

## Mbali Tshabalala

---

**From:** Brian Whitfield  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 September 2025 08:45  
**To:** macuameloding@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Tiaan Mey; Joy Alec; Russell Broadhead; 1473 Tetracluster2; Jacobus Koen; Mirna de Hart; Tinashe Maramba; Liam Whitlow; FreestateCAO@macua.org.za; chaoleastone@outlook.com; seoliphomolo@gmail.com  
**Subject:** RE: Subject: Query on Community Meeting Arrangements – Tetra4 Phase 2 EIA  
**Categories:** Orange category

Good morning Nthabiseng.

I refer to your email below that Tetra4 shared with us. May I kindly request that MACUA direct communications regarding the Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA application process to [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za) in order for relevant correspondence to be adequately captured and addressed by the EAP.

With respect to your query regarding transport, please note that in addition to the public meeting in Virginia on 2 October 2025, we have arranged 2 community focus group meetings on 1 October 2025 as follows:

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Furthermore, we would be happy to arrange an additional focus group meeting with yourselves at a suitable venue should you deem this necessary. Please advise accordingly?

KIND REGARDS  
BRIAN WHITFIELD



T +27 11 789 7170  
F +27 86 571 9047  
E [brian@eims.co.za](mailto:brian@eims.co.za)  
W [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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Randburg, 2194

PO Box 2083, Pinetown, 2123, ZA

**From:** MACUA MELODING < >

**Sent:** Thursday, 25 September 2025 11:40

**To:** Joy Alec <[joy@renergen.co.za](mailto:joy@renergen.co.za)>; Mirna de Hart <[mirna@renergen.co.za](mailto:mirna@renergen.co.za)>

**Cc:** [freestatecao@macua.org.za](mailto:freestatecao@macua.org.za); [chaoleastone@outlook.com](mailto:chaoleastone@outlook.com); [seoliphomolo@gmail.com](mailto:seoliphomolo@gmail.com)

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Transportation Inquiry for Public Participation

Dear Tetra 4 Team,

I'm reaching out to ask if you'll be providing transportation services for attendees to the public event on October 2nd. If so, could you please share details on:

- Availability of transportation
- Pickup and drop-off locations
- Any associated costs

This information will help us plan and communicate with the community. Thank you for your time!

Best regards,  
NTHABISENG MAHLUMBA

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## Mbali Tshabalala

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**From:** MACUA MELODING <macuameloding@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, 06 October 2025 11:00  
**To:** Brian Whitfield  
**Cc:** Tiaan Mey; Joy Alec; Russell Broadhead; 1473 Tetracluster2; Jacobus Koen; Mirna de Hart; Tinashe Maramba; Liam Whitlow; FreestateCAO@macua.org.za; chaoleastone@outlook.com; seoliphomolo@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Re: Subject: Query on Community Meeting Arrangements – Transport Inquiry for Tetra 4 Public Participation  
  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear EIMS Team,

We are writing to formally accept the invitation to participate in the public participation event scheduled for the community. We confirm that the event will be attended by representatives from the community as a whole, including members from MACUA.

As discussed, we propose that the public participation event be held on the 9th of October. We believe this date will allow for adequate preparation and ensure maximum community representation.

Please let us know if this date is acceptable and provide further details on the event schedule, venue, and other logistical arrangements.

Thank you

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On Wed, 01 Oct 2025, 07:00 Brian Whitfield, <[brian@eims.co.za](mailto:brian@eims.co.za)> wrote:

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KIND REGARDS  
BRIAN WHITFIELD



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[www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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**From:** MACUA MELODING <[macuameloding@gmail.com](mailto:macuameloding@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 September 2025 15:13

**To:** Brian Whitfield <[brian@eims.co.za](mailto:brian@eims.co.za)>

**Cc:** Tiaan Mey <[Tiaanm@renergen.co.za](mailto:Tiaanm@renergen.co.za)>; Joy Alec <[joy@renergen.co.za](mailto:joy@renergen.co.za)>; Russell Broadhead <[russell@renergen.co.za](mailto:russell@renergen.co.za)>; 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>; Jacobus Koen <[jakes@renergen.co.za](mailto:jakes@renergen.co.za)>; Mirna de Hart <[mirna@renergen.co.za](mailto:mirna@renergen.co.za)>; Tinashe Maramba <[Tinashe@renergen.co.za](mailto:Tinashe@renergen.co.za)>; Liam Whitlow <[liam@eims.co.za](mailto:liam@eims.co.za)>; [FreestateCAO@macua.org.za](mailto:FreestateCAO@macua.org.za); [chaoleastone@outlook.com](mailto:chaoleastone@outlook.com); [seoliphomolo@gmail.com](mailto:seoliphomolo@gmail.com)

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[www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za) [Pine Park](http://Pine Park).

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**Sent:** Monday, 06 October 2025 14:39  
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**Cc:** Tiaan Mey; Joy Alec; Russell Broadhead; 1473 Tetracluster2; Jacobus Koen; Mirna de Hart; Tinashe Maramba; Liam Whitlow; FreestateCAO@macua.org.za; chaoleastone@outlook.com; seoliphomolo@gmail.com; Alexander Msipa; Jeanette Maila; Mbali Tshabalala  
**Subject:** RE: Subject: Query on Community Meeting Arrangements – Transport Inquiry for Tetra 4 Public Participation  
**Categories:** Orange category

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I am unfortunately unavailable for the remainder of this week and therefore propose holding the Meloding Community meeting on **Monday 13 October from 11am to 1pm.**

As community representatives, could you please suggest a suitable venue for us to consider within the community?

KIND REGARDS  
BRIAN WHITFIELD



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**Subject:** RE: Subject: Query on Community Meeting Arrangements – Transport Inquiry for Tetra 4 Public Participation  
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Hi Nthabiseng.

