figure 10-1 of the Draft EIR	Figure 8-22 of the Draft EIR Figure 10-1 of the Draft EIR
	(v) Google maps will not be accepted.	WSP confirms that Google Maps have not been used for the project layout layout and environmental sensitivity maps.	-
	<p>(e) Specialist assessments</p> <p>(i) The specialists Scoping Reports included in the final SR failed to include an Avifaunal Scoping Report. According to the Terrestrial Biodiversity Report (Page 26-27) two red listed bird species are expected to occur on the site, namely the Saddle-billed Stork (Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis) which is listed as Endangered (EN) and the Secretary bird (Sagittarius serpentarius) listed as Vulnerable (VU). During the avifauna scoping site visit</p>	A terrestrial animal species assessment (Appendix H7 of the Draft EIR) has been undertaken. A site visit was undertaken by the specialist in December 2022 and all species found on site have been noted.	Appendix H7 of the Draft EIR

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	conducted on 17 June 2022, habitats with potential to support African Grass Owl were mapped (Figure 10). Based on the above and the final SR an Avifaunal Assessment must be included in the EIAr to assess the impacts of the development on the avifaunal species present on site and recommend mitigation measures.		
	(ii) Detailed technical specifications of the proposed 132kV power line must be included in the EIAr, such as pylon type, number of pylons, pylons spacing (mean and maximum), pylon height (lowest, mean and height) and conductor attachment height (mean). The pylon design must also incorporate bird friendly designs.	It is important to note that the project layout included in the EIR is not final. Although the layout is included in the EIR, it is not submitted for approval at this stage. Subsequent to the decision-making phase, if environmental authorisation is granted for the Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility, the EMPr will have to be amended to include measures as dictated by the final layout map and micro-siting, including the requirements of the EA and specific technical detail requirements relating to the pylons.	Section 4.4 of the Draft EIR
	(iii) Please provide a detailed description as well as any associated assessments related to the technology required for the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in the EIAr	It is proposed that Lithium Battery Technologies, such as Lithium Iron Phosphate, Lithium Nickel Manganese Cobalt oxides or Vanadium Redox flow technologies will be considered as the preferred battery technology however the specific technology will only be determined following Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) procurement. The main components of the BESS include the batteries, power conversion system and transformer which will all be stored in various rows of containers. The BESS components will arrive on site pre-assembled	Section 4.4.3 of the Draft EIR

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>(iv) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:</p> <p>a) A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.</p> <p>b) Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.</p>	<p>WSP can confirm that the specialist studies have been undertaken in line with Appendix 6 of the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended, or, where relevant, in line with the gazetted specialist protocols of GNR 320 and GNR 1150. All specialist studies include a detailed description of the methodologies, project infrastructure descriptions and locations and recommendations for authorisations. All specialist assessments include applicable limitations to the studies, as well as the timing/season of the field survey, where applicable, and relevance thereof to the studies/assessments.</p>	<p>Section 3.6 of the Draft EIR</p>
	<p>c) Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.</p> <p>d) Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Department's definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.</p>	<p>WSP acknowledge the DFFE's definition of 'No-go' areas. The relevant specialist assessments have indicated 'No-go' areas, as well as areas where it is suitable for linear infrastructure (water pipelines, roads, powerline infrastructure etc.) to traverse a no-go area where required. Where specialist deviations or qualifications are applicable, these have been noted in Section 8.2.</p>	<p>Section 8.3 of the Draft EIR</p>
	<p>e) All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.</p>	<p>All specialist studies conducted have been included in Appendix H of the EIR. The Specialist studies include detailed mitigation measures to prevent or avoid adverse impacts on the receiving environment, which have been incorporated into the EIR and EMP. The Specialist recommendations and conclusions are included in</p>	<p>Appendix H of the Draft EIR Section 11.2 of the Draft EIR</p>

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
		Section 11.2 of the Draft EIR. There are no recommendations or requirements from the Specialists to conduct further studies post EA.	
	f) Bird specialist studies must have support from Birdlife South Africa.	Birdlife South Africa has been included on the stakeholder database and will receive all project updates including the Draft EIR for comment.	Appendix A of the PPP Report
	g) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated	All specific mitigation measures proposed by specialists have been clearly indicated in Section 11.3 of the Draft EIR and have been included in the EMPr.	Section 11.3 of the Draft EIR
	(v) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expert advice.	The specialists have not specified contradicting recommendations. All recommendations are aligned and are considered practical and able to be implemented.	Section 11.3 of the Draft EIR
	(vi) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting in identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols") and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.	Specialist assessments have been undertaken to 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.	Section 8 of the Draft EIR



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	(vii) Please also ensure that the EIAR includes the Site Verification Report and Compliance Statements (where applicable) as required by the relevant themes.	A Site Sensitivity Verification section has been included in Section 8 of the Draft EIR.	Section 8 of the Draft EIR
	(viii) Please note further that the protocols, if applicable, require certain specialists' to be SACNASP registered. Please ensure that the relevant specialist certificates are attached to the relevant reports.	Specialist CVs have been included in Appendix C of the Draft EIR.	Appendix C of the Draft EIR
	(ix) As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.	Specialist Declarations have been included in Appendix C of the Draft EIR.	Appendix C of the Draft EIR
	<p>(x) The following Specialist Assessments will form part of the EIAR:</p> <p>Surface Water Impact Assessment;</p> <p>Groundwater Impact Assessment;</p> <p>Soil Impact Assessment;</p> <p>Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment</p> <p>Avifauna Assessment;</p> <p>Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment;</p> <p>Heritage Impact Assessment;</p> <p>Palaeontological Impact Assessment;</p> <p>Visual Impact Assessment;</p>	Please refer to Appendix H of the EIR for the relevant Specialist Reports. A separate Terrestrial Plant and separate Terrestrial Animal Assessment Report was undertaken.	Appendix H of the Draft EIR



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Traffic Impact Assessment; and Social Impact Assessment.		
	(xi) Please ensure that each specialist study has the correct and same project description and layout to assess.	WSP can confirm that the specialist studies have been undertaken in line with Appendix 6 of the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended, or, where relevant, in line with the gazetted specialist protocols of GNR 320 and GNR 1150. All specialist studies include a detailed description of the methodologies, project infrastructure descriptions and locations and recommendations for authorisations.	
	(xii) Please include a table that shows the proposed studies and the relevant specialists carrying out the study. In addition, a summary should be included of the specialist's recommendations in terms of the alternatives that are preferred based on the findings of their study.	Specialist Studies identified by the DFFE Screening Tool that have been undertaken are included Table 3-2 of the Draft EIR. A summary of the site sensitivity confirmed by specialists are included in Table 8-1 of the Draft EIR.	Table 3-2 of the Draft EIR Table 8-1 of the Draft EIR
	(f) Cumulative Assessment (i) As there are other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, a cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be conducted and must indicate the following: a) Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.	A cumulative impact assessment has been included in Section 10 of the Draft EIR and a summary of the impact from a cumulative perspective has been summarised in Section 10.12 of the Draft EIR.	Section 10 of the Draft EIR Section 10.12 of the Draft EIR

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>b) Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.</p> <p>c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.</p> <p>d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.</p>		
	<p>(g) General</p> <p>(i) The EIAR must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions. A sample for the minimum information required is listed under Annexure 2 below.</p>	Table 4-6 of the Draft EIR includes a summary in bullet form of the Key Project Infrastructure and includes the footprints of the various infrastructure.	Table 4-6 of the Draft EIR
	(ii) The EAP must provide landowner consent for all farm portions affected by the proposed project i.e., all farm portions where the solar field and associated infrastructure are to be located.	All land that will be affected by the proposed project is owned by the applicant (Eskom Holdings SOC).	Section 4.1 of the Draft EIR
	(iii) A construction and operational phase EMPr that includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the final EIAR, including the Generic EMPr for substations and power lines.	An EMPr has been compiled and submitted in Appendix I of the Draft EIR. The Generic EMPrs for substations and power lines.	Appendix I of the Draft EIR



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amendment, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.	The reminder to meet timeframes stipulated Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amended, is noted. The final EIR is due to the DFFE by 19 August 2023 (allowance for the public holidays have been taken into consideration).	-
	You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.  Yours faithfully Mr Sabelo Malaza	WSP and the Applicant take note of this reminder.	-
<b>MTPA</b>			
Frans Krige 21 March 2023 Email	Please register the MTPA as an IAP and send a hard copy to Thabile Mnisi at Nelspruit.  Kind Regards Frans Krige LUAS	<b>WSP Responded:</b>  Good Day Frans  Please note we have sent the report via courier and have added MTPA as an IAP to the database.  Kind Regards,	Appendix D of the PPP Report
Phumlal Nkosi 23 March 2023 Email	Good Day Megan  Thank you, We have received and registered the document.  Kind Regards	-	Appendix D of the PPP Report



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Phumla		
DFFE: Biodiversity			
Mr Seoka Lekota 13 April 2023 Email	<p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>COMMENTS ON THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY , BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.</p> <p>The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation reviewed and evaluated the aforementioned report.</p> <p>The Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation has noted that the recommendations that were provided in the Draft Scoping Report has been addressed and responded to in the Final Scoping Report. Therefore, the development can proceed to the next EIA phase.</p> <p>All Public Participation Process documents related to the Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota.</p> <p>Yours Faithfully, Mr Seoka Lekota</p>	<p><b>WSP Response:</b></p> <p>WSP confirms that Seoka Lekota from the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation will continue to receive project updates including the Draft EIA Report.</p>	Appendix D of the PPP Report



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation		
I&APs			
Jacobus Van Heerden 17 March 2023 Email	<p>Hi Megan ,</p> <p>I trust you are well? I would like to find out on the progress on Komati Power station solar project?</p> <p>We need some information if you have any available ? How do we tender for this project?</p> <p>Your guidance is appreciated.</p> <p>Regards</p> <p>Cobus Van Heerden</p> <p>Site Manager</p> <p>Secunda</p> <p>+27 82 775 2671</p> <p>jacobus.vanheerden@eazi.co.za</p> <p>www.eazi.co.za</p>	<p><b>WSP Responded:</b></p> <p>Good Day Cobus</p> <p>WSP has been appointed to undertake the environmental authorisation process for the Komati Solar Project which is expected to be completed in March 2024. We have just submitted the Final Scoping Report to the DFFE. I can add you to our stakeholder database if you would like so you can receive updates on the progress of the environmental authorisation process?</p> <p>Unfortunately I have no information with regards to the tendering process.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>	Appendix D of the PPP Report
	<p>Hi Megan</p> <p>I would appreciate it a lot if you can add me to the stakeholder database.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your support.</p> <p>Regards.</p>	<p><b>WSP Response:</b></p> <p>Stakeholder has been added to the database</p>	Appendix D of the PPP Report





Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
Reuben Maroga 22 March 2023 Email	Hi Megan, I hope you are well. Would you kindly share the KML illustrating the proposed development? Your feedback will be highly appreciated. Best Regard Reuben Maroga Permitting Specialist	<b>WSP Responded:</b> Good Day Reuben Please see attached as requested. Kind Regards,	Appendix D of the PPP Report



## COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM DRAFT EIR

Table D-4 - Comments received from Draft EIR

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
DFFE			
Ephron Maradwa 05 July 2023 Email	<p>Dear Megan.</p> <p>14/12/16/3/3/2/2298</p> <p>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOLLOWING A SCOPING ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.</p> <p>The Department confirms having received the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Amended Application Form for the abovementioned project on 04 July 2023. You have submitted these documents to comply with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states</p>	<p><b>WSP Response:</b></p> <p>WSP confirms that the I&amp;APs were provided with an opportunity to comment on the DSR from 06 March 2023 to 06 April 2023, and the Draft EIR from 05 July 2023 to 04 August 2023.</p> <p>WSP notes that the application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations.</p> <p>WSP and the Applicant take note that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p>	Appendix D of the PPP Report



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>that “Potential or registered interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in subregulation (1) prior to submission of an application but must be provided with an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the competent authority.”</p> <p>Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7) of these Regulations.</p> <p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.</p> <p>EIA Applications Integrated Environmental Authorisations Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment</p>		
Sabelo Malaza	Dear Ms Strong	WSP Response:	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
02 August 2023 Letter (Via Email)	<p>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION IN MPUMALANGA PROVINCE</p> <p>The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAr) received by the Department on 02 February 2023 and 04 July 2023, respectively, refer.</p> <p>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the final EIAr:</p>	Specific requests have been responded to below.	
	<p>(a) Specific comments</p> <p>(i) The co-ordinates in the EIAr must be specific to each activity and infrastructure that is proposed on the site. The co-ordinates for each corner of the solar fields, the substation, BESS, power line route, and laydown areas must be included in the EIAr, i.e., we require that you provide us with the specific development footprints for each development parameter, and not an area outlining the entire site.</p>	The coordinates for the solar fields, the substation, BESS and power line route are included in Section 4.1 of the Final EIR.	Section 4.1 of the Final EIR.
	<p>(ii) Please provide a concise, but complete, summary and bullet list of the project description and associated infrastructure (or project scope) to be included in the decision (or as it should</p>	As previously requested in the Final Scoping Report Comments, Table 4-6 of the Final EIR includes a summary in bullet form of the Key	Table 4-6 of the Final EIR

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	appear in the decision), should a positive Environmental Authorisation be granted. This must include a list of all development components and associated infrastructure.	Project Infrastructure required for environmental authorisation.	
	(iii) Kindly ensure the development footprints (hectares/square metres) and specifications of all proposed infrastructure and associated infrastructure during all phases are included in the EIAR.	As previously requested in the Final Scoping Report Comments, Table 4-6 of the Final EIR includes a summary in bullet form of the Key Project Infrastructure and includes the footprints of the various infrastructure.	Table 4-6 of the Final EIR
	(iv) The final EIAR must clearly provide a detailed section which addresses the site sensitivity verification requirements where a specialist assessment is required but no specific assessment protocol has been prescribed, as well as the site sensitivity verification and minimum report content requirements for all specialist assessments undertaken, which was included in the screening tool report. Kindly take note that this should be in the form of a report and should either confirm or dispute the sensitivity ratings for each theme identified by the screening tool report. Please refer to 1. Site sensitivity verification and minimum report content requirements of the Protocol document.	A Site Sensitivity Verification section has been included in Section 8 of the Final EIR. Table 8-1 includes the assessment protocols and a summary of the specialist site sensitivity verifications. The site sensitivity verifications are discussed under Section 8.1.	Table 8-1 and Section 8.1 of Section 8 of the Final EIR
	(v) A motivation must be provided in the final EIAR as to why particular studies that were identified in the screening tool were not undertaken.	Table 3-1 in Section 3.1.1 of the Final EIR contains the specialist studies required for the proposed Eskom Solar PV and BESS Project, as identified by the DFFE Screening Tool and identifies the specialist studies commissioned and provides motivation for specialist studies not commissioned.	Table 3-1 in Section 3.1.1 of the Final EIR

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>(vi) In the acceptance of the Scoping Report dated 03 May 2023, the Department has made the EAP aware of the requirement of an Avifaunal Study due to the findings of the Avifaunal Scoping Report, please see comment below:</p> <p>“According to the Terrestrial Biodiversity Report (Page 26-27) two red listed bird species are expected to occur on the site, namely the Saddle-billed Stork (<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>) which is listed as Endangered (EN) and the Secretary bird (<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>) listed as Vulnerable (VU). During the avifauna scoping site visit conducted on 17 June 2022, habitats with potential to support African Grass Owl were mapped (Figure 10). Based on the above and the final SR an Avifaunal Assessment must be included in the EIAR to assess the impacts of the development on the avifaunal species present on site and recommend mitigation measures.”</p> <p>The EAP has responded by stipulating a Terrestrial Animal Species Report has been included in the draft EIAR. Kindly take note that the Terrestrial Animal Species Report (Appendix H7) does not assess the avifauna on site. Furthermore, on Page 10 of the Terrestrial Animal Species Report the specialist states “Separate bird and bat specialist studies have been conducted for the proposed Project. This report should be read in conjunction with the Terrestrial Biodiversity and Plant Species</p>	<p>An Avifauna Study has been undertaken by Volant Environmental. The assessment notes that the vegetation present on the development site yielded few species of concern, and at low abundance. No nesting sites or roost sites of red-listed species were located on site. No significant seasonal variation in species assemblages and movements across the development site are likely to occur, less so for probable species of concern, thus the overall impact of the development on avifauna is considered to be low.</p> <p>The Avifauna Assessment is included as Appendix H15 of the Final EIR and in Section 7.2.4, Section 8.1.11, Section 9.7, Section 10.7, and Section 11.2.7 of the Final EIR.</p>	<p>Appendix H15 of the Final EIR</p> <p>Section 7.2.4, Section 8.1.11, Section 9.7, Section 10.7, and Section 11.2.7 of the Final EIR.</p>



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Specialist Assessment report, and the specialist bird and bat specialist studies." Therefore, it is unclear as to where the avifauna has been assessed and by what specialist as there are discrepancies and inconsistencies in this regard throughout the report. Please take note that an Avifaunal Specialist Study is required and should be included in the final EIAR.		
	<p>(vii) Based on the recommendations made by the EAP in the draft EIAR and the findings of the specialist reports stated below, a Biodiversity Offset Plan must be submitted in the final EIAR.</p> <p>➤ According to the Terrestrial Biodiversity &amp; Plant Specialist Report (Appendix H-8) Critical Biodiversity Areas occur at the western portion of the proposed site, that is largely covering the portion proposed for the establishment of the solar PV Site B (Figure 5). Kindly take note that according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan, 2015, PV farms and solar arrays are not compatible land-use activities to be undertaken in areas classified as CBA. Therefore, the mitigation hierarchy should be applied in full, and a Biodiversity Offset should be considered to ensure that significant residual impacts of the development are remedied.</p> <p>➤ Page 59 of the Terrestrial Biodiversity &amp; Plant Specialist Report stipulates "Notwithstanding the reduction in impact significance resulting from the application of mitigation (refer to Section 13 for recommended mitigation measures), there</p>	<p>The Applicant has revised the project layout to avoid the CBA area within Solar PV Site B and avoid the Seep 1 Wetland within Solar PV Site A. The requirement for a Biodiversity Offset Plan is therefore no longer applicable as these areas will not be developed on. The optimised project layout is included in Figure 11-1, the sensitivity map is included in Figure 11-2 and the no-go areas are indicated on Figure 11-3 of the Final EIR.</p>	<p>Figure 11-1, Figure 11-2 and Figure 11-3 of the Final EIR.</p>



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>will still be a loss of natural habitat, including land designated as CBA Optimal, associated with the proposed Project. In light of this, in order to achieve the IFC PS6 requirement of 'no net loss' of natural habitat, a biodiversity offset will be required." The specialist's goes further on to stipulate "A biodiversity offset strategy should be investigated and implemented for the loss of natural habitat, specifically CBA Optimal land, within the proposed development footprints."</p> <p>➤ Further to the above, the Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment (Appendix H-9) Page 41 stipulates "Site establishment and construction of the proposed project infrastructure, particularly PV Site A which overlaps with Seep 1, will lead to the permanent loss of wetland habitat within the project footprint. The significance of the direct loss of wetland habitat and disturbance of adjacent wetland habitats is High due to outright loss of wetland habitat at this site, as although site based in extent, the duration of the impact is permanent, and outright loss cannot be mitigated. Assuming that the predicted wetland loss cannot be avoided through changes in site layout, the loss will remain as an impact of High significance post-mitigation. Additional measures will be required to address significant residual impacts i.e., compensate or offset the permanent loss of wetland habitat."</p> <p>There is currently no Biodiversity Offset Plan included in the draft EIAr. Kindly ensure a Biodiversity Offset Plan is included in the final</p>		



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	EIAr that complies with the GNR. 3569 Biodiversity Offset Guideline.		
	(viii) Comments must be obtained from this Department's Biodiversity Conservation Directorate at BCAdmin@dfre.gov.za.	WSP can confirm that comments from the Biodiversity Directorate of the DFFE were received and are included in the PPP Report (Table 3-4 of the PPP Report).	Table 3-4 of the PPP Report
	(ix) You are further reminded that the final EIAr to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of the EIAr in accordance with Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	Table 1-5 of the Final EIR cross-references the sections where the legislated requirements as per Appendix 3 of GNR 982 of 2014 can be located within the EIR.	Table 1-5 of the Final EIR
	<p>(b) Listed Activities</p> <p>(i) The listed activities applied for in the amended application form and the draft EIAr have been quoted incorrectly, as they refer to the exclusion criteria of each activity in the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended. The following discrepancies were noted with regards to the activities applied for in the amended application form and the draft EIAr:</p> <p>➤ "Activity 1 (a) of Listing Notice 2"-Refers to "The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more, excluding where such development of facilities or infrastructure is for photovoltaic installations and occurs- (a) within</p>	The Application Form has been updated to correct the discrepancies. Table 6-1 of the Final EIR has been amended to ensure alignment with the Application Form.	Table 6-1 of the Final EIR

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>an urban area.” The activity should be listed as Activity 1 of Listing Notice 2.</p> <p>➤ “Activity 15 (ii) of Listing Notice 2”- Refers to “The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.” The activity should be listed as Activity 15 of Listing Notice 2.</p> <p>Kindly ensure all activities applied for in the application form and the final EIAr are applicable to the proposed development and are quoted correctly as per the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>		
	<p>(i) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. Only activities applicable to the development must be applied for and assessed.</p>	<p>All relevant listed activities have been applied for. Furthermore, the descriptions of applicability in the Application Form and Table 6-1 of the Final EIR are specific and have been linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.</p>	<p>Table 6-1 of the Final EIR</p>
	<p>(ii) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final EIAr, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <a href="https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms">https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms</a>.</p>	<p>The Application Form has been updated and will be submitted with the Final EIR. Furthermore, the most recent application form template has been utilised.</p>	<p>Table 6-1 of the Final EIR</p>
	<p>(iii) It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the</p>	<p>The relevant authorities have been continuously involved throughout the environmental impact</p>	<p>Figure 1-2of the Final EIR</p>

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	environmental impact assessment process as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of numerous GN R. 985 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.	assessment process. A list of the authorities that have been continuously involved are included in the Stakeholder Database (Appendix A of the PPP Report) and notification methods are included in Appendix B of the PPP Report. A regional locality map has been included in Figure 1-2 of the Final EIR.	
	<p>(c) Layout &amp; Sensitivity Maps</p> <p>(i) The final EIAr must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.</p>	The coordinates for the solar fields, the substation, BESS and power line route are included in Section 4.1 of the Final EIR.	Section 4.1 of the Final EIR.
	<p>(ii) The EIAr must provide a copy of the final preferred site layout map for the Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System facilities and associated infrastructure, as determined by the detailed engineering phase and micro-siting, and all mitigation measures. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map, including the findings and recommendations made by the specialists. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g., roads. The layout map must indicate the following:</p> <p>a) A clear indication of the envisioned area for the proposed solar field;</p>	The project layout has been revised. The optimised project layout is included in Figure 11-1 of the Final EIR.	Figure 11-1 of the Final EIR.

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>b) Internal roads;</p> <p>c) All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house and control room etc.;</p> <p>d) Battery Energy Storage System;</p> <p>e) Substations, transformers, switching stations and inverters;</p> <p>f) Power line route (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;</p> <p>g) All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads; and</p> <p>h) Buildings, including accommodation.</p>		
	<p>(iii) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:</p> <p>a) The location of sensitive environmental features identified on site, e.g. CBAs, protected areas, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;</p> <p>b) Buffer areas; and</p> <p>c) All “no-go” areas.</p>	The sensitivity map is included in Figure 11-2 and the no-go areas are indicated on Figure 11-3 of the Final EIR.	Figure 11-2 and Figure 11-3 of the Final EIR.
	<p>(iv) The above layout map must be superimposed (overlain) with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring and existing infrastructure.</p>	The optimised project layout is included in Figure 11-1, the sensitivity map is included in Figure 11-2 and the cumulative map showing projects within 30 km of the proposed is included as Figure 10-1.	Figure 11-1, Figure 11-2 and Figure 10-1 of the Final EIR.



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	(v) Google maps will not be accepted.	Google Maps have not been used for the project layout and environmental sensitivity maps.	-
	<p>(d) Specialist Declaration of Interest</p> <p>(i) Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must be attached to the final EIAR. You are therefore requested to submit original signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms for each specialist study conducted.</p> <p>The forms are available on Department's website (please use the Department's template).</p>	Specialist Declarations have been included in Appendix C of the Final EIR.	Appendix C of the Final EIR
	<p>(e) Specialist Assessments</p> <p>(i) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:</p> <p>a) A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.</p> <p>b) Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.</p>	Specialist studies have been undertaken in line with Appendix 6 of the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended, or, where relevant, in line with the gazetted specialist protocols of GNR 320 and GNR 1150. All specialist studies include a detailed description of the methodologies, project infrastructure descriptions and locations and recommendations for authorisations. All specialist assessments include applicable limitations to the studies, as well as the timing/season of the field survey, where applicable, and relevance thereof to the studies/assessments.	Section 3.6 of the Final EIR
	c) Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure	WSP acknowledge the DFFE's definition of 'No-go' areas. The relevant specialist assessments have indicated 'No-go' areas, as well as areas where it is suitable for linear infrastructure (water pipelines,	Section 8.2 of the Final EIR

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.</p> <p>d) Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Department's definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.</p>	<p>roads, powerline infrastructure etc.) to traverse a no-go area where required. Where specialist deviations or qualifications are applicable, these have been noted in Section 8.2. The No-Go map has been included in Figure 11-3 of the Final EIA.</p>	<p>Figure 11-3 of the Final EIA</p>
	<p>e) All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.</p>	<p>All specialist studies conducted have been included in Appendix H of the EIR. The Specialist studies include detailed mitigation measures to prevent or avoid adverse impacts on the receiving environment, which have been incorporated into the EIR and EMPr. The Specialist recommendations and conclusions are included in Section 11.2 of the Final EIR. There are no recommendations or requirements from the Specialists to conduct further studies post EA.</p>	<p>Appendix H of the Final EIR</p> <p>Section 11.2 of the Final EIR</p>
	<p>f) Bird studies must have support from Birdlife South Africa.</p>	<p>Birdlife South Africa has been included on the stakeholder database and have received all project updates including the Draft EIR for comment. No comment or objections have been received to date.</p>	<p>Appendix A of the PPP Report</p>
	<p>g) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.</p>	<p>All specific mitigation measures proposed by specialists have been clearly indicated in Section 11.3 of the Final EIR and have been included in the EMPr.</p>	<p>Section 11.3 of the Final EIR</p>
	<p>(ii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with</p>	<p>The specialists have not specified contradicting recommendations. All recommendations are aligned and are considered practical and able to be implemented.</p>	<p>Section 11.3 of the Final EIR</p>

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	defendable reasons; and were necessary, include further expertise advice.		
	(iii) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting in identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols") and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.	Specialist assessments have been undertaken to 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.	Section 8 of the Final EIR
	(iv) Please also ensure that the final BAR includes the Site Verification Report and Compliance Statements (where applicable) as required by the relevant themes.	A Site Sensitivity Verification section has been included in Section 8 of the Final EIR.	Section 8 of the Final EIR
	(v) Please note further that the protocols, if applicable, require certain specialists' to be SACNASP registered. Please ensure that the relevant specialist certificates are attached to the relevant reports.	Specialist CVs have been included in Appendix C of the Final EIR.	Appendix C of the Final EIR
	(vi) As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.	Specialist Declarations have been included in Appendix C of the Final EIR. Scientific Organisations and Professional Registrations are included where relevant.	Appendix C of the Final EIR

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>(f) Cumulative Assessment</p> <p>(i) The cumulative impacts of all intended activities must be assessed together, which include the facility and its supporting infrastructure (including the grid connection infrastructure e.g. the power line and substations even if separate applications have been lodged for these).</p> <p>(ii) Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:</p> <p>a) Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.</p> <p>b) Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.</p> <p>c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.</p>	<p>A cumulative impact assessment has been included in Section 10 of the Final EIR and a summary of the impact from a cumulative perspective has been summarised in Section 10.12 of the Final EIR.</p>	<p>Section 10 of the Final EIR</p> <p>Section 10.12 of the Final EIR</p>

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.		
	<p>(g) Undertaking of an Oath</p> <p>(i) Please note that the final EIAr must have an undertaking under oath/ affirmation by the EAP.</p> <p>(ii) Based on the above, you are therefore required to include an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP (administered by a Commissioner of Oaths) as per Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that the EIAr must include: “an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to:</p> <p>a) the correctness of the information provided in the reports;</p> <p>b) the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&amp;APs;</p> <p>c) the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and</p> <p>d) any information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested and affected parties”.</p>	The EAP Declaration and Oath Undertaking is included in Appendix B of the Final EIR.	Appendix C of the Final EIR
	<p>(h) Details and Expertise of the EAP</p> <p>(i) You are required to include the details and expertise of the EAP in the EIAr, including a curriculum vitae, in order to comply with the</p>	The EAP CV is included in Appendix B of the Final EIR.	Appendix B of the Final EIR.



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	requirements of Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.		
	(i) Public Participation Process (i) The final EIAr must comply with all the conditions of the acceptance of the SR signed on 03 May 2023 and must address all comments contained in the final SR, the draft EIAr and this letter.	The conditions included in the acceptance of the SR are included in Table 3-3 of the PPP Report and have been responded to.	Table 3-3 of the PPP Report
	(ii) Kindly note the newspaper advert and the site notice document included in the Stakeholder Engagement Report (Appendix D) are illegible. Please include clear copies of the documents that are legible in the final EIAr.	A higher quality version of the newspaper advert and the site notice document have been included in Appendix B of the PPP Report.	Appendix B of the PPP Report.
	(iii) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.	WSP confirm that the Public Participation Process was conducted in terms of Regulations 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.	-
	(iv) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAr. This includes but is not limited to the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (MDARDLEA), the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, the Nkangala District Municipality, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), BirdLife SA, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, and the Department of Forestry,	WSP confirms that comments from all relevant stakeholders as indicated in the Stakeholder Database (Appendix A of the PPP Report) that have been received to date, have been included in the PPP Report and responded to.	Appendix A of the PPP Report Appendix D of the PPP Report





Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Fisheries and the Environment: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation.		
	(v) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR and draft EIAR from registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and organs of state (including this Department's Biodiversity and Protected Area Sections), as listed in your I&APs Database, and others that have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the final EIAR and are incorporated into a Comments and Response Report (CRR).	WSP can confirm that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the DSR and draft EIR, as well as those received on the FSR, from registered I&APs and organs of state have been included in the final EIR and adequately addressed and responded to.	Appendix D of the PPP Report
	(vi) Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are submitted to the Department with the final EIAR.	Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state have been included in Appendix D of the PPP Report.	Appendix D of the PPP Report
	(vii) Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. In terms of Regulation 41(2)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, please provide proof of written notice for the availability of the EIAR for comment.	Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders is included in Appendix B and Appendix D of the PPP Report.	Appendix B and Appendix D of the PPP Report
	(viii) The CRR report must be a separate document from the main report and the format	The PPP Report, which contains the Comments and Responses from I&APs, is a separate document from the main report and the format is	Appendix D of the Final EIR

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter.	similar to that included in Annexure 1 of the comments letter.	
	(ix) Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP’s comments.	All comments from I&APs have been copied verbatim and responded to. A copy of the original comment is included in Appendix D of the PPP Report.	Appendix D of the PPP Report
	(x) Minutes and attendance registers (where applicable) of any physical/virtual meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the final EIAr.	The minutes and attendance registers from the Focus Group and Public Meeting held with I&APs are included in Appendix C of the PPP Report.	Appendix C of the PPP Report
	<p>(j) Environmental Management Programme</p> <p>(i) The EIAr must include a final EMPr with measures, as dictated by the final site layout plan and micro-siting, and the recommendations of the EIAr. The EMPr must include the following if applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Open Space Management Plan</li> <li>b) Watercourse and Wetland Management Plan</li> <li>c) Faunal Relocation Plan</li> <li>d) Botanical Search and Rescue</li> <li>e) Site Clearing Plan</li> <li>f) Rehabilitation and Landscape Management Plan</li> </ul>	<p>It is important to note that the project layout included in the EIR is not final. Although the layout is included in the EIR, the layout and EMPr is not submitted for approval at this stage. Subsequent to the decision-making phase, if environmental authorisation is granted for the Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility, the EMPr will have to be amended to include measures as dictated by the final layout map and micro-siting, including the requirements of the EA.</p> <p>The following Management Measures have been included in Section 8 of the EMPr, as applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Emergency Response Plan</li> <li>- Waste Management Plan</li> <li>- Hazardous Substances Management Plan</li> </ul>	<p>Section 11.6 of the Final EIR</p> <p>Section 8 of the EMPr</p>

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>g) Alien Vegetation Management Plan</p> <p>h) Fire Management Plan</p> <p>i) Traffic, Transportation and Road Maintenance Management Plan</p> <p>j) Waste Management Plan</p> <p>k) Emergency Response Plan</p> <p>l) A storm water and wash water management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. The plan must ensure compliance with applicable regulations and prevent off-site migration of contaminated storm water or increased soil erosion. The plan must include the construction of design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off;</p> <p>m) An erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the facility. Erosion mitigation must form part of this plan to prevent and reduce the risk of any potential erosion. This plan must ensure to include drainage features that will be infilled and or excavated;</p> <p>n) All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAR and the specialist reports as included in the EIAR; and,</p> <p>o) The final site layout plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fire Management Plan</li> <li>- Alien Invasive Plant Management Plan</li> <li>- Plant Rescue And Protection Plan</li> <li>- Re-Vegetation And Habitat Rehabilitation Plan</li> <li>- Stormwater Management Plan</li> <li>- Erosion Management Plan</li> <li>- Traffic And Transport Management Plan</li> <li>- Fauna Management Plan</li> <li>- Soil Management Plan</li> <li>- Heritage And Palaeontological Management Plan</li> <li>- Grievance Mechanism</li> <li>- HIV/AIDS Management Plan</li> </ul>	

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	q) An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process.		
	(ii) In addition to the above, the EMPr must comply with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.	Table 1-2 of the EMPr cross-references the sections within the EMPr with the requirements as per Appendix 4 of GNR 326 of 2017.	Table 1-2 of the EMPr
	(iii) It is drawn to your attention that for substation and overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, when such facilities trigger activity 11 or 47 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended, and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, the generic Environmental Management Programme, contemplated in the Regulations must be used and submitted with the final report over and above the EMPr for the facility.	The Generic EMPr for the Development and Expansion of Substation Infrastructure for the Transmission and Distribution of Electricity is attached as Appendix D of the EMPr and the Generic EMPr for the Development and Expansion for Overhead Electricity Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure is attached as Appendix E of the EMPr.	Appendix D and Appendix E of the EMPr
	General The EIAr must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions. A sample of the minimum information required is listed under Annexure 2 of the EIA information required for solar energy facility as requested in the acceptance of the SR.	Page 5 of the EIR contains General Site Information which includes a table on the technical details of the facility including their description and/or dimensions. A similar table has also been included in Table 4-6 of the Final EIR.	Table 4-6 of the Final EIR
	Please also ensure that the final EIAr includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required and the date on which	The EA Authorisation period is included in Section 11.5 of the Final EIR. The EA is required for a period of 10 years from the date of issuance of the	Section 11.5 of the Final EIR

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	the activity will be concluded as per Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.	EA to the end of the construction period (including rehabilitation), when the proposed activities applied for are completed. This is a reasonable period as it allows Eskom to conduct its internal processes which can only begin after issuance of the EA, when the proposed route is confirmed.	
	<p>You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 23(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that: “The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority -</p> <p>(a) an environmental impact assessment report inclusive of any specialist reports, an EMPr, a closure plan in the case of a closure activity and where the application is a mining application, the plans, report and calculations contemplated in the Financial Provisioning Regulations, which must have been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority.”</p>	The Final EIR is due to the DFFE by 19 August 2023. The EMPr is included in Appendix I of the Final EIR.	Appendix I of the Final EIR
	Should there be significant changes or new information that has been added to the EIAR or EMPr which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process, you are required to comply with Regulation 23(1)(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states: “The applicant must	The Avifauna Assessment included as Appendix H-15 was not included in the Draft EIA and therefore the Final EIR will be subjected to another public participation process for 30 days. Any comments received during this review period will be responded to an submitted to the DFFE.	Appendix H-15 of the Final EIR.



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority – (b) a notification in writing that the documents contemplated in subregulation 1(a) will be submitted within 156 days of acceptance of the scoping report by the competent authority or where regulation 21(2) applies, within 156 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the documents, which changes or information was not contained in the original documents consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in subregulation (1)(a), and that the revised documents contemplated in subregulation 1(a) will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days”.		
	Should you fail to meet any of the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 23 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, your application will lapse.	WSP notes that the application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations.	-
	<p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Yours sincerely Mr Sabelo Malaza</p>	WSP and the Applicant take note of this reminder.	-





Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations		
<b>DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation</b>			
Kamogelo Mathetja 13 July 2023 Email	<p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the project mentioned on the subject line. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Mrs M Rabothata and Mr K Mathetja (Both copied on this email). In addition, kindly share the shapefiles of the development footprints/application site with the Case Officers.</p> <p>Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota</p> <p>Regards, Kamogelo</p>	<p><b>WSP Responded:</b></p> <p>Good Day Kamogelo</p> <p>Please use the WeTransfer link to download the reports and kmz. File.</p> <p>Download link</p> <p><a href="https://we.tl/t-NgcUJT9cdb">https://we.tl/t-NgcUJT9cdb</a></p> <p>Please confirm successful download of the reports.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>	Appendix D of the PPP Report
Kamogelo Mathetja 28 July 2023 Email	<p>Dear Colleagues,</p> <p>Kindly share the 2019 Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan as referenced in the report.</p> <p>Regards, Kamogelo</p>	<p><b>WSP Responded:</b></p> <p>Good Day Kamogelo</p> <p>Please see attached 2019 shapefiles for the 2019 MBSP.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>	Appendix D of the PPP Report

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
<p>Kamogelo Mathetja</p> <p>03 August 2023</p> <p>Letter (Via Email)</p>	<p>Dear sir/madam</p> <p>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR PV FACILITY, BESS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE</p> <p>The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation reviewed and evaluated the report.</p> <p>Based on the information provided in the report, an area categorized as Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) Optimal, which overlaps with the proposed PV Site B development footprint is present in the north-west corner of the local study area. Further patches are present in the northern and eastern parts of the study area. These areas were delineated and classified as 'natural habitat' as they comprise viable assemblages of indigenous species and retain their primary ecological functions. However, according to the specialist, the loss of natural habitat through vegetation clearing, particularly the land designated as CBA Optimal of the local study area, is an impact of concern that cannot be fully mitigated through standard mitigation options. In order for the proposed project to meet the International Finance Corporation Performance Standard 6 (IFC PS6) financing requirement of 'no net loss' of natural habitat, it will therefore be necessary for a biodiversity offset strategy to be developed and implemented.</p>	<p><b>WSP Response:</b></p> <p>The Applicant has revised the project layout to avoid the CBA area within Solar PV Site B and avoid the Seep 1 Wetland within Solar PV Site A. These areas will not be developed on. The optimised project layout is included in Figure 11-1, the sensitivity map is included in Figure 11-2 and the no-go areas are indicated on Figure 11-3 of the Final EIR.</p> <p>Furthermore, comments from the DFFE Directorate: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness have been requested however no comments have been received to date. Proof of correspondence is included in Appendix D of the PPP Report.</p>	<p>Figure 11-1, Figure 11-2 and Figure 11-3 of the Final EIR.</p> <p>Appendix D of the PPP Report</p>

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>Four wetlands have been identified to occur within 500m of the proposed project development namely, channelled valley bottom wetland, two isolated seepage wetlands (Seep 1 and Seep 2), and depression wetland. According to the specialist, the proposed project infrastructure, particularly PV Site A which overlaps with seep 1, will lead to the permanent loss of wetland habitat within the project footprint. The significance of the direct loss of wetland habitat and disturbance of adjacent wetland habitats is High due to outright loss of wetland habitat at this site, as although site based in extent, the duration of the impact is permanent, and outright loss cannot be mitigated. Assuming that the predicted wetland loss cannot be avoided through changes in site layout, the loss will remain as an impact of High significance post-mitigation. It is important to consider additional measures to address significant residual impacts i.e., compensate or offset the permanent loss of wetland habitat.</p> <p>According to the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES), small portions of land to the immediate north and south-east of the local study area are designated as Priority Focus Areas, while other small patches designated as Priority Focus Areas are scattered across the broader landscape (SAPAD, 2021).</p> <p>The National Web Based Screening Tool indicated that the local study area is an area of</p>		

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>'Medium Sensitivity' for plant species, with three sensitive features potentially present, namely Pachycarpus suaveolens, Sensitive Species 41 and Sensitive Species 691. The study area present suitable habitat for the flagged species.</p> <p>Given the above, the Directorate Biodiversity Conservation does not support any development within highly sensitive areas that will result with high impacts rating post mitigation. However, the following measures are recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Biodiversity offset strategy must be developed and submitted with the final report for review and approval.</li> <li>- The species of conservation concern must be identified and located so that they may be avoided as much as possible. However, in cases whereby avoiding is not possible, relevant permits from the relevant authorities must be obtained for any disturbance of such species.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- Due to the invasion of the Priority Focus Areas, as per the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES), Comments from the DFFE Directorate: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness must be obtained at email: TNethononda@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr. Thivhulawi Nethononda</li> </ul>		

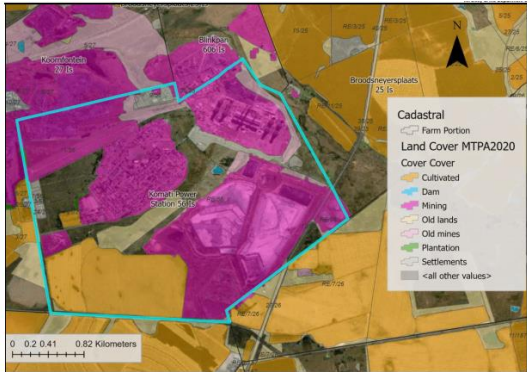


Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>- Areas classified/rated medium to high site ecological importance on site must be avoided by the infrastructure. However, should the avoidance deem unlikely as the specialist mention and offset proposal option be considered, it is strongly advised that a Biodiversity Offset Report is prepared by a specialist, or specialists, with the appropriate skills and experience, in collaboration with the relevant authorities i.e., Mpumalanga Parks &amp; Tourism. The report must be prepared in accordance with the 2023 National Biodiversity Offset Guideline published for implementation, under section 24J of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998).</p> <p>All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota.</p> <p>Yours faithfully Mr. Seoka Lekota</p>		
<b>Mpumalanga Tourism and Park Agency</b>			
Celia de Waal 01 August 2023 Email	Dear Ms. Strong Kindly receive the MTPA's comments with recommendations, regarding your Environmental Impact Assessment:	-	Appendix D of the PPP Report



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Proposed Komati Power Station Solar Photovoltaic facility, battery energy storage systems (BESS) and Associated Infrastructure ESKOM Holdings on portion 0 of the Farm Komati Power Station 56 IS, Steve Thswete Local Municipality.</li></ul> <p>Your Reference number: WSP ref no: 41103965 and DFFE ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298</p> <p>Our reference number: LUA 23/3414 (2)</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Celia de Waal</p>		
<p>Mr MH Vilakazi</p> <p>31 July 2023 (Received 01 August 2023)</p> <p>Letter (Via Email from Celia de Waal)</p>	<p>Your report with WSP reference no: 41103965, received in July 2023 refer.</p> <p>Background</p> <p>Komati Power Station reached its end-of-life stage in September 2022. The Eskom Holdings propose to construct and operate Renewable Energy Facilities (REF) to connect to the Komati Power Station as soon as possible. This includes a Solar Photovoltaics Energy Facility (SEF).</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>The sensitivity of the proposed activity area was assessed according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP; MTPA, 2022). This sensitivity is assessed in terms of a terrestrial and freshwater assessment. In the MBSP, sensitive areas are identified in terms of</p>	<p><b>WSP Response:</b></p> <p>WSP acknowledges the MTPA's support of the proposed project and the recommendations have been included where applicable.</p>	-



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and Ecological Support Areas (ESAs).</p> <p>The sensitivity concerns include small areas of CBA optimal areas, and ESA Wetlands. The specialist reports indicate that the terrestrial biodiversity areas are disturbed and degraded, and that the local study area are severely impacted. This is indicated in the MBSP Land Cover map, figure 1.</p>  <p>Figure 1. MBSP Land cover map of the proposed Renewable Energy Facility project area.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>Since the Komati Power Station reached its end-of-life stage the MTPA supports Eskom Holdings proposal to construct and operate renewable energy facilities (REF) to connect to the Komati Power Station as soon as possible. The proposed 100 MW Solar Photovoltaics Energy Facility (SEF), 150 MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station that is described in the</p>		



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>DEIAR is supported. The MTPA have the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The impacts that needs to be monitored and mitigated are erosion, sedimentation and contamination of soil.</li><li>- Surface water flow should be managed to prevent silting up and/or contamination of the surrounding wetlands.</li><li>- Rehabilitation and decommissioning of defunct ESKOM facilities should be done without interfering with the new proposed renewable energy facilities and further pollution of the environment.</li></ul> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.</p> <p>Kind regards, MR M.H. VILAKAZI ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER</p>		
<b>I&amp;AP: Sola Group</b>			
Reuben Maroga 05 July 2023 Email	<p>Hi Megan,</p> <p>We acknowledge receipt of the notification.</p> <p>Could you kindly share with us the KML file of the Project?</p> <p>Best Regards Reuben Maroga</p>	<p><b>WSP Responded:</b></p> <p>Hi Reuben</p> <p>Please see attached as requested.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>	Appendix D of the PPP Report



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Project Developer		
I&AP: Evans Lusenga			
Evans Lusenga 25 July 2023 Comment Form from Public Meeting	Evans Lusenga asked if there is any business proposal or ideas who is the contact person at Eskom Komati Power station? He further stated that any vital information should be shared so that the community can benefit considering the high rate on unemployment.	<b>Eskom Response:</b>  The correct governed processes in terms of the Procurement and indirectly Tender Opportunities to support the Community develop businesses must be followed. The Komati Power Station is establishing an information centre where all information on available jobs and opportunities will be shared.	Appendix D of the PPP Report
SAHRA			
Natasha Higgitt 07 August 2023 Letter (via SAHRIS)	<p>The proposed establishment of a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station, Mpumalanga Province</p> <p>WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd have been appointed by Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed construction of a solar photovoltaic and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at the Komati Power Station, near Komati, Mpumalanga Province.</p> <p>A draft Scoping Report (DSR) was submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA EIA Regulations (As amended). The proposed development will include the</p>	<b>WSP Response:</b>  WSP acknowledges the no objection from the SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU). The comments are noted and have been include in the Chance and Find Procedure in Section 8.13.1 of the EMPr.	Section 8.13.1 of the EMPr.

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>construction of PV panels, overhead or underground cabling between components, collector substations, access roads, BESS, perimeter roads, meteorological station, operation and maintenance building, warehouse and workshop, hazardous chemical store, security building, parking areas and roads, temporary laydown areas, temporary concrete batching plant, construction camp and onsite substations within an application area of 200 – 250 ha.</p> <p>Dr Heidi Fourie and APelser Archaeological Consulting have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process in terms of section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).</p> <p>Fourie, H. 2022. Eskom Komati Power Station Solar PV and BESS ESIA: Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Phase 1 Field Study</p> <p>The proposed development area is underlain by the Vryheid Formation that may contain plant fossils, aquatic reptiles, fossil fish and insects. A field assessment will be undertaken.</p> <p>Pelser, A. 2022. A desktop Heritage Impact Assessment Report for the Eskom Komati Power Station Solar PV ESIA</p> <p>The proposed PV facility will be located in areas that have been heavily disturbed and therefore the likelihood of in-situ heritage resources is low.</p>		



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>It is recommended that a site visit be undertaken.</p> <p>In an Interim Comment issued on the 10/03/2023, SAHRA noted the pending heritage reports and stated that the HIA must consider the historical structures associated with the Komati Power Station and any historical structures in the surrounding residential areas that may be impacted by the proposed development. Since issuing the Interim Comment, an HIA and PIA have been submitted, along with the DEIA (05/07/2023).</p> <p>Fourie, H. 2023. Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Phase 1 Field Study. Komati Power Station Solar Photovoltaic Facility, Battery Energy Storage Systems and Associated Infrastructure, Mpumalanga Province</p> <p>No fossils were identified as part of the field assessment. A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.</p> <p>Pelser, A. 2023. A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment Report for the Eskom Komati Power Station Solar Energy Facility (SEF) Mpumalanga Province</p> <p>No heritage resources were identified within the proposed development footprint. A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.</p> <p>Final Comment</p>		

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<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 EIA and EMPr:</p> <p>38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) has no objections to the proposed development;</p> <p>38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No further additional specific conditions are provided for the development;</p> <p>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 (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660/ nhiggitt@sahra.org.za) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with this section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;</p> <p>38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA DAU (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660/ nhiggitt@sahra.org.za) must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with this section of the</p>		





Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	<p>NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;</p> <p>38(4)d – See section 51 of the NHRA for offences;</p> <p>38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:</p> <p>With reference to the mitigation work noted above, a qualified archaeologist must be appointed to undertake the work in terms of the permit applied for as noted above;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>The Final EIA and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;</p> <p>The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.</p> <p>Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.</p> <p>Yours faithfully</p>		



Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference
	Natasha Higgitt Manager: Development Applications Unit		



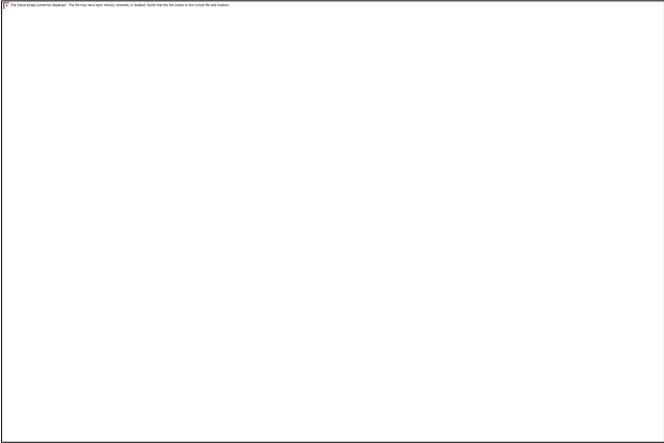
## COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM FINAL EIR

Table D-5 - Comments received from Final EIR

<u>Stakeholder Details</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
<u>DFFE</u>			
<u>Ephron Maradwa</u> <u>18 August 2023</u> <u>Email</u>	<p><u>Dear Megan</u></p> <p><u>14/12/16/3/3/2/2298</u></p> <p><u>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.</u></p> <p><u>The Department confirms having received the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Amended Application Form for the abovementioned project on 17 August 2023. You have submitted these documents to comply with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998(Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended</u></p> <p><u>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</u></p> <p><u>Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.</u></p>	<p><u>WSP Response:</u></p> <p><u>WSP and the Applicant take note that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D of the PPP Report</u></p>



