

24 January 2017

Dear Stakeholder

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS  
PROPOSED ORKNEY SOLAR FARM, NORTH WEST PROVINCE  
(DEA REF: 14/12/16/3/3/2/954)**

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT  
FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND INVITATION TO THE PUBLIC MEETING**

Genesis Orkney Solar (Pty) Ltd, an Independent Power Producer (IPP), propose the construction of a commercial photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facility (known as the Orkney Solar Farm) situated on a site approximately 11.8km south west from the town of Orkney and north west of the Vaal River. The solar farm will be located within the Farm Wolvehuis 114 on the Remaining Extent of Portion 7 and the Remaining Extent of Portion 21. The proposed project site falls under the jurisdiction of the City of Matlosana Local Municipality and within the greater Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality in the North West Province.

The solar farm will have a generating capacity of up to 100MW. The purpose of the proposed solar farm will be to evacuate the generated power into the national Eskom electricity grid. The project is proposed to be bid into the Department of Energy's (DOE) Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement (REIPPP) Programme.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

In terms of the EIA Regulations of December 2014 as amended (Government Notice 982 – 985 published in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA; No. 107 1998)), the construction of the proposed solar farm is a listed activity requiring environmental authorisation. The main listed activity triggered by the proposed solar farm is Activity 1 of Listing Notice 2 (GN R 984) which relates to the development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from renewable resources where the generating capacity is 20 megawatts or more.

The undertaking of an Environmental Impact Assessment process is required in order to obtain Environmental Authorisation. This process involves the identification and assessment of environmental impacts through specialist studies, as well as public participation.

In support of an application for environmental authorisation for the projects, comprehensive, independent environmental studies must be undertaken in accordance with the EIA Regulations of December 2014. Genesis Orkney Solar has appointed **Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**, as the independent environmental consultant, to undertake the required environmental assessments to identify and assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed solar farm, and propose appropriate mitigation and management measures in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

An application for environmental authorisation has been submitted and accepted by the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) as the competent authority (DEA REF: 14/12/16/3/3/2/954). As part of the environmental assessment process, Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) will be actively involved through the public involvement process.

## **AVAILABILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REPORT**

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for the proposed Orkney Solar Farm has been prepared by Savannah Environmental and is available for a 30-day review period from **24 January 2017 – 23 February 2017**. You are invited to view the report at the Orkney Public Library (Patmore Street, Orkney).

The report is also available for download at [www.savannahsa.com](http://www.savannahsa.com).

Please submit comments to Savannah Environmental by **23 February 2017**. Comments must be made as written submission via fax, post or email.

## **INVITATION TO PUBLIC MEETING**

Interested and Affected Parties are invited to attend a Public Meeting to be held as follows:

**Date:** Wednesday 8 February 2017  
**Time:** 17:00  
**Venue:** Orkney Public Library, Patmore Street, Orkney

The purpose of the Public Meeting is to introduce the project, provide information on the project and EIA process as well as to present the outcome of the Environmental Impact Assessments that were undertaken.

Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process.

Kind Regards

**MRS GABRIELE WOOD**  
**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT**  
**SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL**