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D G Paterson

22nd February 2012

To whom it may concern:

Mulilo PV Solar Power Project, Augrabies, Northern Cape

ARC-ISCW was requested to carry out a soils and agricultural potential specialist study for the above-mentioned project as part of the Environmental Impact process.

One of the requirements is a detailed (1:10 000 scale) soil survey, with soil characteristics being recorded at each grid point.

However, from existing land type soils data (1:250 000 scale), it can clearly be seen that the study area comprises shallow to very shallow soils, which in themselves have a severe limitation to any agricultural potential. When coupled with the fact that the area is located in one of the driest parts of South Africa, it would seem more than reasonable that a reconnaissance ("desk-top") soils study would be sufficient.

When such a project is located in an area where the soil and/or land potential is moderate or high, then a detailed soil survey is essential to locate such areas and recommend their retention for agriculture, but in this case, such a request is not relevant.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D G Paterson", is shown within a rectangular box.

D G Paterson (Pr. Sci. Nat. – Reg. No. 400463/04)
(Senior Soil Scientist, ARC-ISCW)