

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING PHASE

**PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A CONCENTRATING SOLAR POWER (CSP)
PLANT AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE: NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**ABBREVIATED SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES/CONCERNS AND
COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS RAISED BY INTERESTED AND/OR AFFECTED PARTIES**

MARCH 2006 – JULY 2006

Stakeholders who contributed issues range across all sectors of society. A full record of every issue raised is available from the public participation offices. Many stakeholders raised the same issue. This list of issues does not focus solely on a specific route corridor or alternative. Instead, it lists all the issues raised by I&APs throughout the study area. In many instances, an issue raised about a particular alternative, is also applicable to other alternatives.

The issues have been arranged into groups of similar issues, and are listed in each group more or less in the order in which they were received. The name, affiliation and date of the commentator are also indicated. The affiliation, where indicated, of the person who raised the comment is indicated; as it was at the time the comment was raised. The issues raised by technical specialists and the project proponents are not included in the list below. Comments made during public meetings are however, included, as well as comments received in languages other than English.

To assist I&APs in searching for their comment(s), I&APs' comments have been captured ***alphabetically*** under the various sections of the Issues Trail.

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Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
1. GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS		
The SAF's concern is the possible impact the reflection off the Heliostats might have on their pilots, especially as the fighter pilot planes need a wide turning circle when aligning with the target.	Maj Willem Gouws, DBSS: SA Air Force (SAF). Key Stakeholder Workshop (18.04.06)	It is not envisaged that the reflection from the Heliostats would have a detrimental affect on fighter pilots should they be flying through or near a beam. A decision will be made whether an application will be submitted with the relevant authority for <i>restricted</i> airspace above the proposed CSP plant.
What type of soil cover around the base of the Heliostats would be used to avoid over-growth?	Prof Dieter Holm, SESSA. Key Stakeholder Workshop (18.04.06)	This aspect forms part of the environmental studies being undertaken for the proposed CSP project. The outcome of the site visit by the various specialists indicated that the proposed sites are arid with very little vegetation. It is envisaged that the area would be sterilised as vegetation would be removed to prevent fire. The environmental management of the plant will also be addressed in the Environmental Management Plan.
From where would the Molten salt be sourced and how would it be treated after it becomes a waste product/	Mr Mmboniseni Murathi, National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA). Public Meeting – Upington (11.04.06)	The heating product is referred to as <i>Molten Salt</i> and the heating product actually contains a high quantity of fertiliser. Fertiliser is available in large quantities in South Africa, but some of the nitrate would be imported. Once the <i>Molten Salt</i> has been loaded in the cold storage tank, it has the capacity of being used for the proposed life span of the proposed CSP (35 years). Upon plant decommissioning the Molten Salt will be treated as is appropriate, probably through a chemical recycling company.
Would social economic benefits form part of the Environmental Impact Studies?	Mr Julius Mutyorauta, Dept of Tourism, Environmental and Conservation (DTEC). Focus Group Meeting (19.04.06)	Social economic benefits are included in the scoping phase and that more detailed economic studies would form part of the detailed EIA process once a preferred site has been identified through the EIA process.
The EIA Regulations does not include additional Legislations e.g. NEMA, Water, NER, etc. without conservation services in Northern Cape looking at the biodiversity act.		Ms Strong informed the meeting that the project has a Legal Reviewer and that both the Scoping and the EIA phase would be review. It is also the Legal Reviewer's responsibility to ensure that all major Acts and Regulations are complied with for the proposed project.

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
What possible impact would pilots experience when flying through the concentrating sunrays?	Mr Stiaan Myburgh, Engineer: SA Airforce. Registration & Comment Form (10.04.06)	The impact would be minimal as a pilot will only experience a slight reflection, similar to that of any reflecting surface (e.g. a big dam) which would not cause a long-term discomfort.
Should the water purification plant be situated next to the Orange River, what impact would it have on the fish in the Orange River and the flora in the area?	Mr Mark Onrust, Environmental Manager: !Kheis Municipality. Public Meeting – Groblershoop (12.04.06)	The water purification plant managed by the !Kheis Municipality would be utilised, should Site 1 close to Upington be identified as the preferred site. Currently the !Kheis Municipality’s water purification plant would not be able to handle the additional load. The EIA studies will assess aspects such as water pipelines, extraction of water according to quotas allocated, etc.
What would the noise impact be of such a proposed plant?	Councillor Helouise Smith, !Kheis Municipality. Focus Group Meeting (12.04.06)	The only noise impact envisaged as this stage would be that generated by the cooling fans as well as the normal noise associated with office hours. Noise impact forms part of the EIA assessments.
In reference to Dr Van Heerden’s statement that <i>"It is not envisaged that the reflection from the Heliostats would have a detrimental affect on fighter pilots should they be flying through or near a beam"</i> , what does the statement means, and has a study been conducted?	Ms Sylvia Raleru, Corporate Specialist - SHE: Arports Company of South Africa (ACSA) E-mail : 06.06.06)	The statement refers to the fact that the beam reflecting off the <i>mirrors</i> is what one would experience while travelling in traffic and a car passes you and his rear window is at such an angle that when the sunlight is reflected off it, one may experience a split second of vision interference. No such study has been conducted by Eskom
Applications for restricted airspace must be submitted to the National Air Space Committee, which is chaired by the SACAA. It is strongly recommended that the possible impact on commercial pilots, general aviation, etc be further investigated.		Comment noted. Eskom has undertaken no such study.
2. TOURISM IMPACTS		
Kalahari Adventure Centre’s main interest regarding the proposed project is the possibility impact on the tourism industry and the landscape. The concern was raised that the proposed Site 3 may impact negatively on the unspoilt landscape and potential protected area at Boegoeberg.	Mr Andrew Hockly, Chief Executive Officer: Kalahari Adventure Centre. Registration & Comment Form (29.03.06)	As part of the environmental scoping phase, aspects such as visual and land-use impacts will be assessed and the outcome of these assessments will form part of the draft Environmental Scoping Report (ESR).

