



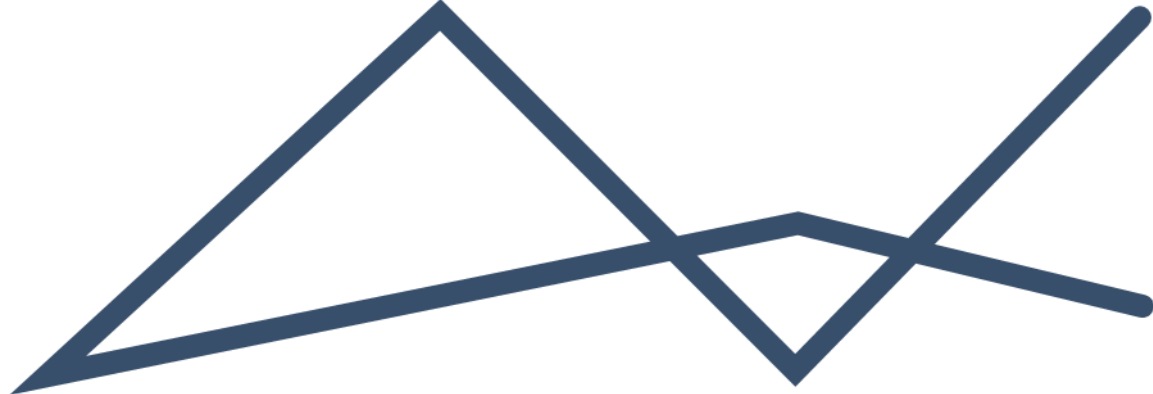
ENVIRONMENTAL
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T 011 789 7170 E info@eims.co.za W www.eims.co.za

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT

PROPOSED TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS GATHERING AND PRODUCTION
PROJECT





DOCUMENT DETAILS

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	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
COMPILED:	Mbali Tshabalala		2026/04/13
CHECKED:	Brian Whitfield		2026/04/13
AUTHORIZED:	Liam Whitlow		2026/04/13

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2023/06/23	REVISION 3	PPR – Final Report for eWULAAS submission
2025/09/09	REVISION 4	PPR – Updated EIAR for Public Review
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Appendices

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Abbreviation List:

DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIMS	Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
I&AP	Interested and Affected Party
LHe	Liquid Helium
LNG	Liquid Natural Gas
MPRDA	Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act
NEM:AQA	National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act
NEM:WA	National Environmental Management: Waste Act
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NWA	National Water Act
PPP	Public Participation Process
PPR	Public Participation Report
WUL	Water Use Licence



1 INTRODUCTION

Tetra4 (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as the applicant) has appointed Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS) as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist with updating the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) following the DFFE Ministers decision on the appeals submitted against the Environmental Authorisation (EA).

The proposed project falls within the Masilonyana and Matjhabeng Local Municipalities, in the Lejweleputswa District Municipality, Free State Province. The site boundary is ~5km south west of the town of Virginia, ~9km south the town of Welkom and ~16km north of the town of Theunissen. The application area covers approximately 27 500 hectares, and the approximate centre point of the site is located at 28°10'20.47"S and 26°43'50.79"E.

2 OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

South Africa, being one of the countries with the most progressive constitutions, enshrined the public's right to be involved in decisions that may affect them in its Constitution. Section 57(1) of the new Constitution that provides: *"The National Assembly may (b) make rules and orders concerning its business, with due regard to representative and participatory democracy, accountability, transparency and public involvement"*. This provision, along with several others gave rise to many new trends in South African legislation. In environmental legislation, the idea of public participation (or stakeholder engagement) features strongly and especially the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, NEMA) and the recent regulations passed under the auspices of this Act makes very strict provisions for public participation in environmental decision-making.

Public participation can be defined as...*"a process leading to a joint effort by stakeholders, technical specialists, the authorities and the proponent who work together to produce better decisions than if they had acted independently"*¹. From this definition, it can be seen that the input of the public is regarded as very important indeed.

The PPP is designed to provide sufficient and accessible information to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in an objective manner to assist them to:

- During the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process:
 - Contribute relevant local information and knowledge to the environmental assessment;
 - Verify that their issues have been recorded;
 - Comment on the findings of the environmental assessments; and
 - Provide relevant local information and knowledge to the environmental assessment.

The PPP is a requirement of several pieces of South African Legislation and aims to ensure that all relevant I&APs are consulted, involved and their opinions are taken into account and a record included in the reports submitted to Authorities. The process ensures that all stakeholders are provided this opportunity as part of a transparent process which allows for a robust and comprehensive environmental study. The PPP for the necessary authorisation required for the proposed Tetra4 Gas Gathering and Production Project needs to be managed sensitively and according to best practises in order to ensure and promote:

- Compliance with international best practice options;
- Compliance with national legislation;

¹ Greyling, T. (1999) Towards Managing Environmental Disputes: Appropriate Public Participation. Prepared for Conference on Environmental Dispute Resolution 10-11 June 1998, Fourways, Gauteng, Manyaka Greyling Meiring (Pty) Ltd, South Africa



- Establishment and management of relationships with key stakeholder groups; and
- Encouragement of involvement and participation in the environmental study and authorisation/approval process.

