



Cape EAPrac

Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd

Reg. No. 2008/004627/07

VAT No 4720248386



Telephone: (044) 874 0365

17 Progress Street, George

Facsimile: (044) 874 0432

Web: www.cape-eaprac.co.za

PO Box 2070, George 6530

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

for

Grootfontein PV Projects and associated electrical infrastructure.

Including:

Grootfontein PV 1 - 14/12/16/3/3/1/2275

Grootfontein PV 2 - 14/12/16/3/3/1/2276

Grootfontein PV 3 - 14/12/16/3/3/1/2277

Grootfontein PV 1 EGI - 14/12/16/3/3/1/2284

Grootfontein PV 2 EGI - 14/12/16/3/3/1/2285

Grootfontein PV 3 EGI - 14/12/16/3/3/1/2286

on:

Remaining Extent and Portion 5 of Farm Grootfontein 149, within the Witzenburg Local Municipality of the Western Cape Province..

Date	23 February 2022
Reference	BRV727/03
Applicant	Grootfontein PV 1 (Pty) Ltd, Grootfontein PV2 (Pty) Ltd & Grootfontein PV3 (Pty) Ltd.
DFFE Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grootfontein PV 1 - 14/12/16/3/3/1/2275• Grootfontein PV 2 - 14/12/16/3/3/1/2276• Grootfontein PV 3 - 14/12/16/3/3/1/2277• Grootfontein PV 1 EGI - 14/12/16/3/3/1/2284• Grootfontein PV 2 EGI - 14/12/16/3/3/1/2285• Grootfontein PV 3 EGI - 14/12/16/3/3/1/2286
DEFF Case Officer	Not yet allocated in respect of the EMPr and SLP reviews. Previous EIA process had various case officers.

The above mentioned EA's form part of a series of projects that were selected as a preferred Bidder under round 5 of the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme (REIPPPP).

The abovementioned Environmental Authorisation's for the PV Projects (All these authorisations contained the same conditions) included the following conditions that required Public Participation:

12. A final site layout plan for the PV facility, as determined by the detailed engineering phase and micro-siting, and all mitigation measures as dictated by the final site layout plan, must be submitted to the Department for approval prior to construction. A copy of the final site layout map must be made available for comments to registered interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final development layout map must be submitted to the Department for written approval, prior to commencement of the activity. 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:

and,

14. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the PV facility, submitted as part of the BAR is not approved and must be amended to include measures, as dictated by the final site lay-out map and micro-siting, and the provisions of this environmental authorisation. The EMPr must be made available for comments to registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final EMPr must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity.

The abovementioned Environmental Authorisation's for the Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) (All these authorisations contained the same conditions) included the following conditions that required Public Participation:

12. A final site layout plan for the power line (with micro-siting of the powerline route and pylon structures) and all mitigation measures as dictated by the final site layout plan, must be submitted to the Department for approval prior to construction. Once approved, the final site layout plan must be appended to Part C of the generic EMPr for the 132 kV overhead power line, to connect to the existing Eskom Kappa Substation. The final site layout plan for the power line must indicate the following.

In compliance with condition 12 of these EA's the project developer has completed the final site layout plan in compliance with this condition. In compliance with condition 14, Cape EAPrac have amended the EMPr to incorporate all the requirements in respect of EA's.

In compliance with these conditions, the Final Site Layout Plan and Amended EMPr are to be provided to all registered I&AP for review and comment, This public participation plan relates to consultation associated with this process.

This plan is submitted in compliance with regulation GNR660 published on 05 June 2020 in terms of the Disaster Management Act (57/2002) and titled: Directions Regarding Measures to Address, Prevent and Combat the Spread of COVID-19 Relating to National Environmental Management Permits and Licences. In compliance with section 5.1 and annexure 2 of these regulations, a public participation plan must be presented to the competent authority for approval prior to implementation. This plan is herewith submitted to DFFE for consideration.

The public participation process is to be undertaken in terms of these specific EMPr conditions and not in terms of Section 41 in Chapter 6 of regulation 982.

In this regard, Cape EAPrac will provide the Final Site Layout Plan (along with an explanatory document) and Final EMPr to:

- (a) the competent authority;
- (b) every State department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment relevant to an application for an environmental authorisation;
- (c) all organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the activity to which the application relates; and
- (d) all Registered Interested and affected parties in respect of all 6 of the preceding environmental processes listed above¹.

In order to comply with this requirement, the proposal is to provide all parties, listed in subsections a, b and c above, with access to full digital copies of the final Site Layout Plan and explanatory document as well as the amended EMPr with all appendices.

Such digital copies will be provided to the competent authority via the online submission portal.

Organs of state, State departments and registered I&APs will be provided access to the information via online portals. As previously discussed with DFFE, physical copies of this should only be provided in such instances, where state departments, organs of state and I&AP's do not have access to internet connectivity to allow download of documents (notification letters to these parties will indicate the procedure to obtain physical copies of the documentation). Such documents will be provided by postal service, and where such service is not available, the documents will be provided by courier service.

In terms of the above, all Registered Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs) will be provided access to the Final Site Layout Plan and amended Environmental Management Programme as follows:

1. The digital copy of the Final Site Layout Plan and EMPr will be made available on the Cape EAPrac website;
2. The digital copy of the Final Site Layout Plan and EMPr will be made available on a dedicated download link via Share Point and Dropbox.
3. All notification letters will include a copy of the explanatory.
4. Registered I&APs will be informed that copies of the documentation can be provided via postal or courier services. Should they not have access to the online platforms.

After completion of the comment period, all comments will be considered and addressed. The Site Layout Plans and Environmental Management Programmes will then be submitted to DFFE (along with the comments and responses report) for final approval.

Please contact the undersigned, should there be any queries regarding the implementation of this PP Plan.

¹ A consolidated I&AP register will be prepared from all 6 of the preceding environmental processes and all these parties on the consolidated register will be notified in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dale Holder', written over a horizontal line.

Dale Holder
Cape EAPrac.