

COMMENTS & RESPONSES TABLE ON DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT PROPOSED AUGRABIES PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT

Introduction

The comments were captured from response forms received at the public meeting held on 19 November 2013 and other letters of comment on the Draft Basic Assessment.

Language

While the public participation forms were available in English and Afrikaans (on two sides of the same sheet), almost all the response forms received were filled in Afrikaans. The comments were captured verbatim without translation or correction of spelling errors. The public meeting was conducted in Afrikaans, with some translation on request into English. While almost everyone at the public meeting was home language Afrikaans, they almost all did understand English. The verbal questions, while mostly in Afrikaans, were recorded in English.

Omission of commercial and technical responses

A number of other responses were received of a purely commercial and technical project nature for example from people seeking employment, appointment as sub-consultants or wishing to negotiate other business relationships with the applicant. These were forwarded to the project proponent and were not included as public participation responses and the respondents were told that they would not be included as public participation responses, which they accepted. Responses which were mixed in nature were included.

Despite the Public Notice and Background Information Document explicitly stating that employment could not be applied for during the public participation process, numerous such enquiries were received. Some of those attending the public meeting evidently were seeking employment and were disappointed when told that they could not apply for work, and subsequently made comments of a general nature relating to supporting job-creation. The latter were included as Interested and Affected Party responses. Long after the closure of the comments period, the environmental consultant was still receiving job application enquiries for the project. One person continued trying to apply for a job even after it was explained that no jobs could be applied for at this stage. Job creation was evidently the priority interest at the public meeting.

Questions on the comments response form

Note- Five questions were listed on the comments form, responses to these questions have been listed in the same order for each response:

	Afrikaans	English
1.	Sal hierdie projek u persoonlik raak? (J/N) Omkring)	Will this project affect you personally? (Y/N) (Please ring)
2.	Indien wel, beskryf asseblief enige direkte besigheids-finansiele, persoonlike of ander belang wat u mag hê	If so, how? Please state any direct business, financial, personal or other interest
3.	Bykomende kwessies wat ondersoek moet word	Additional issues which should be investigated:
4.	Kommentaar op alternatiewe	Comment on alternatives:
5.	Enige ander bekommernis	Any other concerns you may have:

The first two questions are essentially information about the person asking the question and do not require a response. The last three questions are to stimulate comment.

Abbreviations of Interested Parties in comments report

<i>Abbreviation</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Northern Cape Province)
DEA	Department of Environment Affairs (National department) (formerly DEAT)
DENC	Department of Environment & Nature Conservation, Northern Cape Province
DWA	Department of Water Affairs (formerly DWAF)
PV	PhotoVoltaic (Solar)
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
SANPARKS	South African National Parks
WESSA	Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa

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Date	Raised by	Issue	Manne r raised	Comment	Response
19/11/2013	Johannes de Klerk	Disadvantages	Response form	1. Ek wil weet of die projek nie enige nadele vir die mens is nie	The question asked is what are the disadvantages of the project. The Environmental Impacts of the project are listed in the Basic Assessment Report (Appendix F and summary in Main Report).
19/11/2013	John Farrel	Ecology	Response form	As dit op 'n goeie basis gedoen word. Dat dit geen skade gaan aanrig in die omgewing nie.	The project has an Environmental Management Programme (Appendix G).
4 Dec 13	Samantha Ralston, Birdlife SA	Ecology – Bird area	Letter	<p>The shapefiles of all our IBAs can be downloaded from here: http://www.birdlife.org.za/conservation/iba/documentationdownloads</p> <p>For more information on the Augrabies IBA please see here: http://www.birdlife.org.za/conservation/iba/iba-directory/218-augrabiesfalls</p> <p>I hear understand your point about other sources of land use change in the area and we certainly do not want to single out renewable energy. BirdLife South Africa recognises the importance of increasing the proportion of energy generated from renewable energy in South Africa. We are merely flagging that solar energy (combined with other sources of habitat loss) presents a new driver of potentially rapid habitat alteration and the cumulative impacts of this must be borne in mind.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. The information you sent me:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * includes the proposed site as falling within the 'Important Bird Area'; * lists it as 'Fully protected'; * explains that the boundaries of the Important Bird Area were demarcated by the Augrabies National Park and the Riemvasmaak Community land combined. <p>Nevertheless, the proposed site on Portion 9 of Farm 15 is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Not part of the National Park. * Has no conservation status and never has had any. * It is not part of the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (indicating it is not a priority for inclusion) <p>Please find attached the actual approximate boundaries of the National Park in kml plus the boundaries of the proposed site to be compared with the Augrabies Important Bird Area.</p> <p>It appears that the area was demarcated using an incorrect boundary line, which has also been distributed by SANParks and SANBI. I have raised the issue of this error with them and they have acknowledged in writing that it is an error, but apparently this has not yet been corrected. Open Street Maps gives the correct Augrabies National Park boundary.</p> <p>The question is whether there is any reason to include this land within the Important Bird Area if it is not part of the National Park, which makes it different to the other surrounding farmland? On the land I observed considerably less bird numbers and diversity than in the Augrabies National Park or for that matter in</p>

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					<p>the adjacent irrigated farmland. I assume this was because numbers and diversity increased near to water of the Orange River, the crop irrigation and ironically due to the groundwater flowing from irrigated farmland to the East into the National Park. The botanical habitat types on the farm of the proposed site are similar to much larger areas found both in and outside the National Park. The farm of the proposed site has a relatively flat topography and very few trees over 1.5 metres, thus providing fewer species safe nesting opportunities, while the National Park has numerous cliffs, ridges, steep hills, diversity of botanical habitats and considerably more trees to provide nesting opportunities. The farm currently has only wild horses on it and thus its land use would not affect the bird population.</p> <p>I plan to add the Important Bird Area information to the BAR, but to also add that I believe this boundary demarcation was in error, unless you can motivate a reason for its inclusion.</p> <p>Very visible birds on the proposed site are Social Weavers, which had already colonised the Solar PV test station and I expect may similarly try to colonise the proposed PV Plant if built. I plan to add a recommendation that if any destruction of social weaver nests is necessary, that it be undertaken as soon as it starts or wait until outside of their breeding season. Since the proposed PV plant does not propose to clear all vegetation or topsoil from the site but to simply implant the PV arrays in the existing landscape, birds will be able to continue to forage on the land as they have done before the PV plant.</p>
4 Dec 13	Samantha Ralston, Birdlife SA	Ecology - Birds	Letter	While the proposed solar facility is relatively small, it is located close to the Augrabies National Park, an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area. A point worth noting in the BAR. Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas are sites that have been identified as critical for the long-term survival of birds that: (1) are globally threatened, (2) have a restricted range and/or (3) are restricted to specific biomes/vegetation types. In addition, IBAs include sites that have significant populations of congregatory birds.	The proposed project is being constructed in a manner to minimise habitat loss and allow for rapid restoration following decommissioning. The habitat type of the site is not threatened and is well represented and conserved within the Augrabies National Park. The site visits although not conducted by an avifaunal specialist found the bird diversity and population considerably less than the adjacent National Park.

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4 Dec 13	Samantha Ralston, Birdlife SA	Ecology Birds	Letter	BirdLife South Africa supports the sustainable development of renewable energy in South Africa. To this end we have produced guidelines to help minimise the impact on birds from solar facilities and associated infrastructure in South Africa (attached). We trust that these guidelines will be useful for this assessment, as well as any future assessments you may do for solar energy.	<p>The guidelines have been noted. The following additions to the Solar PV guidelines are suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Reflectivity: PV Panels can be reflective at a certain angle to the sun at certain locations, but only for short periods in the day particularly when the sun is low in the sky. They can be coated with an anti-reflective coating to scatter the light and mitigate this. * Social weavers & nesting: If nests are a problem, they should be removed as soon as nest building starts. Alternative more useful nest site cross poles could be put up elsewhere (and may anyway be available at the transmission line), but this risks creating a visual impact taller than the PV arrays. * Habitat destruction. PV arrays do not need site 'daylighting' clearance (engineering jargon for clearing all vegetation) nor do they need altering of the topography or bitumen roads or blasting. The PV arrays should as far as possible be inserted in the landscape with existing topography and vegetation, with only the need to excavate for concrete footings or cable trenches. Existing farm roads should be used as far as possible and reinforced where necessary. Blasting is unnecessary as PV footings can be anchored into existing rock. On decommissioning, the panels and supports can be removed leaving concrete footings in the ground. Screening hedges usually used for PV arrays in agricultural areas are inappropriate in a desert landscape - with scattered screening planting of species already growing in the area to break up visual impacts being more appropriate. Such a 'light engineering' approach saves costs and minimises habitat alteration - allowing habitat to be fully restored in minimal time on decommissioning.
4 Dec 13	Samantha Ralston, Birdlife SA	Ecology – Cumulative habitat impacts	Letter	As the BAR suggests it is likely that birds will move out of the development area. This does not imply that that birds will not be affected; habitat loss/ alternation must be considered as birds may longer use the area. Every effort must therefore be made to reduce loss of vegetation and disturbance. While these impacts are	The project has taken every effort to reduce habitat loss. It is not using the normal 'hard engineering' approach of vegetation site clearance and levelling, but rather inserting the PV equipment into the landscape using 'light engineering' approach with minimal vegetation removal. After decommissioning the foundations are

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				unlikely to be significant when this project is viewed in isolation, there are a number of similar projects proposed in the area. The potential for cumulative impacts should therefore be considered in this assessment.	being left in the ground, allowing very rapid return to previous habitat state. Many birds will be able to continue using the site. The proposed site is on the outer edge of an area of 'Blouputs Karroid thornveld' habitat. Firstly, the site is a very tiny percentage of this total habitat area. Secondly, almost all of this habitat area is conserved within the Augrabies National Park making a cumulative threat to it from development unlikely. Thirdly, the decommissioning plan will allow for full restoration. Fourthly, this is not a rare or threatened habitat type.
19/11/2013	Walter D. Klim	Ecology - Fauna & flora	Response form	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ja 2. Dis 'n ekonomiese inspuiting vir die plaaslike regering. 3. Fauna en flora 	Flora and fauna issues are addressed in Appendix F "Impact Assessment" of the Basic Assessment Report. The full Botanical specialist report is in Appendix D4. Fauna issues are in the Ecological Specialist Report in Appendix D4.
19/11/2013	Jonathan Adams	Ecology - Flora - Kokerbome	Response form	Die kokerbome word net in ons distrik gevind en ons is trots op hulle. So ek hoop regtig hulle word nie seergemaak in hierdie proses nie.	There are no known Kokerboom trees on the preferred PV site 1, but they are found elsewhere on the same farm. If any small Kokerboom trees do are found on the proposed site and were overlooked in the botanical survey for the environmental impact assessment, they will be relocated prior to construction.
15 Nov 13	Jacoline Mans, DAFF	Ecology – Flora permit	Letter	Please take note of the Flora Permit requirement in terms of the Northern Cape Nature Conservation Act, Act 9 of 2009 (NCNCA) administered by the provincial Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (DENC). The NCNCA contains schedules of protected and specially protected fauna and flora which are subjected to permitting requirements.	This is included in the Environmental Management Programme, page 43.
15 Nov 13	Jacoline Mans, DAFF	Ecology – Protected trees	Letter	The Directorate: Forestry Management (Other Regions) in the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) is mainly concerned about the potential impact on protected tree species. See the National Forests Act, Act 84 of 1998 (NFA) as amended, section 12(1)(d) read with s15(1) and s62(2)(c). The list of protected tree species was published in GN 716 of 7 September 2012. Some of the nationally declared protected tree species are known to occur in the vicinity of Augrabies and may include the following: <i>Acacia erioloba</i> (Camel thorn); <i>Boscia albitrunca</i> (Shepherd's Tree) and <i>Euclea pseudebenus</i> (Ebony tree) No protected tree may be cut, destroyed or disturbed	<p>The farm on which the proposed Augrabies PV project is proposed including the alternative site (site 2), does include protected trees, particularly <i>Boscia albitrunca</i>. At the preferred site (site 1) the environmental consultant did not see any large trees (>2m) but it is possible that there may be smaller protected plants on the site that require either relocation or permits for removal.</p> <p>If a more thorough checking of the site prior to construction identifies any such smaller trees, the necessary permits would be applied for prior to construction commencing.</p>

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				without a license.	The final Botanical Report and Environmental Management Programme have been amended to highlight this issue.
15 Nov 13	Jacoline Mans, DAFF	Ecology – Protected trees	Letter	Kindly ensure that you assess the anticipated impact on protected tree species (if any) and give an indication of how many protected trees would be destroyed as a result of the proposed development.	See previous answer.
19/11/2013	Jonathan Adams	Ecology - Scare animals?	Response form	1. Ja 2. Dis baie naby ons park gelee, sal daar nie groot masjinerie gebruik word wat van die diere sal verwilder nie?	The noise from machinery which will be used for construction will not cause an impact on animals in the park which is 2km away.
9 Dec 13	S.G Mbanjwa, DENC	Ecology – Vegetation permits	Letter	When clearance of the vegetation takes place permits must be obtained to clear or remove indigenous vegetation from the relevant authorities.	Firstly, the project does not intend to clear all vegetation on the site as is normally the case on construction projects. The proposal is to remove the minimum needed for the footings and cable trenches. Secondly, the project will apply for the necessary permits as specified in numerous places the Environmental Management Programme (Appendix G-1). The project has been in communication with the relevant authorities.
9 Dec 13	S.G Mbanjwa, DENC	Ecology - Watercourses	Letter	In the report there was stated that the solar arrays should be positioned in such a way as to fall a minimum of 30 m outside defined watercourses and pans. The Department recommends that the watercourses and pans must be avoided with a 32m buffer where no development may take place.	The preferred site location has been chosen and refined in consultation with the specialist team including an Aquatic Ecologist (see especially Appendix D-8). Because watercourses repeatedly split into smaller and smaller watercourses in a desert environment, it is impossible to entirely avoid impacting watercourses for a project this size. The project is avoiding watercourses that are 1 metre deep in terms of this buffer criterion. It is minimising but not entirely avoiding watercourses that are only 200 mm deep.
9 Dec 13	Shaun Cloete, DWA	Ecology - Alien vegetation	Letter	Alien vegetation must not be allowed to further colonise the area, and all new alien vegetation recruitment must be eradicated or controlled, using standard methods approved by the Department.	There is no alien vegetation on the site and owing to the very arid nature of the site, alien invasives are not likely to survive there without special irrigation. No such irrigation is to be provided and even if it was such vegetation could not spread into the desert. Nevertheless, such control provisions are included in the Environmental Management Programme, e.g. page 60 and page 119.
9 Dec 13	Shaun Cloete,	Ecology -	Letter	Distance from the water course	The proposed project has selected the minimum impact alternative on drainage lines and entirely avoids those more than about half a

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	DWA	Watercourses		Please note that our Department rates all perennial and non perennial rivers together with all dry river beds and natural drainage and associated riparian areas extremely sensitive to development. An option of developing furthest away from the all water course would a preferred option.	metre deep. In a desert environment, these drainage lines split into smaller and smaller channels and it is impossible to site a 20 hectare development without impacting the smaller ones which may be only about 200mm in depth.
19 Nov 13	Vivian McPherson, Kai Garib	Education & Training	Verbal, Meeting @ Municipality	Some local education and training in the electrical and/or Solar PV field.	The applicant intends using local labour and possibly developing the skills of people of the local community to work in the plant during the construction and operation phases. The Department of Energy bidding process gives a competitive advantage to projects that do this.
19/11/2013	Lionel Eiman	Employment - Employee benefits	Response form	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. - 2. - 3. Geen 4. Ek wil weet of daar 'n doodsvsekerings is as jy dalk by die werk siek raak of seer kry en of daar gesorg word vir die 'situasie'. 5. Geen 	It is too early to discuss employee benefits such as health insurance and death benefits at this stage. If the project is granted environmental authorisation, it will proceed to rezoning, then to bidding, then to financial close and then to construction. External contractors will be appointed for Construction and for Operation and Maintenance. Construction- and Operation and Maintenance Contracting companies will be responsible for the appointment of onsite employees.
19/11/2013	Johannes de Klerk	Employment - Job creation	Response form	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Nee 3. Geen 4. Omdat ek voel dat die energie 'n werkskepping projek vir die gemeenskap- dis hoekom ek wil deelneem. 5. Omdat die sonpale meer werk skep vir die gemeenskap 	The project will provide a modest contribution to employment. Estimated twelve full time jobs and 50 person-years during construction phase.
19/11/2013	Marseline Mathews	Employment - Job creation	Response form	Die bekommernis uit my staanpunt is dat daar nie genoeg werkskepping sal wees nie en baie van ons is werkloos en daar is ook baie mense in SA wat daaronder benadeel word.	The project expects to create twelve full time jobs during operation phase and the equivalent of fifty persons employed for a year during construction phase. This is a modest contribution towards job creation.
19/11/2013	Vanessa Mathews	Employment - Job creation	Response form	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ja 2. Dit het 'n goeie impak op ons omgewing en skep meer werkseleenthede vir ons gemeenskap. 3. - 4. - 5. Gaan daar soveel werkseleenthede vir ons gemeenskap is. Hoeveel mense in diens geneem gaan word. 	The project expects to create twelve full time jobs during operation phase and the equivalent of fifty persons employed for a year during construction phase. This is a modest contribution towards job creation.

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19/11/2013	Eugene Gauls	Employment – job creation	Response form	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. If the projects open it could provide jobs for our community. 3. They should first do research on people who are interested to avoid hiring more people for the job than needed. 	External contractors will be appointed for Construction and for Operation and Maintenance. Construction- and Operation and Maintenance Contracting companies will be responsible for the appointment of on site employees.
19/11/2013	Jeffrey Thomas	Employment – Job creation	Response form	Ek wil hier werk omdat ek wil 'n beter lewe vir die mense in die gemeenskap gee.	The project expects to create twelve full time jobs during operation phase and the equivalent of fifty persons employed for a year during construction phase. This is a modest contribution towards job creation.
19/11/2013	Moses Muranji	Employment – Job creation	Response form	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nee 2. Ek voel om die brief te skryf want ek voel om die werk te kry want ek wil werk dit is hoe ek voel. Ons voel dat daar moet werk wees in ons plek want ek voel daar moet iets wees. 3. - 4. Ons soek werk want ons het nie werk in ons plek nie nou is die is vir ons belangrik ons sal dit waardeer as daar werk is. 	If it proceeds, the project will make a modest contribution towards employment.
19/11/2013	Michelle Jacobs	Employment – Job creation	Response form	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ja 2. Meer besigheid in ons omgewing. 3. - 4. - 5. My bekommernis is werkloosheid speel 'n groot rol 	If it proceeds, the project will make a modest contribution towards employment.
19/11/2013	Derick Mouton	Employment – Job creation	Response form	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ja 2. Dit sal van die mense wat werkloos is help. 	If it proceeds, the project will make a modest contribution towards employment.
19/11/2013	Walter D. Klim	Employment - Local labour	Response form	Streng plaaslike arbeid moet van gebruik gemaak word.	<p>If the project is granted environmental authorisation, it will proceed to rezoning, then to bidding, then to financial close and then to construction. External contractors will be invited for Construction and for Operation and Maintenance. Construction- and Operation and Maintenance Contracting companies will be responsible for the appointment of onsite employees.</p> <p>The request for use of local labour has been forwarded to the applicant. Some of the skills required on the project may not be available in the local town of Augrabies, in which case 'local'</p>

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					may need to be defined from further away. Local contractors will have the advantage of lower travel costs in putting in proposals for work. A contractor based in a nearby town has registered his interest in undertaking construction if the project proceeds.
19/11/2013	Eugene Gauls	Employment - Local labour	Response form	If the job opens in our district, they should hire people in our district and not from other districts.	Response to question same as above.
9 Dec 13	S.G Mbanjwa, DENC	Employment - Local Labour	Letter	There was stated in the report that the total amount of workers will be 50. Will these workers be local or non-local?	The project intends to employ local labour, but if certain needed skills are not found in the area, they may need to be sourced from a further distance.
19/11/2013	Jeffrey Thomas	Employment - UIF	Response form	1. Nee 2. - 3. Ek wil ook weet of daar 'n blou kaart uitgegee word as ons klaar die werk gedoen het.	It is understood that 'blou kaart' is slang for Unemployment Insurance. The regular labour law would apply.
19/11/2013	Raymond Swartz	Employment - UIF	Response form	1. Nee 2. - 3. Geen 4. - 5. As julle belofte maak dan moet julle dit nakom veral by ons pay per dag asseblief, en of ons bloukaart kry vir die hoeveelheid jaar wat ons gewerk het.	The employer is required by law to honour payment obligations to employees. 'Bloukaart' is understood to refer to State Unemployment Insurance. The same rules for Unemployment Benefits would apply to work on the Augrabies PV project as with any other employment. Queries should be directed to the Department of Labour. Their advertised Northern Cape contact telephone no is (053) 838 1500.
19/11/2013	Jeffrey Thomas	Employment - Workmen's compensation	Response form	Ek wil weet of daar nie enige probleme wees oor die son panele. As ons dalk seer kry of iets oor kom by die werk sal ons behandel word of omgesien word?	If the project is granted environmental authorisation, it will proceed to rezoning, then to bidding, then to financial close and then to construction. External contractors will be appointed for Construction and for Operation and Maintenance. Construction and Operation and Maintenance Contracting companies will be responsible for the appointment of on site employees. It is thus premature to discuss employee benefits at this stage.
19/11/2013	Johannes Swartz	Employment - Workmen's compensation	Response form	1. Nee 2. - 3. - 4. - 5. Enige iets wat kan gebeur in die werk is dit betaalbaar.	It is understood the question relates to workmen's compensation. The standard labour law with respect to workmen's compensation would apply. It is too early to discuss employee benefits beyond the labour law at this stage.

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19/11/2013	Derick Mouton	End use - Cost saving	Response form	Ek dink die sonenergie is beter en goedkoper as die krag wat ons nou het.	Solar power generation costs have been coming down every year, but have not yet reached the point of being cheaper than coal power. Possibly in future it will be cheaper.
19/11/2013	Derick Mouton	End use - Cost saving	Response form	Dit sal vir my baie goedkoper wees, so ek sal kan spaar.	See above
19/11/2013	Nicoleen Willemse	End use – Cost saving	Response form	1. - 2. Nee! Dit sal goed wees vir ons gemeenskappe vir besparing op elektrisiteit.	The electricity from the PV Plant will be sold to Eskom, who in turn may distribute it to the municipality and local users. The price of electricity is regulated nationally. While the Solar electricity may be used locally, the local price of electricity will not thus be different to elsewhere in the country.
19/11/2013	L Janse van Rooy	End use - Feasibility	Response form	Hoe haalbaar is dit vir die gemeenskap om hierdie energie te bekom.	The energy will be fed into the Eskom electrical grid at the Blouputs substation. It is likely to be used by the nearest communities using this substation. If the project proceeds, the Augrabies community will use part of the power generated.
19/11/2013	Marseline Mathews	End use - Home use	Response form	1. Ja 2. - 3. Daar moet ondersoek ingestel word op mense wat bv. soos riethuise het. Hoe gaan dit hulle benadeel om dit in hulle huise te installeer.	The question on how to install in a 'reed house' is based on a misperception that the solar panels will be installed in individual houses. The proposed project includes panels over a 20 hectare area fed into the Eskom electrical grid. The home end-users will not have to do anything different from other electrical installations.
19/11/2013	Derick Mouton	Health and safety	Response form	Kyk of die projek veilig is.	The project will be undertaken in a professional manner in compliance with relevant safety legislation such as the Occupational Health and Safety Act (Act 85 of 1993) as well as more specific policy and legal requirements for electrical safety. Risks would be similar to other electrical installations. No health risks have been identified other than those to workers on the construction and operational of the project.
19/11/2013	Nicoleen Willemse	Health and safety	Response form	Is dit veiliger en gesonder as gewone elektriese gebruikers?	Solar PV electrical generation is in many respects safer and healthier to those living near to the generation location than other forms of power generation – compared for example with fossil fuels that generate air pollution and nuclear power that includes radioactive disaster risk and waste disposal problems. Nevertheless, Augrabies town is currently using electricity generated far away and thus is not impacted by this pollution and

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					risk.
8 Nov 13	Jenna Lavin, SAHRA	Heritage	Letter	Based on the submitted information, SAHRA has no objection to the proposed development as it is unlikely that significant heritage resources will be impacted on condition that; Rocky ridges and prominent outcrops are not impacted by the proposed development. Should this not be possible, strong motivation for the destruction of known heritage resources must be provided to SAHRA and a Phase 2 mitigation excavation may be required.	Rocky ridges and prominent outcrops will not be visually impacted by the proposed development. A water pipe will connect the site with an existing small reservoir on an adjacent ridge.
8 Nov 13	Jenna Lavin, SAHRA	Heritage	Letter	[Condition of 'no objection':] The structure and grave are not impacted by the proposed development. Any alterations or proposed demolition of structures older than 60 years are subject to a permit in terms of Section 34 of the NHRA. The stone cairn is not impacted or disturbed by the proposed development.	The stone cairn may or may not be a grave and it will not be impacted by the proposed development. Nevertheless, this requirement is included in the Environmental Management Programme, p43.
8 Nov 13	Jenna Lavin, SAHRA	Heritage	Letter	[Condition of 'no objection':] Should any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments , marine shell and charcoal/ash concentrations), unmarked human burials, fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed activities, SAHRA APM Unit (Jenna Lavin/Colette Scheermeyer 021 462 4502) must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary.	This has been included in the Environmental Management Programme, p43.
8 Nov 13	Jenna Lavin, SAHRA	Heritage	Letter	Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header. [Jenna Lavin 021 462 4502]	Noted.
9 Dec 13	Howard Hendricks, SANParks	I&AP registration	Letter	The Environmental Consultant for the construction of this facility will inform SANParks as duly registered Interested and Affected Party on any updates and further communication to this effect.	Multiple officials within SANParks have been included in the list of Interested & Affected Parties and will be formally notified of any updates and further communication on the project. Informal

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					follow up communication will also continue.
9 Dec 13	Howard Hendricks, SANParks	Info - Park buffer zone	Letter	The proposed site for the facility falls outside the demarcated buffer zone footprint for the Augrabies Falls National Park (AFNP);	'Outside' is suspected to be a typo and meant to be 'inside'. The proposed PV site 1 is outside the National Park, but inside the National Park Viewshed Protection Area in which special care must be taken regarding visual impacts.
12 Nov 13	AT Leburu, DENC	Info - Application no	Letter	<p>APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED MULILO RENEWABLE ENERGY (PTY) LTD PHOTOVOLTAIC (SOLAR) ENERGY PLANT NEAR AUGRABIE, KAI! GARIB LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, ZF MGCAWU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY PREVIOUSLY (SIYANDA), NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.</p> <p>We confirm having received the Draft Basic Assessment Report of the above mentioned application. The application has been assigned the reference numbers NC/NAT/ZFM/KAI!/AUG1/2013 (DEA ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/453). Kindly quote this reference numbers in any future correspondence in respect of the application. Please draw the applicant's attention to the fact that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorization being granted by the Department. Kindly note that the responsible Environmental Officer for this project is Ms. D Werth and can be contacted at this number (053) 8077430.</p>	Noted. This reference number has been included in the Basic Assessment Report Project information section.
19/11/2013	Philip Rosenthal (consultant)	Local knowledge – Animal sightings	Verbal @Public meeting	The meeting was asked whether any animal sightings had been seen in the vicinity of the site.	No one had seen any.
19/11/2013	Philip Rosenthal (consultant)	Local knowledge – EIA process	Verbal @Public meeting	The meeting was asked who knew what an Environmental Impact Assessment process was.	Nobody knew this except for the landowner and municipal representatives. It the purpose of the EIA process and consultation process was explained.

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19/11/2013	Philip Rosenthal (consultant)	Local knowledge – Employment	Verbal @Public meeting	The meeting was asked whether there had been any rumours that jobs could be applied for at the meeting.	Many of the ‘Open day’ attendees indicated informally that they had apparently been misled by a rumour that the purpose of the meeting was to register for employment on the project – and that all who wanted jobs should bring their ID books to the meeting – despite all advertising posters and flyers stating that no jobs could be applied for during the public participation process. The job seekers were disappointed to hear this was not correct, but stayed nevertheless and participated in the meeting.
19/11/2013	Philip Rosenthal (consultant)	Local knowledge – Heritage	Verbal @Public meeting	The meeting was asked whether an heritage issues were known about the site.	No one knew anything.
19/11/2013	Philip Rosenthal (consultant)	Local knowledge – Solar Panels	Verbal @Public meeting	The meeting was asked who had seen solar panels and knew what they were.	Some at the meeting indicated they had seen solar panels and knew what they were. Single solar panels are commonly being used to power boreholes on farms in locations which are some distance from sources of electrical power.
5 Nov 13	John Geeringh	Misc Impacts - Electrical infrastructure	Letter	The development does not seem to have an impact on existing or planned Transmission infrastructure. The development will connect to an Eskom substation and may impact on smaller distribution power lines , etc., thus please find attached requirements for works at or near Eskom infrastructure.	It is correct that the project does not have an impact on existing Eskom infrastructure, except to tie in for transmission purposes. The project applicant is familiar with Eskom’s standard requirements for working in servitudes. The requirements are technical in nature and thus not responded to in detail in this report. Nevertheless, if a direct tie-in to the Eskom substation is required by Eskom, then the applicant is requesting that Eskom built it themselves.
12 April 2012	Koos Pretorius, CAA	Misc impacts - Aviation	Letter	Approved: Proposed Augrabies PV Solar Energy Facility (Rooipad 15) situated near Augrabies, Northern Cape. After evaluating the site position and reviewing the information as received via email dated 2012/04/02, the CAA has no objection to the proposed Energy facility development with a maximum height restriction of 4,0 m. above ground level and with the Overhead	Noted.

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				Electrical Power Transmission Lines having a maximum height of 7.5m. Kindly contact Harry Roberts: robertsh@caa.co.za, Mobile: 0795058417 if further information is required.	
19/11/2013	Elton Elrico Swartz (2 comment sheets)	No comment	Response form	1. Nee 2. Geen 3. Nee 4. - 5. Nee	No comment. No response required.
19/11/2013	Willem Gouws	No comment	Response form	1. Nee 2. Geen 3. - 4. - 5. -	No comment. No response required.
19/11/2013	Dirk Basson	No comment	Response form	1. Ja 2. - 3. - 4. - 5. -	No comment. No response required.
19/11/2013	Caroline Paulo	No comment	Response form	1. - 2. Geen 3. - 4. - 5. -	No comment. No response required.
19/11/2013	Luis Paulo	No comment	Response form	1. - 2. Geen 3. - 4. - 5. -	No comment. No response required.
19/11/2013	Jacobus Hayes	No comment	Response form	1. Nee 2. Geen 3. Geen 4. Geen 5. Geen	No comment. No response required.

Date	Raised by	Issue	Manner raised	Comment	Response
4 Dec 13	Schalk Grobbelaar	Planning	Telephone	The consultant was requested to discuss the project with the planning consultants for the Northern Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework, Dennis Moss Partnership.	<p>In a telephone conversation with Mr SW vd Merwe of Dennis Moss Partnership, on 6 December 13, the project was discussed. In this conversation it was clarified that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Nothing is cast in stone. All things are in flux. Nothing is excluded. All is subject to proper ground truthing and proper Environmental Impact Assessment. * The Solar Corridor was 'broad brush'. * You did not see any problem with the Augrabies PV proposal. * In response to my concern that the Augrabies area would not qualify in terms of the criteria for a UNESCO Biosphere reserve, Mr vd Merwe suggested the planning alternative of a 'Special Management Area' around the Augrabies National Park, which may include the subject site. A model for this alternative was the 'Nuwejaars Wetland Special Management Area' in Bredasdorp, with another one being developed near Upington. The environmental consultants response was that while this proposal sounds attractive, the setup of a 'Special Management Area' could not be facilitated as part of the Augrabies PV project, but if it was independently set up, then the Augrabies PV project could be integrated into the Special Management Area.
2 Dec 13	Schalk Grobbelaar	Planning - Provincial	Letter	Na verdere ondersoek oor die voorgestelde son energie ontwikkeling, blyk dit dat dit binne die "Core" area in die Provinsiale SDF val en dat ontwikkeling van die aard nie binne die gebied toelaat word nie.	It is argued that the project is compliant with the Northern Cape Provincial SDF and that the mapping as a 'core area' was due to a mapping error of the Augrabies National Park boundary which found its way into other databases including those of the South African National Biodiversity Institute, Department of Environment Affairs and the Northern Cape Government. This is motivated in detail in a letter dated 5 December 13 (see Appendix E-6-15). The motivation is too long to be included in this comments table. The motivation letter was forwarded to the authors of the Provincial SDF, who did not dispute the motivation.

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4 Dec 13	Schalk Grobbelaar	Planning – Provincial - Solar Corridor	Telephone	The project is not in the ‘Solar Corridor’ as defined in the Provincial SDF.	<p>The Northern Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF) defines a 'Solar Corridor' which it defines page 68 as "This corridor centres around Upington and extends from roughly Kakamas in the north to De Aar in the east". The proposed site is 35 km from Kakamas. The 'Solar corridor' is mapped on Plan C1.2 as north of the Orange River Valley and not including the towns of Keimoes, Kakamas or Augrabies.</p> <p>Why this apparent contradiction between the written text and the drawing? It appears that the Northern Cape PSDF was mapping the Solar Corridor in a broad 'broad brush' manner and the map is not meant to strictly limit solar development outside of this corridor. Many of the approved Solar Projects in the Northern Cape do not fall within this mapped corridor. In fact the proposed site is closer to the mapped 'Solar Corridor' than the town of Kakamas which is included in the text description of the corridor. Renewable Energy Structures need to preferably be located near to existing substations and within the High Solar Radiation areas. These locations will at times fall outside the mapped Solar corridor. One of the Solar Energy Sites currently under construction is near to the town of Pofadder which is much further from the Solar Corridor.</p> <p>The consultants who authored the PSDF have confirmed that the Solar Corridor is meant to be interpreted as ‘broad brush’.</p>
4 Dec 13	Schalk Grobbelaar	Planning Provincial – Motivation	Telephone	The project is requested to submit a motivation using the form “Toolkit E-16” found in the Northern Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework (SDF).	This will be done, but it was agreed that it was not necessary to do so prior to the finalisation of the Basic Assessment Report.
9 Dec 13	Shaun Cloete, DWA	Pollution	Letter	The applicant should ensure that no chemicals/ oils that might spill during the construction should lead to surface as well groundwater contamination.	This is included in the Environmental Management Plan, page 50.
9 Dec 13	Shaun Cloete, DWA	Pollution	Letter	<p>The construction method should not have a significantly impact on the type and quantity of the construction waste and impact on the water resources.</p> <p>Material with pollution generating potential must be limited in any construction activities. Any hazardous substances must be handled according to the relevant legislation relating to transport, storage</p>	This is included in the Environmental Management programme, e.g. Page 50 and 64.