Could you suggest venues that do have electricity and sufficient space and we will make contact with the venue to discuss venue hire?

KIND REGARDS  
BRIAN WHITFIELD



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**Subject:** Re: Subject: Query on Community Meeting Arrangements – Transport Inquiry for Tetra 4 Public Participation

Good day

Regarding the venue, we need to book a place with electricity. Are you covering the costs? Most venues around here aren't free, and the church we usually use doesn't have electricity. Can we discuss the budget for the venue?

Best regards

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**From:** MACUA MELODING <[macuameloding@gmail.com](mailto:macuameloding@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 September 2025 15:13

**To:** Brian Whitfield <[brian@eims.co.za](mailto:brian@eims.co.za)>

**Cc:** Tiaan Mey <[Tiaanm@renergen.co.za](mailto:Tiaanm@renergen.co.za)>; Joy Alec <[joy@renergen.co.za](mailto:joy@renergen.co.za)>; Russell Broadhead <[russell@renergen.co.za](mailto:russell@renergen.co.za)>; 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>; Jacobus Koen <[jakes@renergen.co.za](mailto:jakes@renergen.co.za)>; Mirna de Hart <[mirna@renergen.co.za](mailto:mirna@renergen.co.za)>; Tinashe Maramba <[Tinashe@renergen.co.za](mailto:Tinashe@renergen.co.za)>; Liam Whitlow <[liam@eims.co.za](mailto:liam@eims.co.za)>; [FreestateCAO@macua.org.za](mailto:FreestateCAO@macua.org.za); [chaoleastone@outlook.com](mailto:chaoleastone@outlook.com); [seoliphomolo@gmail.com](mailto:seoliphomolo@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Re: Subject: Query on Community Meeting Arrangements – Transport Inquiry for Tetra 4 Public Participation

Hi EIMS Team,

Just a friendly reminder about the transport inquiry for Tetra 4s public participation. Could you please provide an update or respond to our query at your earliest convenience?

Thanks,

Nthabiseng Mahlumba

On Fri, 26 Sept 2025, 08:45 Brian Whitfield, <[brian@eims.co.za](mailto:brian@eims.co.za)> wrote:

Good morning Nthabiseng.

I refer to your email below that Tetra4 shared with us. May I kindly request that MACUA direct communications regarding the Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA application process to [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za) in order for relevant correspondence to be adequately captured and addressed by the EAP.

With respect to your query regarding transport, please note that in addition to the public meeting in Virginia on 2 October 2025, we have arranged 2 community focus group meetings on 1 October 2025 as follows:

MEETING AND VENUE	DATE	TIME
Community Focus Group Meeting - Stilte Community School Hall	1 October	12H00-14H00
Community Focus Group Meeting - Adamsonsvlei Community	1 October	16H00-18H00
Public Meeting - Virginia NG Kerk	2 October	12H00-14H00

By having the community meetings within the communities themselves, we aim to make it easy for community members to attend. MACUA is also more than welcome to attend any or all of the above meetings.

Furthermore, we would be happy to arrange an additional focus group meeting with yourselves at a suitable venue should you deem this necessary. Please advise accordingly?

**KIND REGARDS**  
**BRIAN WHITFIELD**



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**From:** MACUA MELODING <>

**Sent:** Thursday, 25 September 2025 11:40

**To:** Joy Alec <[joy@renergen.co.za](mailto:joy@renergen.co.za)>; Mirna de Hart <[mirna@renergen.co.za](mailto:mirna@renergen.co.za)>

**Cc:** [freestatecao@macua.org.za](mailto:freestatecao@macua.org.za); [chaoleastone@outlook.com](mailto:chaoleastone@outlook.com); [seoliphomolo@gmail.com](mailto:seoliphomolo@gmail.com)

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Transportation Inquiry for Public Participation

Dear Tetra 4 Team,

I'm reaching out to ask if you'll be providing transportation services for attendees to the public event on October 2nd. If so, could you please share details on:

- Availability of transportation
- Pickup and drop-off locations
- Any associated costs

This information will help us plan and communicate with the community. Thank you for your time!



Best regards,

NTHABISENG MAHLUMBA

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7 April, 2026

Our ref: 1473

Optavit ref: Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project

**RE: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT IN THE MASILONYANA AND MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA**

Dear Mr Gert Oosthuizen:

I refer to your e-mail dated 13 October 2025 and comments on Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the above-mentioned project. Please refer to the attached table providing responses to the comments you raised (Table 1). Your comments will be captured as part of this project's Public Participation Process and in the subsequent Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

Thank you for your involvement in this process. Your comments and inputs are noted and appreciated and will be included in the final EIA Report for the Competent Authorities consideration.

Kind regards

**EIMS Public Participation Team**

**EIMS Reference Number:** 1473

**Postal Address:** P.O. Box 2083; Pinegowrie; 2123

**Telephone:** (011) 789 7170

**Fax:** (086) 571 9047

**E-mail:** tetracluster2@eims.co.za

Table 1: Comments and Responses regarding comments provided by Optavit Boerdery (Pty) Ltd.

No.	Comment	Response
1.	<p><b>RE: COMMENTS ON THE REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME SUBMITTED IN RESPECT OF AN APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION BY TETRA4 FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT NEAR VIRGINIA, IN THE MASILONYANA AND MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, FREE STATE PROVINCE.</b></p> <p>I confirm that I am duly authorised to submit these comments on behalf of Optavit Boerdery (Pty) Ltd, the farming entity operating on the following farms and representing the following landowners:</p> <p>1.1. Portion 1 and 3 of Farm Doornrivier 330 owned by Jacobus Hendrikus Oosthuizen;</p> <p>1.2. Portion 2 of Farm Doornrivier 330 owned by Mandalay Trust;</p> <p>1.3. Portion 4 of Farm Palmietkuil 328 owned by Mandalay Trust; and</p> <p>1.4. Portion 0 of Farm Digito 642 owned by Mandalay Trust (the properties).</p> <p>These comments are submitted in respect of the Revised Environmental Impact Assessment (<b>EIA</b>) and Environmental Management Programme (<b>EMPr</b>) submitted for an Environmental Authorization (<b>EA</b>) by Environmental Impact Management Services (<b>the EAP or EIMS</b>) on behalf of Tetra4 (Pty) Ltd (<b>the Applicant or Tetra4</b>) to undertake a gas production project on various portions of land, including the properties operated on by Optavit.</p> <p>The EIA documentation was released on 10 September 2025 for comment by Interested and Affected Parties ("<b>I&amp;APs</b>") on or before 13 October 2025 and therefore these comments are submitted within the period provided for public comment.</p> <p>We request that a copy of these comments be provided directly to the competent authority in this format in addition to them being included in your comments and response report. Kindly also provide us with the details of the responsible person at the Competent Authority.</p>	<p>Thank you for providing this clarification with respect to the submission of these comments.</p> <p>We confirm that a copy of these comments in the original format will be submitted to the Competent Authority as part of the final EIAR submission. In addition, this comments and response document as well as the Comments and Response Report (as part of the Public Participation Report) will be submitted.</p>

No.	Comment	Response
		<p>The responsible person at the Competent Authority as indicated on the Environmental Authorisation is:</p> <p>Ms Sinazo Mnyaka</p> <p><a href="mailto:mnyakas@petroleumagencysa.com">mnyakas@petroleumagencysa.com</a></p>
2.	<p>In respect of its Phase II operation, it is anticipated that Tetra4 will drill a combined total of 48 wells across the properties.</p> <p>Given the extent of the above Optavit activities on the properties, it is evident that undertaking gas production activities will have a significant impact on Optavit's operations.</p> <p>EIMS originally published EIA documentation on 2 December 2022 for comment by I&amp;APs on or before 24 January 2023. I duly submitted comments in respect of the original EIA documentation on 24 January 2023, within the allocated timeframe for public participation.</p> <p>The comments submitted in respect of the original EIA pertained to the following main issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gaps and inadequate level of information in the EIA;</li> <li>2. Inadequacy of consultative processes;</li> <li>3. Negative impact significance for groundwater, farmland and landowners and land value;</li> <li>4. Inclusion of specific mitigation measures as conditions to the environmental authorization;</li> <li>5. Impacts on agricultural resources and landowner farming operations not properly considered;</li> <li>6. Biased Information in the EIA; and</li> <li>7. Inadequate and deficient consideration of needs and desirability.</li> </ol>	<p>A response to this comment was solicited from Tetra4 which is as follows: "Tetra4 acknowledges the importance of maintaining the integrity and continuity of existing farming operations on the property and has implemented measures to ensure that drilling activities are conducted with minimal disruption. In accordance with the land access agreements, Tetra4 will consult closely with the landowner prior to undertaking any activities or installing infrastructure on the property, ensuring that the precise location of drilling infrastructure is agreed to in writing and positioned to avoid unnecessary interference with agricultural operations. Where temporary disruptions may occur during critical farming periods such as planting, cultivation, spraying, or harvesting, these impacts are formally recognised and managed through agreed compensation mechanisms. Furthermore, Tetra4 accepts full responsibility for any damage caused by its employees or contractors to property infrastructure, crops, livestock, fences, roads, or water sources, and will promptly remedy or compensate for such impacts. Through this structured consultation, careful siting of infrastructure, and clear accountability for any damages, Tetra4 is committed to ensuring that the farmer's operations can continue with the least possible disturbance while drilling activities are undertaken."</p>
3.	<p>On 13 July 2023, the Director-General of the Department of Mineral Resources (the <b>Director-General</b>) made a decision authorizing the activities applied for by Tetra4. However, by 18 August 2023, several appeals had been lodged against decision to grant the EA.</p>	

No.	Comment	Response
	<p>The Minister responsible for environmental affairs (the <b>Minister</b>) handed down their decision on the appeal on 1 August 2024. In terms of this appeal decision, the Applicant was directed to update the EIA and submit same for reconsideration by the Department of Mineral Resources. The Minister directed that the Applicant attend to update the EIA in the following respects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Update the Climate Change Specialist Study;</li> <li>2. Consider the climate change impacts in the delineation of the 1:100-year floodline;</li> <li>3. Update the Geohydrological Impact Specialist Study following additional baseline aquifer characterisation;</li> <li>4. Failure to include and consider new information which has come to light since the initial EIA was published for comment in December 2022; and</li> <li>5. Inadequate public participation process.</li> </ol>	<p>While it is acknowledged that points 1 to 3 correctly indicate the required updates as per the Ministers decision on the appeal, kindly note that points 4 and 5 are not reflected as such in the Ministers decision.</p>
4.	<p>While I maintain that the comments that I submitted in respect of the original EIA remain relevant to the consideration of the updated EIA, I acknowledge that the consideration of the EA was remitted to the Director-General for the consideration of limited issues and I accordingly confine these comments to those issues.</p> <p>In particular, these comments and concerns, which are submitted in respect of the updated EIA, relate to the following deficiencies in the EIA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Failure to adequately elaborate on the claim that LNG is a viable “bridging fuel” for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as part of expanded Climate Change Assessment (<b>CCA</b>);</li> <li>2. Failure to adequately assess the impact of climate change on the project;</li> <li>3. Failure to incorporate climate change considerations into assessment of need and desirability; and</li> </ol>	<p>Thank you for this comment which is noted. Kindly refer to Appendix B10 contained in Appendix 3 of the EIA Report in which the comments and responses referred to in terms of the original EIA report are detailed. It is understood that this comment serves as an introduction to the detailed comments submitted below. As such, please refer to the responses below which address each of these bullets.</p>

