APPENDIX A:

COMPETANT AUTHORITY CORRESPONDENCE
Mr. Nik Wullschleger
Boland Environmental Consultants CC
P O Box 250
Worcester
6849

Fax: 023 347 0336

PER FASCIMILE / MAIL

Dear Mr. Wullschleger

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED 25-70MW PHOTO-VOLTAIC SOLAR POWER PLANT ON PORTION 6 OF THE FARM NUWERUS 450, IN THE BREIDE VALLEY MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Final Scoping Report (FSR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA), dated February 2011, submitted to the Department for environmental authorisation of the abovementioned project on 17 February 2011 refers.

The Department has evaluated the submitted documents and is satisfied that the documents comply with the legal requirements. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of regulation 30(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2010

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2010.

Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This includes but is not limited to the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Western Cape Department of Agriculture, Breede-Overberg Catchment Management Agency, Heritage Western Cape, CapeNature and the Breede Valley Local Municipality. A confirmation letter from Eskom stating that the applicant will be allowed to connect to the national grid must be included in the report. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final EIR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of regulation 67 with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations, and regulations 56 and 57 with regard to the allowance of a comment period for interested and affected parties on all reports submitted to the competent authority for decision-making. The reports referred to are listed in regulation 56(3a-3h).
Please ensure that the Final EIR includes at least one A3 regional map of the area and the locality maps included in the final EIR illustrate the different proposed alignments and above ground storage of fuel. The maps must be of acceptable quality and as a minimum, have the following attributes:

- Maps are relatable to one another;
- Cardinal points;
- Co-ordinates;
- Legible legends;
- Indicate alternatives;
- Water bodies in the study area
- Latest land cover;
- Vegetation types of the study area; and
- A3 size locality map.

Further, it must be reiterated that, should an application for Environmental Authorisation be subject to the provisions of Chapter II, Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, then this Department will not be able to make nor issue a decision in terms of your application for Environmental Authorisation pending a letter from the pertinent heritage authority categorically stating that the application fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority as described in Chapter II, Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999.

You are requested to submit at least one electronic copy (CD/DVD) and three (3) full hardcopies of the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) to the Department.

Please also find attached a guideline that must be used in the preparation of the EIAR.

Notwithstanding the above, your attention is drawn to the fact that the success of the application may be prejudiced by the information that is incomplete and not following the requirements of the NEMA Regulations.

You are hereby reminded that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully

Ms. Sibusisiwe Hlela
**ACTING CHIEF DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT**
Department of Environmental Affairs
Letter Signed By: Dumisani Mthembu
Designation: Director: Environment Impact Evaluation
Date: 29/03/2011

CC: Ms. R. Grintsch
    Sanval Energy
    Fax: 023 347 0336

Ms. C. Arendse
    WCDEA&DP
    Fax: 021 483 3633
EIA INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES

1. General site information

The following general site information is required:

- Descriptions of all affected farm portions
- 21 digit Surveyor General codes of all affected farm portions
- Copies of deeds of all affected farm portions
- Photos of areas that give a visual perspective of all parts of the site
- Photographs from sensitive visual receptors (tourism routes, tourism facilities, etc.)
- Solar plant design specifications including:
  - Type of technology
  - Structure height
  - Surface area to be covered (including associated infrastructure such as roads)
  - Structure orientation
  - Laydown area dimensions (construction period and thereafter)
  - Generation capacity
- Generation capacity of the facility as a whole at delivery points

This information must be indicated on the first page of any Scoping or EIA document. It is also advised that it be double checked as there are too many mistakes in the applications that have been received that take too much time from authorities to correct.

2. Site maps and GIS information

Site maps and GIS information should include at least the following:

- All maps/information layers must also be provided in ESRI Shapefile format
- All affected farm portions must be indicated
- The exact site of the application must be indicated (the areas that will be occupied by the application)
- A status quo map/layer must be provided that includes the following:
Current use of land on the site including:
- Buildings and other structures
- Agricultural fields
- Grazing areas
- Natural vegetation areas (natural veld not cultivated for the preceding 10 years) with an indication of the vegetation quality as well as fine scale mapping in respect of Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas
- Critically endangered and endangered vegetation areas that occur on the site
- Bare areas which may be susceptible to soil erosion
- Cultural historical sites and elements

- Rivers, streams and water courses
- Ridgelines and 20m continuous contours with height references in the GIS database
- Fountains, boreholes, dams (in-stream as well as off-stream) and reservoirs
- High potential agricultural areas as defined by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Buffer zones (also where it is dictated by elements outside the site):
  - 500m from any irrigated agricultural land
  - 1km from residential areas
- Indicate isolated residential, tourism facilities on or within 1km of the site

- A slope analysis map/layer that include the following slope ranges:
  - Less than 8% slope
  - between 8% and 12% slope
  - between 12% and 14% slope
  - steeper than 18 % slope

- A map/layer that indicate locations of birds and bats including roosting and foraging areas (specialist input required)

- A site development proposal map(s)/layer(s) that indicate:
  - Positions of solar facilities
  - Foundation footprint
  - Permanent laydown area footprint
  - Construction period laydown footprint
Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible)

River, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used

Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint.

Cable routes and trench dimensions (where they are not along internal roads)

Connection routes to the distribution/transmission network (the connection must form part of the EIA even if the construction and maintenance thereof will be done by another entity such as ESKOM)

Cut and fill areas along roads and at substation/transformer sites indicating the expected volume of each cut and fill

Borrow pits

Spoil heaps (temporary for topsoil and subsoil and permanently for excess material)

Buildings including accommodation

With the above information authorities will be able to assess the strategic and site impacts of applications.

3. Regional map and GIS information

The regional map and GIS information should include at least the following:

- All maps/information layers must also be provided in ESRI Shapefile format
- The map/layer must cover an area of 20km around the site
- Indicate the following:
  - roads including their types (tarred or gravel) and category (national, provincial, local or private)
  - Railway lines and stations
  - Industrial areas
  - Harbours and airports
  - Electricity transmission and distribution lines and substations
  - Pipelines
  - Waters sources to be utilised during the construction and operational phases
  - A visibility assessment of the areas from where the facility will be visible
- Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas
- Critically Endangered and Endangered vegetation areas
- Agricultural fields
- Irrigated areas
- An indication of new road or changes and upgrades that must be done to existing roads in order to get equipment onto the site including cut and fill areas and crossings of rivers and streams

4. **Important stakeholders**

Amongst other important stakeholders, comments from the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries must be obtained and submitted to the Department. Request for comment must be submitted to:

Mrs. Anneliza Collett  
Directorate: Land Use & Soil Management  
Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries  
Tel: 012 - 319 7508  
Fax: 012 - 329 5938  
e-mail: AnnelizaC@nda.agric.za  
www.agis.agric.za

In addition, comments must be requested from Eskom (Mr Kevin Leask or Mr Ronald Marais (011) 8008111) regarding grid connectivity and capacity.