As such, the purpose of the PPP and stakeholder engagement process is to:

- Introduce the proposed project and process for the authorisation project;
- Explain the environmental authorisation;
- Determine and record issues, concerns, suggestions, and objections to the project;
- Provide opportunity for input and gathering of local knowledge;
- Establish and formalise lines of communication between the I&APs and the project team;
- Identify all significant issues for the project; and
- Identify possible mitigation measures or environmental management plans to minimise and/or prevent negative environmental impacts and maximise and/or promote positive environmental impacts associated with the project.

This Public Participation Report (PPR) lists all verbal and written issues raised by I&APs and stakeholders from the 30-day initial notification and call to register period from the 20 May 2022 to date. A breakdown of the PPP is given within the remaining sections of this PPR.

2.1 LEGAL COMPLIANCE

The PPP must comply with all environmental legislation that requires public participation as part of an application for authorisation. The details of the PPP previously conducted are provided below.

3 IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (I&APS)

An initial I&AP database was compiled from historic projects in the area and Windeed searches to obtain the contact details of the affected and surrounding landowners. The I&APs referred to in the PPR include:

- Pre-identified and registered landowners and surrounding/adjacent landowners;
- Pre-identified and registered key stakeholders;
- Regulatory authorities;
- Specialist interest groups; and
- All I&APs who responded to the initial notifications and requested to be registered.

Efforts to pre-identify key I&APs involved various avenues such as consultation with the proponent and known landowners within the study area, review of related previously conducted studies, and identification of key interest groups and authorities within the vicinity of the study area and municipality. Refer **Appendix B 1** for the Key Stakeholder/I&AP Database.

3.1 LIST OF AUTHORITIES NOTIFIED

The following authorities, but not limited to, were notified of the proposed project and invited to participate in the public participation process:

- Free State Development Corporation
- Free State Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs



- Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs
- Free State Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
- Free State Department of Police, Roads and Transport
- Free State Department of Public Works and Infrastructure
- Free State Department of Water and Sanitation
- Free State Development Corporation
- Free State Heritage Resources Authority
- Lejweleputswa District Municipality
- Masilonyana Local Municipality
- Matjhabeng Local Municipality
- National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development;
- National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
- National Department of Transport
- National Department of Water and Sanitation
- National Department of Mineral Resources
- National Energy Regulator of South Africa
- National House of Traditional Leaders
- Sedibeng Water
- South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)

3.2 LIST OF OTHER KEY I&APS AND STAKEHOLDERS IDENTIFIED AND NOTIFIED

The following key I&APs, but not limited to, were notified of the proposed project and invited to participate in the public participation process:

- AFGRI Agri Services
- African Carbon Energy (Pty) Ltd
- AFRI forum
- Agri Free State
- Agri South Africa
- Birdlife SA
- Botanical Society
- Centre for Environmental Rights
- Conservation South Africa
- Council for Geoscience
- CSIR
- Earth Life Africa
- Endangered Wildlife Trust
- Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd
- Federation for a Sustainable Environment
- Free State Wetland Forum
- GroundWork SA
- Local Ward Councillors
- Matjhabeng Ratepayers Association
- Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA)
- National Farmers Union
- Natural Justice
- Sibanye Stillwater
- South African National Biodiversity Institute
- South African National Roads Agency Ltd: Eastern Region
- Tara Wildlife SA
- The Mining and Environmental Justice Community Network of South Africa (MEJCON-SA)
- Transnet SOC Ltd
- World Wildlife Fund



4 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

This section provides details on the notifications that were distributed as part of the consultation process to date.

4.1 INITIAL NOTIFICATION OF LANDOWNERS AND I&APS

The PPP commenced on the 16th May 2022 with an initial notification and call to register ending on the 21st June 2022. Notification during this initial consultation was given in the manner described below.

4.1.1 REGISTERED LETTERS, FAXES AND EMAILS

Notification letters in English, Afrikaans and Sesotho were distributed to pre-identified I&APS through either registered mail, faxes, and/or emails. Please refer to **Appendix B 2** for initial notification and proof of initial notification.

The notification documents included the following information:

- List of anticipated activities to be authorised;
- Sufficient detail of the proposed development to enable I&APs to assess/surmise what impact the development will have on them or on the use of their land;
- The purpose of the proposed project;
- Details of the application processes associated with proposed activities;
- Details of the affected properties (including a locality map);
- Details of the South African environmental legislation that must be adhered to;
- Date by which the I&AP must register and send comments through to EIMS;
- Contact details of the EAP.