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3. VISUAL IMPACTS		
<p>It was stated that according to the map in the Briefing Paper, it is not clear how far the proposed CSP plant would be from the national road (N14). What would the visual impact be for motorist passing the site?</p>	<p>Mr Neil Daly, South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL). Public Meeting – Upington (11.04.06)</p>	<p>The specific locations of the CSP on any of the proposed sites have not yet been identified. Should site 1 (Farm Olyvenhouts Drif) be the preferred site identified through the EIA, then a proposed location of the CSP would be discussed with the property owner. Currently, no significant impact is foreseen regarding the visual impact. Should a motorist past the site, and depending of the time of day, the motorist would experience a slight glint for a split second from the heliostats – similar to passing a car and the sun is shining on its rear view window. Depending on the site location, the central receiver tower, which would have a constant glow during the day, would be visible at a distance but would not have a detrimental <i>blinding</i> effect.</p>
<p>In principle, at at this stage, no objections regarding the proposed CSP project. However, the proposed Site 3 (Garona) will have a direct visual impact on the residents of the farm Bok Poort.</p>	<p>Mr Chris Honiball, Property Owner: Farm Bok Poort. One-on-One discussion (08.02.06)</p>	<p>As part of the environmental scoping phase, aspects such as visual and land-use impacts will be assessed and the outcome of these assessments will form part of the draft Environmental Scoping Report (ESR).</p>
4. HERITAGE IMPACTS		
<p>In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (no 25 of 1999) no archaeological or palaeontological sites may be disturbed without a permit. Before such sites may be disturbed by exploration or mining, it is incumbent on the developer, if it is to find itself in contravention of the legislation, to ensure that an archaeological and if applicable, a palaeontological assessment has to be done and that appropriate mitigation will happen. An accredited specialist can be contracted to either provide a Phase 1 (Archaeological) Impact Assessment Report or alternatively the specialist may provide a letter to the heritage authority to indicate that there is not necessity for any further assessment. The Phase 1 Impact Assessment</p>	<p>Ms Mary Leslie, Head: Archaeology, Palaeontology& Meteorites, South African Heritage Resources Agency Correspondence (28.06.06)</p>	<p>The Environemntal scoping Phase included the undertaking of a heritage impact assessment in order to identify and assess heritage sites on the three proposed alternative sites. No sites of significance where found on any of the sites and no further studies were recommended during the EIA phase. However, mitigation measures will be included into the Environmental Management Plan with regards to heritage sites in the event that any sites or artefacts are found during construction.</p>

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
<p>Report will identify the archaeological sites and assess their significances. Recommendations need to be made (as indicated in section 38 of the Act) about the process (for example a Phase 2 mitigation). At the end of the process the heritage authority may give permission for destruction of the sites.</p> <p>If there are other heritage resources that may be impacted such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes that require protection, these must also be assessed. These will be addressed by the Northern Cape PHRA (except for graves which will be addressed by SAHRA).</p> <p>It would therefore be appropriate to conduct a full Heritage Impact Assessment (See Section 38 NHRA), which will include the archaeological and palaeontological components.</p>		
5. WATER RELATED IMPACTS		
<p>Would the water supply needed for the proposed CSP plant be abstracted from the Orange River?</p>	<p>Mr Leon Bradley, Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa. Key Stakeholder Workshop (18.04.06)</p>	<p>Water would be abstracted from the Orange River should one of the two proposed sites at Groblershoop be identified as the most environmental friendly and technical feasible. Should site 1, which is located west of Upington, be identified as the most environmental friendly and technical feasible then water would be obtained either from! Khara Hais Municipality (Upington) or from the Orange River.</p>

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!Kheis Municipality's water purification plant would not be able to accommodate the anticipated water usage capacity of the proposed CSP plant.	Mr Mark Onrust, Environmental Manager: !Kheis Municipality. Public Meeting – Groblershoop (12.04.06)	Should Sites 2 or 3, which is located close to Groblershoop, be identified as a preferred site during the environmental scoping phase, Eskom would then have to discuss these matters on a one-on-one basis with the local municipality. It is also possible that a water purification plant might be constructed at the proposed plant or the water purification plant of! Kheis Municipality could be expanded.
Should a water purification plant be construction next to the Orange River, what would the impact be on the other water users?		This aspect will be assessed during the impact assessment phase of the EIA.
Main interest in the proposed CSP project is the possible impact on water resources (quantity and quality). What would the anticipated water-usage be for the proposed CSP project?	Mr Louis Snyders, Regional Manager: DWAF – Northern Cape Province. Registration and Comment Form (29.03.06)	The relevant specialist will undertake an assessment (of the potential impacts) on water resources during the environmental scoping phase of the project. The specialist's assessment will form part of the draft Environmental Scoping Report.
What is the anticipated water usage for the proposed CSP plant?	Mr Jannie van Zyl, Property Owners: Farm Jakkalsdans. Public Meeting – Groblershoop (12.04.06)	It is anticipated that the proposed CSP plant would utilise an estimate of 550 cubic meters per day. This is for both the washing of the mirrors as well as the operation of the proposed plant. Any water usage at the plant needs to be purified water.
6. LAND USE IMPACTS		
What would the impact on existing land-use (cattle farming) be?	Mr Kobus Buys, Personnel Manager: LAW Abattoir. Registration & Comment Form (10.04.06) and Public Meeting – Groblershoop (12.04.06)	It is estimated that the footprint of the proposed plant will be 4 ² km and the impact of agricultural activities will be fully assessed during the impact assessment phase.
Would cattle be able to graze freely under the power lines proposed for the CSP plant, or would it be fenced?	Mr Kobus Buys, Personnel Manager: LAW Abattoir. Public Meeting – Groblershoop (12.04.06)	Should Site 1 be the preferred site, it is anticipated that no additional power lines will be required as there is an existing 132kV power line that will be utilised. The newly constructed power lines, should Site 2 or 3 be the preferred Site, would not be fenced.

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7. WASTE MANAGEMENT		
<p>Would the proposed plant generate any waste, and if so, how would it be managed.</p>	<p>Mr Pieter du Plessis, General Manager: Karsten Boerdery. Registration & Comment Form (13.04.06)</p>	<p><i>Liquid</i> salt will be heated by the sun to generate energy. Therefore, no smoke would be released and there would be no ash dumps on the site. Should leakage occur, the liquid salt would turn into solids (similar to fertiliser) when cooled to lower than 300°C, and could therefore be scooped up, purified and re-used in the salt tank. Certain surfaces in and around the plant will be covered with a concrete slab (e.g. the turbine hall, etc.) and all run-offs will be channelled through a closed-system. Should there be any leakage of grease, oil, etc, as well as contaminated water used during at the heat-exchanger, these would be collected and disposed of in a controlled manner to prevent any surface and ground water pollution.</p>
8. IMPACTS ON EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURES		
<p>There is an existing Eskom communication towers on property.</p>	<p>Mr Raymond Brown, Property Owner: Farm Tampansrus. One-on-One Discussions (08.02.06)</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
9. IMPACTS ON PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURES		
<p>What would the impact of the SAF's smart bombs be on the proposed CSP plant as infrared radiation may influence the missiles?</p>	<p>Maj Willem Gouws, DBSS: SA Air Force (SAF). Key Stakeholder Workshop (18.04.06)</p>	<p>This aspect would need to be taken into consideration. Currently it is not foreseen that the reflected energy, which would be similar to a 400w globe viewed at 1km, would influence the target range/point of the smart bombs. The impact of the possible radiation from the central receiver in association with the smart bombs could be assessed if required by the SAF.</p>

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
10. TECHNICAL ASPECTS		
What would the impacts on the mirrors be during severe weather conditions as is experienced in the Upington area?	Councilor BM Adams,!!Khara Hais Municipality. Focus Group Meeting (13.04.06)	Severe weather conditions are a concern for the design team, especially the typical hailstorms that occur in the Upington area. No confirmed information regarding hailstorms is available. Windstorms are also a concern and both these aspects will be researched by the technical team to prevent any damage to the mirrors as the mirrors are the biggest expenditure of the proposed plant.
Would the Heliostats be sensitive to the supersonic shock wave caused by the fighter planes breaking the sound barrier? It is suggested that the project team ensure that proper technical testing (physical) is done for the possible impact of super sonic or any type of vibration on the Heliostats. Support concern raised by SAF.	Maj Willem Gouws, DBSS: SA Air Force (SAF). Key Stakeholder Workshop (18.04.06) Prof Dieter Holm, SESSA. Key Stakeholder Workshop (18.04.06) Mr Koos Pretorius, SA Civil Aviation Authority. Key Stakeholder Workshop (18.04.06)	This aspect has not yet been taken into consideration. The main concern to date was the possible impact of the weather, especially wind. Further information would need to be obtained from the SAF and taken into consideration.
Was research done whether the mirror panels could be manufactured locally?	Ms Erna Groenens, Department of Tourism, Environmental and Conservation (DTEC). Focus Group Meeting (19.04.06)	It was established that the mirrors could not be manufactured locally e.g. in Upington, but that manufacturing is done in Gauteng. Most mirrors are manufactured in Gauteng and transported to various Provinces/Towns. The assembly of the heliostats would be done on the preferred site.
To be able to participate informatively in the process, the geographical co-ordinates (latitude and longitude) of the four corners of the proposed sites were requested.	Mr Thys Horak, Manager: ATNS Aeronautical Information Services (AIS). E-mail (04.04.06)	Information, as received from Eskom, provided to I&AP.
What are the dimensions of the concrete structure and the receiver?	Mr Thys Horak, Manager: ATNS Aeronautical Information Services (AIS). Key Stakeholder Workshop (18.04.06)	Receiver diameter – 15m, Tower base diameter – 20m. These figures may, however, change as the design is further refined.
Is any “beam” spillage expected?		The prevention of “beam” spillage is one of the challenging parts of the project. The system has been designed to include <i>self-correcting mechanisms</i> to avoid possible spillage or to control spillage as far as possible.

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Would GPS technology be applied to align the mirrors?		The Heliostat alignment philosophy would be finalised during Eskom's current technical studies. Various options are currently being considered, including the use of individual lasers.
Laser technology is problematic to aviation (it has a direct impact on safety) and that the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Standard and Recommended Practices (SARPS) must be considered when utilising this technology.		Comment noted.
What would the anticipated life cycle of such a plant be?		It is envisaged that the CSP plant would have a life cycle of ± 35 years.
What is the expected lifespan of the mirrors?	Councillor JPI Joseph, !Kheis Municipality. Focus Group Meeting (12.04.06)	At this stage, the lifespan of the mirrors are indefinite, with the exclusion of unexpected hailstorms, windstorms, etc.
Is there a specific reason why the tower is 200m, which differ from the pilot plant in the United States as indicated during the presentation?	Mr Raymond Lephuthing, SA Civil Aviation Authority. Key Stakeholder Workshop (18.04.06)	The tower height is determined according to the plant size. The CSP plant in the United States was a pilot plan generating 10MW electricity and this proposed CSP plant would general 100MW electricity.
Would this proposed project be a pilot project or would it be a fully operational plant?	Mr Percy Mokubung, Department of Economic Affairs, Northern Cape Province. Focus Group Meeting (19.04.06)	Should Eskom's Executive Committee approved the project, the plant will be operating as a fully commercial plant from the outset, though it represents a pilot in terms of new technology being applied.
What would the impact on the proposed plant be due to the vibration of the bomb testing activities in the Upington area.	Mr Stiaan Myburgh, Engineer: SA Airforce. Registration & Comment Form (10.04.06)	Depending on the distance of the detonation and type of bomb being tested, no impact on the plant or the Heliostats (mirrors) are foreseen. Depending on the preferred Site being identified during the scoping phase, will detailed investigation be undertaken to assess such possible impacts.

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How effective will the proposed technology be in weather conditions such as cloud cover?	Councilor Koloj, !!Khara Hais Municipality. Focus Group Meeting (13.04.06)	The stored heated salt will loose between 1°C – 2°C heat per day, which would not make a significant difference to the proposed plant’s generating capacity. Should cloudy weather be experienced for a longer period and the stored 8-hour capacity is used, then the plant will be shut off and the salt would systematically cool down. The plant would become active again once there is sufficient sunshine to heat the salt and the process will commence as usual.
The Civil Aviation Standards need to be complied to with the use of lasers within the vicinity of an aerodrome.	Ms Sylvia Raleru, Corporate Specialist - SHE: Arports Company of South Africa (ACSA)	Comment noted
Given the height of the tower and its close proximity to an aerodrome, Civil Aviation Regulations require that an obstacle evaluation with regard to aviation safety, be carried out. Tower may need to be marked and lighted as obstacle as per Civil Aviation requirements.	E-mail : 06.06.06)	Noted. This matter will be further addressed during the Impact Assessment phase of the EIA. The information required will be obtained through the public participation process and forwarded to the relevant person within Eskom for attention. Issues such as the marking and lighting of the tower will be addressed in the Environmental Management Plan for the CSP Plant.
What impact would solar eclipse have on the functionality / electricity generating capacity of the proposed plant?	Mr Gert Visagie, ANC. Registration & Comment Form (13.04.06)	One of the characteristics of the proposed is that electricity is not generated directly from the sun, but through the heat-exchange process by using the heated salt solution. The heated salt solution will be heated sufficiently during normal operation time to be able to store eight hours of electricity capacity in the salt tanks for continued operation.
11. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND SKILLS TRANSFER		
It is proposed that the proposed project must ensure local employment opportunities for the communities of Upington.	Clr. Lya Basson, !!Khara Hais Municipality. Registration & Comment Form (13.04.06)	Comment noted.
What will the ratio between skilled and un-skilled employment be at the proposed plant during the operational phase?	Mr Kobus Buys, Personnel Manager: LAW Abattoir. Public Meetings – Groblershoop (12.04.06)	The envisaged ratio will be 2/3 un-skilled and 1/3 skilled employees.
Will the proposed GSP plant create employment opportunities for local communities?	Councilor De Wee,!!Khara Hais Municipality. Focus Group Meeting (13.04.06)	During the construction phase it is envisaged that 800 people will be employed. However, indirectly over a three