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				and use of the substance.	
9 Dec 13	Shaun Cloete, DWA	Pollution	Letter	Any spillage of any hazardous materials including diesel that may occur during construction and operation must be reported immediately.	Noted.
9 Dec 13	Shaun Cloete, DWA	Pollution - Construction camp	Letter	The construction camp shall not be located within the 1:100 year flood line or within 100 meters whatever is the greatest from any watercourse. Operation and storage of equipment within the riparian zone must be limited as far as possible.	This is included in the Environmental Management Plan, page 34.
9 Dec 13	Shaun Cloete, DWA	Pollution - Site Vehicles		Vehicles and other machinery must be serviced well above the 1:100 year flood line or within a horizontal distance of 100 meters from any watercourse or estuary. Oils and other potential pollutants must be disposed off at an appropriate licensed site, with the necessary agreement from the owner of such a site.	This is included in the Environmental Management Plan, page 40.
19/11/2013	Walter Klim	Project info	Verbal @Public meeting	There is also a proposal for a hydro-power project near Augrabies. Can this project happen as well as the hydro project or can only one project happen?	Yes. The hydro comes from a separate allocation of megawatts of power from the Department of Energy Renewable Energy programme. The two projects would also connect to different Eskom substations. Therefore the two projects are totally independent and have no influence on each other.
9 Dec 13	S.G Mbanjwa, DENC	Project info - Diesel	Letter	During the construction phase of the project will diesel be stored on site and if the diesel will be stored on site in what quantities will the diesel be stored?	No diesel will be stored on site.
19/11/2013	John Farrel	Project info - Land area	Response form	Die grondoppervlakte waar die sonpaneel geplaas gaan word.	The land area where the solar panels would be placed would be up to a maximum of 20 hectares.
19/11/2013	Lukas van Rooyen	Project info - proponent	Verbal	Is this a government project?	The project, if it proceeds will be paid for by the government's Department of Energy Renewable Energy programme, but a private company Mulilo Renewable Energy is undertaking the project. The government would buy the electricity from the private company.
19/11/2013	L Janse van Rooy	Project info - Sustainability	Response form	1. – 2. – 3. Sal dit 'n volhoubare krag wees	Solar Power is a sustainable form of energy. The project is planned for a 20 year life.
19/11/2013	Nicoleen Willems	Project info - Time frames	Response form and	Vir hoe lank voor dit verwag word met is beter	Before the project can proceed, it must first complete the environmental process and if authorised, a town planning process. Then there is a Department of Energy bidding process. If

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			verbal		successful, then a financial process. Then a construction process. The soonest the project could start construction would be 2015 and operation during 2016.
9 Dec 13	S.G Mbanjwa, DENC	Project info - Water	Letter	On page 29 there was stated that the water that will be used for the cleaning of the panels will be absorbed by the soil. When cleaning the panels will there be made use of hazarded chemicals?	The panel washing will only be with water. No additives of chemicals or anything else will be added to the water for the cleaning purposes of the panels.
19/11/2013	Lukas van Rooyen	Project info - Feasibility	Verbal	Solar Photovoltaic technology is advancing. In five years there will be better technology making the current project redundant. Then will not the whole project will be a waste of money?	<p>The project if awarded will be for a 25 year contract at an agreed price and so the project will continue regardless of improvements in technology.</p> <p>The past few years there has been a substantial drop in price in the cost of Solar PV installations and a small improvement in efficiency (amount of electricity produced per panel of the same size). The small improvements in efficiency would not justify the replacement of existing infrastructure (e.g. solar panels).</p> <p>On a strategic level, the improvements in technology of efficiency and production cost have come about only because of subsidised large scale utilities. Supporters of renewable energy hope that these technological advances will eventually make renewable energy as cheap as fossil fuel and nuclear energy. Since investment in large scale utilities is itself driving the technological advances, they cannot wait for the technological advances.</p>
9 Dec 13	Shaun Cloete, DWA	Project Info - Sewage	Letter	<p>Storm Water management</p> <p>The applicant should provide the Department with a clear description on how sewage from the PV Plant will be dealt with during the construction and operation of the plant.</p>	<p>During construction a sufficient number of chemical toilets shall be provided by the contractor in the construction camp areas and at appropriate location approved by the Engineer.</p> <p>During operation composting toilets will most likely be installed which does not require water, septic tanks or soak aways.</p>
9 Dec 13	S.G Mbanjwa, DENC	Public participation	Letter	Kindly provide the Department with a copy of the comment and response report.	The Department will be provided with a copy of the comments report included in the Final Basic Assessment Report.
19/11/2013	Lukas van Rooyen	Public	Verbal	Will negative questions and statements be recorded in the final report?	Yes. If you register as an Interested and Affected Party, you will receive a letter notifying you of the availability of the Final Basic

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		participation			Assessment Report. You can check the Final report to see that your statements were recorded. If you are not satisfied, you can complain to the consultant and the Department of Environment Affairs.
30 Oct 13	Suzanne Erasmus, WESSA Northern Cape	Public participation	Letter	<p>Unlike most other Regions, the Northern Cape Region of WESSA has no staff, and is run by a group of volunteers. We currently have nobody on our Committee to handle the Conservation portfolio, and pressure of work means that we are not able to attend meetings or participate in Environmental Impact Assessments at this time. Please note that a lack of response does not mean that we condone this project; it simply means that we do not have the capacity to deal with these matters.</p> <p>In the interest of saving paper, trees and costs, please do not post any hardcopies or discs to us, unless specifically requested. We cannot currently cope with these and they will be destroyed.</p> <p>Our fax (053 842 1433) belongs to the McGregor Museum, and should only be used under exceptional circumstances, and for single pages only. This is a communal machine, so please mark all documents clearly 'WESSA', or direct them to me by name. We prefer to communicate by e-mail.</p>	Noted. The advocacy work of WESSA is appreciated and lack of capacity to participate is regretted.
19/11/2013	Nicolene Willemse	Public participation	Verbal @Public meeting	Kakamas library is too far away from Augrabies. The final Basic Assessment Report should be placed at the municipal office at Augrabies. <i>[When asked, the meeting unanimously supported this.]</i>	The final Basic Assessment Report will be placed at the Municipal Office at Augrabies.
19 Nov 13	Vivian McPherson	Public Participation - Presentation	Verbal, Meeting @ Municipality	Request a presentation to the full Kai Garib council at one of its pre-scheduled meetings on the proposed PV project including a description of the project and the process of construction the environmental specialist study findings before the consideration of the rezoning application.	This requested presentation will be made at the rezoning application stage of the project.
19 Nov 13	Vivian McPherson	Road maintenance	Verbal, Meeting @	Request assistance in the maintenance of the road to the Solar Facility, because it may attract tourists and thus traffic on the road.	Firstly, the traffic generated from the proposed project is not expected to be significant in relation to the existing traffic on the R359 road. The project will not require hard asphalt surfacing of

Date	Raised by	Issue	Manner raised	Comment	Response
			Municipality		<p>its access road, while the R359 is asphalt surfaced. It is not anticipated that the project will generate any significant special trips by tourists, although tourists going that way may be interested to see the project. The Solar PV panels will look the same as existing PV panels commonly used elsewhere, except that there will be a large number concentrated in one place.</p> <p>Secondly, damage to road pavement is mostly caused by heavy trucks rather than by small passenger vehicles commonly used by tourists. The project is thus not expected to contribute significantly to road maintenance.</p>
19/11/2013	VP McPherson	Road maintenance	Response form	5. Onderhoud van pad vergaandag	See above
9 Dec 13	S.G Mbanjwa, DENC	Social - HIV - AIDS	Letter	Can you also kindly indicate how the health risk of HIV/AIDS will be managed during the construction of the proposed project and operational phase of the project?	<p>HIV/AIDS is a health risk relating to promiscuous sexual behaviour. The special project related social impact risks relating to HIV/AIDS usually relate to the temporary importation of large numbers of male workers disconnected from families into a settled community. The risk is that some of the family-disconnected male temporary workers then engage in promiscuous and high risk sexual behaviour in that settled community. Such a scenario is not only an HIV risk, but also socially damaging to family life.</p> <p>These special risk factors are not present for this proposed PV project. Firstly, the workforce is small: approximately twelve positions and 50 person-years during construction phase. Secondly there currently are thousands of migrant workers employed per fruit farm moving into the area to work during the summer harvest season from Tswana tribal lands that formerly comprised Bophuthatswana. Thirdly, the project aims as far as possible to employ local labour. The existing migrant labour situation on farms carries this inherent risk and diversification of employment opportunities is lower risk and more desirable. If anything, the project will contribute modestly towards social</p>

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					stability and not create instability. HIV/AIDS is a national health risk associated with irresponsible sexual behaviour, which is not a special risk increased by this project.
19/11/2013	VP McPherson	Social impact	Response form	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nee 2. Munisipale amptenaar(stadsbeplanner). Moet alle verslae ondergaan om omvang van ontwikkeling te evalueer. 3. Sosiale impak? 4. - 	The social impacts of the project are addressed in the Basic Assessment Report, Section 8.
9 Dec 13	Shaun Cloete, DWA	Stormwater management	Letter	Storm water during the construction of the PV plant must be diverted from the construction works and roads and must be managed in such a manner as to disperse runoff and to prevent the concentration of storm water flow. Where necessary, works must be constructed to attenuate the velocity of the storm water discharge and to protect the banks of the watercourse. Storm water control works must be constructed, operated and maintained in a sustainable manner throughout the project.	The Environment Management Programme includes detailed specifications for stormwater management. Nevertheless, significant flow velocity is not anticipated as the site does not have a significant catchment flowing into it.
9 Dec 13	Shaun Cloete, DWA	Stormwater management	Letter	Increased runoff due to vegetation clearance and/or soil compaction must be managed, and steps must be taken to ensure that storm water does not lead to bank instability and excessive levels of silt entering the watercourse. Storm water leaving the applicant's premises must in no way be contaminated by any substance, whether such substance is a solid, liquid, vapour or gas or a combination thereof which is produced, used, stored, dumped or spilled on the premises.	The vegetation is very thin in this arid environment and only a fraction will be removed for construction which will not require clearance of the whole site. Stormwater management is dealt with on page 111 of the Environmental Management Programme.
19/11/2013	Marseline Mathews	Support for project	Response form	My kommentaar is dat ek baie dankbaar is dat daar sulke voordele soos dit nagekom word want dit is nie aldag wat dit gebeur nie.	Support for the project is noted.
19/11/2013	Shaltin Ricardo Du Plessis	Support for project	Response form	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nee 2. Geen 3. Nee, alles is uitdruklik verduidelik daar is geen kwessies wat onduidelik is na my mening is dit iets goed vir Augrabies. 4. Dit sal goed wees na mening. Soos bo genoem, Rede: dis lug beskerming, minder siektes en ook baie geld besparing. 5. Geen 	Support for project is noted. In terms of the reasons given: Solar Power will reduce air pollution as compared with burning fossil fuel such as coal, but the benefit will be national rather than local. While the cost of production is coming down, it currently does not save money compared with coal.
19/11/2013	John Farrel	Support for project	Response form	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nee 2. Dit gaan baie goedkoper wees vir die gemeenskap en dit 	Support for the project is noted. Nevertheless, the perception that it will provide cheaper electricity for the community is incorrect.

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		project		het geen nadele in die omgewing nie. Dis goed vir die groei van die natuur en die mens se gesondheid.	The electricity will be sold to Eskom who will sell electricity at the same price regardless of how it is generated. The health benefit will be by reducing pollution at other locations.
19/11/2013	Kevin Silver	Support for project	Response form	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nee 2. Dit gaan meer werk verskaf aan jeugdiges. 3. – 4. – 5. Dis 'n veilige manier vir ons omgewing. 	Support for the project for reasons of job creation and environmental safety are noted.
19/11/2013	Kennedy Booyesen	Town improvement - Community working together	Response form	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ja 2. Op die oomblik het ek geen inkomste nie en ek is 'n man van 2 kinders en 'n huisgesin. 3. Om redelike aandag te skenk aan ons plaaslike klein dorpie ens. 4. Ek myself gaan baie hart in sit om van ons plaaslike dorpie 'n beter leeftyd te kan skep. 5. Dat ons moet as gemeenskap bymekaar staan en ons plek 'n beter leeftyd te kan gee. 	The comment implies the Augrabies town is neglected and motivates the need for the community participate and work together to develop this rural town. Participation in this public consultation process is appreciated.
19/11/2013	Elvic Stevens	Town improvement - Community working together	Response form	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ja 2. Indien wil ek verklaar dat ek geen inkomste of werk het nie en ek is die oudste seun in die huis en sit sonder werk. 3. Ek verlang dat ons bymekaar as 'n een groep/gemeenskap bymekaar staan om ons plaaslike dorpie na te sien. 4. Ek verklaar my self dat ek teen alle tye by die vergaderings te wees vir meer inligting oor ons dorp. 5. Dat ons as gemeenskap as een moet saam staan sodat ons die beste kan maak kan maak 	The comment motivates the need for the community participate and work together. Participation in this public consultation process is appreciated.
19/11/2013	Elric Stevens	Town improvement - Government help	Response form	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ja 2. Ek gaan graag wil sê dat die regering agter ons moet kyk, want vir ons is daar niks uit weg nie. 3. - 4. - 5. - 	The comment implies the town of Augrabies is marginalised and requests the government to look after the town. The request and specific suggestions to that purpose should be directed to the government, possibly through the Ward councillor.
15 Nov 13	Jacoline Mans, DAFF	Veld fires	Letter	The DAFF is also responsible for the administration of the National Veld and Forest Fires Act, Act 101 of 1998 (NVFFA) as amended. Please take note of roles and responsibilities in terms of	Noted. The farm manager says he is not aware of a veld fire ever having occurred on this land. It is very thinly vegetated desert and the fuel load is thought to be insufficient to sustain a veld fire.