4.1.2 NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements describing the proposed project and EIA process were placed in the Vista Newspaper (in English, Afrikaans and Sesotho) with adequate circulation in the vicinity of the study area on the 19th May 2022. A notice was also placed in the Free State Provincial Gazette on the 01st July 2022. The newspaper advert and notice included the following information:

- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Nature of the activity;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to **Appendix B 3** for proof of adverts and notices placed.

4.1.3 SITE NOTICE PLACEMENT

Seventy-Eight (78) A1 Correx site notices (in English, Afrikaans and Sesotho) were placed at 78 locations along, within and surrounding the perimeter of the proposed project study area on the 16th-19th May 2022. The on-site notices included the following information:



- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Map of proposed project area;
- Project description;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to **Appendix B 4** for proof of site notice and site notice distribution.

4.2 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES OF SCOPING REPORT AVAILABILITY

Notifications (in English, Afrikaans and Sesotho) regarding the availability of the Scoping Report were distributed to pre-identified and registered I&APs through either faxes, registered mail, SMS and/or emails. The notification included details regarding where hard copies of the reports can be accessed.

Contact details were provided to I&APs if they require assistance accessing the information or require copies of the reports.

The Scoping report and associated appendices were made available for public review and comment from the 30th of July 2022 to the 30th of August 2022 at the Virginia Public Library. An additional hard copy of the report was placed at the Welkom Public Library.

Please refer to **Appendix B 5** for proof of Scoping Report notification.

4.3 KEY STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC MEETINGS/OPEN DAYS

During the scoping report review period a series of focus group meetings and open days were held with different stakeholders to present the findings from the scoping report and solicit comments.

Community focus group meeting were held on the 23rd of August 2022 with the communities within the application area to present a high-level summary of the scoping report and to solicit comments regarding the project. The meetings were held at the Stilte Community Primary school, and at the Adamsonsvley Community Primary School, from 12pm to 2pm and from 4pm to 6pm, respectively.

A Landowner Focus Group Open Day was held on the 24th August 2022 at the Goldfields Game Ranch between 10am and 4pm, subsequently followed by a Landowner Focus group meeting between 5pm and 7pm with the pre-identified and registered affected and adjacent landowners. A high-level summary presentation of the scoping report and its findings were presented whereafter discussions were held.

A public open day was held on the 25th August 2022 at the NG Virginia Kerk, Virginia between 10am and 5pm to present a high-level summary of the Scoping Report. I&APs were invited to attend the open day. The findings from the Scoping Report were presented and discussions based on the findings were also undertaken.

Please refer to **Appendix B 6** for Public Open Day documentation.

4.4 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES OF EIA REPORT AVAILABILITY

Notifications (in English, Afrikaans and Sesotho) regarding the availability of the EIA Report were distributed to pre-identified and registered I&APs through either faxes, registered mail, SMS and/or emails. The notification included details regarding where hard copies of the reports can be accessed.



Contact details were provided to I&APs if they require assistance accessing the information or require copies of the reports.

The EIA report and associated appendices were made available for public review and comment from the 06th of December 2022 to the 24th of January 2023 at the Virginia Public Library. An additional hard copy of the report was placed at the Welkom Public Library.

Please refer to **Appendix B 7** for proof of EIA Report notification.

4.5 EIA PHASE KEY STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUP AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

During the EIA report review period, focus group meetings and a public meeting were held with different stakeholders to present the findings of the EIA report and solicit comments.

Community focus group meetings were held on the 10th of January 2023 with the communities located within the application area to present a high-level summary of the EIAR and to solicit comments regarding the project. The meetings were held at the Stilte Community Primary school, and at the Adamsonsvley Community Primary School, from 12pm to 2pm and from 4pm to 6pm, respectively.

A public meeting was held on the 11th January 2023 at the NG Virginia Kerk, Virginia between 12pm and 2pm to present a high-level summary of the EIAR. All I&APs were invited to attend the public meeting. The findings from the EIAR were presented and discussions based on the findings were also undertaken.

A Landowner Focus group meeting was held on the 11th January 2023 at the Goldfields Game Ranch between 5pm and 7pm. A high-level summary presentation of the EIAR and its findings were presented whereafter discussions were held.

Please refer to **Appendix B 8** for EIA phase public meeting documentation.

4.6 WUL TECHNICAL REPORT PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Notifications (in English, Afrikaans and Sesotho) regarding the availability of the IWWMP Report were distributed to pre-identified and registered I&APs through either faxes, registered mail, SMS and/or emails. The notification included details regarding where hard copies of the reports can be accessed.