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
	Mr Nkosana Rakitla, Energy Policy Unit Officer: SECCP-EPU Earthlife Africa. Registration & Comment Form (31.03.06)	year construction period this figure will increase to between 1 500 tot 2 500. Once the Plant is operational, it will consist of 35 to 45 permanent employees.
Does Eskom break down their employment criteria to a level of gender, PDIs, etc?	Ms Erna Groeners, Department of Tourism, Environmental and Conservation (DTEC). Focus Group Meeting (19.04.06)	Eskom has a clear and transparent employment policy, which included equity that will be followed for this proposed project.
Information is requested as to what services would be required during both the short term period (three year construction phase) and the long term period (30 years of operation) to ensure that the Black Empowerment Enterprises could line themselves up once Eskom's procurement procedures commence for the proposed project.	Mr Julius Mutyorauta, Dept of Tourism, Environmental and Conservation (DTEC). Focus Group Meeting (19.04.06)	Eskom would follow its existing procurement policy and procedures, should this project be approved, and it is emphasised that Eskom's procurement policy is an open and transparent process. Due to the fact that the project is still in the planning phase, the information requested cannot be provided at this stage. The request is, however, noted.
Is a list of items that would be required by Eskom's Procurement Department, available?		The project is currently in its research phase in which a complete business case is being compiled that will include the technology, environmental impact assessments, site location, construction, operational phase, cost estimate, etc. This business plan will then be submitted and presented to Eskom's Executive Committee to make a decision whether this project can be approved for full construction and operation. Should Eskom's Executive Committee give a positive decision, the necessary licensing process will take effect.
Lutz & Van Zyl Surveyors are qualified surveyors, and their services are available should their services be required.	Mr Jan van Zyl, Partner: Lutz & Van Zyl Surveyors. Correspondence (03.04.06)	Comment noted. Information forwarded to Eskom.
How much permanent employment will there be during the operational phase of the plant?	Mr Jannie van Zyl, Property Owners: Farm Jakkalsdans. Public Meeting – Groblershoop (12.04.06)	During the construction phase it is envisaged that 800 people will be employed. However, indirectly over a three year construction period this figure will increase to between 1 500 tot 2 500. Once the Plant is operational, it will consist of 35 to 45 permanent employees.
Will the permanent staff be accommodated at the plant or would local housing, e.g. in Groblershoop, be utilised?		No permanent housing will be provided at the plant and it is envisaged that the permanent staff will seek accommodation in Groblershoop or in Upington.

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
12. ESKOM'S PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY		
It is requested that Eskom invest in the transfer of technology information by ensuring that a visitors' centre is established at the proposed CSP plant where scholars (University and schools) can have an interactive session regarding the technology being used for this proposed project.	Ms Erna Groeners, Department of Tourism, Environmental and Conservation (DTEC). Focus Group Meeting (19.04.06)	Request noted.
13. PROPOSED SITES		
There is a landing strip on property.	Ms Madeleine Bonthuis, Property Owner: Farm Tities Poort 386. Telephone discussion (06.04.06)	Comment noted.
Why are the proposed sites such an odd shape?	Mr Leon Bradley, Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa. Key Stakeholder workshop (18.04.06)	Although the whole farm has been identified as a suitable site, the footprint of the proposed CSP plant would be 4sq km (± 400 ha), and could be constructed any suitable place on the proposed site. During the EIA, a sensitivity map would be compiled and overlaid with information received from the various specialists to identify the most suitable area on the proposed site for the CSP plant.
What aspects were taken into consideration for the identification of the three proposed sites?	Mr Naas Breytenbach, Manager: Senteck. One-on-One discussion (09.03.06)	The main criterias were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proximity to existing power infrastructure; • proximity to water supply; • topographical features - preferably, the site should be as level as possible over an area of 4km² to be able to accommodate the heliostats; and • access to the proposed sites (existing local road infrastructure).

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
What environmental assessment process is being followed in selecting the preferred site?	Councilor De Wee, !!Khara Hais Municipality. Focus Group Meeting (13.04.06)	The project is currently in the scoping phase whereby appointed specialists are undertaking desk-top studies in identifying the preferred site from an environmental perspective. These studies include aspects such as water quality and usage, flora, social, economics, etc. The specialists' findings will be captured in a matrix and points will be allocated to each impact. The findings will be reflected in the draft Environmental Scoping Report which will be advertised in local and regional newspapers.
How much property will be needed for the proposed plant?	Mr Jannie van Zyl, Property Owners: Farm Jakkalsdans. Public Meeting – Groblershoop (12.04.06)	Approximately 400ha would be required for the proposed plant.
14. SAFETY & SECURITY DURING CONSTRUCTION		
Security measures need to be in place to ensure that the plant is fenced and secured, as it is general knowledge that monkeys find mirrors very interesting, and this could have a negative effect on the Heliostats.	Mr Julius Mutyorauta, Dept of Tourism, Environmental and Conservation (DTEC). Focus Group Meeting (19.04.06)	Comment noted.
15. GENERAL CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS		
Would the contractor and sub-contractors be sourced locally?	Councillor Jacobus Blom, !Kheis Municipality. Focus Group Meeting (12.04.06)	The main contractor will be appointed by Eskom's procurement process and local labour, where needed, will be sourced locally. The sourcing of local labour will be recommended in the Environmental Management Plan.
When will construction commence?		The project is currently in the research phase and Eskom's research team is in the process of drafting a complete business plan that will address aspects such as the type of technology to be used, environmental aspect, site position, construction methodology, costs analysis, etc. The business plan will be submitted to Eskom's Executive Committee for consideration. Should the Executive Committee approve the project, it is anticipated that construction will take two to three years to complete.