<u>Stakeholder Details</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>											
<b>I&amp;AP: Bendan Young (Yellow Door Energy)</b>														
<u>Brendan Young</u> <u>05 September 2023</u> <u>Email</u>	<p><u>Dear Megan</u></p> <p><u>Regarding the WSP Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report.</u></p> <p><u>Please note:</u></p> <p><u>That Vanadium Flow Batteries are a severe chemical hazard risk due to the Vanadium Pentoxide based electrolyte in them.</u></p> <p><u>Managing hazardous material like this has been tried before, such as PCB's in Transformer Oil ... and Asbestos in Building Materials, and it's always ended badly!</u></p> <p><u>Please ensure the necessary evaluation of this hazardous material is included in your Environmental Impact Assessment Report.</u></p> <p><u>Please see:</u></p> <p><u><a href="https://monographs.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/mono86-10.pdf">https://monographs.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/mono86-10.pdf</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="https://www.conncoll.edu/media/website-media/offices/ehs/envhealthdocs/Vandadium_Pentoxide.pdf">https://www.conncoll.edu/media/website-media/offices/ehs/envhealthdocs/Vandadium_Pentoxide.pdf</a></u></p> <p><u>Vanadium Pentoxide is highly hazardous (tested on animals) and is known to cause:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>- Cancer,</u></li><li><u>- Severe Skin and Respiratory Health conditions.</u></li><li><u>- Cell &amp; DNA injury and alters gene expression,</u></li><li><u>- Inhibits enzymes involved in DNA synthesis and repair.</u></li></ul>	<p><u>WSP Responded on 13 September:</u></p> <p><u>Good Day Mr Young</u></p> <p><u>Your email dated 05 September 2023, regarding comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Komati Solar PhotoVoltaic (PV) and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Project is referred.</u></p> <p><u>Please note, that the Draft EIA public participation review period ended on 04 August 2023 (Please see attached communication). The EIA Report was finalised and submitted to the DFFE on 17 August 2023. The Final EIA Report has been made available for public review from 18 August 2023 to 18 September 2023 as follows (Please see attached communication):</u></p> <table><tr><th><b>Area</b></th><th><b>Venue</b></th><th><b>Street Address</b></th><th><b>Contact No</b></th></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Komati</td><td>Komati Paypoint and Library</td><td>Cnr. Falcon Dr and Weaver St</td><td>013 295 3102</td></tr><tr><td>Komati Power</td><td>R35 Old Middelburg</td><td>013 295 9119</td></tr></table>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Street Address</b>	<b>Contact No</b>	Komati	Komati Paypoint and Library	Cnr. Falcon Dr and Weaver St	013 295 3102	Komati Power	R35 Old Middelburg	013 295 9119	<p><u>Appendix D of the PPP Report</u></p>
<b>Area</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Street Address</b>	<b>Contact No</b>											
Komati	Komati Paypoint and Library	Cnr. Falcon Dr and Weaver St	013 295 3102											
	Komati Power	R35 Old Middelburg	013 295 9119											

Stakeholder Details	Comment	Response	Report Reference																			
	<p>- Enzyme Inhibition with associated metabolic effects,</p> <p>- Reduced Fertility ...</p> <p>Also see the measures adopted when handling Vanadium in this publication by the suppliers of Vanadium:</p> <p>(... suppliers of Vanadium for Batteries)</p> <p><a href="https://www.energy-storage.news/primary-vanadium-producers-flow-battery-strategies/">https://www.energy-storage.news/primary-vanadium-producers-flow-battery-strategies/</a></p> <div>  </div> <p>VFB Technology is not a feasible technology in South Africa given the past history of adopting toxic hazardous substances .</p> <p>If Vanadium Pentoxide is leaked or spilled into any water table it cannot be removed with unimaginable consequences.</p> <p>I will also inform FFE in case you do nothing.</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td><td>Station Entrance</td><td>Bethal Road</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Hendrina</td><td>Hendrina Public Library</td><td>44 Kerk St</td><td>013 293 0000</td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Middelburg</td><td>Eastdene Public Library</td><td>Verdoorn St</td><td>013 249 7275</td></tr> <tr> <td>Gerard Sekoto Library</td><td>Wanderers Avenue</td><td>013 249 7314</td></tr> <tr> <td>WSP Website</td><td colspan="3"><a href="https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents">https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</a></td></tr> </table> <p>Your comments on the BESS Technology is noted. Your comments will be included in our Comments and Responses Table which will be submitted to the DFFE. As noted in the Draft and Final EIAs, the technology for the BESS has not been confirmed as yet. A high-level Qualitative Risk Assessment will be undertaken if required, once the technology has been confirmed. The Environmental Management Programme will be updated to include any mitigation or management measures required. As indicated in the Draft and Final EIAs, the proposed layout and EMP are not finalised. Once the project</p>		Station Entrance	Bethal Road		Hendrina	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St	013 293 0000	Middelburg	Eastdene Public Library	Verdoorn St	013 249 7275	Gerard Sekoto Library	Wanderers Avenue	013 249 7314	WSP Website	<a href="https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents">https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</a>			
	Station Entrance	Bethal Road																				
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WSP Website	<a href="https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents">https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</a>																					



<u>Stakeholder Details</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<u>Thanks</u> <u>Best Regards</u> <u>Brendan</u>	layout has been finalised, the EMPr will be updated with appropriate mitigation measures, if required and will be submitted to the DFFE for approval. The EMPr will be subject to an additional 30 day public review process.	
<u>Brendan Young</u> <u>07 September 2023</u> <u>Email</u>	<u>Dear Megan</u>  <u>Please acknowledge the receipt of the email informing you of the server toxicity of the Vanadium Pentoxide Flow Batteries specifically identified as one of the types of Batteries to be installed on this project site with reference details below.</u>  <u>It is quite obvious that the Assessment of the Environmental Impact has not taken into consideration consequences of the large volumes of toxic materials (Vanadium Pentoxide) to be used and installed on this site.</u>  <u>For your reference please see attached the Material Safety Data sheet for Vanadium Pentoxide.</u>  <u>It is also my understanding from the details provided that the Environmental Impact Assessment needs to comply with World Bank requirements as they will be participating in the financing of the project.</u>  <u>Please also inform Eskom and the World Bank of these details and of my objection.</u>  <u><a href="https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents">https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</a></u>  <u>Title of Project: Eskom Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility in the Mpumalanga Province</u>  <u>Document on Public Display: Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report</u>	<u>It is noted that you are not a registered Interested and Affected Party on the Database. WSP has included you on the Project Database and you will therefore receive any future project notifications.</u>  <b><u>Your email dated 09 September 2023, regarding the server toxicity of the Vanadium Pentoxide Flow Batteries and your objection is referred.</u></b>  <u>It is acknowledge that the Safety Data Sheet provided does clearly indicate that for Vanadium(V) oxide: "Uses advised against food, drug, pesticide or biocidal product use", of which a battery storage is not one of these. Vanadium Redox Battery are so called flow batteries, which require mechanical systems (pumps, pipes, and tanks) and are inherently more complex than a solid-state battery and therefore often not the preferred technology. Typically the vanadium electrolytes are stored in separate large electrolyte tanks outside the cell stack and clearly these tanks must be composed of materials that are resistant to corrosion in the very low pH environment. However, it must be noted that the preferred technology has not been confirmed as yet, as noted in the Draft and Final EIAs. Once the project layout has been finalised,</u>	





<u>Stakeholder Details</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>Public Disclosure Dates: 18 August 2023 to 18 September 2023</u></p> <p><u>Contact Person: Megan Govender</u> <u>(Megan.Govender@wsp.com)</u></p> <p><u>Sincerely</u> <u>Brendan</u></p>	<p><u>the EMPr will be updated with appropriate mitigation measures, if required and will be submitted to the DFFE for approval. The EMPr will be subject to an additional 30 day public review process.</u></p> <p><u>Your objection on the use of Vanadium Pentoxide for the BESS Technology is noted and will be included in the Comments and Responses table to be submitted to the DFFE. Furthermore, this will be taken into consideration when identifying the preferred technology for the BESS.</u></p> <p><u>Kind Regards,</u></p>	
<p><u>Brendan Young</u></p> <p><u>13 September 2023</u></p> <p><u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>Dear Megan</u></p> <p><u>Thank you for the acknowledgment of my objection to the EIA, that arises due to the failure to assess the risk of using Vanadium Pentoxide based Flow Batteries in the proposed project.</u></p> <p><u>It is undoubtedly not possible to assess the impact on the environment that may be caused by a battery type you have not assessed, and not decided on.</u></p> <p><u>How can you make an assessment without considering the impact of the battery type that will require billions of litres of Vanadium Pentoxide when implemented.</u></p> <p><u>While you make reference to un-specified mitigations, I would like to point out that these are unknown and non-existent for the removal of Vanadium Pentoxide.</u></p>	<p><u>WSP Responded on 15 September:</u></p> <p><u>Good Morning Brendan</u></p> <p><u>Thank you for your email below.</u></p> <p><u>Your concerns regarding the use of Vanadium Pentoxide for the Battery Energy Storage Systems is noted and will be considered when determining the most appropriate technology to use.</u></p> <p><u>Kind Regards,</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D of the PPP Report</u></p>

<u>Stakeholder Details</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>I would like to make clear that there are no mitigations for spilling Vanadium Pentoxide into the water table by accident or force majeure.</u></p> <p><u>Yes, I am aware of your obligation to inform the Public through the Public Participation process.</u></p> <p><u>However, throughout this process I see no information informing the public as to the dangers and impact of Vanadium Pentoxide that you include as one of your proposed battery types.</u></p> <p><u>South Africa has past experience of such hazardous liquid chemical that cause cancer.</u></p> <p><u>I would also like to point out that PCP's in transformer oil were also stored in sealed and banded tanks and that this did not prevent environmental contamination and cancer.</u></p> <p><u><a href="https://www.cbn.co.za/industry-news/electrical-industry-contractors-s">https://www.cbn.co.za/industry-news/electrical-industry-contractors-s</a></u></p> <p><u>Sincerely</u></p> <p><u>Brendan Young</u></p>		
<b><u>Nkangala District Municipality</u></b>			
<p><u>Isaac Sidane</u></p> <p><u>20 August 2023</u></p> <p><u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>Good morning, Megan Govender</u></p> <p><u>I hope this e-mail finds you well.</u></p> <p><u>The Nkangala District Municipality environmental compliance team proposes to conduct a site inspection of the proposed project in order to provide a concise and thorough review on the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report.</u></p>	<p><u>WSP Responded on 29 August 2023:</u></p> <p><u>Good Morning Isaac</u></p> <p><u>Please can we have the site visit on 11 September 2023?</u></p> <p><u>Please send me the full names, contact details and ID numbers of all persons that will be in attendance.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D of the PPP Report</u></p>



<u>Stakeholder Details</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>Will the 01st of September 2023 be suitable for you and your client. Alternative dates may be the 29th of August 2023, 11th of September 2023 or the 12th of September 2023. Kindly revert back on the proposed dates.</u></p> <p><u>Please take note that we may be joined by the environmental management personnel from Steve Tshwete Local Municipality as well as our Local Government Support official from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. Your co-operation will be greatly appreciated.</u></p> <p><u>Warm regards</u></p> <p><u>Isaac B Sindane</u></p>	<p><u>Kind Regards,</u></p>	
<p><u>Isaac Sidane</u></p> <p><u>18 September 2023</u></p> <p><u>Email</u></p>	<p><u>Good afternoon, Megan</u></p> <p><u>Please find attached the NDM Comment Letter for the proposed Solar PV and BESS facility at Komati Power Station and Attendance Register</u></p> <p><u>Warm regards</u></p> <p><u>The Nkangala District Municipality (NDM) supports the proposed establishment of a Solar PV and BESS facility at the Komati Power Station based on the following factors:</u></p> <p><b><u>Air Quality Management</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>The operational phase of the facility will not result in potentially significant, detrimental point-source pollutant emissions into the atmosphere.</u></li><li><u>Measures have been proposed to control fugitive emissions (PM10 and PM2.5) associated with the project life cycle of the facility</u></li></ul>	<p><b><u>WSP Response:</u></b></p> <p><u>WSP acknowledges the Nkangala District Municipality (NDM) support of the proposed project.</u></p> <p><u>The factors noted are a true reflection of the EA Application put forward.</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D of the PPP Report</u></p>

<u>Stakeholder Details</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><b><u>Water Conservation, Water Management and Water Demand Management</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The water demand for the facility is significantly low and water will mostly be utilised for cleaning the solar panels.</li> <li>A buffer zone has been created for the wetland in proximity to the location of the proposed project and has been declared a no-go area during the project's life cycle.</li> <li>Komati Power Station has a storm water management plan in place to prevent erosion and sequent sedimentation of natural water resources (wetland).</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Waste Management</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designated waste management areas will be established during the construction phase of the project and waste generated will be collected and disposed of by the project proponent at a licensed waste landfill disposal site.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Biodiversity Management</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The identified Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) has been excluded from the project's Operational footprint and the wetland within the facility's property has been buffered and declared a no-go area. The project proponent has shown a commitment to sustainable development by adhering to the NEMA Principle stipulated in section 2(4)(a)(vii) of the National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998 by adopting a risk-averse and cautious approach through its Biodiversity Management Plan and Vegetation.</li> </ul>		

<u>Stakeholder Details</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>Management Plan which will control the proliferation of alien invasive species through the use non-toxic herbicides. This is an indication that the project proponent has put measures in place not to disturb the ecosystem and avoid loss of biological diversity as per section 2(4)(a)(i) of the National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>The impact on avian activity will be low, i.e. no impact on bird migration. The habitat for Grassland Owls will be intact within the buffered wetland (which has been declared no-go area during the project's life cycle).</u></li> <li><u>Vegetation will be allowed to grow in the area where the solar panels have been erected.</u></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Spatial Planning and Land use</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>The project proponent did not propose alternative sites for the solar panels because they have to be in close proximity to the power station. However, an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) has been developed to mitigate impacts resulting from environmental aspects during the project's lifecycle.</u></li> <li><u>The Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) will be established within the facility's operational footprint which is already transformed land.</u></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Socio-Economics</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>There is a need for the project because it will create 2700 temporary jobs during the constructional phase and 600 jobs during operational phase in which 40% (240 permanent) which be from the surrounding communities in close proximity to Komati Power Station.</u></li> </ul>		

<u>Stakeholder Details</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a desirability of the project because there will be an establishment of a community training centre for renewables. This provides a platform in pursuing opportunities in the renewable energy sector for the Nkangala Region.</li> </ul>		
	<p><b><u>Recommendations:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project proponent should adhere to the developed EMPr throughout the project lifecycle and share the monthly compliance audit reports, with Nkangala District Municipality, for the construction phase of the project.</li> </ul>	The required compliance monitoring reports will be submitted to Nkangala District Municipality, for the construction phase of the project.	-
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A precautionary principle approach must be adopted by the facility in regards to water quality management, i.e. there must be continuous water quality monitoring of the facility's storm water and wastewater effluent in order to determine and mitigate against any negative impacts on natural water resources.</li> </ul>	The Komati Power Station has an existing Water Use Licence (WUL). Conditions of the WUL include continuous water quality monitoring. A WUL Application is being applied for this project.	-
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There must be continuous implementation of the facility's Biodiversity and Vegetation Management Plan. The facility must take the necessary measures to control and minimise the proliferation of Alien Invasive Species (AIS) as well as ensure the eradication of AIS in an environmentally sound manner as stipulated by the Alien and Invasive Species Regulations, 2014 (GNR. 598 GG 37885 of 1 August 2014).</li> </ul>	The EMPr includes a Re-Vegetation and Habitat Rehabilitation in Section 8.7. Mitigation and management measures include the compilation of a Rehabilitation Plan by an approved ecologist prior to the start of construction and decommissioning phases.	Section 8.7 of the Final EMPr.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project proponent should also investigate if there will be any aircraft (aviation) interferences caused by the solar panels.</li> </ul>	The proponent takes note of this. However, the area is not deemed to have high aircraft traffic. As per the Civil Aviation Site Sensitivity	Section 8.1.7 of the Final EIA Report



<u>Stakeholder Details</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
		Verification in Section 8.1.7 of the Final EIA Report, an airstrip was noted in the area however, historical photos show that there has been no active use or maintenance of runways in the past 6 years. The aerodrome is thus considered unserviceable by general aviation. Therefore, the sensitivity is considered to be low. Furthermore, The relevant Authorities (i.e. ATNS and SACAA) have been included on the project stakeholder database.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Eskom (SOC) Limited Komati Power Station, through its Corporate Social Responsibility Programme, should include the community members of Blinkpan and the surrounding communities in its Value Chain in order to promote the development of Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises SMME).</u></li> </ul> <p><u>Should you have any enquiries, please contact the above-mentioned officer.</u></p> <p><u>Yours faithfully,</u></p> <p><u>ET ZULU</u></p>	<u>The Komati Power Station is establishing an information centre where all information on available jobs and opportunities will be shared.</u>	
<b><u>DFFE: Biodiversity</u></b>			
<u>MMatlala Rabothata</u> <u>02 October 2023</u> <u>Email</u>	<p><u>Dear Sir/ Madam,</u></p> <p><u>Kindly find the attached comments from Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation for your implementation</u></p> <p><u>Regards</u></p> <p><u>Ms Mmatlala Rabothata</u></p> <p><u>Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment</u></p>	<p><b><u>WSP Response:</u></b></p> <p><u>The comments received from the DFFE Biodiversity are responded to below:</u></p>	=



<u>Stakeholder Details</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>Dear Sir/Madam</u></p> <p><u>COMMENTS ON THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR PV FACILITY, BESS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE</u></p> <p><u>The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation (BC) reviewed and evaluated the report.</u></p> <p><u>Based on the information provided in the report, the layout has been optimized based on the findings of the terrestrial and aquatic specialist studies. The layout now excludes the CBA area located within Solar PV Site B and excludes the Seep 1 wetland (including 33m buffer) located within the Solar PV Site A. Accordingly, large portions of the Local Study Area are under built infrastructure or are highly modified</u></p> <p><u>Four wetlands have been identified to occur within 500m of the proposed project development namely, channelled valley bottom wetland, two isolated seepage wetlands (Seep 1 and Seep 2), and depression wetland.</u></p> <p><u>According to the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES), small portions of land to the immediate north and south-east of the local study area are designated as Priority Focus Areas, while other small patches designated as Priority Focus Areas are scattered across the broader landscape (SAPAD, 2021).</u></p> <p><u>The National Web Based Screening Tool indicated that the local study area is an area of 'Medium Sensitivity' for plant species, with three sensitive features potentially present, namely <i>Pachycarpus suaveolens</i>, Sensitive Species 41 and</u></p>	<p><u>The statement made by the DFFE are a true reflection of the contents of the Final EIA Report.</u></p>	

<u>Stakeholder Details</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>Sensitive Species 691. The study area present suitable habitat for the flagged species.</u></p>		
	<p><u>Given the above, the following measures are recommended and must be included in the Environmental Authorisation (EA):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Page 55 of the Terrestrial Biodiversity Report under the mitigation measures says “the loss of natural habitat, particularly CBA Optimal land, is an impact that cannot be fully mitigated through standard mitigation and rehabilitation measures. A biodiversity offset strategy should therefore be developed and implemented for the proposed Project. Whereas, the EAP’s response on Page 80 of the Stakeholder Engagement Report says the Applicant has revised the project layout to avoid the CBA area within Solar PV Site B and avoid the Seep 1 Wetland within Solar PV Site A. The requirement for a Biodiversity Offset Plan is therefore no longer applicable as these areas will not be developed on. It is required that clarity must be provided as to whether Biodiversity Offset Strategy is still applicable or not.</u></li> </ul>	<p><u>The conclusion of the Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist is included in Section 11.2.5 of the Final EIA Report which states that “The loss of natural habitat through vegetation clearing, particularly the land designated as CBA Optimal in the north-west corner of the LSA, is an impact of concern that cannot be fully mitigated through standard mitigation options. If Eskom intend to clear this area of vegetation and develop infrastructure then it will therefore be necessary for a biodiversity offset strategy to be developed and implemented. If, however, this CBA Optimal area is avoided and regarded as a ‘no-go’ area for infrastructure development, then a biodiversity offset will not be required.”</u></p> <p><u>Therefore, as the CBA Optimal area is avoided as indicated on the optimised layout (Figure 11-1 and Figure 11-2), a Biodiversity Offset Plan is not required.</u></p>	<p><u>Section 11.2.5 of the Final EIA Report</u></p> <p><u>Figure 11-1 and Figure 11-2 of the Final EIA Report</u></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Biodiversity Offset Strategy must be developed and submitted for review and approval if offset is still applicable for the development.</u></li> </ul>	<p><u>A biodiversity Offset Strategy is not required.</u></p>	<p><u>-</u></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Due to the invasion of the Priority Focus Areas, as per the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES), the Directorate BC recommended during the Draft Environmental Impact Report stage that comments must be obtained from the DFFE Directorate: Protected Areas Planning and</u></li> </ul>	<p><u>As stated, in the response to the comments on the Draft EIA Report, comments from the DFFE Directorate: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness (TNethononda@environment.gov.za) were</u></p>	<p><u>Appendix D of the PPP Report</u></p>

<u>Stakeholder Details</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>Management Effectiveness at email: TNethononda@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr. Thivhulawi Nethononda and comments were not obtained. The comments must still be obtained from the relevant section.</u></p>	<p><u>requested however no comments have been received to date.</u></p> <p><u>Mr Nethononda is registered on the Stakeholder Database and has been sent all project updates. Furthermore, a direct request was sent to Mr Nethononda on 07 August 2023 requesting comment however no response was received.</u></p> <p><u>WSP has requested comment from Mr Nethononda again on 03 October 2023 and has cc'd MMatlala Rabothata from the DFFE Biodiversity Directorate.</u></p> <p><u>Proof of Correspondence is provided in Appendix D of the PPP Report.</u></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>The final sensitivity Layout Map overlaid with sensitivities and indicating the final footprint for the proposed development avoiding environmentally sensitive areas must be submitted.</u></li> </ul>	<p><u>The final sensitivity layout Map overlaid with sensitivities and indicating the final footprint for the proposed development avoiding environmentally sensitive areas was submitted as Figure 11-2 of the Final EIA Report and included in Appendix E of the Final EIA Report.</u></p>	<p><u>Figure 11-2 of the Final EIA Report</u></p> <p><u>Appendix E of the Final EIA Report</u></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>The sensitive habitats in close proximity to the development footprint must be avoided or demarcated as No-Go area (i.e., CBA and Wetlands).</u></li> </ul>	<p><u>A no-go map was submitted as Figure 11-3 of the Final EIA Report and included in Appendix E of the Final EIA Report.</u></p>	<p><u>Figure 11-3 of the Final EIA Report</u></p> <p><u>Appendix E of the Final EIA Report</u></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>The species of conservation concern must be identified and located so that they may be avoided as much as possible. However, in cases whereby</u></li> </ul>	<p><u>The impact of the loss of flora SCC is included in Section 9.5 of the Final EIA. Mitigation measures include:</u></p>	

<u>Stakeholder Details</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<p><u>avoiding is not possible, relevant permits from the relevant authorities must be obtained for any disturbance of such species.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Surveys of each development footprint should be conducted to identify and record the number of flora SCC that require rescue and relocation;</u></li> <li><u>Based on the findings of the SCC survey, application(s) for rescue and relocation permits should be submitted to the relevant authority.</u></li> <li><u>No vegetation clearing or rescue and relocation operations should be allowed until the correct permits have been obtained; and</u></li> <li><u>Rescued plants should be relocated to an adjacent area of similar natural habitat, and correctly cared for after relocation until such a time as out-planting has been deemed successful.</u></li> </ul> <p><u>These mitigation measures are included in the EMPr.</u></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>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.</u></li> </ul>	<p><u>A Re-Vegetation and Habitat Rehabilitation Plan has been included in Section 8.7 of the Final EMPr which states: "Re-vegetation of disturbed surfaces must occur immediately after construction activities are completed. This must be done through seeding with suitable crop or locally indigenous species typical of the representative botanical unit."</u></p>	<p><u>Section 8.7 of the Final EMPr</u></p>



<u>Stakeholder Details</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Report Reference</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: <a href="mailto:BCAdmin@environment.gov.za">BCAdmin@environment.gov.za</a> for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota.</li></ul> <p><u>Yours faithfully,</u> <u>Mr Seoka Lekota</u></p>	<u>WSP confirms that Seoka Lekota from the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation will continue to receive project updates.</u>	-



# Appendix D.2

**ORIGINAL COMMENTS RECEIVED**



## Govender, Megan

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**From:** Govender, Megan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 15 June 2022 15:08  
**To:** Debbie Wessels  
**Subject:** RE: Komati Power station Solar  
**Attachments:** 41103965\_20220606\_Eskom\_Komati PV and BESS\_BID.pdf

Good Day Debbie

I can confirm that you have been added as an I&AP to the database. Please find the BID attached as requested.

Kind Regards,  
**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant  
WSP in Africa

T +27 011 361 1300  
F +27 11 361 1301

**From:** Debbie Wessels  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 15 June 2022 14:59  
**To:** Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>  
**Subject:** Komati Power station Solar

Good afternoon Megan

With reference to the EIA and WULA for the solar photovoltaic and battery energy storage system facility at the Komati Power Station in Mpumalanga.

Please could I be registered as I&AP and if I could get a copy of the BID?

Looking forward to hearing from you.

--

Kind Regards  
**Debbie Wessels | Content Regulator**



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## Govender, Megan

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**From:** Mags Mahlangu   
**Sent:** Sunday, 05 February 2023 16:28  
**To:** ZA - GLD - PPOffice  
**Subject:** Public participation

Good afternoon

I am Moti Mahlangu from Komati village would like to submit my details to be included in participation in the process of Komati Power Station

My contact number:

Kind regards  
MM Mahlangu

## Govender, Megan

---

**From:** Thamsanqa Mkhonza [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, 20 February 2023 22:28  
**To:** ZA - GLD - PPOffice  
**Cc:** R Baker; Noeleen Greyling; Charl Harding  
**Subject:** RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - Draft Scoping Report Review

Hi Tumelo,

I hope my email finds you well.