Contact details were provided to I&APs if they require assistance accessing the information or require copies of the reports.

The IWWMP report and associated appendices were made available for public review and comment from 7 March 2023 to 9 May 2023 at the Virginia Public Library, Welkom Public Library as well as on the EIMS website.

Please refer to **Appendix B 9** for proof of IWWMP Report notification.

4.7 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPEAL DECISION AVAILABILITY

Notifications (in English, Afrikaans and Sesotho) regarding the availability of the appeal decision were distributed to pre-identified and registered I&APs through either faxes, registered mail, SMS and/or emails. The notification included details regarding the outcome of the decision and reasons behind the decision.

Contact details were provided to I&APs if they require assistance accessing the information.

Please refer to **Appendix B 10** for proof of appeal decision notification

4.8 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES OF UPDATED EIA REPORT AVAILABILITY

Notifications (in English, Afrikaans and Sesotho) regarding the availability of the updated EIA Report were distributed to pre-identified and registered I&APs through either faxes, registered mail, SMS and/or emails. The notification included details regarding where hard copies of the reports can be accessed.



Contact details were provided to I&APs if they require assistance accessing the information or require copies of the reports.

The updated EIA report and associated appendices were made available for public review and comment from the 10th of September 2025 to the 13th of October 2025 at the Virginia Public Library. An additional hard copy of the report was placed at the Welkom Public Library.

Please refer to **Appendix B 11** for proof of updated EIA Report notification.

4.9 UPDATED EIA PHASE KEY STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUP AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

During the Updated EIA report review period, focus group meetings and a public meeting were held with different stakeholders to present the findings of the EIA report and solicit comments.

Community focus group meetings were held on the 1st of October 2025 with the communities located within the application area to present a high-level summary of the updated EIAR and to solicit comments regarding the project. The meetings were held at the Stilte Community Primary school, and at the Adamsonsvley Community, from 12pm to 3pm and from 4pm to 6pm, respectively.

A public meeting was held on the 2nd of October 2025 at the NG Virginia Kerk, Virginia between 12pm and 2pm to present a high-level summary of the EIAR. All I&APs were invited to attend the public meeting. The findings from the updated EIAR were presented and discussions based on the findings were also undertaken.

A Landowner Focus group meeting was held on the 2nd of October 2025 at the Goldfields Game Ranch between 5pm and 7pm. A high-level summary presentation of the updated EIAR and its findings was available and discussions were held with landowners.

An additional public meeting was requested by MACUA that was targeted towards members of the public that could not make it to the initial public meeting at NG Virginia Kerk due to distance and transport constraints was held on the 13th of October 2025 at Latterain International Church, Meloding between 11:30am to 1:30pm. The findings from the updated EIAR were presented and discussions based on the findings were also undertaken.

4.10 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

The table below provides a summary of the opportunities provided to I&APs for participation in the public participation process to date.

Table 1: Opportunities Provided for Public Participation

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PHASE			
ACTION	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION/PLACE	DATE
Initial Public Notification (announcement of project and call to register)	Newspaper advertisements	Vista Newspaper (English, Afrikaans and Sesotho)	19 May 2022
	Placement of site notices.	78 A1 site notices (English, Afrikaans and Sesotho) within and around the study area (78 placement locations).	16 - 19 May 2022
	Notification of landowners, occupiers, and other key I&APs.	Affected landowners and key I&APs were notified via email, fax, and/or post (English, Afrikaans and Sesotho).	20 May 2022



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PHASE			
ACTION	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION/PLACE	DATE
		Government Gazette (English, Afrikaans and Sesotho)	01 July 2022
Scoping report public review and comment period	Notification of landowners, occupiers, and other key I&APs (including Authorities, NGO's etc).	Affected landowners, legal occupiers, key and registered I&APs were notified via email, fax, SMS and/or post. Hard Copies of the report were placed at the Virginia and Welkom Public Libraries. A digital copy of the report was made available on the EIMS website.	30 th of July 2022 to the 30 th of August 2022
Public Open Days and Focus Group Meetings	Notification of landowners, occupiers, and other key I&APs.	Affected landowners, legal occupiers, and key I&APs were notified via email, fax, and/or SMS.	05 th August 2022
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stilte Community • Adamsonvley Community • Landowner Focus Group Open Day • Landowner Focus Group Open Day and Meeting • Public Open Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stilte Community Primary School • Adamsonvley Primary School • Goldfields Game Ranch • Goldfields Game Ranch • NG Virginia Kerk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23rd Aug 2022 (12pm – 2pm) • 23rd Aug 2022 (4pm – 6pm) • 24th Aug 2022 (10am – 4pm) • 24th Aug 2022 (5pm – 7pm) • 25th Aug 2022 (10am – 5pm)
EIA report public review and comment period	Notification of landowners, occupiers, and other key I&APs.	All pre-identified and registered I&APs were notified of the EIAR Availability.	05 th December 2022
Public Meeting and Focus Group Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stilte Community • Adamsonvley Community • Public Meeting • Landowner Focus Group Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stilte Community Primary School • Adamsonvley Primary School • NG Virginia Kerk • Goldfields Game Ranch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10th Jan 2023 (12pm – 2pm) • 10th Jan 2023 (4pm – 6pm) • 11th Jan 2023 (12pm – 2pm) • 11th Jan 2023 (5pm – 7pm)
IWWMP report public review and comment period (60 day comment period)	Notification of landowners, occupiers, and other key I&APs.	All pre-identified and registered I&APs were notified of the IWWMP Availability.	7 th March 2023



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PHASE			
ACTION	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION/PLACE	DATE
EA Notification	Notification to registered I&APs of the EA decision and right to appeal.	All registered I&APs were notified of the EA decision and right to appeal.	19 th July 2023
DFFE Ministers Decision on Appeal Notification	Notification to registered I&APs of the DFFE Ministers decision on the appeals submitted against the EA.	All registered I&APs were notified of the DFFE Ministers decision on the appeals submitted against the EA.	13 th August 2024
Updated EIA Report for public review and comment	Notification of landowners, occupiers, and other key I&APs.	All pre-identified and registered I&APs were notified of the EIAR Availability.	09 th September 2025
Public Meeting and Focus Group Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stilte Community Meeting • Adamsonvley Community Focus Group Meeting • Public Meeting • Landowner Focus Group Meeting • Additional Public Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stilte Community Primary School • Adamsonvley • NG Virginia Kerk • Goldfields Game Ranch • Latterain International Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st of October 2025 (12pm – 3pm) • 1st of October 2025 (4pm – 6pm) • 2nd of October 2025 (12pm – 2pm) • 2nd of October 2025 (5pm – 7pm) • 13th of October 2025 (11:30am – 1:30pm)

5 NOTIFYING INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES OF THE RECONSIDERED DECISION

Registered I&APs will be notified via either fax, registered mail, SMS and/or email (where contact details are available) of the DMPR Ministers reconsidered decision once available .

6 RECORD OF ISSUES RAISED

The summary of comments presented in the sub-section below are those that have been received and addressed from 20 May 2022 to date.

6.1 Summary of Comments Received

A high-level summary of the comments raised to date are presented in the below.

Table 2: Summary of Comments Raised and how they were Addressed

Comment Summary	How comment was addressed
Concerns of water availability and quality to farmers and air quality impacts of the proposed project.	The geohydrological specialist and air quality specialist reports have assessed the impact on water



Comment Summary	How comment was addressed
	quality and availability as well as the air quality impacts (including health risks).
I&AP deregistration requests.	I&APs who formally requested to be registered were removed from the database.
I&AP registration requests.	I&APs who formally requested to be registered were added to the database for further notifications during upcoming application comment periods.
Eskom Holdings SOC Limited (Transmission) requested a Google Earth (.kmz) file.	The requested information was shared with Eskom.
Notification of ongoing Oryx Solar Power Plant PV Authorization application from another EAP (Environamics) within Cluster 2 project area, locality map sharing and BID documents, Scoping Report and recently EIA report for comment.	Tetra4 and EIMS have taken note of this application for a PV project within the Cluster 2 application area with correspondence between EIMS and the EAP responsible for the application and note that there is minimal impact on the project as a whole.
Some individuals as well as contractors have expressed their interest in potential employment and business opportunities from the proposed development.	Work seekers (be it individual jobs or contractors) have been directed to the Tetra4 website which contains a link for interested vendors etc. Community members seeking employment (jobs) were informed of the Tetra4 personnel who are responsible for collecting CV's, ID's etc to ensure that their interest is captured. All job or contract seekers were informed that the application is still underway and that the project commencement is dependent on the final decision from the PASA/DMRE.
Transnet commented that the proposed development does not affect their pipeline servitudes in the region.	No further actions required.
SAHRA provided an interim comment that a comment is to be provided once a HIA and draft EIA Report are made available for comment.	The HIA and EIA report will be uploaded to the SAHRIS website once the EIA comment period commences. Note: this has been uploaded.
Query regarding website document accessibility.	EIMS provided the needed assistance with obtaining the relevant documentation which was resolved satisfactorily.
Requests by certain members of the local community for jobs as well as other specific services such as electricity, skills upliftment, etc.	These comments were raised during the community focus group meeting with the Adamsons Vley community. The community was informed that Tetra4 is currently in the process of providing certain basic services such as water and electricity to the community as part of the Social and Labour Plan commitments. This is an ongoing process throughout



Comment Summary	How comment was addressed
	the project implementation and would be extended to other communities in due course. The community acknowledged that the water and solar electricity project was currently underway in their community.
Concerns by a local NGOs - Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance (VEJA) and Gold and Uranium Belt Impact Sensoring Organisation – GUBICO about the living standards of the community members.	It was confirmed that Tetra4 was aware of the poor living standards of some communities and therefore as part of the SLP commitments, certain upliftment programs had been initiated and were ongoing.
NGO - Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance (VEJA) highlighted the possible confusion regarding Tetra4 vs Renergen and how the two companies relate to this project as the sign outside the existing plant says Renergen however the applicant in the application is Tetra4.	Clarification was provided that Tetra4 is a wholly owned subsidiary of Renergen and whilst the applicant in this application is Tetra4, this does not pose any legal constraints on the project. This report includes a clear statement that Tetra4 is a wholly owned subsidiary of Renergen.
Concerns that impact on landowners seem to have been underestimated.	All specialists have been provided with this comment and have considered this comment in light of their preliminary impact assessment findings. This has been thoroughly considered and assessed by the relevant specialists as well as the EAP in this EIA Report with minor amendments to certain impacts. Additional mitigation measures have been put forward to fully address the impact findings.
Concerns regarding the project's impacts on the safety, livelihoods and land value for landowners.	These safety, livelihoods and land value concerns have been given specific attention in this EIA report and detailed mitigation measures to address these concerns have been included. In addition, specific conditions have been put forward for inclusion in the decision to ensure that priority is given to impacts on safety, livelihoods and land value. Lastly, Tetra4 has revised the landowner contract terms to provide more specific attention to these concerns including annual compensation for the life of the project (per hectare rate), commitments to hold specific negotiations with each affected landowner to ensure infrastructure is sited in such a manner so as to minimise impacts on existing land use and lastly to ensure that all reasonable safety measures are continually in place.
Access road degradation concerns from landowners.	Degradation of access roads has been thoroughly considered and mitigated in this report and associated EMP. This includes a pre-construction survey by the landowner and Tetra4 of all private access roads to be utilised by the project including photographic and video documentation of the pre-construction state. A similar post construction survey will be undertaken to document any degradation of



Comment Summary	How comment was addressed
	access roads which if identified, will be to Tetra4s account. It is acknowledged that each landowner has a specific access road construction methodology and this will be documented and complied with if any repairs are required.
Request by a landowner for more detail on infrastructure specific location and timing of the project aspects.	Where possible, infrastructure specific locations or at least limitations to where infrastructure will not be located has been provided in the Scoping Report and this EIA Report. The project description has been reviewed and updated where possible to include more information on location and timing of certain activities.
Request by a landowner for more detail on logistics regarding access and maintenance of Tetra4 infrastructure on farmlands as well as contractual concerns.	<p>Following this concern relating to the initial landowner contract, Tetra4 have undertaken a revision of the contract to be more specific in addressing the various landowner concerns. Tetra4 shall share a copy of the revised contract with the relevant landowners.</p> <p>In terms of access for inspections and maintenance during the operational phase, the expected frequency is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Production wells</u>: Monthly (worst case) • <u>Pipeline Servitude</u>: Annually for inspections unless landowner raises concerns or there is an emergency (leak detected). • <u>Booster Station</u>: Monthly • <u>Low Point Drains</u>: Monthly • <u>Pigging Stations</u>: Six monthly (bi-annually) • <u>Compressor Stations</u>: Daily security inspections.
Concerns from a landowner that this project would negatively impact on his farm which is his primary investment for his future as well as his descendants. This landowner did not wish to discuss anything and wished to state that he is opposed to the project.	The landowner's objection to the project has been formally recorded in the PPR and no further comments were received during the EIA phase. Specific mitigation measures included in the EIAR/EMPr are aimed at addressing the potential impacts on landowners.
The Department of Water and Sanitation provided comments on the EIA and EMPr which focussed on the need to obtain approval under the National Water Act for any Section 21 activities.	The DWS was thanked for their comments and was assured that the necessary water use licence application was currently being undertaken.
The landowner of the farm Blaauwdrift 188 (Portion 3) shared a township registration dated 12 October	It is recommended that Tetra4 refrains from drilling any Cluster 2 wells on this property until such time as