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
16. IMPACT ON LOCAL ROADS (during construction)		
What affect would the construction of such a plant have on the community/town, e.g. increase in traffic flow?	Mr Mmboniseni Murathi, National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA). Public Meeting – Upington (11.04.06)	The normal type of construction vehicles would gain access to and from the proposed site e.g. concrete mixers. Construction cranes would access the property at the start of the construction and be removed after construction. No unique, oversized construction vehicles will most likely be used during construction. The possible increase in traffic flow may be addressed through the Environmental Impact Assessment if identified as a problem.
It is stated that it is foreseen that special attention/need would have to be in place for the transport of some of the equipment e.g. the heliostats.		It is envisaged that the mirrors (3mx2m) will be transported, in bulk, from Gauteng by trucks or the existing railway line could be used, and that the heliostats would then be constructed on site. The transport of abnormal building material and/or equipment would be addressed in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).
What would be the possible impact for users of the access road (Lutzputs) to the proposed Site 1 as this existing road is being used by landowners of the farm Boksedam.	Mr Hugo van Sittert, Property Owner: Farm Boksedam. Registration & Comment Form (18.04.06)	Should Site 1 be identified through the scoping phase as the preferred Site to be taken through to the impact assessment phase, then aspect such as the impact on existing road infrastructures will be investigated?
What traffic increase is predicted?	Mr Jannie van Zyl, Property Owners: Farm Jakkalsdans. Public Meeting – Groblershoop (12.04.06)	There will be an increase in traffic on local roads during the construction phase e.g. construction vehicles, concrete mixers, etc. Cranes, if needed, will be placed on the site prior to construction and removed after construction is completed. It is not envisaged that abnormal construction vehicles would cause traffic congestions. During the operation phase, minimal traffic increase is expected. This aspect will be assessed during the EIA phase.
Will the access road to the plant be fenced? It was stated that it be fenced to prevent the cattle crossing the road.		The plant as well as the access road will be fenced.

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
17. FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS		
The main interest of the Northern Cape Economic Empowerment Company is the economic growth and job creation for local development in the Northern Cape Province. The knowledge and skills in the Northern Cape Province to be implemented in the construction and operating phases of the proposed CSP project.	Mr Inus Bezuidenhout, Managing Director: Northern Cape Economic Empowerment Company. Registration & Comment Form (27.03.06)	Should this project receives a positive Record of Decision from the decision making authority, this matter will be addressed through Eskom's Social Investment Policy.
It is stated that the proposed project will enhance Groblershoop local economy should the plant be established in their area.	Councillor Helouise Smith, and supported by Councillors present , !Kheis Municipality. Focus Group Meeting (12.04.06)	Comment noted.
18. COMMUNICATION		
Requested copy of the draft Environmental Scoping Report (ESR) once available for public comment.	Ms Tania Anderson, Conservation Portfolio (Committee): WESSA - Northern Cape Region. Registration & Comment Form (28 04.04.06)	Request noted. Draft ESR will be made available in public places in Upington and Groblershoop as well as on the project website (www.bohlweki.co.za). I&APs will be notified through advertising as well as personalised letters to those who have registered on the project database.
Received notification that the draft Minutes of the Key Stakeholder Workshop is a true reflection of the proceedings.	Mr Leon Bradley, Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa. E-mail (11.07.06)	Comment acknowledged
The organised agricultural and business community to be part of the public participation process.	Mr Lampie Brand, Councillor: !!Khara Hais Municipality. Registration & Comment Form (29.03.06)	Comment noted.
	Mr Wikus Snyman, Councillor: !!Khara Hais Municipality. Registration & Comment Form (29.03.06)	
Requested that Mr Hennie Conradie, SAD Pioneer, be registered as an I&APs.	Clr. Katrina De Wee, !!Khara Hais Municipality. Registration & Comment Form (13.04.06)	Request noted.

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
<p>Requested information regarding the proposed CSP project to include in the University's lectures. Two points mentioned of interest: University of Stellenbosch has taken strategic decision to make major investment into the engineering faculty. The targeted output is to double the 2005 level post-graduate activities and research output by 2008; and The University of Stellenbosch, together with the University of Cape Town, having been selected from eight bidding universities, have jointly been invited to constitute a national hub for post-graduate education in renewable and sustainable energy. While negotiations are continuing, DST/DNE, CEF & SANERI are driving the initiative with urgency and the goal is to be calling for students and research proposals later in 2006 to ensure that the first students can commence studies in early 2007.</p>	<p>Dr. TM Harms, Pr. Eng. Ceng VDI, Professor: Division Head Thermo-Fluids, Dept of Mechanical Engineering: University of Stellenbosch. E-mail (02.05.06)</p>	<p>Briefing Paper forwarded, Comment noted.</p>
<p>Acknowledge receipt of letter re availability of draft ESR. Matter will receive attention and response can be expected soon.</p>	<p>Mr D Hindle, Director-General: Department of Education, Pretoria Correspondence (29.06.06)</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>It is suggested that the Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA) needs to be included in the consultation process and it was enquired whether they have been contacted regarding the proposed project.</p>	<p>Mr Thys Horak, Manager: ATNS Aeronautical Information Services (AIS). E-mail (04.04.06)</p>	<p>ACSA has been identified and included in the consultation process. Ms Sylvia Ralery and Mrs Musa Dlamani identified themselves as representatives from ACSA.</p>
<p>Requested information regarding solar power (advantages and disadvantages) for a school project.</p>	<p>Mrs Elaine Coertzen, Upington E-mail (09.08.2006) Mrs Desire Kruger, Project Secretary: PERSAL E-mail (03.08.2006)</p>	<p>Request noted and forwarded to Eskom for attention.</p>
<p>SAHRA will submit comments once information has been received regarding the heritage assessment.</p>	<p>Ms Mary Leslie, Head: Archaeology, Palaeontology & Meteorites, South African Heritage Resources Agency Correspondence (28.06.06)</p>	<p>A copy of the Heritage Report was couriered to SAHRA's Provincial Offices in the Northern Cape Province. Should this office require an additional copy, Bohlweki Environmental to be notified according and a copy of the Report will be courier.</p>