We would like to register as stakeholders interested in making comments.

Company: Impact Catalyst  
Representations:

- Thami Mkhonza
- Rory Baker
- Noeleen Greyling
- Charl Harding

Regards,  
Thami

---

**From:** Charl Harding [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2023 1:36 PM  
**To:** Thamsanqa Mkhonza [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - Draft Scoping Report Review

Please see below

---

**From:** Govender, Megan <[Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2023 10:04 AM  
**To:** ZA - GLD - PPOffice <[gld.PP@wsp.com](mailto:gld.PP@wsp.com)>  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - Draft Scoping Report Review

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [megan.govender@wsp.com](mailto:megan.govender@wsp.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Stakeholder

### **NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Notice is given in terms of

- Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) for submission of various applications for environmental authorisations (EAs) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended)
- Section 39 or 41(4) of the National Water Act (36 of 1998) (NWA), for the submission of a General Authorisation (GA) or Water Use Licence (WUL) Application (as applicable)

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (Eskom) proposes to establish a solar electricity generating facility at the Komati Power Station. The proposed Solar Photovoltaic (PV) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities will be developed on farm Komati Power Station No 56 IS in Ward 4, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. The proposed Solar PV, BESS and associated infrastructure require an environmental authorisation (EA) and water use authorisation in terms of National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA), associated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended and National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998 (NWA) respectively. Due to the nature of the project thresholds, Eskom is required to follow a Scoping & EIA process and Water Use licence Application (WULA) to acquire the necessary authorisations prior to the commencement of the proposed project.

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) was appointed by Eskom to manage the permitting process. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Projects are requested to forward their full contact details to the Social Consultant at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

#### DRAFT SCOPING REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Environmental Scoping Report will be made available from WSP on request and/or at the venues below for review and comment for 30 days from **03 February 2023 to 06 March 2023**.

Area	Venue	Street Address	Contact No
Komati	Komati Paypoint and Library	Cnr. Falcon Dr and Weaver St	013 295 3102
	Komati Power Station Entrance	R35 Old Middelburg Bethal Road	013 295 9119
Hendrina	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St	013 293 0000
Middelburg	Eastdene Public Library	Verdoorn St	013 249 7275
	Gerard Sekoto Library	Wanderers Avenue	013 249 7314
WSP Website	<a href="https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents">https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</a>		

The contact details of the Social Consultant are:

Name: Tumelo Mathulwe  
 Tel: 011 254 4800  
 Email: [gld.pp@wsp.com](mailto:gld.pp@wsp.com)  
 Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

**Protection of Personal Information:** WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I&AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I&AP and storing of your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP will use these details to contact you about other relevant projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database.

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



**Megan Govender**  
 Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300



WSP in Africa  
 Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand  
 1685 South Africa

[wsp.com](http://wsp.com)

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WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Office: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand, Gauteng, 1685, South Africa  
Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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## Govender, Megan

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**From:** Govender, Megan  
**Sent:** Monday, 06 February 2023 07:43  
**To:** Charity Mthimunye  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - Draft Scoping Report Review

Good Morning Charity

I have added yourself and Ms. Dineo Tswai to our database. I have also sent you both a link to One Drive to download the Draft Scoping Report. Please use this link:

☐ Eskom Komati PV and BESS Draft Scoping Report

Please note you will also receive a separate email with the link to the one drive. This link will then request a verification number which will automatically be sent to your email address – if it doesn't seem to come through please check your "spam" folder.

If you have any issues or would prefer a hard copy of the report please let me know.

Kind Regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Charity Mthimunye <cnmthimunye@mpg.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 03 February 2023 12:42  
**To:** Sindy Mbuyane [REDACTED]  
<Megan.Govender@wsp.com>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - Draft Scoping Report Review

Good Afternoon Mr. Govender

The below e-mail is noted from Ms. Sindisiswe Mbuyane. You are therefore welcome to submit your documents in our offices and we can be contacted on: (013) 880 1080 /(078) 086 3395.

Kind Regards  
Charity

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>>> Sindy Mbuyane 2023/02/03 11:28 >>>

Good day Megan Govender,

Thank you for the email.

Komati Power Station falls within the Nkangala District Municipality. For issues relating to it or any Nkangala projects kindly sent to Ms. Dineo Tswai and Ms. Charity Mthimunya both managers at the Witbank office (copied herein), they will assist and guide you going forward.

I am responsible for Gert Sibande District.

Kind Regards,

Sindisiwe Mbuyane

>>> "Govender, Megan" <[Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com)> 02/03/23 10:08 AM >>>

Dear Commenting Authority

#### **NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

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#### **DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD**

The Draft Environmental Scoping Reports have been made available for 30 days from 03 February 2023 to 06 March 2023 on the WSP website and via a One Drive Link for download.

One Drive -  Eskom Komati PV and BESS Draft Scoping Report

WSP website - <https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents>

Please note that you will receive a separate email with the link to the one drive. This link will then request a verification number which will automatically be sent to your email address – if it doesn't seem to come through please check your "spam" folder.

The contact details of the Social Consultant are:

Name: Tumelo Mathulwe  
Tel: 011 254 4800  
Email: [gld.pp@wsp.com](mailto:gld.pp@wsp.com)  
Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

**Protection of Personal Information:** WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I&AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I&AP and storing of your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP will use these details to contact you about other relevant projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database.

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300



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1685 South Africa

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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

## Govender, Megan

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**From:** Ephron Maradwa  
**Sent:** Thursday, 02 February 2023 13:48  
**To:** Govender, Megan  
**Cc:** Trisha Rene Pillay; EIAAdmin; Salome Mambane  
**Subject:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298 [Filed 02 Feb 2023 13:55]

Dear Megan

14/12/16/3/3/2/2298

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOLLOWING A SCOPING ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.**

The Department confirms having received the Application form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 02 February 2023. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.

### **EIA Applications**

Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

**Please note that this email is for the receipt and processing of online applications only, and is not monitored for responses. All queries must be directed to [EIAAdmin@dffe.gov.za](mailto:EIAAdmin@dffe.gov.za).**

**You are advised that this mailbox has a 48 hour response time.**

*Please note that this mailbox has a 5mb mail limit. No zip files are to be attached in any email.*



## Govender, Megan

---

**From:** Govender, Megan  
**Sent:** Monday, 06 February 2023 07:18  
**To:** Nicole Loser  
**Cc:** Brandon Abdinor; Ntombi Maphosa; Michelle Cruywagen; Yegeshni Moodley; Thomas Mnguni  
**Subject:** RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - Draft Scoping Report Review

Good Morning Nicole

I have added the people below onto our stakeholder database. They will still be able to access the documents from one of the methods stated in the email below. However, if there are any issues with accessing the documents, please let me know.

I have also removed your email address from the database. If you would like me to add you on with another email please let me know.

Kind Regards



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

**From:** Nicole Loser  
**Sent:** Friday, 03 February 2023 14:35  
**To:** Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>

**Subject:** RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - Draft Scoping Report Review

Hi Megan

Could you add the following people to this mailing list please?

Brandon Abdino  
Ntombi Maphos  
Thomas Mnguni  
Michelle Cruywa  
Yegeshni Moodl

Please also note that I will no longer be working at the CER as from 1 March 2023, and therefore no longer contactable on this email address from the end of this month.

Kind regards

Nicole Loser  
Attorney and Programme Head: Pollution & Climate Change  
Centre for Environmental Rights NPC  
A non-profit company with registration number 2009/020736/08

**From:** Govender, Megan <[Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, 03 February 2023 10:04

**To:** ZA - GLD - PPOffice <[gld.PP@wsp.com](mailto:gld.PP@wsp.com)>

**Subject:** NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - Draft Scoping Report Review

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [megan.govender@wsp.com](mailto:megan.govender@wsp.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Stakeholder

## **NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Notice is given in terms of

- Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) for submission of various applications for environmental authorisations (EAs) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended)
- Section 39 or 41(4) of the National Water Act (36 of 1998) (NWA), for the submission of a General Authorisation (GA) or Water Use Licence (WUL) Application (as applicable)

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (Eskom) proposes to establish a solar electricity generating facility at the Komati Power Station. The proposed Solar Photovoltaic (PV) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities will be developed on farm Komati Power Station No 56 IS in Ward 4, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. The proposed Solar PV, BESS and associated infrastructure require an environmental authorisation (EA) and water use authorisation in terms of National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA), associated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended and National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998 (NWA) respectively. Due to the nature of the project thresholds, Eskom is required to follow a Scoping & EIA process and Water Use licence Application (WULA) to acquire the necessary authorisations prior to the commencement of the proposed project.

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) was appointed by Eskom to manage the permitting process. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the Proposed Projects are requested to forward their full contact details to the Social Consultant at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

### **DRAFT SCOPING REVIEW PERIOD**

The Draft Environmental Scoping Report will be made available from WSP on request and/or at the venues below for review and comment for 30 days from **03 February 2023 to 06 March 2023**.

Area	Venue	Street Address	Contact No
Komati	Komati Paypoint and Library	Cnr. Falcon Dr and Weaver St	013 295 3102
	Komati Power Station Entrance	R35 Old Middelburg Bethal Road	013 295 9119
Hendrina	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St	013 293 0000
Middelburg	Eastdene Public Library	Verdoorn St	013 249 7275
	Gerard Sekoto Library	Wanderers Avenue	013 249 7314



The contact details of the Social Consultant are:

Name: Tumelo Mathulwe  
Tel: 011 254 4800  
Email: [gld.pp@wsp.com](mailto:gld.pp@wsp.com)  
Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

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We look forward to your participation in this process.

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**Megan Govender**  
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## Govender, Megan

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**From:** Kamogelo Mathetja  
**Sent:** Monday, 06 February 2023 12:29  
**To:** Govender, Megan  
**Cc:** MMatlala Rabothata; Kamogelo Mathetja  
**Subject:** RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - Draft Scoping Report Review

Dear Sir/Madam

DDFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the project mentioned on the subject line. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Mrs M Rabothata and Mr K Mathetja (Both copied on this email). In addition, kindly share the shapefiles of the development footprints/application site with the Case Officers.

Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota

Regards,  
Kamogelo

---

**From:** Govender, Megan <[Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2023 10:03 AM  
**To:** ZA - GLD - PPOffice <[gld.PP@wsp.com](mailto:gld.PP@wsp.com)>  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - Draft Scoping Report Review

Dear Commenting Authority

### **NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Notice is given in terms of

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The Draft Environmental Scoping Reports have been made available for 30 days from 03 February 2023 to 06 March 2023 on the WSP website and via a One Drive Link for download.

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WSP website - <https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents>

Please note that you will receive a separate email with the link to the one drive. This link will then request a verification number which will automatically be sent to your email address – if it doesn't seem to come through please check your "spam" folder.

The contact details of the Social Consultant are:

Name: Tumelo Mathulwe  
Tel: 011 254 4800  
Email: [gld.pp@wsp.com](mailto:gld.pp@wsp.com)  
Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

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We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300



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## Govender, Megan

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**From:** Govender, Megan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 07 February 2023 07:34  
**To:** Natasha Higgitt  
**Subject:** RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - Draft Scoping Report Review

Good Morning Natasha

The Draft Scoping Report and Heritage Report has been uploaded and submitted to SAHRIS, including the Proof of Payment. The case ID is: 20607.

We typically include SAHRA on our stakeholder database and as such you will receive emails regarding the project development and the availability of reports for review but all reports will be uploaded to SAHRIS for comment.

Kind Regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300  
M +27 083 228 5288

---

**From:** Natasha Higgitt <nhiggitt@sahra.org.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 06 February 2023 10:09  
**To:** Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>  
**Subject:** RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - Draft Scoping Report Review

Good day,

Please note that all development applications are processed via our online portal, the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) found at the following link: <http://sahra.org.za/sahris/>. We do not accept emailed, posted, hardcopy, faxed, website links or DropBox links as official submissions.

Please create **an application on SAHRIS** and upload all documents pertaining to the Environmental Authorisation Application Process. As per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA), an assessment of heritage resources must form part of the process and the assessment must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA. If a case already exists on SAHRIS regarding the development, please upload the documents to that case.

Once all documents including all appendices are uploaded to the case applications, please ensure that the status of the case is changed from DRAFT to SUBMITTED. Please ensure that all documents produced as part of the EA process are submitted as part of the application.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\***

An application fee is now required for all section 38 applications. Please ensure that the SAHRIS application contains a proof of payment as per the notice at the following link: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/content/what-are-sahra-processing-fees-and-banking-details>. A payment of R 2 000.00 for this application is required. Applications that do not include a proof of payment will be considered incomplete and will not be processed until proof of payment is provided.

**From:** Nokukhanya Khumalo

**Sent:** Friday, 03 February 2023 12:18

**To:** Natasha Higgitt

**Subject:** FW: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - Draft Scoping Report Review

---

**From:** Govender, Megan <[Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, 03 February 2023 10:03

**To:** ZA - GLD - PPOffice <[glD.PP@wsp.com](mailto:glD.PP@wsp.com)>

**Subject:** NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - Draft Scoping Report Review

Dear Commenting Authority

**NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

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WSP website - <https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents>

Please note that you will receive a separate email with the link to the one drive. This link will then request a verification number which will automatically be sent to your email address – if it doesn't seem to come through please check your "spam" folder.

The contact details of the Social Consultant are:

Name: Tumelo Mathulwe  
Tel: 011 254 4800  
Email: [gld.pp@wsp.com](mailto:gld.pp@wsp.com)  
Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

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We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300



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**Nokukhanya Khumalo**

Heritage Officer: Archaeology, Palaeontology &  
Meteorites Unit



T:  
M:  
E:



A: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town, 8001,  
Western Cape, ZA  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

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SAHRA PRIVACY POLICY



## Natasha Higgitt

Heritage Officer: Archaeology, Palaeontology and  
Meteorites Unit



T:

M:

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A: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town, 8001,  
Western Cape, ZA

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SAHRA PRIVACY POLICY

## **Govender, Megan**

**From:** Lydia Kutu  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 01 March 2023 10:35  
**To:** Chifadza, Tutayi; 'deidre.herbst@eskom.co.za'; 'mbuyanesb@mpg.gov.za'  
**Cc:** Trisha Rene Pillay; EIAAdmin; Salome Mambane  
**Subject:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298  
**Attachments:** 14-12-16-3-3-2-2298.pdf

Good day.

Please find herein the attached letter for the above mentioned.

**Please do not respond to this mailbox with any queries related to the decision been issued. All queries on the attached decision must be directed to official whose contact details is listed as enquiries.**

I hope you find all in order.

Thank you.

Kind Regards,  
Lydia Kutu  
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:  
Priority Infrastructure Developments

*To God be the Glory!!!*



## 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, Arcadia, · PRETORIA

**DFFE Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298

**Enquiries:** Ms Trisha Pillay

**Telephone:** (012) 399 9406 **E-mail:** TPillay@dffe.gov.za

Mr Tutayi Chifadza  
WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd  
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park  
Magwa Crescent West  
Waterfall City  
**MIDRAND**  
1685

**Telephone Number:** (011) 361 1390  
**Email Address:** Tutayi.Chifadza@wsp.com

### PER E-MAIL

Dear Mr Chifadza

### **COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION IN MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

The Application for Environmental Authorisation and the draft Scoping Report (SR) dated January 2023 and received by the Department on 02 February 2023, refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the final SR:

#### **(a) Specific Comments**

- (i) The co-ordinates in the SR must be specific to each activity and infrastructure that is proposed on the site. The co-ordinates for each corner of the solar fields, substations and battery energy storage systems (BESS) must be included in the report, i.e., we require that you provide us with the specific development footprints for each development parameter, and not an area outlining the entire site.
- (ii) Please provide a concise, but complete, summary and bullet list of the project description and associated infrastructure (or project scope). This must include a list of all development components and associated infrastructure.
- (iii) Kindly ensure the development footprints (hectares/square metres) and specifications of all proposed infrastructure and associated infrastructure during all phases are included in the final SR.
- (iv) Kindly take note that when finalising the layout plan the position of all proposed infrastructure and linear activities, which includes but not limited to the following must be illustrated:
  - Solar fields;
  - Construction camp laydown areas;
  - Substations;
  - Internal roads;
  - Battery energy storage systems (BESS);

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- Operation and maintenance buildings; and
- Power lines.
- (v) The final SR must clearly provide a detailed section which addresses the site sensitivity verification requirements where a specialist assessment is required but no specific assessment protocol has been prescribed, as well as the site sensitivity verification and minimum report content requirements for all specialist assessments undertaken, which were included in the screening tool report.
- (vi) Further to the above take note that a site sensitivity verification report should be included in the final SR which can be undertaken by either an EAP or specialist, which must clearly confirm or dispute the environmental sensitivity as identified in the screening tool report for each theme.
- (vii) According to the Terrestrial Biodiversity Report (Appendix G-5) Critical Biodiversity Area occurs at the west of the proposed site, that is largely covering the portion proposed for the establishment of the solar PV Site B (Figure 4). Kindly take note that according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan, 2015, PV farms and solar arrays are not compatible land-use activities to be undertaken in areas classified as CBA. Therefore, the mitigation hierarchy should be applied in full, and a Biodiversity Offset should be considered to ensure that significant residual impacts of the development are remedied.

## **(b) Listed Activities**

- (i) Kindly take note that the activity listed in the application form and the draft SR as Activity 15 (ii) of Listing Notice 2 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended "*Activity 15(ii) The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation. (ii) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres.*" Is quoted incorrectly as Activity 15 of Listing Notice 2 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended makes no reference to reserves. Please ensure that all applicable activities are applied for in the final SR and quoted correctly as listed in the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- (ii) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.
- (iii) The listed activities represented in the SR, and the application form must be the same and correct.
- (iv) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted.
- (v) Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms>.

## **(c) Layout & Sensitivity Maps**

- (i) The final SR must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.
- (ii) Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:
  - a) A clear indication of the envisioned area for the proposed solar fields;
  - b) Position of the solar panels;
  - c) Power lines;
  - d) Internal roads;
  - e) All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house and control room etc. (existing and proposed);
  - f) Substations, transformers, switching stations and inverters;
  - g) Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS);
  - h) Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;
  - i) All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads; and
  - j) Buildings.

- (iii) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:
  - a) The location of sensitive environmental features identified on site, e.g. CBAs, protected areas, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
  - b) Buffer areas; and
  - c) All “no-go” areas.
- (iv) The above layout map must be superimposed (overlain) with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring and existing infrastructure.
- (v) Google maps will not be accepted.

#### **(d) Alternatives**

- (i) Please provide a description of any identified alternatives for the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity as per Appendix 2 of GN R.982 of 2014 (as amended).
- (ii) Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2.

#### **(e) Public Participation Process**

- (i) Comments must be obtained from this Department’s Biodiversity Conservation Directorate at BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za.
- (ii) Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR, including comments from this Department, and must be incorporated into a Comments and Response Report (CRR).
- (iii) Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- (iv) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- (v) A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “Noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP’s comments.
- (vi) The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development.

#### **(f) Specialist Assessments**

- (i) All Specialists Curriculum Vitae and Declaration of Interest forms must be signed by the relevant specialists and attached to the final SR. The Declaration of Interest forms are available on the Department’s website (please use the Department’s template).
- (ii) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies include the following:
  - a) A detailed description of the study’s methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint (solar arrays) and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.

- b) Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.
- c) Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.
- d) Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Department's definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.
- e) **Bird specialist studies must have support from Birdlife South Africa.**
- f) **All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.**
- g) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
- (iii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expert advice.
- (iv) Please ensure that all mitigation recommendations are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines.
- (v) It is further brought to your attention that 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, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.
- (vi) As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.
- (vii) Please also ensure that the final SR includes the Site Verification Report as required by the relevant environmental themes and assessments.
- (viii) Please note further that the protocols, if applicable, require certain specialists' to be SACNASP registered. Please ensure that the relevant specialist certificates are attached to the relevant reports.

#### **(g) Cumulative Assessment**

- (i) Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:
  - a) Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
  - b) Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
  - c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
  - d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

**(h) General**

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:

*“If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority”*

You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



**Ms Milicent Solomons**

**Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**

**Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**

**Signed by: Mr Coenrad Agenbach**

**Designation: Deputy Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects**

**Date: 01 March 2023**

cc:	Deidre Herbst	Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd	Email: Deidre.Herbst@eskom.co.za
	Sindisiwe Mbuyane	MDARDLEA	Email: mbuyanesb@mpg.gov.za



**Annexure 1**

Format for Comments and Response Report:

<b>Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&amp;AP,</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist</b>
27/03/2021 Email Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Priority Infrastructure Projects (Joe Soap)	Please record C&R trail report in this format.  Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority.	EAP: (Noted) The C&R trail report has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K.  EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form.

## **Govender, Megan**

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**From:** MMatlala Rabothata  
**Sent:** Monday, 06 March 2023 10:13  
**To:** Chifadza, Tutayi  
**Subject:** DSR FOR KOMATI POWER STATION PV FACILITY  
**Attachments:** Signed Comments on Komati Power Station Solar PV.pdf

Good Afternoon,

Please receive the attached comments from Directorate :Biodiversity Conservation for your attention and implementation.

Regards  
Ms Mmatlala Rabothata  
Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment  
Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Road  
Arcadia  
**PRETORIA**  
0083

Job 19: "But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives



Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt  
Tel: 021 202 8660  
Email: [nhiggitt@sahra.org.za](mailto:nhiggitt@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 20607

Date: Friday March 10, 2023  
Page No: 1

## Interim Comment

### In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Ms Deidre Herbst  
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd  
P O Box 1091  
JOHANNESBURG  
2000

### **The proposed establishment of a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station, Mpumalanga Province**

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd have been appointed by Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed construction of a solar photovoltaic and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at the Komati Power Station, near Komati, Mpumalanga Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) was submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA EIA Regulations (As amended). The proposed development will include the construction of PV panels, overhead or underground cabling between components, collector substations, access roads, BESS, perimeter roads, meteorological station, operation and maintenance building, warehouse and workshop, hazardous chemical store, security building, parking areas and roads, temporary laydown areas, temporary concrete batching plant, construction camp and onsite substations within an application area of 200 – 250 ha.

Dr Heidi Fourie and APelser Archaeological Consulting have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process in terms of section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

*Fourie, H. 2022. Eskom Komati Power Station Solar PV and BESS ESIA: Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Phase 1 Field Study*

The proposed development area is underlain by the Vryheid Formation that may contain plant fossils, aquatic

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt  
Tel: 021 202 8660  
Email: [nhiggitt@sahra.org.za](mailto:nhiggitt@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 20607

Date: Friday March 10, 2023  
Page No: 2

reptiles, fossil fish and insects. A field assessment will be undertaken.

*Pelser, A. 2022. A desktop Heritage Impact Assessment Report for the Eskom Komati Power Station Solar PV ESIA*

The proposed PV facility will be located in areas that have been heavily disturbed and therefore the likelihood of in-situ heritage resources is low. It is recommended that a site visit be undertaken.

## Interim Comment

The SAHRA notes the submitted heritage reports and awaits further heritage reports during the EIA phase. As portions of the Komati Power Station are older than 60 years, the HIA must consider the historical structures associated with the Komati Power Station and any historical structures in the surrounding residential areas that may be impacted by the proposed development.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the EIA and associated appendices.

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

Yours faithfully

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Natasha Higgitt  
Manager: Development Applications Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt  
Tel: 021 202 8660  
Email: [nhiggitt@sahra.org.za](mailto:nhiggitt@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 20607

Date: Friday March 10, 2023  
Page No: 3

## ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/612483>  
(DFFE, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298)

## **Govender, Megan**

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**From:** Ephron Maradwa <EMaradwa@dffe.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 17 March 2023 13:20  
**To:** Govender, Megan  
**Cc:** Trisha Rene Pillay; Salome Mambane; EIAAdmin  
**Subject:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298

Dear Megan

14/12/16/3/3/2/2298

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.**

The Department confirms having received the Updated Application Form and final Scoping Report for the abovementioned project on 16 March 2023. You have submitted these documents to comply with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

**Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.**

Yours sincerely

**EIA Applications**

Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

**Please note that this email is for the receipt and processing of online applications only, and is not monitored for responses. All queries must be directed to [EIAAdmin@dffe.gov.za](mailto:EIAAdmin@dffe.gov.za).**

**You are advised that this mailbox has a 48 hour response time.**

*Please note that this mailbox has a 5mb mail limit. No zip files are to be attached in any email.*

Regards

Mr. Ephron Maradwa

**Administrative Officer: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

473 Steve Biko Road

PRETORIA



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





## 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, Arcadia· PRETORIA

**DFFE Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298

**Enquiries:** Trisha Pillay

**Telephone:** (012) 310 9406 **E-mail:** TPillay@dfffe.gov.za

Mr Tutayi Chifadza  
WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd  
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park  
Magwa Crescent West  
Waterfall City  
**MIDRAND**  
1685

**Telephone Number:** (011) 361 1390  
**Email Address:** Tutayi.Chifadza@wsp.com

### PER E-MAIL

Dear Mr Chifadza

### **ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION IN MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated March 2023 and received by the Department on 16 March 2023, refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated March 2023 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The final SR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the EIAR:

#### **(a) Specific Comments**

- (i) The co-ordinates in the EIAR must be specific to each activity and infrastructure that is proposed on the site. The co-ordinates for each corner of the solar fields, the substation, BESS, power line route, and laydown areas must be included in the EIAR, i.e., we require that you provide us with the specific development footprints for each development parameter, and not an area outlining the entire site.
- (ii) Please provide a concise, but complete, summary and bullet list of the project description and associated infrastructure (or project scope) to be included in the decision (or as it should appear in the

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decision), should a positive Environmental Authorisation be granted. This must include a list of all development components and associated infrastructure.