No.	Comment	Response
	4. Failure to properly assess impact of groundwater and agricultural activities.	
5.	<p>At paragraph 3.2.2.1 of the Minister's appeal decision, the Minister specifically directs that the CCA should be expanded to include further information relating to the claim that LNG is a viable "bridging fuel" for reducing GHG emissions.</p> <p>It is apparent from the EIA and the CCA attached thereto that the EAP has not expanded on this consideration in the revised EIA in a manner that would place the decision-maker in a better position to consider this assertion.</p> <p>What remains in the revised EIA is a cursory mention of LNG as a bridging fuel at page 113 where it is stated that <i>"Promotion of gas as a bridging fuel towards South Africa achieving the renewable energy use targets as opposed to the extensive use of fossil fuels in the short to medium term"</i>. It should be noted that this statement is made under the heading of "Potential Project Benefits".</p> <p>The concept of LNG as a bridging fuel is then again mentioned at page 116 where it is simply stated that <i>"Gas is not regarded as a cleaner energy than "green energy" sources, for example solar, water and wind, but is undoubtedly "cleaner" than coal. As a "bridging" source of energy, there is sufficient cause to rate gas as economically needed and desirable"</i>.</p> <p>The only addition to the above in the revised EIA is where the EAP continues on page 117 to elaborate on South Africa's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and simply states the following:</p> <p><i>"The production of thermal energy in SA is expected to decrease by 10.5 GW by 2030, with a decrease of 25% in the current energy generation potential due to the shutting down of coal-fired power stations. Although the aim is to eventually replace fossil fuels completely, there is a strong case to use natural gas in the interim to replace coal for baseload capacity."</i></p> <p>The EAP then notably does not elaborate on what this so-called "strong case" might be.</p>	<p>With reference to Section 6 of the EIA Report as well as the CCA included in Appendix 4 of the EIA Report, according to the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) published in October 2025, South Africa will need to significantly expand locally sourced natural gas to meet future energy demands, especially as coal is phased down and renewable integration accelerates. Natural gas is positioned as a transition fuel to complement renewables. Current imports from Mozambique's Pande-Temane fields will be depleted by 2028, increasing the demand for locally sourced gas to reduce reliance on imports and ensure energy security. The Integrated Resource Plan 2025 (IRP) makes provision to increase the national energy mix natural gas contribution 6 000MW by 2030 (with a projection of 16 000MW in the total energy mix by 2040). While the need and desirability contained in Section 6 of the EIA Report discusses methane as a bridging fuel, it should also be noted that the need and desirability discussion also addresses the global demand for helium (which this project is also targeting). Furthermore, the motivation for the project as a bridge is not based on the EAPs consideration but rather the EAP references existing policy and strategy for South Africa which recognised natural gas as a bridge. The National Development Plan (NDP) envisions that by 2030 South Africa will have an energy sector that promotes economic growth and development through adequate investment in energy infrastructure. At just 2.6% of the country's total energy mix, South Africa's natural gas market is small, but with all its inherent benefits, it has the potential to completely change the economy by stimulating economic growth and development, stability, and job creation. The meaningful addition of natural gas to the country's energy mix will rejuvenate an overburdened, out-dated energy infrastructure and reduce cyclical energy shortfalls. Perhaps even more importantly, it will stimulate the economy by allowing business and industry to lower their energy and operational spend while also creating significant numbers of new jobs and skills development opportunities. Considering</p>

No.	Comment	Response
	<p>The above analysis not only falls woefully short of the requirement set by the Minister, but it is also fundamentally flawed. Recent studies contest the assertion that LNG is a viable substitute for coal and other carbon intensive fuels. The primary reasoning for this is that renewable alternatives such as wind or solar power are becoming increasingly cost-effective and accessible. This calls into question whether gas will remain competitive against the renewable energy market. There is also a substantial risk of stranded gas infrastructure as a result due to a predicted global decline in demand for gas<sup>1</sup>. For this reason, gas power is neither needed nor is it desirable and there is no case for LNG to be used as a so-called “bridging fuel”.</p> <p>On the basis that the EIA and CCA fails to adequately elaborate on LNG as a viable bridging fuel, I submit that these documents are fundamentally flawed and fall short of what is required by the Minister’s directive.</p>	<p>that nearly 90% of South Africa’s existing natural gas demand is supplied by a single entity, namely Sasol Gas, the associated economic and employment risks of limited supply options, development and sourcing of alternative natural gas resources are high. It is imperative to ensure economic and employment stability within the natural gas sector by introducing more suppliers. Southern Africa’s gas potential has been revealed by major discoveries that, when developed, widen options for greater regional energy trade. South Africa’s gas resource potential remains to be quantified but raises the prospect of possible domestic production in the longer term. Globally the natural gas industry has moved into a supply surplus, favouring a larger role for gas as a clean fossil fuel in many countries’ energy policies. A challenge in developing the gas sector is to bring gas demand and supply on stream at the same time and spread geographically to stimulate broader localized demand through South Africa. Without such localized gas demand, it is difficult to develop distributed gas supply and without such distributed gas supply it is difficult to develop localized gas demand. One way of breaking this impasse is to create significant “anchor” gas demand through the development of a gas-to-power programme. In pursuit of adding generating capacity, lowering carbon emissions, enhancing energy security and supporting industrial development, South Africa has taken the first steps in a gas-to-power programme to be executed under the Integrated Resource Plan, aiming to increase the national energy mix natural gas contribution to 6 000MW of energy production from gas by 2030.</p> <p>With reference to Section 9.14.9.2 of the EIA Report (and the CCA Report), even though CH<sub>4</sub> emissions are 28 times more effective than CO<sub>2</sub> at trapping heat in the atmosphere over a 100-year timescale (US EPA, 2024a), studies show gas has a lower life cycle GHG impact than coal with a lifetime of roughly a decade (PACE, 2015). According to the UK Department for Environment Food &amp; Rural Affairs (DEFRA), natural gas releases 46% less CO<sub>2</sub>-eq lifecycle emissions compared to coal-fired facilities and 49% less than diesel-fired facilities for the same electricity generation rate. The IPCC reports, based on the median value, indicate natural gas to result in less</p>

No.	Comment	Response
		<p>than 51% direct- and 40% lifecycle CO<sub>2</sub>-eq emissions compared to CO<sub>2</sub>-eq emissions from coal (Schlömer S., 2014).</p> <p>Coal extraction generally has a larger overall environmental footprint than natural gas extraction, causing extensive land disturbance, habitat destruction, acid mine drainage, and long-term soil and water contamination. Natural gas extraction on the other hand typically has a smaller surface footprint with subsequent lower environmental impacts (albeit not no environmental impacts as acknowledged, identified and assessed in Section 10 of the EIA Report). It is specifically acknowledged in Section 6.3.1 of the EIA Report that there is more consensus than ever that GHG's cause global warming, that burning of natural gas still emits CO<sub>2</sub> and that methane is a potent GHG. The detailed Climate Change Assessment considered both Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions.</p> <p>The EAP does not motivate for the project beyond what is required to be included in the NEMA EIA Regulations and the Need and Desirability Guideline. The "need and desirability" section of the EIA Report is intended to contextualise the project within the broader policy goals. It is not the purpose of the "need and desirability" section to reconsider, reassess, and represent the merits of existing government policies nor to extend the assessment of impacts beyond those of the activity for which authorisation is being sought.</p> <p>The Tetra4 Virginia gas resource has been proven through Cluster 1 gas production and therefore it can be assumed that there is a low likelihood of the proposed Cluster 2 becoming a stranded resource. It is acknowledged by the EAP that there is a need to move away from fossil and non-renewable resources however in line with government policy this needs to be undertaken in a controlled scale and pace. The transition is reflected in the climate change policy and associated energy policy. It is also important to note that this project is not only aiming to extract natural gas but also helium which is an important resource globally. Lastly, it should be noted that the requirements for financial provisioning were undertaken, and the scheduled and unscheduled</p>



No.	Comment	Response
		<p>costs were calculated and included in Appendix 6 of the EIA Report.</p> <p>Kindly note that the link provided in the footnote within this original comment submission only provides an abstract to this paper. The associated link to the paper on the website address provided does not work and therefore further consideration of this paper was not possible.</p>
6.	<p>It is also noted that, at paragraph 3.2.2.1 of the Minister's appeal decision, the Minister directs that the CCA be expanded upon in order to provide a more detailed analysis of the impacts on climate change on the activities associated with the project.</p> <p>I have obtained legal advice and I am advised that this directive is consistent with the findings of the Court in <i>Earthlife</i>,<sup>2</sup> wherein the Court upholds a wide ambit of the climate change impact assessment, which was described as follows: "A climate change impact assessment in relation to the construction of a coal fire power station ordinarily would comprise an assessment of (i) the extent to which a proposed coal-fired power station will contribute to climate change over its lifetime, by quantifying its GHG emissions during construction, operation and decommissioning; (ii) the resilience of the coal-fired power station to climate change, taking into account how climate change will impact on its operation, through factors such as rising temperatures, diminishing water supply, and extreme weather patterns; and (iii) how these impacts may be avoided, mitigated, or remedied."</p> <p>To this end, I acknowledge that the revised EIA does include an assessment of the impacts which climate change will have on the project area. In particular, it is noted that climate change will result in the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increased heat extremes;</li> <li>2. Increased risk of flooding;</li> <li>3. Increased risk of wildfires and 26 increased fire danger days by 2050;and</li> <li>4. A decrease in groundwater potential;</li> </ol>	<p>The climate change assessment contained in the CCA specialist report was considered by the Hydrologist, Geohydrologist and EAP in determining and modelling the potential impacts on the project infrastructure as a result of climate change.</p> <p>The update Hydrological Assessment includes a revised floodline delineation based on the predicted changes to rainfall as a result of climate change. Figure 75 contained in the updated EIAR presents the baseline (original) 1:100 year floodline delineation overlayed with the climate change adjusted 1:100 year floodline delineation and it is noted that the variation between the baseline floodline projection compared to the climate change floodline projection is minimal and therefore there are no changes required to the impact assessment or water use licencing requirements.</p> <p>The Physical Risks of Climate Change on the Project's Construction and Operations were reported under Section 4.4.3 of the CCA. Well blowouts, as understood, are mainly caused by uncontrolled pressure in the wellbore, with climate-related hazards such as floods and fires only indirectly contributing by compromising safety systems and infrastructure. Impacts from climate change can be avoided/ mitigated through engineering design to ensure equipment can handle heat and temperature increases, and extreme weather conditions such as strong winds, increased humidity and floods.</p>

No.	Comment	Response
	<p>However, despite the fact that the EAP conducts a relatively comprehensive assessment of the potential impacts which climate change may have on the project area, these impacts are not assessed in respect of the project itself. There is no consideration of the resilience of the project to these climate change impacts and there is no consideration of how these impacts might affect the project.</p> <p>Specifically, it is unclear whether the increase in extreme weather events such as flood or heat waves may impact infrastructure and whether this might interrupt operation. It is also unclear whether fires and flooding may increase the risk of unplanned events such as well blowouts.</p> <p>As a result of the failure to assess how climate change may impact the operation, there is also no consideration of how the impacts of climate change may be avoided, mitigated or remedied. This falls short of what is required in terms of the relevant case law and the Minister's directive. I submit that the revised EIA is flawed on this basis.</p>	
7.	<p>On 13 August 2025, the High Court in the Western Cape handed down judgment in the matter of The Green Connection NPC and Natural Justice v Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and Others.</p> <p>The applicants argued on the third ground of the review in this matter that the motivation for the need and desirability of the proposed project is fundamentally flawed on the basis that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is no assessment of the climate change impacts which production (i.e., from the burning of fossil fuels discovered as a result of exploration) will have; and</li> <li>2. This climate change impact is then not weighed against the positive economic impacts which the proposed project will have in the assessment of need and desirability.</li> </ol> <p>The Court ultimately found in favour of the applicants on this point, stating that "It makes no sense to rely on the positive consequences of production stage for purposes of considering an application at exploration</p>	<p>In the matter of The Green Connection NPC and Natural Justice v Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and Others, a distinction must be made that this matter dealt with an application for exploration and not production and it is therefore a fundamentally different application to the current Tetra4 application (which is for production activities). The Climate Change Assessment commissioned for the Tetra4 EIA quantified the GHG emissions from gas flaring both as a result of gas processing and gas productions (refer to Table 12 of the CCA report). Furthermore, the Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions as a result of production activities were calculated as part of the CCA with the overall impacts of the Scope 3 emissions (downstream emissions from the use of the gas) predicted to have a low negative impact.</p> <p>Based on the low predicted climate change impact as a result of this project, no material change to the economic impacts would be realised. Your attention is further drawn to the fifth ground of appeal which, amongst other, dealt with the need a desirability assessment and specifically the consideration of climate change in the need and desirability</p>

No.	Comment	Response
	<p>stage, only to resist considering the negative consequences of the production stage when it comes to consideration of climate change”.</p> <p>On the basis of the findings of the Court in the Green Connection judgment, in its consideration of the climate change impacts of the project, the EAP is required to include a consideration of the impact that the burning of gas would have. It is further required that the impacts of the proposed production activities so considered be incorporated into the assessment of need and desirability of the project.</p>	<p>assessment. The Ministers evaluation and findings against this ground of appeal was that the “motivation for the Need and Desirability for the proposed development does comply with the 2014 EIA Regulations and the Needs and Desirability Guideline”. The Minister furthermore acknowledged that the CCIA report considered Scope 1, 2 and 3 activities in relation to the construction and operational related GHG emissions from the proposed project and the Ministers conclusion was that he was satisfied that the GHG emissions have been considered and evaluated by the DMRE in its decision-making process.</p>
8.	<p>It is noted that the current assessment of need and desirability in the revised EIA is asymmetric and seemingly focuses only on the positive economic impacts which the proposed production activities may have. In particular, the EAP includes an entire consideration of the demand for natural gas under its assessment of need and desirability. The EAP highlights the fact that natural gas is required for the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Electric power generation;</li> <li>2. Fuel for heating;</li> <li>3. Residential heating and cooking; and</li> <li>4. Operation of compressors in the transportation sector.</li> </ol> <p>However, despite detailing the demand for LNG, the assessment of need and desirability does not juxtapose these supposed positive impacts with the climate change impacts that will result from the burning of gas as a result of demand.</p> <p>Additionally, on page 117 of the revised EIA, the EAP has inserted new content in which it attempts to show that LNG is needed as part of South Africa’s Integrated Resource Plan. However, the EAP notably fails to mention that the IRP only envisages demand for approximately 6 petajoules of new gas utilisation from 2024 and thereafter 19 petajoules per annum from 2027. It has been noted in the media that Phase II of the Virginia Gas Project will increase Tetra4’s production output of LNG by 34 000 gigajoules per</p>	<p>Thank you for this comment and kindly refer to the response provided to comment 5 and 7 above which addresses this comment.</p> <p>The reference to the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) in the EIA serves only to contextualise the broader role of natural gas within South Africa’s evolving energy mix and should not be interpreted as a prescriptive cap on total gas production in the country. The IRP is an electricity sector planning instrument developed by the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources to guide future electricity generation capacity and does not regulate or limit upstream natural gas production volumes. Its projections regarding gas demand relate specifically to gas</p>

No.	Comment	Response
	<p>day. This is the equivalent of more than 12 petajoules per annum. The EAP makes no attempt to account for this gap nor why it is desirable or even permissible to produce gas in volumes which do not accord with the IRP.</p>	<p>utilised for electricity generation within the national power system and do not account for the broader industrial, commercial, transport, or export markets in which liquefied natural gas (LNG) may be utilised.</p> <p>Tetra4's proposed Phase II expansion of the Virginia Gas Project is aligned with national policy objectives aimed at diversifying South Africa's energy mix, reducing reliance on imported fuels, and promoting the development of a domestic gas economy. Importantly, the LNG produced at the Virginia Gas Plant is not exclusively intended for electricity generation but is primarily supplied into alternative markets such as industrial fuel switching, transport fuel applications, and other commercial energy uses where LNG provides a cleaner alternative to diesel, heavy fuel oil, and coal. These applications fall outside the scope of the IRP's electricity-generation modelling.</p> <p>The projected Phase II production capacity of approximately 34 000 GJ/day (approximately 12 PJ per annum) must therefore be viewed in the context of total national gas demand, which is expected to grow significantly as South Africa transitions toward a lower-carbon energy system. Various national policy frameworks, including the Gas Utilisation Master Plan (GUMP), recognise the need to expand domestic gas supply infrastructure to support industrial decarbonisation, energy security, and economic development. The Virginia Gas Project represents one of the few domestic sources of natural gas in South Africa and therefore contributes to reducing reliance on imported gas while strengthening national energy resilience.</p> <p>Furthermore, domestic LNG production plays an important transitional role in enabling industries to switch from higher-emission fuels to lower-carbon alternatives. In this regard, natural gas is widely recognised internationally as a transition fuel that supports decarbonisation while maintaining energy reliability and affordability. The scale of production proposed for Phase II is therefore consistent with broader national policy objectives aimed at developing a domestic gas market and supporting the transition toward a more diversified and lower-emission energy system.</p> <p>Accordingly, the comparison drawn between Tetra4's proposed LNG production volumes and the IRP projections for gas use in electricity generation is not</p>

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	<p>To the extent that the EAP presents an asymmetric assessment of need and desirability, which specifically does not take into account the full scope of climate change impacts of production, this assessment falls foul of what is required in terms of Item 3(1)(f) of Appendix 3 to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, promulgated under the NEMA and what is required in terms of the relevant case law. As such, I submit that the revised EIA is flawed.</p>	<p>directly applicable, as the IRP does not represent a regulatory ceiling on gas production nor does it account for the full spectrum of gas demand across the South African economy.</p>
9.	<p>In my initial comments, I highlighted the fact that the hydrogeological study confirms that the most significant impact of the project on the regional groundwater regime is deterioration of the potable Karoo aquifer water quality and that there will be a medium negative impact on water sources with implementation of proposed mitigation measures.</p> <p>The hydrologist further acknowledges that <i>“groundwater is the sole water resource to the landowners and rural communities with[in] sic the study area”</i>.</p> <p>Despite the above, no attempt is made in the hydrogeological assessment or the EIA to consider the significance of this impact specifically in relation to agriculture as well as livelihoods and food security. It is a particular concern to farmers in the area that even a medium impact can have severe ramifications for farming operations. It was therefore incumbent on the EAP to consider how the significance of this impact on agriculture can be avoided, mitigated or remedied.</p> <p>Of concern, the above issue has not been remedied as part of the revised EIA and is a significant gap in the EIA process. In this respect, the EIA falls short of the requirements of Item 2(d)(i) and 3(j) of Appendix 3 to the EIA Regulations which provides that the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration, and</p>	<p>It should be noted that all impacts should be viewed as potential impacts which may occur, however no impacts are definite. The medium negative impact rating represents a conservative worst-case estimate, and the residual risk could be rated as low with appropriate implementation of defined mitigation measures. While the geohydrological report confirms that aquifer deterioration is the main risk, it clearly states that the significance of this impact once mitigation is applied is Low to Medium Negative. The assessment applied a worst-case approach to identify the most significant possible outcomes. The impact rating assumes the contaminant enters the aquifer. However, the principal mitigation (adequate well construction) aims to eliminate any chance of leakage. The comment suggests a widespread "regional" deterioration. However, the numerical modelling shows that the impact will be localized. The assessment incorporates an integrated groundwater monitoring program with boreholes specifically sited for early detection. This enables immediate remedial action-such as pumping/treating-prior to the impact reaching the "medium" level of significance at sensitive receptors.</p> <p>A significant conclusion from the hydrogeologist is the recognition that groundwater constitutes the sole water resource for the area. Although the national hydrogeological map designates the regional aquifer system as a Minor Aquifer, the report explicitly states that local dependence on this resource overrides the broader classification. In the absence of any viable</p>

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	<p>probability of the impacts occurring, as well as their cumulative impacts, must be assessed.</p>	<p>alternative water supply, any impact on the aquifer would effectively elevate its local status to that of a Sole Source Aquifer. This triggers far more stringent protection and management obligations. Consequently, the assessment determines that the project may only proceed if the applicant can conclusively demonstrate both the technical capability and financial capacity to fully safeguard the aquifer, given that any failure would have existential implications for the local community.</p> <p>The comment can be addressed by distinguishing between the hydrogeological scope (resource protection) and the socio-economic scope (livelihoods), while highlighting that the hydrogeologist explicitly prioritized the protection of the agricultural water source. While the hydrogeological report does not calculate financial losses for farmers (which is typically the scope of a Social or Economic Impact Assessment), it explicitly validates the critical nature of the resource for agriculture. The report states that the shallow, intergranular aquifer is important to local groundwater users as it forms the sole source of water supply in the region. By classifying it as a sole source aquifer, the specialist scientifically acknowledges that the loss of this resource would be catastrophic for the users (farmers/communities), thereby validating the concern regarding "severe ramifications." The critique suggests the EAP failed to consider how to avoid impacts on agriculture. However, the mitigation measures are specifically designed to isolate the agricultural water source from the gas operations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Well Construction as Mitigation:</u> The report details that the gas wells are constructed to seal off the "shallow potable Karoo aquifers" (used for agriculture) from the deeper gas-bearing zones using casing and cement. This is a direct engineering intervention to prevent the impact on the farming water source.</li> <li>• <u>Avoidance Strategy:</u> The report recommends that "Any development and/or drilling which takes place within the primary porosity aquifer associated with alluvium material... must be avoided where possible" . This is a specific avoidance strategy to</li> </ul>