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
It was requested that Ms Maranda and Mr Sinthumule, SAHRA, be registered on the project database.		Requested noted. The I&APs were registered on the project database and the Project Briefing Paper was forwarded to them.
Requested a copy of the draft Environmental Scoping Report (ESR) be submitted to their offices for review.	Mr Sibonelo Mbanjwa, Department of Tourism, Environmental and Conservation (DTEC), Northern Cape Province. Focus Group Meeting (19.04.06)	Request noted.
It was enquired whether the SA Heritage Association has been included in the consultation process.		SAHRA has received all the relevant documentation and were also invited to the Key Stakeholder Meeting that was held on Tuesday, 18 April 2006 as well as the Focus Group Meeting with the Authorities held on Wednesday, 19 April 2006.
It was commented that DTEC in the Northern Cape obtain the comments of various other Government Departments when reviewing Scoping and EIA Reports. It is requested that during the EIA phase Departments such as Agriculture, DWAF, Transport and Public Works, Department of Labour, SAPS etc be included in the consultation process.	Mr Julius Mutyorauta, Dept of Tourism, Environmental and Conservation (DTEC). Focus Group Meeting (19.04.06)	Comment noted.
Consultation needs to take place with the Political audience of the Northern Cape Province to obtain their buy-in in the project. It is suggested that a request for a presentation slot be submitted to the Provincial's Economic Cluster at their next meeting.		Public Participation is not a marketing exercise for any proposed development. The relevant authorities are informed of the project. To ensure that the relevant information regarding the proposed project is distributed as part of the EIA process, the EIA team would approach the Northern Cape Economic Cluster for a presentation slot at one of their meetings. Various Government Departments are registered on the project database and they were invited to meetings. Consultation with the various authorities would continue throughout the EIA process.
For clarity purposed, was the project presented to the relevant municipalities.	Mr Julius Mutyorauta, Dept of Tourism, Environmental and Conservation (DTEC). Focus Group Meeting (19.04.06)	Focus Group Meetings were held with Councillors and Municipal representatives from Upington and Groblershoop's local authorities. The Focus Group Meeting held with the Upington Municipality included representation from the District Municipality.
Is environmental groups e.g. WESSA, included in the consultation process? DTEC has a list of environmental groups in the Northern Cape Province and DTEC will submit a copy to Bohlweki Environmental.		Various environmental groups are registered on the project database and any additional information will be welcomed.

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
Information regarding the Economic Steering Committee Cluster can be obtained from <i>Thulu</i> in Bloemfontein at contact number 051 404 2579. It was also requested that Eskom informed their local representative in Bloemfontein regarding the proposed project as they were not aware of the proposed project when approached by the Department of Economic Affairs.		Comment noted.
Requested that Prof HDT Mouton and Dr HJ Beukes, members from the University of Stellenbosch be captured on the project database.	Prof. Pieter Van der Walt, Technology Department: University of Stellenbosch. Registration & Comment Form (25.05.06)	Comment noted.
The following I&APs to be consulted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Hendrik Maritz, Manager, Glen Lori Game Farm; • Mr Giel Olivier, Chairman and Mr Jannie Englebrecht, Secretary: Groblershoop Agricultural Union; and • Mr Andries Burger, Chairman: Volop Agricultural Union. 	Mr Pieter van Zyl, Property Owner: Farm Tsebe. One-on-One Discussions (08.02.06)	Comment noted.
Requested that BVi Engineers be registered as an I&AP.	Mr Jan van Zyl, Partner: Lutz & Van Zyl Surveyors. Correspondence (03.04.06)	Request noted.
Mr Koos de Wet, Iconos Boerdery, to be registered as an I&AP.	Mr Jan Visagie, Councillor: !!Khara Hais Municipality. Registration & Comment Form (13.04.06)	Request noted.
19. GENERAL COMMENTS & ISSUES RAISED		
Is solar power the only renewable source that can be utilised for additional electricity generation?	Councillor Jacobus Blom, !Kheis Municipality. Focus Group Meeting (12.04.06)	Various renewable sources are being researched by Eskom e.g. ocean currents, wind, etc. Solar power is one of these renewable sources. A wind demonstration plant has been successfully operated in the Western cape for approximately three years.
Will the proposed project replace the existing electricity supply in the area?		No. This proposal is an expansion of Eskom's existing electricity supply network, and the existing electricity supply network stays unchanged.
What impact will the proposed CSP project have on the community e.g. financial, power supply to farms in the area, etc.?	Mr Hanno Blom, Director: Boegoeberg Dam Resort. Telephone Discussion (04.04.06)	During the scoping phase environmental impacts such as the physical environment, social, historical sites, etc will be evaluated. One of the possible positive impacts could be social, e.g. job creation – although limited – , and the possible support to growth in tourism.

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
What is the estimated budget for the proposed CSP project?	Mr Leon Bradley, Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa. Key Stakeholder workshop (18.04.06)	The financial side of the project has not been finalised and that the business case will only be completed towards the end of 2007. Pre-feasibility estimates have indicated that the project budget is estimated at between R2bn and R2.3bn, with the generation cost between 40c – 60c per kWh. These figures might change as the project team finalises the design and various component requirements and compile the final business case. In comparison Eskom's wind pilot plant generates power between 55c – 60c per kWhr.
Did Eskom undertake studies to utilise water to general power?	Mr Kobus Buys, Personnel Manager: LAW Abattoir. Public Meeting – Groblershoop (12.04.06)	The hydro-electric schemes within Southern Africa forms part of Eskom's future electricity supply strategy. Currently there is a hydro-electrical supply project (Westcor) between Eskom, Botswana, Namibia, Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Current studies indicated that there are no new large scale opportunities for hydro-electrical schemes in South Africa due to the fact that the water capacity of our rivers is not consistent and/or high enough.
From an economic and labour point of view, in principle, positive about the proposed CSP project.	Mr Pieter du Plessis, Manager: Karsten Boerdery. One-on-One Discussions (07.02.06)	Comment noted.
In reference to <i>Molten salt</i> , is it normal table salt as what is known to the general public.	Ms Erna Groeners, Department of Tourism, Environmental and Conservation (DTEC). Focus Group Meeting (19.04.06)	Molten salt, as referred to, is not the normal table salt or those of salt pans, but that it is 60:40 mixture of Sodium Nitrate and Potassium Nitrate, similar to fertilizer used in the agricultural industry.
How much tonnage of Molten-Salt would be required for operating the proposed plant per year?		Mr Ian Smit replied that the system will only be filled once, e.g. at the start of the proposed plant, with 18 000 tons of Molten salt.
It was requested that a copy of Mr Tony Stott's presentation, as presented at the Key Stakeholder Workshop, be included in the minutes.	Prof Dieter Holm, SESSA. Key Stakeholder Workshop (18.04.06)	Comment noted – copy was attached to minutes.
It was enquired what is the GP growth projected by Eskom.		According to Government economic development drive, a 6 % GP growth is being pursued.