- (iii) Kindly ensure the development footprints (hectares/square metres) and specifications of all proposed infrastructure and associated infrastructure during all phases are included in the EIAr.
- (iv) According to the Terrestrial Biodiversity Report (Appendix G-5) Critical Biodiversity Areas occur at the western portion of the proposed site, that is largely covering the portion proposed for the establishment of the solar PV Site B (Figure 4). Kindly take note that according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan, 2015, PV farms and solar arrays are not compatible land-use activities to be undertaken in areas classified as CBA. Therefore, the mitigation hierarchy should be applied in full, and a Biodiversity Offset should be considered to ensure that significant residual impacts of the development are remedied.
- (v) Further to the above, the Aquatic Biodiversity Report (Appendix G-9) Page 36 stipulates *“Site establishment and construction of the proposed project infrastructure, particularly PV Site A which overlaps with Seep 1, could lead to the permanent loss of wetland habitat within the project footprint. This impact has a high probability of occurrence and a high impact consequence. The impact significance is of High significance prior to the implementation of mitigation measures and can be reduced to a Medium significance with the application of recommended mitigation measures. Significant residual impacts (Medium/High) will need to be addressed via modification of the final layout to ensure that wetland loss is avoided, or design of an appropriate offset for unavoidable habitat loss.”* Kindly take note that the mitigation hierarchy should be applied in full and where significant residual impacts remain a Biodiversity Offset should be considered.

#### **(b) Listed Activities**

- (i) The EIAr must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.
- (ii) The listed activities represented in the EIAr and the application form must be the same and correct.
- (iii) The EIAr must assess the correct sub listed activity for each listed activity applied for.

#### **(c) Public Participation**

- (i) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAr. This includes but is not limited to the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (MDARDLEA), the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, the Nkangala District Municipality, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), BirdLife SA, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation.
- (ii) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR and draft EIAr from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final EIAr. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- (iii) A Comments and Response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAr. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP’s comments.
- (iv) Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.
- (v) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

#### **(d) Layout & Sensitivity Maps**

- (i) The EIAr must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site and all proposed infrastructure (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.
- (ii) The EIAr must provide a copy of the final preferred layout map. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g., roads. The layout map must indicate the following:
  - a) A clear indication of the envisioned area for the proposed solar fields;
  - b) Internal roads;
  - c) All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house and control room etc.;
  - d) Substations, transformers, switching stations and inverters;
  - e) Battery Energy Storage System;
  - f) Power line route (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network; and
  - g) All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads.
- (iii) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:
  - a) The location of sensitive environmental features identified on site, e.g. CBAs, protected areas, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines, nesting and roosting sites, etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
  - b) Buffer areas; and
  - c) All “no-go” areas.
- (iv) The above layout map must be superimposed (overlain) with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring and existing infrastructure.
- (v) Google maps will not be accepted.

#### **(e) Specialist assessments**

- (i) The specialists Scoping Reports included in the final SR failed to include an Avifaunal Scoping Report. According to the Terrestrial Biodiversity Report (Page 26-27) two red listed bird species are expected to occur on the site, namely the Saddle-billed Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*) which is listed as Endangered (EN) and the Secretary bird (*Sagittarius serpentarius*) listed as Vulnerable (VU). During the avifauna scoping site visit conducted on 17 June 2022, habitats with potential to support African Grass Owl were mapped (Figure 10). Based on the above and the final SR an Avifaunal Assessment must be included in the EIAr to assess the impacts of the development on the avifaunal species present on site and recommend mitigation measures.
- (ii) Detailed technical specifications of the proposed 132kV power line must be included in the EIAr, such as pylon type, number of pylons, pylons spacing (mean and maximum), pylon height (lowest, mean and height) and conductor attachment height (mean). The pylon design must also incorporate bird friendly designs.
- (iii) Please provide a detailed description as well as any associated assessments related to the technology required for the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in the EIAr.
- (iv) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:
  - a) A detailed description of the study’s methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.
  - b) Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.
  - c) Please note that the Department considers a ‘no-go’ area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the ‘no-go’ areas.

- d) Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Department's definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.
- e) **All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.**
- f) **Bird specialist studies must have support from Birdlife South Africa.**
- g) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
- (v) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expert advice.
- (vi) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting in identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols") and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. **Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.**
- (vii) Please also ensure that the EIAR includes the Site Verification Report and Compliance Statements (where applicable) as required by the relevant themes.
- (viii) Please note further that the protocols, if applicable, require certain specialists' to be SACNASP registered. Please ensure that the relevant specialist certificates are attached to the relevant reports.
- (ix) As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.
- (x) The following Specialist Assessments will form part of the EIAR:
  - Surface Water Impact Assessment;
  - Groundwater Impact Assessment;
  - Soil Impact Assessment;
  - Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment
  - Avifauna Assessment;
  - Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment;
  - Heritage Impact Assessment;
  - Palaeontological Impact Assessment;
  - Visual Impact Assessment;
  - Traffic Impact Assessment; and
  - Social Impact Assessment.
- (xi) Please ensure that each specialist study has the correct and same project description and layout to assess.
- (xii) Please include a table that shows the proposed studies and the relevant specialists carrying out the study. In addition, a summary should be included of the specialist's recommendations in terms of the alternatives that are preferred based on the findings of their study.

#### **(f) Cumulative Assessment**

- (i) As there are other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, a cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be conducted and must indicate the following:
  - a) Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
  - b) Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in

the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.

- c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
- d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

**(g) General**

- (i) The EIAr must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions. A sample for the minimum information required is listed under Annexure 2 below.
- (ii) The EAP must provide landowner consent for all farm portions affected by the proposed project i.e., all farm portions where the solar field and associated infrastructure are to be located.
- (iii) A construction and operational phase EMP that includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the final EIAr, including the Generic EMP for substations and power lines.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amendment, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully



**Mr Sabelo Malaza**

**Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**

**Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**

**Signed by: Mr Coenrad Agenbach**

**Designation: Deputy Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects**

**Date: 03 May 2023**

cc:	Deidre Herbst	Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd	Email: Deidre.Herbst@eskom.co.za
	Sindisiwe Mbuyane	Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs	Email: mbuyanesb@mpg.gov.za

**Annexure 1: Format for Comments and Response Trail Report**

<b>Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&amp;AP</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist</b>
27/01/2016 Email Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Priority Infrastructure Projects (John Doe)	Please record C&R trail report in this format  Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority	EAP: (Noted) The C&R trail report has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K  EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form

**Annexure 2: Sample of technical details for the proposed facility**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Description / dimensions</b>
Location of the site	
The total area of the site	
Total disturbance footprint	
Maximum generation capacity for facility	
Height of PV panels	
Capacity of on-site substation and footprint	
Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and footprint	
Cables and Overhead Power line	
Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas	
Length of internal roads	
Width of internal roads	

## Govender, Megan

---

**From:** Phumla Nkosi [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 March 2023 15:39  
**To:** Govender, Megan; Frans Krige  
**Cc:** Thabile Mnisi  
**Subject:** RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - Final Scoping Report Submission to DFFE



Good Day Megan

Thank you, We have received and registered the document.

Kind Regards  
Phumla

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---

**From:** Govender, Megan [mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 23, 2023 3:03 PM

**To:** [redacted]

**Subject:** RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - Final Scoping Report Submission to DFFE

Good Day Frans

Please note we have sent the report via courier and have added MTPA as an IAP to the database.

Kind Regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300  
[redacted]

---

**From:** Frans Krige <Frans.Krige@mtpa.co.za>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 21 March 2023 20:45

**To:** Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>

**Cc:** Thabile Mnisi <Thabile.Mnisi@mtpa.co.za>; Phumla Nkosi <Phumla.Nkosi@mtpa.co.za>



**Subject:** RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - Final Scoping Report Submission to DFFE



Please register the MTPA as an IAP and send a hard copy to Thabile Mnisi at Nelspruit.

Kind Regards

Frans Krige

LUAS

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---

**From:** Govender, Megan [<mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 9:50 AM

**To:** ZA - GLD - PPOffice <[gld.PP@wsp.com](mailto:gld.PP@wsp.com)>

**Cc:** Strong, Ashlea <[Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com](mailto:Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com)>; Chifadza, Tutayi <[Tutayi.Chifadza@wsp.com](mailto:Tutayi.Chifadza@wsp.com)>

**Subject:** NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - Final Scoping Report Submission to DFFE

Dear Commenting Authority

**NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

This notification is to inform you that the Final Environmental Scoping Report for the Proposed establishment of a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station, Mpumalanga Province (DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298 ) was submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) on 16 March 2023 for their review and decision-making.

The Final Scoping Report has been made available on the WSP website for your information:

WSP website - <https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents>

The contact details of the Social Consultant are:

Name: Tumelo Mathulwe  
Tel: 011 254 4800  
Email: [gld.pp@wsp.com](mailto:gld.pp@wsp.com)  
Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

**Protection of Personal Information:** WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I&AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I&AP and storing of your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP will use these details to contact you about other relevant projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database.

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

Tel: 011 254 4800



WSP in Africa  
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand  
1685 South Africa

[wsp.com](http://wsp.com)

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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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## Govender, Megan

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**From:** Jacobus Van Heerden [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, 17 March 2023 11:30  
**To:** Govender, Megan  
**Cc:** Alichea Spammers  
**Subject:** RE: Komati Project

Hi Megan ,

I would appreciate it a lot if you can add me to the stakeholder database.

Thank you very much for your support.

Regards.

**Cobus Van Heerden**  
Site Manager  
Secunda

[redacted]  
[www.eazi.co.za](http://www.eazi.co.za)



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**From:** Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 17, 2023 10:49 AM  
**To:** Jacobus Van Heerden [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Komati Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Day Cobus

WSP has been appointed to undertake the environmental authorisation process for the Komati Solar Project which is expected to be completed in March 2024. We have just submitted the Final Scoping Report to the DFFE. I can add you to our stakeholder database if you would like so you can receive updates on the progress of the environmental authorisation process?

Unfortunately I have no information with regards to the tendering process.

Kind Regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

**From:** Jacobus Van Heerden

**Sent:** Friday, 17 March 2023 10:38

**To:** Govender, Megan <[Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com)>

**Subject:** Komati Project

Hi Megan ,

I trust you are well ? I would like to find out on the progress on Komati Power station solar project ?

We need some information if you have any available ? How do we tender for this project ?

Your guidance is appreciated.

Regards

**Cobus Van Heerden**  
Site Manager  
Secunda

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## Govender, Megan

---

**From:** Govender, Megan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 22 March 2023 09:41  
**To:** Reuben Maroga  
**Cc:** ZA - GLD - PPOffice; Strong, Ashlea; Chifadza, Tutayi  
**Subject:** RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - Final Scoping Report Submission to DFFE  
**Attachments:** Eskom Project Area.kml

Good Day Reuben

Please see attached as requested.

Kind Regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

**From:** Reuben Maroga  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 21 March 2023 11:44  
**To:** Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>  
**Cc:** ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.PP@wsp.com>; Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>; Chifadza, Tutayi <Tutayi.Chifadza@wsp.com>  
**Subject:** Re: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - Final Scoping Report Submission to DFFE

Hi Megan,

I hope you are well.

Would you kindly share the KML illustrating the proposed development?

Your feedback will be highly appreciated.

Best Regards

**Reuben Maroga**  
Permitting Specialist

SOLA



On Mon, Mar 20, 2023 at 10:03 AM Govender, Megan <[Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com)> wrote:

Dear Stakeholder

## NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

This notification is to inform you that the Final Environmental Scoping Report for the Proposed establishment of a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station, Mpumalanga Province (DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298 ) was submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) on 16 March 2023 for their review and decision-making.

The Final Scoping Report has been made available on the WSP website for your information:

WSP website - <https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents>

The contact details of the Social Consultant are:

Name: Tumelo Mathulwe  
Tel: 011 254 4800  
Email: [gld.pp@wsp.com](mailto:gld.pp@wsp.com)  
Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

**Protection of Personal Information:** WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I&AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I&AP and storing of your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP will use these details to contact you about other relevant projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database.

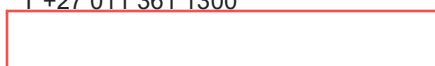
We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300







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## Govender, Megan

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**From:** Ephron Maradwa <EMaradwa@dffe.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 05 July 2023 11:27  
**To:** Govender, Megan  
**Cc:** Trisha Rene Pillay; EIAAdmin; Lydia Kutu  
**Subject:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298

Dear Megan.

14/12/16/3/3/2/2298

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOLLOWING A SCOPING ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.**

The Department confirms having received the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Amended Application Form for the abovementioned project on 04 July 2023. You have submitted these documents to comply with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that *“Potential or registered interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in subregulation (1) prior to submission of an application but must be provided with an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the competent authority.”*

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7) of these Regulations.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

**Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.**

### **EIA Applications**

Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

**Please note that this email is for the receipt and processing of online applications only, and is not monitored for responses. All queries must be directed to [EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za](mailto:EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za).**

**You are advised that this mailbox has a 48 hour response time.**

*Please note that this mailbox has a 5mb mail limit. No zip files are to be attached in any email*



## 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, Arcadia,· PRETORIA

**DFFE Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298

**Enquiries:** Ms Trisha Pillay

**Telephone:** (012) 399 9406 **E-mail:** TPillay@dffe.gov.za

Ms Ashlea Strong  
WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd  
Building 1, Golder House  
Maxwell Office Park  
Magwa Crescent West  
Waterfall City  
**MIDRAND**  
1685

**Telephone Number:** (011) 361 1392  
**Email Address:** Ashlea.strong@wsp.com

### PER E-MAIL

Dear Ms Strong

### **COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION IN MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) received by the Department on 02 February 2023 and 04 July 2023, respectively, refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the final EIAR:

#### **(a) Specific comments**

- (i) The co-ordinates in the EIAR must be specific to each activity and infrastructure that is proposed on the site. The co-ordinates for each corner of the solar fields, the substation, BESS, power line route, and laydown areas must be included in the EIAR, i.e., we require that you provide us with the specific development footprints for each development parameter, and not an area outlining the entire site.
- (ii) Please provide a concise, but complete, summary and bullet list of the project description and associated infrastructure (or project scope) to be included in the decision (or as it should appear in the decision), should a positive Environmental Authorisation be granted. This must include a list of all development components and associated infrastructure.
- (iii) Kindly ensure the development footprints (hectares/square metres) and specifications of all proposed infrastructure and associated infrastructure during all phases are included in the EIAR.
- (iv) The final EIAR must clearly provide a detailed section which addresses the site sensitivity verification requirements where a specialist assessment is required but no specific assessment protocol has been prescribed, as well as the site sensitivity verification and minimum report content requirements for all specialist assessments undertaken, which was included in the screening tool report. Kindly take note that this should be in the form of a report and should either confirm or dispute the sensitivity ratings for

JCA

each theme identified by the screening tool report. Please refer to 1. Site sensitivity verification and minimum report content requirements of the Protocol document.

- (v) A motivation must be provided in the final EIAR as to why particular studies that were identified in the screening tool were not undertaken.
- (vi) In the acceptance of the Scoping Report dated 03 May 2023, the Department has made the EAP aware of the requirement of an Avifaunal Study due to the findings of the Avifaunal Scoping Report, please see comment below:

*"According to the Terrestrial Biodiversity Report (Page 26-27) two red listed bird species are expected to occur on the site, namely the Saddle-billed Stork (Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis) which is listed as Endangered (EN) and the Secretary bird (Sagittarius serpentarius) listed as Vulnerable (VU). During the avifauna scoping site visit conducted on 17 June 2022, habitats with potential to support African Grass Owl were mapped (Figure 10). Based on the above and the final SR an Avifaunal Assessment must be included in the EIAR to assess the impacts of the development on the avifaunal species present on site and recommend mitigation measures."*

The EAP has responded by stipulating a Terrestrial Animal Species Report has been included in the draft EIAR. Kindly take note that the Terrestrial Animal Species Report (Appendix H7) does not assess the avifauna on site. Furthermore, on Page 10 of the Terrestrial Animal Species Report the specialist states *"Separate bird and bat specialist studies have been conducted for the proposed Project. This report should be read in conjunction with the Terrestrial Biodiversity and Plant Species Specialist Assessment report, and the specialist bird and bat specialist studies."* Therefore, it is unclear as to where the avifauna has been assessed and by what specialist as there are discrepancies and inconsistencies in this regard throughout the report. Please take note that an Avifaunal Specialist Study is required and should be included in the final EIAR.

- (vii) Based on the recommendations made by the EAP in the draft EIAR and the findings of the specialist reports stated below, a Biodiversity Offset Plan must be submitted in the final EIAR.

- According to the Terrestrial Biodiversity & Plant Specialist Report (Appendix H-8) Critical Biodiversity Areas occur at the western portion of the proposed site, that is largely covering the portion proposed for the establishment of the solar PV Site B (Figure 5). Kindly take note that according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan, 2015, PV farms and solar arrays are not compatible land-use activities to be undertaken in areas classified as CBA. Therefore, the mitigation hierarchy should be applied in full, and a Biodiversity Offset should be considered to ensure that significant residual impacts of the development are remedied.
- Page 59 of the Terrestrial Biodiversity & Plant Specialist Report stipulates *"Notwithstanding the reduction in impact significance resulting from the application of mitigation (refer to Section 13 for recommended mitigation measures), there will still be a loss of natural habitat, including land designated as CBA Optimal, associated with the proposed Project. In light of this, in order to achieve the IFC PS6 requirement of 'no net loss' of natural habitat, a biodiversity offset will be required."* The specialist's goes further on to stipulate *"A biodiversity offset strategy should be investigated and implemented for the loss of natural habitat, specifically CBA Optimal land, within the proposed development footprints."*
- Further to the above, the Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment (Appendix H-9) Page 41 stipulates *"Site establishment and construction of the proposed project infrastructure, particularly PV Site A which overlaps with Seep 1, will lead to the permanent loss of wetland habitat within the project footprint. The significance of the direct loss of wetland habitat and disturbance of adjacent wetland habitats is High due to outright loss of wetland habitat at this site, as although site based in extent, the duration of the impact is permanent, and outright loss cannot be mitigated. Assuming that the predicted wetland loss cannot be avoided through changes in site layout, the loss will remain as an impact of High significance post-mitigation. Additional measures will be required to address significant residual impacts i.e., compensate or offset the permanent loss of wetland habitat."*

There is currently no Biodiversity Offset Plan included in the draft EIAR. Kindly ensure a Biodiversity Offset Plan is included in the final EIAR that complies with the GNR. 3569 Biodiversity Offset Guideline.

- (viii) Comments must be obtained from this Department's Biodiversity Conservation Directorate at BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za.
- (ix) You are further reminded that the final EIAR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of the EIAR in accordance with Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

## **(b) Listed Activities**

- (i) The listed activities applied for in the amended application form and the draft EIAR have been quoted incorrectly, as they refer to the exclusion criteria of each activity in the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended. The following discrepancies were noted with regards to the activities applied for in the amended application form and the draft EIAR:
  - "Activity 1 (a) of Listing Notice 2"-Refers to "The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more, excluding where such development of facilities or infrastructure is for photovoltaic installations and occurs- (a) within an urban area." The activity should be listed as Activity 1 of Listing Notice 2.
  - "Activity 15 (ii) of Listing Notice 2"- Refers to "The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan." The activity should be listed as Activity 15 of Listing Notice 2.

Kindly ensure all activities applied for in the application form and the final EIAR are applicable to the proposed development and are quoted correctly as per the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- (i) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. Only activities applicable to the development must be applied for and assessed.
- (ii) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final EIAR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms>.
- (iii) It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the environmental impact assessment process as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of numerous GN R. 985 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.

## **(c) Layout & Sensitivity Maps**

- (i) The final EIAR must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.
- (ii) **The EIAR must provide a copy of the final preferred site layout map for the Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System facilities and associated infrastructure, as determined by the detailed engineering phase and micro-siting, and all mitigation measures.** All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map, **including the findings and recommendations made by the specialists.** Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g., roads. The layout map must indicate the following:
  - a) A clear indication of the envisioned area for the proposed solar field;
  - b) Internal roads;
  - c) All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house and control room etc.;
  - d) Battery Energy Storage System;
  - e) Substations, transformers, switching stations and inverters;
  - f) Power line route (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;

- g) All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads; and
- h) Buildings, including accommodation.
- (iii) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:
  - a) The location of sensitive environmental features identified on site, e.g. CBAs, protected areas, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
  - b) Buffer areas; and
  - c) All “no-go” areas.
- (iv) The above layout map must be superimposed (overlain) with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring and existing infrastructure.
- (v) Google maps will not be accepted.

#### **(d) Specialist Declaration of Interest**

- (i) Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must be attached to the final EIAR. You are therefore requested to submit original signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms for each specialist study conducted. The forms are available on Department’s website (please use the Department’s template).

#### **(e) Specialist Assessments**

- (i) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:
  - a) A detailed description of the study’s methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.
  - b) Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.
  - c) Please note that the Department considers a ‘no-go’ area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the ‘no-go’ areas.
  - d) Should the specialist definition of ‘no-go’ area differ from the Department’s definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the ‘no-go’ area’s buffer if applicable.
  - e) **All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.**
  - f) **Bird studies must have support from Birdlife South Africa.**
  - g) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
- (ii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
- (iii) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting in identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”) and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. **Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.**
- (iv) Please also ensure that the final BAR includes the Site Verification Report and Compliance Statements (where applicable) as required by the relevant themes.
- (v) Please note further that the protocols, if applicable, require certain specialists’ to be SACNASP registered. Please ensure that the relevant specialist certificates are attached to the relevant reports.

- (vi) As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.

**(f) Cumulative Assessment**

- (i) The cumulative impacts of all intended activities must be assessed together, which include the facility and its supporting infrastructure (including the grid connection infrastructure e.g. the power line and substations even if separate applications have been lodged for these).
- (ii) Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:
- Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
  - Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
  - The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
  - A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

**(g) Undertaking of an Oath**

- (i) Please note that the final EIAr must have an undertaking under oath/ affirmation by the EAP.
- (ii) Based on the above, you are therefore required to include an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP (administered by a Commissioner of Oaths) as per Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that the EIAr must include:
- "an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to:*
- the correctness of the information provided in the reports;*
  - the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs;*
  - the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and*
  - any information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested and affected parties".*

**(h) Details and Expertise of the EAP**

- (i) You are required to include the details and expertise of the EAP in the EIAr, including a curriculum vitae, in order to comply with the requirements of Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

**(i) Public Participation Process**

- (i) The final EIAr must comply with all the conditions of the acceptance of the SR signed on 03 May 2023 and must address all comments contained in the final SR, the draft EIAr and this letter.
- (ii) Kindly note the newspaper advert and the site notice document included in the Stakeholder Engagement Report (Appendix D) are illegible. Please include clear copies of the documents that are legible in the final EIAr.
- (iii) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.



- (iv) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAr. This includes but is not limited to the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (MDARDLEA), the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, the Nkangala District Municipality, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), BirdLife SA, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation.
- (v) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR and draft EIAr from registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and organs of state (including this Department's Biodiversity and Protected Area Sections), as listed in your I&APs Database, and others that have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the final EIAr and are incorporated into a Comments and Response Report (CRR).
- (vi) Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are submitted to the Department with the final EIAr.
- (vii) Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. In terms of Regulation 41(2)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, please provide proof of written notice for the availability of the EIAr for comment.
- (viii) The CRR report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter.
- (ix) Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments.
- (x) Minutes and attendance registers (where applicable) of any physical/virtual meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the final EIAr.

**(j) Environmental Management Programme**

- (i) The EIAr must include a final EMPr with measures, as dictated by the final site layout plan and micro-siting, and the recommendations of the EIAr. The EMPr must include the following if applicable:
  - a) Open Space Management Plan
  - b) Watercourse and Wetland Management Plan
  - c) Faunal Relocation Plan
  - d) Botanical Search and Rescue
  - e) Site Clearing Plan
  - f) Rehabilitation and Landscape Management Plan
  - g) Alien Vegetation Management Plan
  - h) Fire Management Plan
  - i) Traffic, Transportation and Road Maintenance Management Plan
  - j) Waste Management Plan
  - k) Emergency Response Plan
  - l) A storm water and wash water management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. The plan must ensure compliance with applicable regulations and prevent off-site migration of contaminated storm water or increased soil erosion. The plan must include the construction of design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off;
  - m) An erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the facility. Erosion mitigation must form part of this plan to prevent and reduce the risk of any potential erosion. This plan must ensure to include drainage features that will be infilled and or excavated;

- n) All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAr and the specialist reports as included in the EIAr; and,
  - o) The final site layout plan.
  - q) An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process.
- (ii) In addition to the above, the EMPr must comply with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- (iii) It is drawn to your attention that for substation and overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, when such facilities trigger activity 11 or 47 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended, and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, the generic Environmental Management Programme, contemplated in the Regulations must be used and submitted with the final report over and above the EMPr for the facility.

### **General**

The EIAr must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions. A sample of the minimum information required is listed under Annexure 2 of the EIA information required for solar energy facility as requested in the acceptance of the SR.

Please also ensure that the final EIAr includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required and the date on which the activity will be concluded as per Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 23(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that: *"The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority -*

*(a) an environmental impact assessment report inclusive of any specialist reports, an EMPr, a closure plan in the case of a closure activity and where the application is a mining application, the plans, report and calculations contemplated in the Financial Provisioning Regulations, which must have been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority."*

Should there be significant changes or new information that has been added to the EIAr or EMPr which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process, you are required to comply with Regulation 23(1)(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states: *"The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority – (b) a notification in writing that the documents contemplated in subregulation 1(a) will be submitted within 156 days of acceptance of the scoping report by the competent authority or where regulation 21(2) applies, within 156 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the documents, which changes or information was not contained in the original documents consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in subregulation (1)(a), and that the revised documents contemplated in subregulation 1(a) will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days"*.