Comment Summary	How comment was addressed
1956 which covers this farm portion and the landowner indicated that he was in the process of negotiating the sale of his farm along with the township rights and therefore the landowner is objecting to the drilling of wells on this farm portion.	the legal status of the township and rights of the landowner are adequately addressed. A condition of authorisation has been recommended to this effect and this restrictive condition has been included in the EMPr (Sections 5.3.1 and 5.3.2).
Concern from the landowner and Managing Director of a commercial agricultural operation (Optavit Boerdery) that the application does not contain specific location, extent and/or routing detail of project infrastructure on each property. This concern is elaborated upon in a written submission and the overall conclusion by the landowner is that the application is premature without including such detailed information and should only be undertaken once this information is available.	All comments were responded to individually and are included as appendices to this PPR.
African Carbon Energy (Pty) Ltd submitted various comments during the public meeting, landowner meeting and a written submission.	All comments were responded to individually and are included as appendices to the PPR.
Employment enquiry from an I&AP.	I&AP was redirected to contact the applicant directly
Queries about availability of documents including WUL Amendment Application Form and WUL.	Documents were directly sent to I&APs who requested them.
Request for clarity on details in the IWWMP.	All concerns related to requests for clarity are included in Appendix B 13, as part of the table of comments and responses.
Request for call or online meeting to discuss WUL.	Response included in Appendix B 13, as part of the table of comments and responses.
Request that comments be submitted to licensing authority (DWS) as part of public participation process.	Response included in Appendix B 13, as part of the table of comments and responses.
Centre of Environmental Rights (CER) submitted comments on behalf of MACUA and MEJCON SA related to perceived shortcomings of the project and climate change impacts.	Responses to the written submission are included in Appendix B 13, as part of the table of comments and responses.
An I&AP requested shapefiles along with a copy of the public participation Report (PPR) a including records of the discussions during the landowner focus group meeting.	EIMS Public Participation Team provided the landowner with the required documents and in addition provided the minutes to the landowner focus group and the Comments and Response Report for the comments submitted.
I&APs requested a copy of the Water Quality Analysis Laboratory Certificate.	The required document was forwarded to the I&AP as requested.



Comment Summary	How comment was addressed
An I&AP requested an extension of the public comment and review period because they were not included in the initial database (never requested to be registered until this time) and only became aware of the application and availability of the updated EIAR late and needed more time to be able to comment.	An extension was granted.
An I&AP enquired as to when the opportunity for appeal would be made available to all I&APs.	Information on the opportunity to appeal was provided and this I&AP was added onto the database.
An NGO – Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA) requested an additional public meeting be held for members of the public who could not make it to the initial public meeting held in NG Virginia Kerk, Virginia.	An additional public meeting was held in Meloding, Virginia to accommodate the I&APs and give them adequate opportunity to comment.
South African Civil Aviation Authority requested that all other addressed on the database be delisted leaving only one relevant contact.	The request was acknowledged and completed.
Attendees across the public meeting requested a copy on the presentation.	A copy of the presentation was made available on the EIMS website. Additionally, I&APs who requested the document and left their email addresses were sent a copy of the presentation via email.
Members of the Adamsonsvley community raised concerns about their issues with electricity and access to water still not being addressed by Tetra4. They also raised concerns about the poorly maintained access road.	The EAP escalated the matter to the relevant Tetra4 representatives.
Certain members of the Meloding community raised concerns about Tetra4 representatives not being present during public meetings as their comments and questions related to the Tetra4 operations in general and not specifically the Cluster 2 EIA/EMPr.	The concern was noted and the community was encouraged to direct their comments or concerns to Tetra4 directly as the meeting was focussed on the Cluster 2 application.
I&APs enquired about the types of jobs being offered, and which locations will be targeted when job posts are released.	It was clarified that most jobs will be made available during the construction phase of the proposed project and would typically include various skill levels aligned with the project requirements.
I&APs enquired about the appeal decision and who the appellants were.	The reasons for appeal and who the main appellants were, were clarified.
An I&AP raised concerns about a risk of explosions at the plant.	It was explained to the I&AP that there are measures put in place to ensure that a situation like this has a very low likelihood of occurring and an MHI assessment was undertaken to determine the risk on the public.



Comment Summary	How comment was addressed
Enquiries about community involvement once project commences.	It was clarified that Tetra 4 would need to determine that after the project gets all relevant approvals.
Objections about the project not being significantly economically beneficial to the locals.	It was clarified that an Economic Impact Assessment was included in the EIA and certain positive benefits for the local and regional economy were identified. This included direct job creation as well as indirect spending which stimulates the local and regional economy to some degree.
An inquiry about how no go areas are determined	It was clarified that specialist studies were conducted and where specialists identified the impacts as being high with mitigation not being effective, those areas were designated as no-go areas.
I&APs raised concerns about climate change considerations and emission mitigation measures that are put in place.	It was clarified that mitigation measures were included in the climate change assessment and the specialist had determined that the impacts on climate change were of an acceptably low significance.
An I&AP asked for clarity on wording used “gas production” instead of “Petroleum production” because in legislation, there is no such thing as gas production.	It was acknowledged that “petroleum” technically encompasses “oil and gas” however to distinguish the fact that this application does not include oil as a specific resource, the term “gas” is utilised for the general public to understand the difference.
I&APs asked for clarity regarding flood line delineation.	It was clarified that the 1–100-year floodline is based historical rainfall data which is used to model the flood extent (maximum flood level) that could occur if such a flood event occurs.
Enquiry about mitigation measures put in place for ground water contamination.	Reference was made to the specialist geohydrology impact assessment which modelled the potential groundwater contamination impact, and it was clarified that the model predicts that the extent of the impact is limited.
Enquiry about health impacts of the project on surrounding communities.	It was clarified that the air quality specialist including the social specialist to some degree assessed the health impacts on surrounding communities.
An I&AP needed information on the standards of water testing.	It was clarified that a hydrocensus was conducted as part of the geohydrology study which constitutes a baseline and that the samples were analysed by an accredited laboratory. Subsequent water quality surveys are then compared against the baseline values to identify any changes.
An I&AP requested that Tetra4 provide skills development programmes for local community members.	It was clarified that Tetra4 has a Social and Labour Plan (SLP) as part of their Production Right which provides for certain upliftment programmes.