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
The presenters were congratulated on the standard and clarity of the presentation and stated that it would be appreciated if it could be presented in Afrikaans as well.		The project's Briefing Paper is currently available in printed Afrikaans and any other language, on written request, in a summarised version.
It is assumed that this is phase one of the proposed project, which may extend once the outcome of the environmental studies are successful.		This proposed project is a pilot project and the outcome (environmental, technical, costs, etc) of the pilot project will be taken into account when a decision on further exploitation of the technology is taken.
Requested additional information to inform their client SANRAL.	Mr Henk Jacobs, Partner: SNA Civil & Structural Engineers (Pty)Ltd. Communication (31.03.06)	Detailed information, as required, not available in the scoping phase. Once a preferred site has been identified through the EIA and more relevant information becomes available, it will be forwarded to the I&AP.
What is the life expectancy of such a plant and who is responsible for its maintenance?	Mrs Sarina Jansen, Mayour, !Kheis Municipality. Focus Group Meeting (12.04.06)	The expected life expectancy of such a plant is ±35 years and Eskom is responsible for its maintenance.
Will local electricity bills be one of the advantages of the proposed project for the community?	Councillor JPI Joseph, !Kheis Municipality. Focus Group Meeting (12.04.06)	No. Electricity generated by the proposed plant will be incorporated into Eskom's existing electricity supply network, and therefore lower electricity bills for communities will not be feasible.
Reverence was provided for a community member, should employment be considered.	Mr Tottie Kordom, R.K. Church: Kakamas. Registration & Comment Form (12.04.06)	Noted.
For clarification, will Upington be without electricity should the plant not be operational for a period of time?	Raadslid Charlotte Matthys, !Khara Hais Municipality. Focus Group Meeting (13.04.06)	Electricity generated by the proposed plant forms part of Eskom's national electricity supply network, and therefore Upington will not be impacted negatively should the plant not be operational for a period of time.
Is Eskom in the process of negotiating a larger electricity supply network in South Africa?		During the last few months, Eskom has provided information through the media regarding Eskom's capacity programme, which included the construction of new power stations, the return-to-service of coal fired power stations such as Camden, Komati and Grootvlei in Mpumalanga. Eskom is also constructing two gas-turbine plants in the Cape Provinsie, etc.
How will the generation capacity of the proposed CSP be linked to the national electricity grid?	Mr Mmboniseni Murathi, National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA). Public Meeting - Upington (11.04.06)	The proposed generation capacity of 100MW of the proposed CSP would be part of Eskom's national electricity grid, and that the proposed CSP would not be dedicated to a specific town or Province.

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
<p>At what stage is the proposed project, as the Applicant might be aware that according to the Energy Regulator Act, the generation of power cannot commence without applying and receiving the necessary licenses.</p>		<p>The project is currently in its research phased in which a complete business case is being compiled that will include the technology, environmental impact assessments, site location, construction, operational phase, cost estimate, etc. This business plan will then be submitted and presented to Eskom's Executive Committee to make a decision whether this project can be approved for full construction and operation. As with other Ekom projects, approval from the National Electricity Regulator of South Africa will be sort. Should Eskom's Executive Committee give a positive decision, necessary licensing applications will be made as is required. Dr David de Waal added that the process started with intent, which is the scoping phase of a proposed project. The purpose of the scoping phase is to identify all possible positive as well as negative impacts associated with the proposed project. A draft Environmental Scoping Report (ESR) is compiled and submitted to the public for a review period of 30-days after which a final ESR, which incorporates all the comments received during the 30-day period, is compiled and submitted to the decision making Authority to review. Should the scoping phase of the project receive positive feedback from the decision-making Authority, then the project will proceed to the next phase, which is the Impact Assessment phase. Once the EIA process reached the stage where the final EIA Report is submitted to the relevant decision-making Authority.</p> <p>The relevant decision-making Authority would then issues a Record of Decision (RoD). Should the RoD be positive or negative, the public has a 30 day appeal period, which needs to be addressed directly to the relevant MEC or the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.</p>

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
What is the ratio between the usable life span of the Molten salt vs the amount of electricity to be generated, e.g. would it need to be replenished on a regular basis and would there be a loss of power should the salt level be low?	Mr Julius Mutyorauta, Dept of Tourism, Environmental and Conservation (DTEC). Focus Group Meeting (19.04.06)	The impurities could enter the system, but should this occur, the Molten salt would run through a process whereby the impurities would be removed. The Molten salt system is a close system, and once the system is filled with the Molten salt it is envisaged that it would stay in the close system for the duration of the plant's life span of 20 to 30 years. Should a possible leak occur, the salt is scooped up with a shovel, cleared of any impurities are removed, and placed back into the closed system.
What experience does the environmental team have that enables them to successfully manage the proposed project?	Councillor Nomathemba November, !Khara Hais Municipality. Focus Group Meeting (13.04.06)	Bohlweki Environmental has experience in managing various EIA projects. This solar power project is the first for South Africa. There is only one similar other plant built in the world in Barstow, CA. Projects that the company has been working on include waste sites, power lines, sewerage treatment works, etc and fits into the realm of the proposed CSP.
What would the air space restriction be for such a proposed facility? There are currently no real restrictions for existing power stations.	Mr Koos Pretorius, SA Civil Aviation Authority. Key Stakeholder Workshop (18.04.06)	This would be determined according to the current regulations as set out by the relevant authority. Eskom will ensure that all safety regulations are addressed.
Does this project link with the proposed Garona-Kenhard power line project?	Councillor Helouise Smith, !Kheis Municipality. Focus Group Meeting (12.04.06)	The two projects do not relate but are part of the overall Eskom planning and development to meet future demand for electricity.
Doing research, in private capacity, on alternative power supply solutions.	Mr Benjamin Swanepoel, Eskom. Registration & Comment Form (13.04.06)	Comment noted.
The proposed CSP project can only be an advantage to the community.	Mr Schalk van der Merwe, Client Services Manager: Eskom. Registration & Comment Form	Comment noted.
Will the electricity generated by the proposed CSP plant be included into Eskom's supply grid of the Kalahari?	Mr JG Van Jaarsveld, Member: Vastrap Weapon Range. Registration & Comment Form (11.04.06)	The electricity generated by the proposed CSP plant will feed into Eskom's national supply grid for the whole of South Africa.