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				the NVFFA.	Nevertheless, this legislation is acknowledged in the Basic Assessment Report and the Environmental Management Programme includes standard specifications to avoid veld fires. The Environmental Management Programme does reference this legislation (page 12).
9 Dec 13	Howard Hendricks, SANParks	Visual - Alternatives	Letter	The organisation would object to Site 2 due to its visual impact in the eastern extent of AFNP;	Noted. The Basic Assessment Report is recommending site 1 rather than site 2 for this reason.
4 Dec 13	Schalk Grobbelaar	Visual impact	Telephone	Visual impacts on the National Park are a concern. Motivation is needed as to why the project needs to be there.	<p>The visual impact reports (Appendix D7) that indicate that the preferred site for the Augrabies PV project would not be visible from any of the viewsites of the National Park.</p> <p>The site is favourable for electricity generation because of its proximity to the Blouputs substation which has spare capacity, the all year round sun availability, the highest solar radiation levels in the country and the availability of the land. Other favourable criteria include include the low agricultural potential (minimal rainfall and very thin soil cover), the fact that the botanical habitat type is not threatened and is well conserved elsewhere in the Augrabies National Park, and the lack of heritage constraints.</p>
9 Dec 13	Peter Bradshaw SANParks	Visual impact - Glare	Letter	Concern over risk of glare. Request supplementary report by visual specialist.	A supplementary report was undertaken by the visual specialist at the request of SANParks (see back of Appendix D-7) and found that glare would not be a risk on any road or viewsite in the Augrabies National Park. It would be a risk in the early morning for a public road which is not used by Park visitors.
31 Oct 13	Nardus Du Plessis, Augrabies Ranger (Private Capacity)	Visual impact – Moon Rock viewsite	Letter	Your document on Photos of features on / around preferred site refers. Figure 13: windmill to the east of the alternative site (looking east). IF ONE LOOK TO THE EAST OF THE WINDMILL THE MOONROCK VIEWPOINT INSIDE THE AUGRABIES FALLS NP IS CLEARLY VISIBLE. A CONCERN TO ME WOULD BE THAT THE PLANT WILL BE VISIBLE FROM THE TOP OF THE VIEWPOINT LOOKING WEST.	The photograph in Figure 13 in the Basic Assessment Report is taken from the location marked in Figure 16, which is far away from the proposed PV site 1. Moon Rock is not visible from PV Site 1 and PV Site 1 would not be visible from Moon Rock since there is a ridge between. The photo in Figure 13 is taken from the top of the ridge.
31 Oct 13	Nardus Du Plessis,	Visual impact –	Letter	I AM ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE FACT THAT FROM A NEWLY DEVELOPED VIEWPOINT INSIDE THE	This new view site was developed after the original Visual Impact Assessment was undertaken. A special Supplementary Visual

Date	Raised by	Issue	Manner raised	Comment	Response
	Augrabies Ranger (Private Capacity)	Swartrante viewsite		AUGRABIES FALLS NP, CALLED SWARTRANTE, THE PLANT, SITE 2, WOULD BE VISIBLE LOOKING SOUTH WEST FROM THE VIEWPOINT. THIS IS A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 6KM FROM THE VIEWPOINT TO THE PLANT AT S28.58939 E20.25420. THIS SEEMS TO BE CONFIRMED BY FIGURE 16: VIEWSHED OF NORTH EAST CORNER OF SITE 2 PAGE 50 1 AUGRABIES DRAFT BAR 48. THIS POSSIBILITY SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED.	impact report was undertaken to address this question and is included in Appendix D-7. The new report indicates that the preferred Site 1 would not be visible from the Swartrante View site, although the alternative Site 2 would be visible. A special joint site visit was also undertaken on 20 November 2013 to the Swartrante View site by the Environmental Practitioner and the Manager of the Augrabies Falls National Park. It was agreed at this meeting that Site 1 would not be visible. Nardus du Plessis indicated he was satisfied with this answer.
9 Dec 13	Howard Hendricks, SANParks	Visual impact mitigation	Letter	SANParks is not in principle opposed to Site 1, provided development proceeded with the mitigations suggested in the report D-6-1 Visual Impact Assessment (2nd draft).pdf, Section 5.1 & 5.2: single axis tracking arrays, structures as low as possible, colours and finishes of structures blend into the surrounding environment, lighting that reduces light pollution; [References refer to Draft BAR. Final July 2014 BAR Visual appendix is D7]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project proposal as at January 2014 includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - structures as low as possible. - colours and finishes of structures to blend into the surrounding environment - lighting that reduces light pollution (night lighting would be using motion sensor security lights only). Nevertheless, the January 2014 project proposal is not for 'single axis tracking' arrays. The statement about 'single axis tracking' in the Draft Basic Assessment Report was an observation of this alternative eliminating risk of glare rather than meant to be an inflexible 'condition of approval' recommendation. The risk of glare with any alternative is low. The applicant is however willing to change their design if after consideration of the evidence, SANParks raises an objection. SANParks has requested a supplementary visual statement on glare risk, which they received.
9 Dec 13	Howard Hendricks, SANParks	Visual impacts	Letter	While on the evidence provided by your Agency, Site 1 does not have a visual impact on the principal view points in the east of the park (Moon Rock, Mount Ararat, Swartrante etc), SANParks note that it is visible from certain stretches of park tourist road in the centre of the park;	This statement correctly summarises visual impact statements in the Basic Assessment Report.
9 Dec 13	Howard Hendricks, SANParks	Visual mitigation – screening	Letter	The organisation argues against the planting of trees to maintain the natural landscape of the Augrabies environment;	Noted. The Basic Assessment Report opposes planting trees requiring ongoing irrigation, but does not oppose makes the same recommendation.
9 Dec 13	Shaun Cloete,	Water		The Department of Water affairs received you background information report for the proposed Augrabies PV plant. The	Noted

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	DWA			<p>Department conducted a site inspection on the 26 November 2013 at the proposed sites and makes the following recommendations below. The document was then reviewed with reference to the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) and the following are the comments;</p> <p>As mentioned in the Background information Report, the Department takes note of that the proposed activity on the above mentioned a property which is only the construction of the Augrabies PV plant and the associated infrastructure.</p> <p>The Department of Water Affairs hereby recommends the above described activity based on the conditions set out below:</p>	
9 Dec 13	S.G Mbanjwa, DENC	Water - permits	Letter	<p>The relevant authorisation needs to be obtained from the Department of Water Affairs prior to the construction of the proposed project.</p>	<p>Water Affairs has been notified, has visited the site and has commented on the project (see Appendix E-6-6). They are unwilling to entertain water use licence authorisation applications until Renewable Energy projects have been awarded preferred bidder status. If this project is awarded such status, the authorisation will be applied for.</p>
9 Dec 13	Shaun Cloete, DWA	Water Permits	Letter	<p>The applicant should ensure that the proposed construction / development will be within 100 m or 1:100 year flood line of the Orange River and 32m of the drainage line without authorization from our Department.</p> <p>The applicant should consult with the Department of Water Affairs if any water resource /drainage lines will be crossed during the construction / replacement of this pipeline.</p>	<p>The project will apply for the necessary permits. The Department of Water Affairs has indicated that they will not entertain applications for Water permits for renewable energy projects until they have been awarded preferred bidder status.</p>