Should you fail to meet any of the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 23 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, your application will lapse.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



**Mr Sabelo Malaza**

**Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**

**Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**

**Signed by: Mr Coenrad Agenbach**

**Designation: Deputy Director: Prioritised Infrastructure Projects**

**Date:** 02 August 2023

cc:	Deidre Herbst	Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd	Personal information redacted as per POPIA Requirements
	Sindisiwe Mbuyane	Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs	

**Annexure 1: Format for Comments and Response Trail Report**

<b>Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&amp;AP</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist</b>
27/01/2016 Email Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries: Priority Infrastructure Projects (John Doe)	Please record C&R trail report in this format  Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority	EAP: (Noted) The C&R trail report has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K  EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form

**Annexure 2: Sample of technical details for the proposed facility**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Description / dimensions</b>
Location of the site	
The total area of the site	
Total disturbance footprint	
Maximum generation capacity for facility	
Height of PV panels	
Capacity of on-site substation and footprint	
Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and footprint	
Cables and Overhead Power line	
Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas	
Length of internal roads	
Width of internal roads	

## Govender, Megan

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**From:** Govender, Megan  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 July 2023 09:52  
**To:** Kamogelo Mathetja  
**Cc:** MMatlala Rabothata  
**Subject:** RE: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Eskom Komati PV and BESS Draft EIAR - Public Review" with you.

Good Day Kamogelo

Please use the WeTransfer link to download the reports and kmz. File.

Download link

<https://we.tl/t-NgcUJT9cdb>

Please confirm successful download of the reports.

Kind Regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Personal information redacted as per POPIA Requirements

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**From:** Kamogelo Mathetja  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 3:48 PM  
**To:** Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>  
**Cc:** MMatlala Rabothata  
**Subject:** RE: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Eskom Komati PV and BESS Draft EIAR - Public Review" with you.

Personal information redacted as per POPIA Requirements

Personal information redacted as per POPIA Requirements

Dear Megan,

The link does not open since it does not recognise our email addresses,

Regards,

---

**From:** Kamogelo Mathetja <KMathetja@dffe.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 July 2023 15:45  
**To:** Megan.Govender@wsp.com  
**Cc:** MMatlala Rabothata <MRABOTHATA@dffe.gov.za>; Kamogelo Mathetja <KMathetja@dffe.gov.za>  
**Subject:** RE: Govender, Megan shared the folder "Eskom Komati PV and BESS Draft EIAR - Public Review" with you.

Dear Sir/Madam

DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the project mentioned on the subject line. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Mrs M Rabothata and Mr K Mathetja (Both copied on this email). In addition, kindly share the shapefiles of the development footprints/application site with the Case Officers.

Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email:  
[BCAdmin@environment.gov.za](mailto:BCAdmin@environment.gov.za) for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota

Regards,  
Kamogelo

---

**From:** Govender, Megan <[Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 5, 2023 10:46 AM

Personal information redacted as per POPIA Requirements

**Subject:** Govender, Megan shared the folder "Eskom Komati PV and BESS Draft EIAr - Public Review" with you.



## Govender, Megan shared a folder with you

Here's the folder that Govender, Megan shared with you.



[Eskom Komati PV and BESS Draft EIAr - Public Review](#)



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## Govender, Megan

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**From:** Govender, Megan  
**Sent:** Monday, 31 July 2023 08:18  
**To:** Kamogelo Mathetja; ZA - GLD - PPOffice; Strong, Ashlea  
**Subject:** RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - DRAFT EIR PUBLIC REVIEW  
**Attachments:** MBSP\_MTPA\_2019\_export.shx; MBSP\_MTPA\_2019\_export.cpg; MBSP\_MTPA\_2019\_export.dbf; MBSP\_MTPA\_2019\_export.prj; MBSP\_MTPA\_2019\_export.sbn; MBSP\_MTPA\_2019\_export.sbx; MBSP\_MTPA\_2019\_export.shp; MBSP\_MTPA\_2019\_export.shp.xml

Good Day Kamogelo

Please see attached 2019 shapefiles for the 2019 MBSP.

Kind Regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Personal information redacted as per POPIA Requirements

**From:** Kamogelo Mathetja  
**Sent:** Friday, July 28, 2023 3:17 PM  
**To:** Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>; ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.PP@wsp.com>; Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>  
**Subject:** RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - DRAFT EIR PUBLIC REVIEW

Dear Colleagues,

Kindly share the 2019 Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan as referenced in the report.

Regards,  
Kamogelo

---

**From:** Govender, Megan <[Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 5, 2023 10:47 AM  
**To:** ZA - GLD - PPOffice <[gld.PP@wsp.com](mailto:gld.PP@wsp.com)>  
**Cc:** Strong, Ashlea <[Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com](mailto:Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com)>  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - DRAFT EIR PUBLIC REVIEW

Dear Commenting Authority

### NOTICE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

This notification is to inform you that the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the Proposed establishment of a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station, Mpumalanga Province (DFFE Reference:

14/12/16/3/3/2/2298 ) has been made available for public review for 30 days from **05 July 2023 to 04 August 2023** as follows:

Area	Venue	Street Address	Contact No
Komati	Komati Paypoint and Library	Cnr. Falcon Dr and Weaver St	013 295 3102
	Komati Power Station Entrance	R35 Old Middelburg Bethal Road	013 295 9119
Hendrina	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St	013 293 0000
Middelburg	Eastdene Public Library	Verdoorn St	013 249 7275
	Gerard Sekoto Library	Wanderers Avenue	013 249 7314
WSP Website	<a href="https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents">https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</a>		

The report has also been made available at the link below easy access:

One Drive Link	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Eskom Komati PV and BESS Draft EIAR - Public Review</a>
One Drive Instruction	Please note that you will receive a separate email with the link to the one drive. This link will then request a verification number which will automatically be sent to your email address – if it doesn't seem to come through please check your “spam” folder

The contact details of the Social Consultant are:

Name: Tumelo Mathulwe  
 Tel: 011 254 4800  
 Email: [gld.pp@wsp.com](mailto:gld.pp@wsp.com)  
 Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

**Protection of Personal Information:** WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I&AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I&AP and storing of your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP will use these details to contact you about other relevant projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database.

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



**Megan Govender**  
 Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1410



WSP in Africa  
 Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand  
 1685 South Africa

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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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## forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, 0002 Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: + 27 86 625 1042

**Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298

**Enquiries:** Ms P Makitla / Mr K Mathetja

**Telephone:** (012) 399 9411 **E-mail:** [pmakitla@dffe.gov.za](mailto:pmakitla@dffe.gov.za)

Megan Govender  
WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd  
P.O. Box 98867  
**SLOANE PARK**  
2151

Telephone Number: (+ 27) 11 361 1392

Email Address: [megan.govender@wsp.com](mailto:megan.govender@wsp.com)

### PER E-MAIL

Dear sir/madam

### COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR PV FACILITY, BESS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation reviewed and evaluated the report.

Based on the information provided in the report, an area categorized as Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) Optimal, which overlaps with the proposed PV Site B development footprint is present in the north-west corner of the local study area. Further patches are present in the northern and eastern parts of the study area. These areas were delineated and classified as 'natural habitat' as they comprise viable assemblages of indigenous species and retain their primary ecological functions. However, according to the specialist, the loss of natural habitat through vegetation clearing, particularly the land designated as CBA Optimal of the local study area, is an impact of concern that cannot be fully mitigated through standard mitigation options. In order for the proposed project to meet the International Finance Corporation Performance Standard 6 (IFC PS6) financing requirement of 'no net loss' of natural habitat, it will therefore be necessary for a biodiversity offset strategy to be developed and implemented.

Four wetlands have been identified to occur within 500m of the proposed project development namely, channelled valley bottom wetland, two isolated seepage wetlands (Seep 1 and Seep 2), and depression wetland. According to the specialist, the proposed project infrastructure, particularly PV Site A which overlaps with seep 1, will lead to the permanent loss of wetland habitat within the project footprint. The significance of the direct loss of wetland habitat and disturbance of adjacent wetland habitats is High due to outright loss of wetland habitat at this site, as although site based in extent, the duration of the impact is permanent, and outright loss cannot be mitigated. Assuming that the predicted wetland loss cannot be avoided through changes in site layout, the loss will remain as an impact of High significance



**Batho pele-** putting people first

**COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED KOMATI POWER STATION  
SOLAR PV FACILITY, BESS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

post-mitigation. It is important to consider additional measures to address significant residual impacts i.e., compensate or offset the permanent loss of wetland habitat.

According to the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES), small portions of land to the immediate north and south-east of the local study area are designated as Priority Focus Areas, while other small patches designated as Priority Focus Areas are scattered across the broader landscape (SAPAD, 2021).

The National Web Based Screening Tool indicated that the local study area is an area of 'Medium Sensitivity' for plant species, with three sensitive features potentially present, namely *Pachycarpus suaveolens*, Sensitive Species 41 and Sensitive Species 691. The study area present suitable habitat for the flagged species.

Given the above, the Directorate Biodiversity Conservation does not support any development within highly sensitive areas that will result with high impacts rating post mitigation. However, the following measures are recommended:

- Biodiversity offset strategy must be developed and submitted with the final report for review and approval.
- The species of conservation concern must be identified and located so that they may be avoided as much as possible. However, in cases whereby avoiding is not possible, relevant permits from the relevant authorities must be obtained for any disturbance of such species.
- 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.
- Due to the invasion of the Priority Focus Areas, as per the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES), Comments from the DFFE Directorate: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness must be obtained at email: [TNethononda@environment.gov.za](mailto:TNethononda@environment.gov.za) for attention of Mr. Thivhulawi Nethononda
- Areas classified/rated medium to high site ecological importance on site must be avoided by the infrastructure. However, should the avoidance deem unlikely as the specialist mention and offset proposal option be considered, it is strongly advised that a Biodiversity Offset Report is prepared by a specialist, or specialists, with the appropriate skills and experience, in collaboration with the relevant authorities i.e., Mpumalanga Parks & Tourism. The report must be prepared in accordance with the 2023 National Biodiversity Offset Guideline published for implementation, under section 24J of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998).

All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: [BCAdmin@environment.gov.za](mailto:BCAdmin@environment.gov.za) for attention of **Mr Seoka Lekota**.

Yours faithfully



**Mr. Seoka Lekota**

**Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation**

**Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment**

**Date: 01/08/2023**

## Govender, Megan

---

**From:** Strong, Ashlea  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 01 August 2023 06:46  
**To:** Govender, Megan  
**Subject:** FW: MTPA Comments: LUA 23/3414 (2) Proposed Komati Power Station Solar Photovoltaic facility, battery energy storage systems (BESS) and Associated Infrastructure ESKOM Holdings on portion 0 of the Farm Komati Power Station 56 IS, Steve Thswete Local Mun  
**Attachments:** LUA23-3414(2) NoObj-  
Dft.EIAr\_ESKOM.Komati.PowerSEF\_KomatipiPowerStation.56.IS\_S.Tshwete.LM.pdf

FYI



**Ashlea Strong**  
Principal Associate

T +27 11 361-1392  
M +27 82 786-7819

---

**From:** Celia de Waal <celia.dewaal@mtpa.co.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 31, 2023 12:22 PM  
**To:** Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>  
**Cc:** Johan Eksteen <Johan.Eksteen@mtpa.co.za>; Thabile Mnisi <Thabile.Mnisi@mtpa.co.za>; Phumla Nkosi <Phumla.Nkosi@mtpa.co.za>; Karin Van Niekerk <Karin.VanNiekerk@mtpa.co.za>; Komilla Knarasoo <Komilla.Knarasoo@mtpa.co.za>; Frans Krige <Frans.Krige@mtpa.co.za>; Khumbelo Malele <Khumbelo.Malele@mtpa.co.za>  
**Subject:** MTPA Comments: LUA 23/3414 (2) Proposed Komati Power Station Solar Photovoltaic facility, battery energy storage systems (BESS) and Associated Infrastructure ESKOM Holdings on portion 0 of the Farm Komati Power Station 56 IS, Steve Thswete Local Municipi



Dear Ms. Strong

Kindly receive the MTPA's comments with recommendations, regarding your Environmental Impact Assessment:

- Proposed Komati Power Station Solar Photovoltaic facility, battery energy storage systems (BESS) and Associated Infrastructure ESKOM Holdings on portion 0 of the Farm Komati Power Station 56 IS, Steve Thswete Local Municipality.

Your Reference number: WSP ref no: 41103965 and DFFE ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298

Our reference number: LUA 23/3414 (2)

Kind regards

Celia de Waal



*Cecilia de Waal*

EIA Data Capturer LUA

Biodiversity Conservation: Scientific Services

Personal information redacted as per POPIA Requirements

**Disclaimer:**

All views or opinions expressed in this electronic message and its attachments are the views of the sender and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency. No employee of Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency is entitled to conclude a binding contract on behalf of the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency unless he/ she is an Accounting Officer of the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency, or his or her authorized representative. The information contained in this message and its attachments may be confidential or privileged and is for the use of the named recipient only, except where the sender specifically states otherwise. If you are not the intended recipient you may not copy or deliver this message to anyone.



## OFFICE OF THE CEO

Ref: LUA 23/3414 (2)  
Unit: LUA/SS  
Enquiries: F.N. Krige  
Tel/ Fax: 013 - 0650286  
E-Mail: [frans@mtpa.co.za](mailto:frans@mtpa.co.za)

**Attention:** Ms. A. Strong  
**WSP Group Africa (PTY)LTD**  
Building C  
P.O. Box 98867  
Sloane Park  
**JOHANNESBURG**  
12151

E-mail: [Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com](mailto:Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com)  
CC: [tpillay@dffe.gov.za](mailto:tpillay@dffe.gov.za)

Dear Ms. Strong

**SUBJECT: THE MTPA COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR LISTED ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS (BESS) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ESKOM HOLDINGS ON PORTION 0 OF THE FARM KOMATI POWER STATION 56 IS, STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY. MPUMALANGA. DFFE ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298.**

Your report with WSP reference no: 41103965, received in July 2023 refer.

### Background

Power Station reached its end-of-life stage in September 2022. The Eskom Holdings propose to construct and operate Renewable Energy Facilities (REF) to connect to the Komati Power Station as soon as possible. This includes a Solar Photovoltaics Energy Facility (SEF).

Komati

### Comments

The sensitivity of the proposed activity area was assessed according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP; MTPA, 2022). This sensitivity is assessed in terms of a terrestrial and freshwater assessment. In the MBSP, sensitive areas are identified in terms of *Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs)* and *Ecological Support Areas (ESAs)*.

The sensitivity concerns include small areas of *CBA optimal* areas, and *ESA Wetlands*. The specialist reports indicate that the terrestrial biodiversity areas are disturbed and degraded, and that the local study area are severely impacted. This is indicated in the MBSP Land Cover map, figure 1.

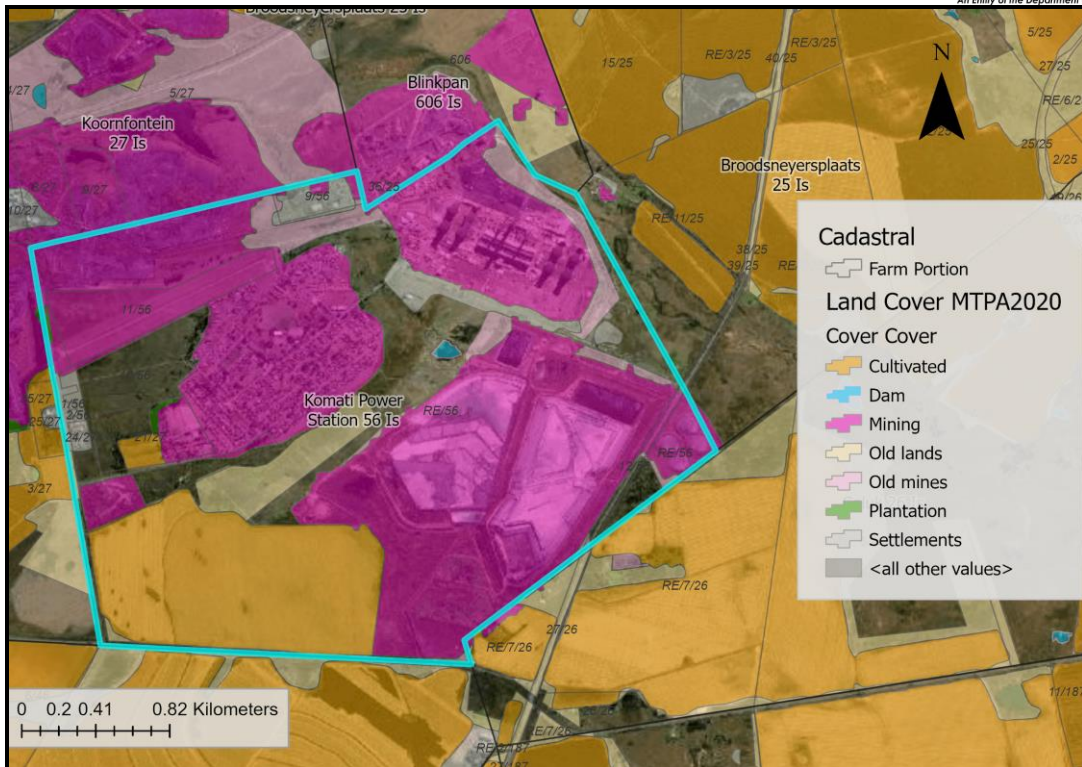


Figure 1. MBSP Land cover map of the proposed Renewable Energy Facility project area.

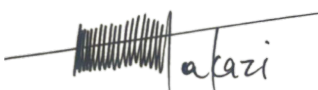
## Recommendations

Since the Komati Power Station reached its end-of-life stage the MTPA supports Eskom Holdings proposal to construct and operate renewable energy facilities (REF) to connect to the Komati Power Station as soon as possible. The proposed 100 MW Solar Photovoltaics Energy Facility (SEF), 150 MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station that is described in the DEIAR is supported. The MTPA have the following recommendations:

- The impacts that needs to be monitored and mitigated are erosion, sedimentation and contamination of soil.
- Surface water flow should be managed to prevent silting up and/or contamination of the surrounding wetlands.
- Rehabilitation and decommissioning of defunct ESKOM facilities should be done without interfering with the new proposed renewable energy facilities and further pollution of the environment.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.

Kind regards,



**MR M.H. VILAKAZI**  
**ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**DATE: 31/07/2023**

## Govender, Megan

---

**From:** Govender, Megan  
**Sent:** Thursday, 06 July 2023 10:27  
**To:** reuben@solagroup.co.za  
**Cc:** Strong, Ashlea; ZA - GLD - PPOffice  
**Subject:** RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - DRAFT EIR PUBLIC REVIEW  
**Attachments:** Proposed\_Solar\_Infrastructure\_export.kmz

Hi Reuben

Please see attached as requested.

Kind Regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1200

Personal information redacted as per POPIA Requirements

**From:** reuben@solagroup.co.za  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 5, 2023 2:40 PM  
**To:** Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>  
**Cc:** Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>; ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.PP@wsp.com>  
**Subject:** RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - DRAFT EIR PUBLIC REVIEW

Hi Megan,

We acknowledge receipt of the notification.

Could you kindly share with us the KML file of the Project?

Best Regards

**Reuben Maroga**  
Project Developer

Personal information redacted as per POPIA Requirements

SOLA



**From:** Govender, Megan <[Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 5, 2023 10:44 AM  
**To:** ZA - GLD - PPOffice <[gld.PP@wsp.com](mailto:gld.PP@wsp.com)>  
**Cc:** Strong, Ashlea <[Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com](mailto:Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com)>  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - DRAFT EIR PUBLIC REVIEW

Dear Stakeholder

**NOTICE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

This notification is to inform you that the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the Proposed establishment of a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station, Mpumalanga Province (DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298 ) has been made available for public review for 30 days from **05 July 2023 to 04 August 2023** as follows:

Area	Venue	Street Address	Contact No
Komati	Komati Paypoint and Library	Cnr. Falcon Dr and Weaver St	013 295 3102
	Komati Power Station Entrance	R35 Old Middelburg Bethal Road	013 295 9119
Hendrina	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St	013 293 0000
Middelburg	Eastdene Public Library	Verdoorn St	013 249 7275
	Gerard Sekoto Library	Wanderers Avenue	013 249 7314
WSP Website	<a href="https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents">https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</a>		

The contact details of the Social Consultant are:

Name: Tumelo Mathulwe  
Tel: 011 254 4800  
Email: [gld.pp@wsp.com](mailto:gld.pp@wsp.com)  
Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

**Protection of Personal Information:** WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I&AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I&AP and storing of your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP will use these details to contact you about other relevant projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database.

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1410



WSP in Africa  
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand  
1685 South Africa

**wsp.com**

WSP is a proud Level 1 B-BBEE contributor and is internationally certified for ISO 9001, 14001 & 45001

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WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Office: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand, Gauteng, 1685, South Africa  
Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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-J AEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

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Please insert your personal details below:

**Please list your interest in the proposed project and comment below:**

If there is a business proposal or ideas, who can I contact  
at Eskom Komati Power Station.  
Any help desk information. Please notify so we can benefit as  
a community which lost jobs working for the coal fired boilers.





Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt  
Tel: 021 202 8660  
Email: [nhiggitt@sahra.org.za](mailto:nhiggitt@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 20607

Date: Monday August 07, 2023  
Page No: 1

## Final Comment

### In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Ms Deidre Herbst  
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd  
P O Box 1091  
JOHANNESBURG  
2000

### **The proposed establishment of a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station, Mpumalanga Province**

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd have been appointed by Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed construction of a solar photovoltaic and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at the Komati Power Station, near Komati, Mpumalanga Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) was submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA EIA Regulations (As amended). The proposed development will include the construction of PV panels, overhead or underground cabling between components, collector substations, access roads, BESS, perimeter roads, meteorological station, operation and maintenance building, warehouse and workshop, hazardous chemical store, security building, parking areas and roads, temporary laydown areas, temporary concrete batching plant, construction camp and onsite substations within an application area of 200 – 250 ha.

Dr Heidi Fourie and APelser Archaeological Consulting have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process in terms of section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

*Fourie, H. 2022. Eskom Komati Power Station Solar PV and BESS ESIA: Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Phase 1 Field Study*

The proposed development area is underlain by the Vryheid Formation that may contain plant fossils, aquatic





Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt  
Tel: 021 202 8660  
Email: [nhiggitt@sahra.org.za](mailto:nhiggitt@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 20607

Date: Monday August 07, 2023  
Page No: 2

reptiles, fossil fish and insects. A field assessment will be undertaken.

*Pelser, A. 2022. A desktop Heritage Impact Assessment Report for the Eskom Komati Power Station Solar PV ESIA*

The proposed PV facility will be located in areas that have been heavily disturbed and therefore the likelihood of in-situ heritage resources is low. It is recommended that a site visit be undertaken.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 10/03/2023, SAHRA noted the pending heritage reports and stated that the HIA must consider the historical structures associated with the Komati Power Station and any historical structures in the surrounding residential areas that may be impacted by the proposed development. Since issuing the Interim Comment, an HIA and PIA have been submitted, along with the DEIA (05/07/2023).

*Fourie, H. 2023. Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Phase 1 Field Study. Komati Power Station Solar Photovoltaic Facility, Battery Energy Storage Systems and Associated Infrastructure, Mpumalanga Province*

No fossils were identified as part of the field assessment. A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

*Pelser, A. 2023. A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment Report for the Eskom Komati Power Station Solar Energy Facility (SEF) Mpumalanga Province*

No heritage resources were identified within the proposed development footprint. A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

## 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 EIA and EMP:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No further additional specific conditions are provided for the development;

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt  
Tel: 021 202 8660  
Email: [nhiggitt@sahra.org.za](mailto:nhiggitt@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 20607

Date: Monday August 07, 2023  
Page No: 3

- 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 (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660/ [nhiggitt@sahra.org.za](mailto:nhiggitt@sahra.org.za)) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with this section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA DAU (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660/ [nhiggitt@sahra.org.za](mailto:nhiggitt@sahra.org.za)) must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with this section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51 of the NHRA for offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
  - With reference to the mitigation work noted above, a qualified archaeologist must be appointed to undertake the work in terms of the permit applied for as noted above;
  - 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 Final EIA and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
  - 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

---

Natasha Higgitt  
Manager: Development Applications Unit

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt  
Tel: 021 202 8660  
Email: [nhiggitt@sahra.org.za](mailto:nhiggitt@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 20607

Date: Monday August 07, 2023  
Page No: 4

South African Heritage Resources Agency

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## ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/612483>  
(DFFE, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298)

## 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.

## Govender, Megan

**From:** Govender, Megan  
**Sent:** Monday, 07 August 2023 10:28  
**To:** Thivhulawi Nethononda  
**Subject:** FW: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - DRAFT EIR PUBLIC REVIEW

Personal information redacted as per POPIA Requirements

Good Day Mr Nethononda

Please may you advise if you will be submitting comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the proposed Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility? The commenting period ended on 04 August 2023 as per the email below, however we are able to accept comments from commenting authorities until Friday 11 August 2023.