Comment Summary	How comment was addressed
An I&AP enquired about how long the well drilling and infrastructure development will take.	It was clarified that the anticipated construction phase was about 3 years with the operational phase spanning approximately 20 years.
I&APs raised concerns regarding degradation of agricultural potential of land.	Specific reference was made to mitigation measures identified relating to degradation of agricultural land.
Enquiry about existing Social and Labour Plans (SLPs) and their functionality.	Reference was made to the fact that the EIA assessment does not include the SLP specifically as the SLP is linked to the Production Right application. I&APs were encouraged to engage Tetra4 directly with queries relating to the SLP.
I&APs raised concerns about some of the specialist reports not being up to date.	It was noted that the DMPR Ministers decision was based on the specialist studies and that the relevant updates to certain studies were undertaken as directed by the DFFE Minister as part of the appeal decision.
I&APs raised concerns about the project affecting the socio-economic status of the local communities.	Reference was made to the social impact assessment included in the EIA report which identified potential impacts on the socio-economic status of local communities. Where relevant, mitigation measures were identified to mitigate negative impacts while positive impacts were enhanced as far as possible.
I&APs raised concerns about the Public Participation Process being insufficient.	Attention was drawn to the fact that the public participation process was conducted in line with the NEMA EIA requirements and in fact exceeded the requirements in many ways.
An I&AP raised concerns about the assumptions and limitations indicated in the revised Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).	It was clarified that the requirement to include assumptions and limitations is a requirement of the NEMA EIA Regulations and that these assumptions and limitations do not jeopardise the outcomes of the EIA process.
An I&AP indicated that there was insufficient justification as to why Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) can be used as a bridging fuel.	Attention was drawn to the updated climate change study which presented the lower overall climate change impact of methane (LNG) use as a fuel as compared to coal for example.
Concerns raised in relation to the perceived lack of information on how the wells are going to be capped in the EIAR.	Attention was drawn to the inclusion of the well closure and decommissioning plan included in the EIA report which provided a clear description of the well closure and capping methodology.
An I&AP raised a point that there needed to be an agricultural economics specialist involved in the specialist studies	Attention was drawn to the inclusion of a soils and agricultural study included in the EIA report while an agricultural economic study would need to be undertaken when actual impacts occur (specific mitigation measure included in the EIA report). This type of study would need site specific impacts to determine the specific economic impact which can



Comment Summary	How comment was addressed
	only be undertaken following landowner and Tetra4 finalisation of the well positioning and pipeline routing (post decision).
I&APs questioned the need and desirability of the proposed project.	Attention was drawn to the need and desirability assessment included in the specific chapter of the EIA report which complies with the DFFE guidelines on need and desirability.

All comments and/or queries received to date are appended to this report and presented in **Appendix B 13** and **Appendix B 14**. Please refer to **Appendix B 13** for the table of comments and responses and then **Appendix B 14** for proof of correspondence.



7 APPENDICES

Appendix B 1: I&AP Database



Appendix B 2: Initial Notification and Proof of Initial Notification



Appendix B 3: Newspaper and Gazette Advertisement



Appendix B 4: Site Notice Placement and Proof of Placement



Appendix B 5: Scoping Report Availability Notification



Appendix B 6: Scoping Phase Public and Focus Group Meetings/Open Days Documentation



Appendix B 7: Environmental Impact Assessment Report Availability Notification



Appendix B 8: EIA Phase Public and Focus Group Meeting Documentation



Appendix B 9: IWWMP Availability Notification



Appendix B 10: Appeal Decision Availability Notification



Appendix B 11: Updated Environmental Impact Assessment Report Availability Notification



Appendix B 12: Public Meeting and Focus Group Documentation



Appendix B 13: Table of correspondence



Appendix B 14: Correspondence Proof