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
<p>Will Eskom be considering using solar power as a power generating medium?</p>	<p>Mr Ampie Vlok, Farm: Van Rooyesvlei. One-on-One Discussion (09.02.06)</p>	<p>Eskom is currently researching various <i>clean</i> renewable energy generating methods e.g. wind, sea currents, etc. Solar power is one of the environmentally friendly power generating methods and research has indicated that the north-westerly tip of the Northern Cape Province (Upington region) as well as adjoining areas of Botswana and Namibia are ideal to undertake a pilot project of this nature.</p>
<p>20. COMMENTS RECEIVED ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING REPORT</p>		
<p>According to the specialist studies undertaken, indications are that the impact upon water resources will be minimal. The credibility of the studies undertaken to date is likely to increase if the Department supports the findings. This is particularly important as reference was made in the Scoping report to the fact that it is hoped that the final scoping report will capture responses received by I&APs. This then should apply to the recommendations made in the report regarding proposed water related studies.</p>	<p>Mr Leon Bradley, Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa. E-mail (11.07.06)</p>	<p>Although the draft ESR, according to the specialist studies undertaken, indicated that the impact upon water resources will be minimal, one of the decision making criteria for the identification of a preferred Site was the readily availability of water resources in the area. As reflected in the draft ESR, Site 1 may be serviced by !!Khara Hais Municipality and during initial discussions held show that the municipality can accommodate the estimated water requirements for the proposed CSP plant.</p>
<p>Raised the concern regarding the possible impact on groundwater, especially during heavy rainfall, that the <i>salt</i> to be used in the heating generating system (NaNO₃ and KNO₃) should there be any leakage. What mitigation measures will be taken to ensure limited or no contamination of the groundwater, should such an event occur?</p>	<p>Mr Sibongile Gumbi: Earthlife Africa E-mail (18.07.06)</p>	<p>The <i>salt</i> being used would be in a closed system (i.e. it will not be exposed to the environment). The <i>salt</i> will flow through a closed system of tubes and pipes. The tubes that make up the central receiver panels are specially designed with a diameter of approximately 40mm and a wall thickness of approximately 1mm and are made from a product called Inconel 625 LCF. The <i>salt</i> only melts when it is heated to above 220°C, and should there be any spillage of this molten <i>salt</i>, it would solidify instantly and can therefore be picked up with a shovel/spade and placed back into the system once any impurities have been removed.</p> <p>From an environmental point of view, at this stage of the EIA, no contamination of groundwater is anticipated due to <i>salt</i> penetrating through to the groundwater. However, this issue will be assessed in more detail during the</p>

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
		Impact Assessment phase of the EIA and mitigation and management measures will be recommended in the event of a spill for inclusion within the Env. Management Plan.
Requested more detailed information be provided regarding the "how" of the "collected and disposed of in a controlled manner to prevent any surface and ground water pollution". This question is posed on the waste management issue as reflected on page 5 of 26 of the draft Environmental Scoping Report.	Mr Paulus Jacobs, Assistant Director: Environmental Health, Department of Health Communication (21.07.06)	All legal requirements relating to any waste removal and disposal from the site, will be adhered to according to the Local Municipality's (!!Khara Hais Local Municipality) policy and procedure for Waste Management. Waste management procedures will be detailed within the Env. Management Plan.
<p>As a departure point in reviewing the study, reference was made to the specialist studies undertaken during the scoping period, which in turn "informed" the next phase and recommended further studies to be undertaken. In this regard, the following was recommended:</p> <p>As a result of the specialist studies undertaken, it was deduced that the proposed CSP would have a negligible effect on regional water resources because water requirements pertaining to installation as a proportion of river flow at Upington area are so negligible (page 257). As a result it is stated that with regard to surface water, no detailed studies are required regarding the impact on regional or local hydrology (page 261).</p> <p>As regards groundwater, reference was made to the fact that there is little to distinguish between the three proposed Sites and that further studies will be required during the EIA process which includes a literature survey of available data, water quality information and an indication as to future demand upon groundwater (page 261).</p> <p>In referring to the specialist studies undertaken during this phase, reference is made to Table 5.1 (page 51) which covers the components and physical variables investigated during the Environmental Scoping Phase. In this regard, the water (amount) to be abstracted, that available for allocation, associated transfer and infrastructure, cost per</p>	Ms G Munro-Grundlingh, Director General: Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry, Department: Water Affairs and Forestry Communication (14.07.06)	Although the draft ESR, according to the specialist studies undertaken, indicated that the impact upon water resources will be minimal, one of the decision making criteria for the identification of a preferred Site was the readily availability of water resources in the area. As reflected in the draft ESR, it is anticipated that Site 1 may be serviced by !!Khara Hais Municipality and during initial discussions held, the municipality can accommodate the estimated water requirements for the proposed CSP plant, thus potentially removing the need to abstract water from the Orange River.

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
<p>m³ water quality requirements, licence application criteria, as well as potential impacts including cumulative impacts, should be considered.</p> <p>It is indicated that the proposed project will consist of a new CSP plant, which will be dry cooled because of the unavailability of water in the proposed Northern Cape area (page 4). A number of alternative sites have been investigated at scoping level and ultimately one alternative (preferred Site) will be taken forward in the EIA process. As regards to alternatives, reference is made to the fact that "alternative cooling technologies" are being investigated (page 4) and <i>it is assumed that for the purpose of this study, dry cooling remains the only technical alternative.</i></p> <p>In conveying the information regarding the alternative Site options, it is noted that the layout plans although in colour, serve little purpose as reference to areas referred to in the actual content such as the nature reserve (Spitskop Nature Reserve), and infrastructure such as the Sishen-Saldanha railway line, is omitted.</p>		<p>The locality maps in the draft ESR were used to provide an overall idea of the locality of the three alternative site locations. Standard topographical maps were utilised as the background to the maps provided in Chapter 2 of the Draft ESR. The maps included in the Final ESR will be updated as recommended. A CD, with the proposed site Alternatives and their locality with references to areas such as the Spitskop Nature Reserve and the Sishen-Saldanha railway line, were submitted.</p>
<p>The Department (DWAF) appears to have been involved in only a cursory manner. In this regard the draft minutes of 19 April 2006 were subsequently circulated for comment. Other than this, there appears to be no evidence of further consultation with DWAF (see Appendices G, F and H), which involved key stakeholders, regional and local authorities and interested and affected parties via public meetings.</p>		<p>It can be confirmed that during the initial identification process of Key Stakeholders and interested and/or affected parties (I&APs), Ms Lorraine Fick (DWAF – National) and Mr Louis Snyders (DWAF – Northern Cape) were identified as the relevant representatives to be consulted with regards to this proposed project. During the scoping phase of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) a Focus Group Meeting was not arranged with specific Key Stakeholder groupings, except with the various Local Authorities and the District Municipality in the study area, such as DWAF. However both Mr Snyders and Ms Fick were invited to attend an authorities' Focus Group Meeting held on 19 April 2006 in Kimberley. In-depth consultation will take place with Key Stakeholders and authorities on a more formal basis in the EIA phase than what was undertaken during the scoping phase of the EIA. A Focus Group Meeting will be</p>

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
		<p>arranged with DWAF during the next phase of the project in order to ensure that their comments are captured and attended to.</p> <p>The appropriate DWAF officials, as reflected in your correspondence referred to above, will be captured on the project database and included when a Focus Group Meeting as well as a Key Stakeholder Workshop is scheduled within the Impact Assessment phase of the EIA.</p>