Kind Regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

Personal information redacted as per POPIA Requirements

---

**From:** Govender, Megan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 5, 2023 10:47 AM  
**To:** ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.PP@wsp.com>  
**Cc:** Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - DRAFT EIR PUBLIC REVIEW

Dear Commenting Authority

### NOTICE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

This notification is to inform you that the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the Proposed establishment of a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station, Mpumalanga Province (DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298 ) has been made available for public review for 30 days from **05 July 2023 to 04 August 2023** as follows:

Area	Venue	Street Address	Contact No
Komati	Komati Paypoint and Library	Cnr. Falcon Dr and Weaver St	013 295 3102
	Komati Power Station Entrance	R35 Old Middelburg Bethal Road	013 295 9119
Hendrina	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St	013 293 0000
Middelburg	Eastdene Public Library	Verdoorn St	013 249 7275
	Gerard Sekoto Library	Wanderers Avenue	013 249 7314
WSP Website	<a href="https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents">https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</a>		

The report has also been made available at the link below easy access:

One Drive Link	<a href="#">Eskom Komati PV and BESS Draft EIAR - Public Review</a>
----------------	---

One Drive Instruction	Please note that you will receive a separate email with the link to the one drive. This link will then request a verification number which will automatically be sent to your email address – if it doesn't seem to come through please check your "spam" folder
-----------------------	--

The contact details of the Social Consultant are:

Name: Tumelo Mathulwe  
 Tel: 011 254 4800  
 Email: [gld.pp@wsp.com](mailto:gld.pp@wsp.com)  
 Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

**Protection of Personal Information:** WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I&AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I&AP and storing of your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP will use these details to contact you about other relevant projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database.

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



**Megan Govender**  
 Senior Consultant  
 T +27 011 361 1410



WSP in Africa  
 Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand  
 1685 South Africa

**wsp.com**

WSP is a proud Level 1 B-BBEE contributor and is internationally certified for ISO 9001, 14001 & 45001

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WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Office: Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand, Gauteng, 1685, South Africa  
 Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

## **Govender, Megan**

---

**From:** Ephron Maradwa <EMaradwa@dffe.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 August 2023 11:17  
**To:** Govender, Megan  
**Cc:** Trisha Rene Pillay; Salome Mambane; EIAAdmin  
**Subject:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298 [Filed 21 Aug 2023 07:57]

Dear Megan

14/12/16/3/3/2/2298

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.**

The Department confirms having received the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Amended Application Form for the abovementioned project on 17 August 2023. You have submitted these documents to comply with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.

**EIA Applications**

Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

**Please note that this email is for the receipt and processing of online applications only, and is not monitored for responses. All queries must be directed to [EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za](mailto:EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za).**

**You are advised that this mailbox has a 48 hour response time.**

*Please note that this mailbox has a 5mb mail limit. No zip files are to be attached in any email.*

## Govender, Megan

**From:** Govender, Megan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 September 2023 14:25  
**To:** Brendan Young; Brendan Young  
**Cc:** Strong, Ashlea  
**Subject:** RE: KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR PV FACILITY, BESS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE ~ Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (your reference: PROJECT NO. 41103965)  
**Attachments:** NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - DRAFT EIR PUBLIC REVIEW; [Pending]NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - FINAL EIR PUBLIC REVIEW

Good Day Mr Young

**Your email dated 05 September 2023, regarding comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Komati Solar PhotoVoltaic (PV) and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Project is referred.** Please note, that the Draft EIA public participation review period ended on 04 August 2023 (Please see attached communication). The EIA Report was finalised and submitted to the DFFE on 17 August 2023. The Final EIA Report has been made available for public review from 18 August 2023 to 18 September 2023 as follows (Please see attached communication):

Area	Venue	Street Address	Contact No
Komati	Komati Paypoint and Library	Cnr. Falcon Dr and Weaver St	013 295 3102
	Komati Power Station Entrance	R35 Old Middelburg Bethal Road	013 295 9119
Hendrina	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St	013 293 0000
Middelburg	Eastdene Public Library	Verdoorn St	013 249 7275
	Gerard Sekoto Library	Wanderers Avenue	013 249 7314
WSP Website	<a href="https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents">https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</a>		

Your comments on the BESS Technology is noted. Your comments will be included in our Comments and Responses Table which will be submitted to the DFFE. As noted in the Draft and Final EIAs, the technology for the BESS has not been confirmed as yet. A high-level Qualitative Risk Assessment will be undertaken if required, once the technology has been confirmed. The Environmental Management Programme will be updated to include any mitigation or management measures required. As indicated in the Draft and Final EIAs, the proposed layout and EMPr are not finalised. Once the project layout has been finalised, the EMPr will be updated with appropriate mitigation measures, if required and will be submitted to the DFFE for approval. The EMPr will be subject to an additional 30 day public review process.

It is noted that you are not a registered Interested and Affected Party on the Database. WSP has included you on the Project Database and you will therefore receive any future project notifications.

**Your email dated 09 September 2023, regarding the server toxicity of the Vanadium Pentoxide Flow Batteries and your objection is referred.**

It is acknowledge that the Safety Data Sheet provided does clearly indicate that for Vanadium(V) oxide: "Uses advised against food, drug, pesticide or biocidal product use", of which a battery storage is not one of these. Vanadium Redox Battery are so called flow batteries, which require mechanical systems (pumps, pipes, and tanks) and are inherently more complex than a solid-state battery and therefore often not the preferred technology. Typically the vanadium electrolytes are stored in separate large electrolyte tanks outside the cell stack and clearly these tanks must be composed of materials that are resistant to corrosion in the very low pH environment. However, it must be noted that the preferred technology has not been confirmed as yet, as noted in the Draft and Final EIAs. Once the project layout has been finalised, the EMPr will be updated with appropriate mitigation measures, if required and will be submitted to the DFFE for approval. The EMPr will be subject to an additional 30 day public review process.



Your objection on the use of Vanadium Pentoxide for the BESS Technology is noted and will be included in the Comments and Responses table to be submitted to the DFFE. Furthermore, this will be taken into consideration when identifying the preferred technology for the BESS.

Kind Regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

**From:** Brendan Young

**Sent:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 6:19 PM

**To:** Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>;

**Cc:** Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>

**Subject:** Re: KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR PV FACILITY, BESS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE ~ Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (your reference: PROJECT NO. 41103965)

Dear Megan

Thank you for your response.

I await your response, as committed.

Sincerely  
Brendan Young

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**From:** Govender, Megan <[Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 6:15:52 PM

**To:**

**Cc:** Brendan Young; Strong, Ashlea <[Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com](mailto:Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com)>

**Subject:** RE: KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR PV FACILITY, BESS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE ~ Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (your reference: PROJECT NO. 41103965)

You don't often get email from [megan.govender@wsp.com](mailto:megan.govender@wsp.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Day Mr Young

Please note that your email below has been received and will be responded to in due course.

Kind Regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

---

**From:** Brendan Young

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 5, 2023 6:54 AM

**To:** Govender, Megan <[Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com)>

Cc: Brendan Young [REDACTED]

**Subject:** KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR PV FACILITY, BESS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE ~ Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (your reference: PROJECT NO. 41103965)

**Importance:** High

Dear Megan

Regarding the WSP Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Please note:

That Vanadium Flow Batteries are a severe chemical hazard risk due to the Vanadium Pentoxide based electrolyte in them.

Managing hazardous material like this has been tried before, such as PCB's in Transformer Oil ... and Asbestos in Building Materials, and it's always ended badly!

Please ensure the necessary evaluation of this hazardous material is included in your Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Please see:

<https://monographs.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/mono86-10.pdf>

[https://www.conncoll.edu/media/website-media/offices/ehs/envhealthdocs/Vandadium\\_Pentoxide.pdf](https://www.conncoll.edu/media/website-media/offices/ehs/envhealthdocs/Vandadium_Pentoxide.pdf)

Vanadium Pentoxide is highly hazardous (tested on animals) and is known to cause:

- Cancer,
- Severe Skin and Respiratory Health conditions,
- Cell & DNA injury and alters gene expression,
- Inhibits enzymes involved in DNA synthesis and repair,
- Enzyme Inhibition with associated metabolic effects,
- Reduced Fertility ...

Also see the measures adopted when handling Vanadium in this publication by the suppliers of Vanadium: (... suppliers of Vanadium for Batteries)

<https://www.energy-storage.news/primary-vanadium-producers-flow-battery-strategies/>

In June, Largo Resources held a "Battery Day" to highlight its strategies for entering the global VRFB industry. While vanadium pentoxide (V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) as an additive for steel manufacturing is indeed around US\$8 per pound, in the energy storage business that same V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> could be worth more than US\$12.



Largo's vanadium flakes. The company believes vanadium pentoxide can be worth more per pound in energy storage than in some of its traditional markets. Image: Largo Resources.

VFB Technology is not a feasible technology in South Africa given the past history of adopting toxic hazardous substances .

If Vanadium Pentoxide is leaked or spilled into any water table it cannot be removed with unimaginable consequences.

I will also inform FFE in case you do nothing.

Thanks

Best Regards

Brendan

.....

Brendan Young



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NOTICE: This communication and any attachments ("this message") may contain information which is privileged, confidential, proprietary or otherwise subject to restricted disclosure under applicable law. This message is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). Any unauthorized use, disclosure, viewing, copying, alteration, dissemination or distribution of, or reliance on, this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, or you are not an authorized or intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by replying to this message, delete this message and all copies from your e-mail system and destroy any printed copies.

-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

## SAFETY DATA SHEET

Creation Date 24-Aug-1997

Revision Date 29-Aug-2023

Revision Number 5

### 1. Identification

**Product Name** Vanadium(V) oxide

**Cat No. :** AC206420000; AC206420010; AC206420050; AC206422500

**CAS No** 1314-62-1  
**Synonyms** Vanadium pentoxide

**Recommended Use** Laboratory chemicals.  
**Uses advised against** Food, drug, pesticide or biocidal product use.

#### Details of the supplier of the safety data sheet

##### Company

Fisher Scientific Company  
One Reagent Lane  
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410  
Tel: (201) 796-7100

Acros Organics  
One Reagent Lane  
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

##### **Emergency Telephone Number**

For information **US** call: 001-800-227-6701 / **Europe** call: +32 14 57 52 11  
Emergency Number **US**:001-201-796-7100 / **Europe**: +32 14 57 52 99  
**CHEMTREC** Tel. No. **US**:001-800-424-9300 / **Europe**:001-703-527-3887

### 2. Hazard(s) identification

#### **Classification**

This chemical is considered hazardous by the 2012 OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200)

Acute oral toxicity	Category 3
Acute Inhalation Toxicity - Dusts and Mists	Category 2
Germ Cell Mutagenicity	Category 2
Carcinogenicity	Category 1B
Reproductive Toxicity	Category 2
Effects on or via lactation	
Specific target organ toxicity (single exposure)	Category 3
Target Organs - Respiratory system.	
Specific target organ toxicity - (repeated exposure)	Category 1
Target Organs - Respiratory system.	

#### Label Elements

**Signal Word**

Danger

**Hazard Statements**

Toxic if swallowed

Fatal if inhaled

May cause respiratory irritation

Suspected of causing genetic defects

May cause cancer

Suspected of damaging fertility. Suspected of damaging the unborn child

May cause harm to breast-fed children

Causes damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure

**Precautionary Statements****Prevention**

Obtain special instructions before use

Do not handle until all safety precautions have been read and understood

Use personal protective equipment as required

Do not breathe dust/fume/gas/mist/vapors/spray

Avoid contact during pregnancy/while nursing

Wash face, hands and any exposed skin thoroughly after handling

Do not eat, drink or smoke when using this product

Use only outdoors or in a well-ventilated area

Wear respiratory protection

**Response**

IF exposed or concerned: Get medical attention/advice

**Inhalation**

IF INHALED: Remove victim to fresh air and keep at rest in a position comfortable for breathing

Immediately call a POISON CENTER or doctor/physician

**Ingestion**

IF SWALLOWED: Immediately call a POISON CENTER or doctor/physician

Rinse mouth

**Storage**

Store locked up

Store in a well-ventilated place. Keep container tightly closed

**Disposal**

Dispose of contents/container to an approved waste disposal plant

**Hazards not otherwise classified (HNOC)**

Toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects

WARNING. Cancer - <https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/>.

### 3. Composition/Information on Ingredients

Component	CAS No	Weight %
Vanadium pentoxide	1314-62-1	>95

### 4. First-aid measures

**General Advice**

Show this safety data sheet to the doctor in attendance. Immediate medical attention is required.

<b>Eye Contact</b>	In the case of contact with eyes, rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice. Rinse immediately with plenty of water, also under the eyelids, for at least 15 minutes.
<b>Skin Contact</b>	Wash off immediately with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes. Immediate medical attention is required.
<b>Inhalation</b>	Remove to fresh air. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. Do not use mouth-to-mouth method if victim ingested or inhaled the substance; give artificial respiration with the aid of a pocket mask equipped with a one-way valve or other proper respiratory medical device. Immediate medical attention is required.
<b>Ingestion</b>	Do NOT induce vomiting. Call a physician or poison control center immediately.
<b>Most important symptoms and effects</b>	None reasonably foreseeable.
<b>Notes to Physician</b>	Treat symptomatically

## 5. Fire-fighting measures

<b>Suitable Extinguishing Media</b>	Use extinguishing measures that are appropriate to local circumstances and the surrounding environment.
<b>Unsuitable Extinguishing Media</b>	No information available
<b>Flash Point</b>	No information available
<b>Method -</b>	No information available
<b>Autoignition Temperature</b>	No information available
<b>Explosion Limits</b>	
<b>Upper</b>	No data available
<b>Lower</b>	No data available
<b>Sensitivity to Mechanical Impact</b>	No information available
<b>Sensitivity to Static Discharge</b>	No information available

### Specific Hazards Arising from the Chemical

Non-combustible.

### Hazardous Combustion Products

Thermal decomposition can lead to release of irritating gases and vapors.

### Protective Equipment and Precautions for Firefighters

As in any fire, wear self-contained breathing apparatus pressure-demand, MSHA/NIOSH (approved or equivalent) and full protective gear. Thermal decomposition can lead to release of irritating gases and vapors.

### NFPA

**Health**  
4

**Flammability**  
0

**Instability**  
0

**Physical hazards**  
N/A

## 6. Accidental release measures

<b>Personal Precautions</b>	Use personal protective equipment as required. Avoid dust formation. Ensure adequate ventilation. Keep people away from and upwind of spill/leak. Evacuate personnel to safe areas.
<b>Environmental Precautions</b>	Do not flush into surface water or sanitary sewer system.
<b>Methods for Containment and Clean Up</b>	Sweep up and shovel into suitable containers for disposal. Avoid dust formation.

## 7. Handling and storage

<b>Handling</b>	Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing. Wear personal protective equipment/face protection. Avoid dust formation. Use only under a chemical fume hood. Do not breathe (dust, vapor, mist, gas). Do not ingest. If swallowed then seek immediate medical assistance.
<b>Storage.</b>	Keep in a dry, cool and well-ventilated place. Keep container tightly closed. Keep locked up. Incompatible Materials. Strong acids. Reducing Agent.

## 8. Exposure controls / personal protection

### Exposure Guidelines

Component	ACGIH TLV	OSHA PEL	NIOSH	Mexico OEL (TWA)
Vanadium pentoxide	TWA: 0.05 mg/m <sup>3</sup>		IDLH: 35 mg/m <sup>3</sup> Ceiling: 0.05 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	TWA: 0.05 mg/m <sup>3</sup>

### Legend

ACGIH - American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists  
NIOSH: NIOSH - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

<b>Engineering Measures</b>	Ensure adequate ventilation, especially in confined areas. Ensure that eyewash stations and safety showers are close to the workstation location.
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### Personal Protective Equipment

<b>Eye/face Protection</b>	Wear appropriate protective eyeglasses or chemical safety goggles as described by OSHA's eye and face protection regulations in 29 CFR 1910.133 or European Standard EN166.
<b>Skin and body protection</b>	Wear appropriate protective gloves and clothing to prevent skin exposure.
<b>Respiratory Protection</b>	Follow the OSHA respirator regulations found in 29 CFR 1910.134 or European Standard EN 149. Use a NIOSH/MSHA or European Standard EN 149 approved respirator if exposure limits are exceeded or if irritation or other symptoms are experienced.
<b>Recommended Filter type:</b>	Particulates filter conforming to EN 143.
<b>Hygiene Measures</b>	Handle in accordance with good industrial hygiene and safety practice.

## 9. Physical and chemical properties

<b>Physical State</b>	Powder Solid
<b>Appearance</b>	Amber
<b>Odor</b>	Odorless
<b>Odor Threshold</b>	No information available
<b>pH</b>	4 (5 %)
<b>Melting Point/Range</b>	690 °C / 1274 °F
<b>Boiling Point/Range</b>	1750 °C / 3182 °F
<b>Flash Point</b>	No information available
<b>Evaporation Rate</b>	Not applicable
<b>Flammability (solid,gas)</b>	No information available
<b>Flammability or explosive limits</b>	
Upper	No data available
Lower	No data available
<b>Vapor Pressure</b>	0.0443 hPa @ 700 °C
<b>Vapor Density</b>	Not applicable
<b>Specific Gravity</b>	3.350
<b>Solubility</b>	8 g/L



Partition coefficient; n-octanol/water	No data available
Autoignition Temperature	No information available
Decomposition Temperature	1750 °C
Viscosity	Not applicable
Molecular Formula	O5 V2
Molecular Weight	181.88

## 10. Stability and reactivity

Reactive Hazard	None known, based on information available
Stability	Stable under normal conditions.
Conditions to Avoid	Incompatible products. Combustible material.
Incompatible Materials	Strong acids, Reducing Agent
Hazardous Decomposition Products	Thermal decomposition can lead to release of irritating gases and vapors
Hazardous Polymerization	Hazardous polymerization does not occur.
Hazardous Reactions	None under normal processing.

## 11. Toxicological information

### Acute Toxicity

#### Product Information Component Information

Component	LD50 Oral	LD50 Dermal	LC50 Inhalation
Vanadium pentoxide	474 mg/kg ( Rat, male ) 467 mg/kg ( Rat, female ) 314 mg/kg ( Rat, male ) 221 mg/kg ( Rat, female )	LD50 > 2500 mg/kg ( Rat )	LC50 = 4.4 mg/L ( Rat ) 4 h LC50 = 2.21 mg/L ( Rat ) 4 h

**Toxicologically Synergistic Products** No information available

### Delayed and immediate effects as well as chronic effects from short and long-term exposure

**Irritation** No information available

**Sensitization** No information available

**Carcinogenicity** The table below indicates whether each agency has listed any ingredient as a carcinogen.

Component	CAS No	IARC	NTP	ACGIH	OSHA	Mexico
Vanadium pentoxide	1314-62-1	Group 2B	Not listed	A3	X	A3

*IARC (International Agency for Research on Cancer)*

*ACGIH: (American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists)*

*Mexico - Occupational Exposure Limits - Carcinogens*

*IARC (International Agency for Research on Cancer)*

*Group 1 - Carcinogenic to Humans*

*Group 2A - Probably Carcinogenic to Humans*

*Group 2B - Possibly Carcinogenic to Humans*

*A1 - Known Human Carcinogen*

*A2 - Suspected Human Carcinogen*

*A3 - Animal Carcinogen*

*ACGIH: (American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists)*

*Mexico - Occupational Exposure Limits - Carcinogens*

*A1 - Confirmed Human Carcinogen*

*A2 - Suspected Human Carcinogen*

*A3 - Confirmed Animal Carcinogen*

*A4 - Not Classifiable as a Human Carcinogen*

*A5 - Not Suspected as a Human Carcinogen*

**Mutagenic Effects** No information available

<b>Reproductive Effects</b>	No information available.
<b>Developmental Effects</b>	No information available.
<b>Teratogenicity</b>	No information available.
<b>STOT - single exposure</b>	Respiratory system
<b>STOT - repeated exposure</b>	Respiratory system
<b>Aspiration hazard</b>	No information available
<b>Symptoms / effects, both acute and delayed</b>	No information available
<b>Endocrine Disruptor Information</b>	No information available
<b>Other Adverse Effects</b>	The toxicological properties have not been fully investigated.

## 12. Ecological information

### Ecotoxicity

Toxic to aquatic organisms, may cause long-term adverse effects in the aquatic environment. The product contains following substances which are hazardous for the environment.

<b>Persistence and Degradability</b>	Soluble in water Persistence is unlikely based on information available.
<b>Bioaccumulation/ Accumulation</b>	No information available.
<b>Mobility</b>	Will likely be mobile in the environment due to its water solubility.

## 13. Disposal considerations

<b>Waste Disposal Methods</b>	Chemical waste generators must determine whether a discarded chemical is classified as a hazardous waste. Chemical waste generators must also consult local, regional, and national hazardous waste regulations to ensure complete and accurate classification.
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## 14. Transport information

### DOT

<b>UN-No</b>	UN2862
<b>Proper Shipping Name</b>	VANADIUM PENTOXIDE
<b>Hazard Class</b>	6.1
<b>Packing Group</b>	III

### TDG

<b>UN-No</b>	UN2862
<b>Proper Shipping Name</b>	VANADIUM PENTOXIDE
<b>Hazard Class</b>	6.1
<b>Packing Group</b>	III

### IATA

<b>UN-No</b>	UN2862
<b>Proper Shipping Name</b>	VANADIUM PENTOXIDE
<b>Hazard Class</b>	6.1
<b>Packing Group</b>	III

### IMDG/IMO

<b>UN-No</b>	UN2862
<b>Proper Shipping Name</b>	VANADIUM PENTOXIDE
<b>Hazard Class</b>	6.1
<b>Packing Group</b>	III

## 15. Regulatory information

### United States of America Inventory

Component	CAS No	TSCA	TSCA Inventory notification - Active-Inactive	TSCA - EPA Regulatory Flags
Vanadium pentoxide	1314-62-1	X	ACTIVE	-

**Legend:**

TSCA US EPA (TSCA) - Toxic Substances Control Act, (40 CFR Part 710)

X - Listed

'- Not Listed

**TSCA - Per 40 CFR 751, Regulation of Certain Chemical Substances & Mixtures, Under TSCA Section 6(h) (PBT)**

Not applicable

**TSCA 12(b)** - Notices of Export

Not applicable

**International Inventories**

Canada (DSL/NDSL), Europe (EINECS/ELINCS/NLP), Philippines (PICCS), Japan (ENCS), Japan (ISHL), Australia (AICS), China (IECSC), Korea (KECL).

Component	CAS No	DSL	NDSL	EINECS	PICCS	ENCS	ISHL	AICS	IECSC	KECL
Vanadium pentoxide	1314-62-1	X	-	215-239-8	X	X	X	X	X	KE-12750

KECL - NIER number or KE number (<http://ncis.nier.go.kr/en/main.do>)**U.S. Federal Regulations****SARA 313**

Component	CAS No	Weight %	SARA 313 - Threshold Values %
Vanadium pentoxide	1314-62-1	>95	1.0

**SARA 311/312 Hazard Categories** See section 2 for more information**CWA (Clean Water Act)**

Component	CWA - Hazardous Substances	CWA - Reportable Quantities	CWA - Toxic Pollutants	CWA - Priority Pollutants
Vanadium pentoxide	X	1000 lb	-	-

**Clean Air Act**

Not applicable

**OSHA** - Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Not applicable

**CERCLA**

This material, as supplied, contains one or more substances regulated as a hazardous substance under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) (40 CFR 302)

Component	Hazardous Substances RQs	CERCLA EHS RQs
Vanadium pentoxide	1000 lb	1000 lb

**California Proposition 65**

This product contains the following Proposition 65 chemicals.

Component	CAS No	California Prop. 65	Prop 65 NSRL	Category
Vanadium pentoxide	1314-62-1	Carcinogen	-	Carcinogen

**U.S. State Right-to-Know Regulations**

Component	Massachusetts	New Jersey	Pennsylvania	Illinois	Rhode Island
Vanadium pentoxide	X	X	X	X	X

**U.S. Department of Transportation**

Reportable Quantity (RQ): Y  
DOT Marine Pollutant N  
DOT Severe Marine Pollutant N

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

This product does not contain any DHS chemicals.

**Other International Regulations**

**Mexico - Grade** No information available

**Authorisation/Restrictions according to EU REACH**

Component	CAS No	REACH (1907/2006) - Annex XIV - Substances Subject to Authorization	REACH (1907/2006) - Annex XVII - Restrictions on Certain Dangerous Substances	REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006) article 59 - Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC)
Vanadium pentoxide	1314-62-1	-	Use restricted. See item 75. (see link for restriction details)	-

<https://echa.europa.eu/substances-restricted-under-reach>

**Safety, health and environmental regulations/legislation specific for the substance or mixture**

Component	CAS No	OECD HPV	Persistent Organic Pollutant	Ozone Depletion Potential	Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS)
Vanadium pentoxide	1314-62-1	Listed	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

**Contains component(s) that meet a 'definition' of per & poly fluoroalkyl substance (PFAS)?**

Not applicable

**Other International Regulations**

Component	CAS No	Seveso III Directive (2012/18/EC) - Qualifying Quantities for Major Accident Notification	Seveso III Directive (2012/18/EC) - Qualifying Quantities for Safety Report Requirements	Rotterdam Convention (PIC)	Basel Convention (Hazardous Waste)
Vanadium pentoxide	1314-62-1	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

**16. Other information****Prepared By**

Regulatory Affairs  
Thermo Fisher Scientific  
Email: EMSDS.RA@thermofisher.com

**Creation Date**

24-Aug-1997

**Revision Date**

29-Aug-2023

**Print Date**

29-Aug-2023

**Revision Summary**

This document has been updated to comply with the US OSHA HazCom 2012 Standard replacing the current legislation under 29 CFR 1910.1200 to align with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS).

**Disclaimer**

The information provided in this Safety Data Sheet is correct to the best of our knowledge, information and belief at the date of its publication. The information given is designed only as a guidance for safe handling, use, processing, storage, transportation, disposal and release and is not to be considered a warranty or quality specification. The information relates only to the specific material designated and may not be valid for such material used in combination with any other materials or in any process, unless specified in the text

**End of SDS**

## Govender, Megan

---

**From:** Govender, Megan  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 September 2023 08:24  
**To:** Brendan Young  
**Cc:** Brendan Young; [appealsdirector@environment.gov.za](mailto:appealsdirector@environment.gov.za):  
  
**Subject:** RE: KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR PV FACILITY, BESS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE ~ Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (your reference: PROJECT NO. 41103965) [Filed 15 Sep 2023 08:26]

Good Morning Brendan

Thank you for your email below.

Your concerns regarding the use of Vanadium Pentoxide for the Battery Energy Storage Systems is noted and will be considered when determining the most appropriate technology to use.

Kind Regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

---

**From:** Brendan Young  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 4:40 PM  
**To:** Govender, Megan <[Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com)>  
**Cc:** Brendan Young

**Subject:** RE: KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR PV FACILITY, BESS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE ~ Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (your reference: PROJECT NO. 41103965)  
**Importance:** High

Dear Megan

Thank you for the acknowledgment of my objection to the EIA, that arises due to the failure to assess the risk of using Vanadium Pentoxide based Flow Batteries in the proposed project.  
It is undoubtedly not possible to assess the impact on the environment that may be caused by a battery type you have not assessed, and not decided on.  
How can you make an assessment without considering the impact of the battery type that will require billions of litres of Vanadium Pentoxide when implemented.

While you make reference to un-specified mitigations, I would like to point out that these are unknown and non-existent for the removal of Vanadium Pentoxide.

I would like to make clear that there are no mitigations for spilling Vanadium Pentoxide into the water table by accident or force majeure.

Yes, I am aware of your obligation to inform the Public through the Public Participation process.

However, throughout this process I see no information informing the public as to the dangers and impact of Vanadium Pentoxide that you include as one of your proposed battery types.  
South Africa has past experience of such hazardous liquid chemical that cause cancer.  
I would also like to point out that PCP's in transformer oil were also stored in sealed and bunded tanks and that this did not prevent environmental contamination and cancer.  
<https://www.cbn.co.za/industry-news/electrical-industry-contractors-s>

Sincerely

Brendan Young

---

**From:** Govender, Megan <[Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 2:24:58 PM

**To:** Brendan Young <[REDACTED]> Brendan Young <[REDACTED]>

**Cc:** Strong, Ashlea <[Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com](mailto:Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com)>

**Subject:** RE: KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR PV FACILITY, BESS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE ~ Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (your reference: PROJECT NO. 41103965)

Good Day Mr Young

**Your email dated 05 September 2023, regarding comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Komati Solar PhotoVoltaic (PV) and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Project is referred.**

Please note, that the Draft EIA public participation review period ended on 04 August 2023 (Please see attached communication). The EIA Report was finalised and submitted to the DFFE on 17 August 2023. The Final EIA Report has been made available for public review from 18 August 2023 to 18 September 2023 as follows (Please see attached communication):

Area	Venue	Street Address	Contact No
Komati	Komati Paypoint and Library	Cnr. Falcon Dr and Weaver St	013 295 3102
	Komati Power Station Entrance	R35 Old Middelburg Bethal Road	013 295 9119
Hendrina	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St	013 293 0000
Middelburg	Eastdene Public Library	Verdoorn St	013 249 7275
	Gerard Sekoto Library	Wanderers Avenue	013 249 7314
WSP Website	<a href="https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents">https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</a>		

Your comments on the BESS Technology is noted. Your comments will be included in our Comments and Responses Table which will be submitted to the DFFE. As noted in the Draft and Final EIAs, the technology for the BESS has not been confirmed as yet. A high-level Qualitative Risk Assessment will be undertaken if required, once the technology has been confirmed. The Environmental Management Programme will be updated to include any mitigation or management measures required. As indicated in the Draft and Final EIAs, the proposed layout and EMPr are not finalised. Once the project layout has been finalised, the EMPr will be updated with appropriate mitigation measures, if required and will be submitted to the DFFE for approval. The EMPr will be subject to an additional 30 day public review process.

It is noted that you are not a registered Interested and Affected Party on the Database. WSP has included you on the Project Database and you will therefore receive any future project notifications.

**Your email dated 09 September 2023, regarding the server toxicity of the Vanadium Pentoxide Flow Batteries and your objection is referred.**

It is acknowledge that the Safety Data Sheet provided does clearly indicate that for Vanadium(V) oxide: "Uses advised against food, drug, pesticide or biocidal product use", of which a battery storage is not one of these. Vanadium Redox Battery are so called flow batteries, which require mechanical systems (pumps, pipes, and tanks) and are inherently more complex than a solid-state battery and therefore often not the preferred technology. Typically the vanadium electrolytes are stored in separate large electrolyte tanks outside the cell stack and clearly



these tanks must be composed of materials that are resistant to corrosion in the very low pH environment. However, it must be noted that the preferred technology has not been confirmed as yet, as noted in the Draft and Final EIAs. Once the project layout has been finalised, the EMPr will be updated with appropriate mitigation measures, if required and will be submitted to the DFFE for approval. The EMPr will be subject to an additional 30 day public review process.

Your objection on the use of Vanadium Pentoxide for the BESS Technology is noted and will be included in the Comments and Responses table to be submitted to the DFFE. Furthermore, this will be taken into consideration when identifying the preferred technology for the BESS.

Kind Regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

**From:** Brendan Young

**Sent:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 6:19 PM

**To:** Govender, Megan <[Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com)>; Brendan Young

**Cc:** Strong, Ashlea <[Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com](mailto:Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com)>

**Subject:** Re: KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR PV FACILITY, BESS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE ~ Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (your reference: PROJECT NO. 41103965)

Dear Megan

Thank you for your response.

I await your response, as committed.

Sincerely

Brendan Young  
+27825663499

---

**From:** Govender, Megan <[Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 6:15:52 PM

**To:** Brendan Young

**Cc:** Brendan Young

**Subject:** RE: KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR PV FACILITY, BESS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE ~ Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (your reference: PROJECT NO. 41103965)

You don't often get email from [megan.govender@wsp.com](mailto:megan.govender@wsp.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Day Mr Young

Please note that your email below has been received and will be responded to in due course.

Kind Regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

NOTICE: This communication and any attachments ("this message") may contain information which is privileged, confidential, proprietary or otherwise subject to restricted disclosure under applicable law. This message is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). Any unauthorized use, disclosure, viewing, copying, alteration, dissemination or distribution of, or reliance on, this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, or you are not an authorized or intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by replying to this message, delete this message and all copies from your e-mail system and destroy any printed copies.

**From:** Brendan Young  
**Sent:** Thursday, 07 September 2023 05:29  
**To:** [Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com)  
**Cc:** Brendan Young [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR PV FACILITY, BESS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE ~ Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (your reference: PROJECT NO. 41103965)

Dear Megan

Please acknowledge the receipt of the email informing you of the server toxicity of the Vanadium Pentoxide Flow Batteries specifically identified as one of the types of Batteries to be installed on this project site with reference details below.

It is quite obvious that the Assessment of the Environmental Impact has not taken into consideration consequences of the large volumes of toxic materials (Vanadium Pentoxide) to be used and installed on this site. For your reference please see attached the Material Safety Data sheet for Vanadium Pentoxide.

It is also my understanding from the details provided that the Environmental Impact Assessment needs to comply with World Bank requirements as they will be participating in the financing of the project. Please also inform Eskom and the World Bank of these details and of my objection.

<https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents>

**Title of Project:** Eskom Komati Solar PV and BESS Facility in the Mpumalanga Province

**Document on Public Display:** Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report

**Public Disclosure Dates:** 18 August 2023 to 18 September 2023

**Contact Person:** Megan Govender ([Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com))

<https://www.eskom.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/P177398-Component-B-ESIA-Part-I.pdf>  
<https://www.eskom.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/P177398-Component-B-ESIA-Part-II.pdf>  
<https://www.eskom.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/P177398-Component-B-ESIA-Part-III.pdf>  
<https://www.eskom.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/P177398-Component-B-ESIA-Part-IV.pdf>  
[https://www.google.co.za/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwiaiJri45SBAXUmVPEDHca5B5QQFnoECBIQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wsp.com%2F-%2Fmedia%2Fservice%2Fsouth-africa%2F2023-documents%2Feskom-komati-solar-pv-and-bess-facility-in-the-mpumalanga-province%2F23-appendix-i\\_draft-empr.pdf&usg=AOvVaw2J\\_UqjEAUU9ESJNwzMbqgl&opi=89978449](https://www.google.co.za/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwiaiJri45SBAXUmVPEDHca5B5QQFnoECBIQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wsp.com%2F-%2Fmedia%2Fservice%2Fsouth-africa%2F2023-documents%2Feskom-komati-solar-pv-and-bess-facility-in-the-mpumalanga-province%2F23-appendix-i_draft-empr.pdf&usg=AOvVaw2J_UqjEAUU9ESJNwzMbqgl&opi=89978449)  
<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/komati-power-station-solar-pv-and-bess-facility>

[https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/24-appendix-i\\_final-empr.pdf](https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/24-appendix-i_final-empr.pdf)  
[https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/01-eskom-komati-pv-and-bess\\_final-eia-report.pdf](https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/01-eskom-komati-pv-and-bess_final-eia-report.pdf)

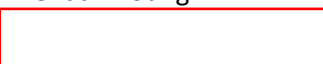
[https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/02-appendix-a\\_eap-cv.pdf](https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/02-appendix-a_eap-cv.pdf)  
[https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/03-appendix-b\\_eap-oath-and-declaration.pdf](https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/03-appendix-b_eap-oath-and-declaration.pdf)  
<https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/05-appendix-dser-public--part-1.pdf>  
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[https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/07-appendix-f\\_dffe-screening-report.pdf](https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/07-appendix-f_dffe-screening-report.pdf)  
[https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/08-appendix-g\\_dffe-acceptance-of-fsr.pdf](https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/08-appendix-g_dffe-acceptance-of-fsr.pdf)  
[https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/10-appendix-h2\\_air-quality-desktop-assessment.pdf](https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/10-appendix-h2_air-quality-desktop-assessment.pdf)  
[https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/11-appendix-h3\\_noise-desktop-assessment.pdf](https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/11-appendix-h3_noise-desktop-assessment.pdf)  
[https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/12-appendix-h4\\_surface-water-assessment.pdf](https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/12-appendix-h4_surface-water-assessment.pdf)  
[https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/13-appendix-h5\\_geohydrological-assessment.pdf](https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/13-appendix-h5_geohydrological-assessment.pdf)  
[https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/14-appendix-h6\\_soil-and-agricultural-assessment.pdf](https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/14-appendix-h6_soil-and-agricultural-assessment.pdf)  
[https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/15-appendix-h7\\_terrestrial-animal-species-assessment-](https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/15-appendix-h7_terrestrial-animal-species-assessment-)  
<https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/16-appendix-h8terrestrial-biodiversity--plant-special>  
[https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/17-appendix-h9\\_aquatic-biodiversity-assessment.pdf](https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/17-appendix-h9_aquatic-biodiversity-assessment.pdf)  
[https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/18-appendix-h10\\_traffic-impact-assessment.pdf](https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/18-appendix-h10_traffic-impact-assessment.pdf)  
[https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/19-appendix-h11\\_visual-impact-assessment.pdf](https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/19-appendix-h11_visual-impact-assessment.pdf)  
[https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/20-appendix-h12\\_heritage-impact-assessment.pdf](https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/20-appendix-h12_heritage-impact-assessment.pdf)  
[https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/21-appendix-h13\\_paleontology-assessment.pdf](https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/21-appendix-h13_paleontology-assessment.pdf)  
[https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/22-appendix-h14\\_social-assessment.pdf](https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/22-appendix-h14_social-assessment.pdf)  
[https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/23-appendix-h15\\_avifauna-assessment.pdf](https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/23-appendix-h15_avifauna-assessment.pdf)  
[https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/25-appendix-j\\_sip-letter.pdf](https://www.wsp.com/-/media/service/south-africa/2023-documents/eskom-komati-pv-and-bess-final-eiar---public-review/25-appendix-j_sip-letter.pdf)

Sincerely

Brendan

.....

Brendan Young



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**From:** Brendan Young

**Sent:** Tuesday, 05 September 2023 06:54

To: [Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com)

Cc: Brendan Young

Subject: KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR PV FACILITY, BESS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE ~ Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (your reference: PROJECT NO. 41103965)

Importance: High

Dear Megan

Regarding the WSP Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Please note:

That Vanadium Flow Batteries are a severe chemical hazard risk due to the Vanadium Pentoxide based electrolyte in them.

Managing hazardous material like this has been tried before, such as PCB's in Transformer Oil ... and Asbestos in Building Materials, and it's always ended badly!

Please ensure the necessary evaluation of this hazardous material is included in your Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Please see:

<https://monographs.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/mono86-10.pdf>

[https://www.conncoll.edu/media/website-media/offices/ehs/envhealthdocs/Vandadium\\_Pentoxide.pdf](https://www.conncoll.edu/media/website-media/offices/ehs/envhealthdocs/Vandadium_Pentoxide.pdf)

Vanadium Pentoxide is highly hazardous (tested on animals) and is known to cause:

- Cancer,
- Severe Skin and Respiratory Health conditions,
- Cell & DNA injury and alters gene expression,
- Inhibits enzymes involved in DNA synthesis and repair,
- Enzyme Inhibition with associated metabolic effects,
- Reduced Fertility ...

Also see the measures adopted when handling Vanadium in this publication by the suppliers of Vanadium:  
(... suppliers of Vanadium for Batteries)

<https://www.energy-storage.news/primary-vanadium-producers-flow-battery-strategies/>

In June, Largo Resources held a "Battery Day" to highlight its strategies for entering the global VRFB industry. While vanadium pentoxide (V2O5) as an additive for steel manufacturing is indeed around US\$8 per pound, in the energy storage business that same V2O5 could be worth more than US\$12.



Largo's vanadium flakes. The company believes vanadium pentoxide can be worth more per pound in energy storage than in some of its traditional markets. Image: Largo Resources.

VFB Technology is not a feasible technology in South Africa given the past history of adopting toxic hazardous substances .

If Vanadium Pentoxide is leaked or spilled into any water table it cannot be removed with unimaginable consequences.

I will also inform FFE in case you do nothing.

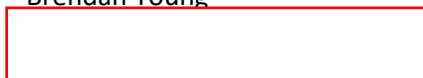
Thanks

Best Regards

Brendan

.....

Brendan Young



## Govender, Megan

---

**From:** Govender, Megan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 August 2023 08:35  
**To:** Isaac B. Sindane  
**Cc:** Nompumelelo Simelane; Xolani V. Motha; Mduduzi E. Makhubu; Choice Munyai  
**Subject:** RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - FINAL EIR PUBLIC REVIEW

Good Morning Isaac

Please can we have the site visit on 11 September 2023?  
Please send me the full names, contact details and ID numbers of all persons that will be in attendance.

Kind Regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300

**From:** Isaac B. Sindane  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 20, 2023 12:53 PM  
**To:** Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>

**Subject:** RE: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - FINAL EIR PUBLIC REVIEW

Good morning, Megan Govender

I hope this e-mail finds you well.

The Nkangala District Municipality environmental compliance team proposes to conduct a site inspection of the proposed project in order to provide a concise and thorough review on the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Will the **01<sup>st</sup> of September 2023** be suitable for you and your client. Alternative dates may be the **29<sup>th</sup> of August 2023**, **11<sup>th</sup> of September 2023** or the **12<sup>th</sup> of September 2023**. Kindly revert back on the proposed dates.

Please take note that we may be joined by the environmental management personnel from Steve Tshwete Local Municipality as well as our Local Government Support official from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. Your co-operation will be greatly appreciated.

Warm regards



**Isaac B Sindane**

Environmental Compliance Monitoring and  
Enforcement Officer  
Community Development Services  
Nkangala District Municipality

✉ [sindaneib@nkangaladm.gov.za](mailto:sindaneib@nkangaladm.gov.za)

**Subject:** FW: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - FINAL EIR PUBLIC REVIEW

**From:** Margaret M. Skosana <[skosanamm@nkangaladm.gov.za](mailto:skosanamm@nkangaladm.gov.za)>

**Sent:** Friday, 18 August 2023 15:32

**Subject:** FW: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - FINAL EIR PUBLIC REVIEW

**From:** Govender, Megan <[Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, August 18, 2023 8:19 AM

**To:** ZA - GLD - PPOffice <[gld.PP@wsp.com](mailto:gld.PP@wsp.com)>

**Cc:** Strong, Ashlea <[Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com](mailto:Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com)>

**Subject:** NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PV AND BESS FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION - FINAL EIR PUBLIC REVIEW

Dear Stakeholder

**NOTICE OF THE SUBMISSION AND AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

This notification is to inform you that the Final Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for the Proposed establishment of a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station, Mpumalanga Province (DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298 ) was submitted to the DFFE on **17 August 2023**. The Final EIA Report has been made available for public review for 30 days from **18 August to 18 September 2023** as follows:

Area	Venue	Street Address	Contact No
Komati	Komati Paypoint and Library	Cnr. Falcon Dr and Weaver St	013 295 3102
	Komati Power Station Entrance	R35 Old Middelburg Bethal Road	013 295 9119
Hendrina	Hendrina Public Library	44 Kerk St	013 293 0000
Middelburg	Eastdene Public Library	Verdoorn St	013 249 7275
	Gerard Sekoto Library	Wanderers Avenue	013 249 7314
WSP Website	<a href="https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents">https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents</a>		



Please forward all comments to WSP at the details below:

Name: Tumelo Mathulwe  
Tel: 011 254 4800  
Email: [gld.pp@wsp.com](mailto:gld.pp@wsp.com)  
Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

**Protection of Personal Information:** WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I&AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I&AP and storing of your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP will use these details to contact you about other relevant projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database.

Kind Regards,



**Megan Govender**  
Senior Consultant

T +27 011 361 1300



WSP in Africa  
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand  
1685 South Africa

[wsp.com](http://wsp.com)

WSP is a proud Level 1 B-BBEE contributor and is internationally certified for ISO 9001, 14001 & 45001

Confidential

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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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# NKANGALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

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My Ref.:  
Your Ref.:

Date: 15 September 2023

Enquiries:

**Mr. Bongani Sindane**

**(Cand.Sci.Nat. SACNASP Reg. 117400)**

Environmental Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Officer

Tell: 013 249 2173

E-mail: [SindaneIB@nkangaladm.gov.za](mailto:SindaneIB@nkangaladm.gov.za)

**WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd**  
Building 1 Maxwell Office Park  
Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City  
Midrand  
1685  
South Africa  
Tel: 011 361 1300  
Email: [Megan.Govender@wsp.com](mailto:Megan.Govender@wsp.com)

Dear Megan Govender,

**RE: NOTICE OF THE SUBMISSION AND AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

The Nkangala District Municipality (NDM) supports the proposed establishment of a Solar PV and BESS facility at the Komati Power Station based on the following factors:

**Air Quality Management**

- The operational phase of the facility will not result in potentially significant, detrimental point-source pollutant emissions into the atmosphere.

- Measures have been proposed to control fugitive emissions (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) associated with the project life cycle of the facility

#### **Water Conservation, Water Management and Water Demand Management**

- The water demand for the facility is significantly low and water will mostly be utilised for cleaning the solar panels.
- A buffer zone has been created for the wetland in proximity to the location of the proposed project and has been declared a no-go area during the project's life cycle.
- Komati Power Station has a storm water management plan in place to prevent erosion and sequent sedimentation of natural water resources (wetland).

#### **Waste Management**

- Designated waste management areas will be established during the construction phase of the project and waste generated will be collected and disposed of by the project proponent at a licenced waste landfill disposal site.

#### **Biodiversity Management**

- The identified Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) has been excluded from the project's operational footprint and the wetland within the facility's property has been buffered and declared a no-go area. The project proponent has shown a commitment to sustainable development by adhering to the NEMA Principle stipulated in section 2(4)(a)(vii) of the National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998 by adopting a risk-averse and cautious approach through its Biodiversity Management Plan and Vegetation Management Plan which will control the proliferation of alien invasive species through the use of non-toxic herbicides. This is an indication that the project proponent has put measures in place not to disturb the ecosystem and avoid loss of biological diversity as per section 2(4)(a)(i) of the National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998.
- The impact on avian activity will be low, i.e. no impact on bird migration. The habitat for Grassland Owls will be intact within the buffered wetland (which has been declared no-go area during the project's life cycle).
- Vegetation will be allowed to grow in the area where the solar panels have been erected.



## **Spatial Planning and Land use**

- The project proponent did not propose alternative sites for the solar panels because they have to be in close proximity to the power station. However, an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) has been developed to mitigate impacts resulting from environmental aspects during the project's lifecycle.
- The Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) will be established within the facility's operational footprint which is already transformed land.

## **Socio-Economics**

- There is a need for the project because it will create 2700 temporary jobs during the constructional phase and 600 jobs during operational phase in which 40% (240 permanent) which be from the surrounding communities in close proximity to Komati Power Station.
- There is a desirability of the project because there will an establishment of a community training centre for renewables. This provides a platform in pursuing opportunities in the renewable energy sector for the Nkangala Region.

## **Recommendations:**

- The project proponent should adhere to the developed EMPr throughout the project lifecycle and share the monthly compliance audit reports, with Nkangala District Municipality, for the construction phase of the project.
- A precautionary principle approach must be adopted by the facility in regards to water quality management, i.e. there must be continuous water quality monitoring of the facility's storm water and wastewater effluent in order determine and mitigate against any negative impacts on natural water resources.
- There must be continuous implementation of the facility's Biodiversity and Vegetation Management Plan. The facility must take the necessary measures to control and minimise the proliferation of Alien Invasive Species (AIS) as well as ensure the eradication of AIS in an environmentally sound manner as stipulated by the Alien and Invasive Species Regulations, 2014 (GNR. 598 GG 37885 of 1 August 2014).
- The project proponent should also investigate if there will be any aircraft (aviation) interferences caused by the solar panels.

- Eskom (SOC) Limited Komati Power Station, through its Corporate Social Responsibility Programme, should include the community members of Blinkpan and the surrounding communities in its Value Chain in order to promote the development of Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMME).

Should you have any enquiries, please contact the above-mentioned officer.

Yours faithfully,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ET ZULU

**GENERAL MANAGER: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

18.09.2023  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

## Govender, Megan

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**From:** MMatlala Rabothata   
**Sent:** Monday, 02 October 2023 15:57  
**To:** Govender, Megan  
**Subject:** FEIR COMMENTS FOR KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR PV AND BESS  
**Attachments:** Signed Comments for Komati Solar P.pdf

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Kindly find the attached comments from Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation for your implementation

Regards  
Ms Mmatlala Rabothata  
Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment  
Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Road  
Arcadia  
**PRETORIA**  
0083  
Tel: 012 399 9174

Job 19: "But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives





## forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, 0002 Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: + 27 86 625 1042

**Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/2298

**Enquiries:** Ms M Rabothata

**Telephone:** (012) 399 9174 **E-mail:** [MRabothata@dffe.gov.za](mailto:MRabothata@dffe.gov.za)

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### PER E-MAIL

Dear Sir/Madam

### COMMENTS ON THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR PV FACILITY, BESS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation (BC) reviewed and evaluated the report.

Based on the information provided in the report, the layout has been optimized based on the findings of the terrestrial and aquatic specialist studies. The layout now excludes the CBA area located within Solar PV Site B and excludes the Seep 1 wetland (including 33m buffer) located within the Solar PV Site A. Accordingly, large portions of the Local Study Area are under built infrastructure or are highly modified

Four wetlands have been identified to occur within 500m of the proposed project development namely, channelled valley bottom wetland, two isolated seepage wetlands (Seep 1 and Seep 2), and depression wetland.

According to the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES), small portions of land to the immediate north and south-east of the local study area are designated as Priority Focus Areas, while other small patches designated as Priority Focus Areas are scattered across the broader landscape (SAPAD, 2021).

The National Web Based Screening Tool indicated that the local study area is an area of 'Medium Sensitivity' for plant species, with three sensitive features potentially present, namely *Pachycarpus suaveolens*, Sensitive Species 41 and Sensitive Species 691. The study area present suitable habitat for the flagged species.



**COMMENTS ON THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED KOMATI POWER STATION SOLAR PV FACILITY, BESS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Given the above, the following measures are recommended and must be included in the Environmental Authorisation (EA):

- Page 55 of the Terrestrial Biodiversity Report under the mitigation measures says “the loss of natural habitat, particularly CBA Optimal land, is an impact that cannot be fully mitigated through standard mitigation and rehabilitation measures. A **biodiversity offset strategy should therefore be developed and implemented** for the proposed Project. Whereas, the EAP’s response on Page 80 of the Stakeholder Engagement Report says the Applicant has revised the project layout to avoid the CBA area within Solar PV Site B and avoid the Seep 1 Wetland within Solar PV Site A. The **requirement for a Biodiversity Offset Plan is therefore no longer applicable** as these areas will not be developed on. It is required that clarity must be provided as to whether Biodiversity Offset Strategy is still applicable or not.
- Biodiversity Offset Strategy must be developed and submitted for review and approval if offset is still applicable for the development.
- Due to the invasion of the Priority Focus Areas, as per the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES), the Directorate BC recommended during the Draft Environmental Impact Report stage that comments must be obtained from the DFFE Directorate: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness at email: [TNethononda@environment.gov.za](mailto:TNethononda@environment.gov.za) for attention of **Mr. Thivhulawi Nethononda** and comments were not obtained. The comments must still be obtained from the relevant section.
- The final sensitivity Layout Map overlaid with sensitivities and indicating the final footprint for the proposed development avoiding environmentally sensitive areas must be submitted.
- The sensitive habitats in close proximity to the development footprint must be avoided or demarcated as No-Go area (i.e., CBA and Wetlands).
- The species of conservation concern must be identified and located so that they may be avoided as much as possible. However, in cases whereby avoiding is not possible, relevant permits from the relevant authorities must be obtained for any disturbance of such species.
- 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.

All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: [BCAdmin@environment.gov.za](mailto:BCAdmin@environment.gov.za) for attention of **Mr Seoka Lekota**.

Yours faithfully



**Mr. Seoka Lekota**  
**Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation**  
**Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment**  
**Date: 18/09/2023**



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