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		<p>protect the high-yield zones often used for irrigation and livestock.</p> <p>The assertion that the EIA falls short of the regulations regarding the assessment of impact nature, significance, and cumulative effects is incorrect. The geohydrological report dedicates an entire section (Section 16) to an impact assessment methodology that explicitly incorporates every criterion listed in the criticism. The "gap" alleged in this comment appears to be a disagreement with the findings of the assessment (i.e., that the residual risk is acceptable) rather than a valid procedural critique. The document provides evidence that the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration, probability, and cumulative impacts were assessed in strict accordance with Item 3(j) of Appendix 3 to the EIA Regulations.</p>
10.	<p>As mentioned above, the Minister's decision limits the aspects in respect of which the EIA was required to be updated and in respect of which the Director-General is required to make their decision.</p> <p>However, the initial EIA was published for comment on 2 December 2022. This means that over two and a half years have transpired since the initial EIA was first published for comment. In this time, Tetra4 have expanded the scope of their Phase I operations and, based on the experiences gained as part of their activities, it is assumed that Tetra4 would have a better understanding of its proposed activities and that new information would have come to light regarding the impacts which the proposed project may have. We are aware of the fact that Tetra4 has also taken further decisions regarding the technology to be utilised as part of the project, as well as the limitations of this technology, and the project footprint. This new information has incorrectly been excluded from the revised EIA by the project proponent.</p> <p>By way of example, I have been provided with layout maps from Tetra4 which detail the exact position of</p>	<p>Feedback has been obtained from Tetra4 on this comment and it is understood that Tetra4 have expanded the scope of their Phase I operations and based on the recent experiences, have indeed gained a better understanding of its proposed activities regarding geological lithologies and environmental compliance resolutions. The impacts over the past few years have remained the same as they relate to soil erosion, groundwater quality preservation, air quality, fugitive emissions, vegetation protection and surface water. This is primarily because the activity applied for has remained unchanged. Tetra4 has used a variety of technologies to be utilised as part of the project with regards to locating gas fracture. This includes various software and geological mapping strategies. As with any form of technology, there are inevitable limitations which Tetra4 has attempted to counter act by using a multiplicity of approaches. This approach increases the location of gas bearing structures thereby reducing impact footprint. The aforesaid technologies are not invasive.</p> <p>The revised EIA provides sufficient spatial and technical information to enable the competent authority to assess environmental impacts as</p>



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	<p>the wells, pipelines, bunkers and other infrastructure which Tetra4 intends to place on my property as part of its Phase II operation. These layouts, however, have not been included as an annexure to the revised EIA. This illustrates that relevant information has been omitted from this revised EIA. This falls short of what is required in terms of Item 3(1)(l)(ii) of Appendix 3 to the EIA Regulations.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, I have also been provided with layout maps from Tetra4 for infrastructure to be placed on the properties apparently under the auspices of the Phase I authorisation. It is apparent to me that there is a significant overlap between the activities Tetra4 intends to proceed with under the umbrella of Phase I, and the activities which it previously indicated would take place under Phase II. This has significant ramifications for landowners, in particular farmers, who have a commercial interest in the planning for their properties. It is also a significant cause for confusion which makes it difficult to understand the overall scope of impacts and disturbance on my properties.</p> <p>I am advised that Items 3(1)(h)(viii) and 3(1)(p) of Appendix 3 to the EIA Regulations requires that the possible mitigation measures that could be applied to an activity be included in the EIA. However, what is</p>	<p>required by the EIA Regulations. The layouts referenced in this comment constitute indicative planning layouts rather than final engineering designs. Environmental assessments are undertaken on the basis of development envelopes and disturbance corridors, which ensure that the maximum potential impacts are assessed. The absence of “preliminary” engineering layouts as annexures does not constitute a regulatory omission under Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations. Final infrastructure siting remains subject to detailed design, environmental constraints, and landowner consultation, ensuring that agricultural activities and land use planning are appropriately accommodated.</p> <p>Feedback has been obtained from Tetra4 on this comment, and it is put forward that large-scale gas field developments such as the Virginia Gas Project are inherently iterative and modular in design, with infrastructure layouts refined progressively as engineering, geological, and operational information becomes available. Phase I and Phase II of the Virginia Gas Project are separate development phases subject to distinct environmental authorisations under NEMA. All current activities are confined to the approved Phase I Environmental Authorisation and EMP, and no Phase II infrastructure may be constructed until the required approvals are obtained. Infrastructure layouts shared with landowners represent indicative planning envelopes for consultation and engineering refinement, not final infrastructure siting. The apparent spatial proximity between Phase I and Phase II infrastructure reflects the integrated and phased nature of gas field development, where shared access routes and infrastructure corridors are common. The Phase II EIA specifically assesses incremental and cumulative impacts relative to Phase I, while final infrastructure placement on private land is subject to landowner consultation and negotiated access agreements, ensuring agricultural activities are appropriately accommodated.</p> <p>In order to mitigate adverse impacts on residential areas or homesteads, mitigation included in the EIA include: “Drilling site should not be situated near</p>



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	<p>also evident from our experiences from Phase I is that the revised EIA should include mitigation measures which stipulate the minimum distance from staff residences and homesteads from which Tetra4 may drill well heads. At present there is no such recommendation included in the revised EIA. However, as part of its Phase I activities, Tetra4 has proposed to drill wells within a 200m radius of residences which, in turn, has a significant social impact on residents, particularly in respect of security and their enjoyment of the property.</p> <p>Another experience from Phase I is that there will be wells drilled which ultimately need to be capped insofar as they are deemed to not produce the required amount of gas. It is noted that the revised EIA does not provide clarity on if or how these wells will be monitored to ensure that they do not leak or cause any other impact or increased risk to properties nor are any mitigation measures proposed to deal with these risks. This furthermore falls foul of what is required in terms of Item 3(1)(j) of Appendix 3 to the EIA Regulations.</p> <p>As a result of the above, there is relevant information which should have been taken into consideration as part of the EIA which has not been so considered, specifically measures which were required to be included in the EIA in terms of Items 3(1)(h)(viii) and 3(1)(p) of Appendix 3 to the EIA Regulations. A decision granted on the basis of the revised EIA would furthermore fall short of section 24(4)(b)(ii) of the NEMA which requires that mitigation measures be investigated to keep adverse impacts to a minimum.</p>	<p>visually sensitive areas or residential areas unless agreed to by the relevant landowner.”. The relevant landowner therefore has a say in the distance of drilling from the relevant homestead structures. Numerous other specific conditions are included in the EIAR and EMPR and specifically identified for inclusion in the decision (refer to section 13.4 of the EIAR) to mitigate adverse impacts on landowners and occupiers.</p> <p>A detailed groundwater management plan and monitoring plan has been prepared and included in Section 17 and Section 18 of the Geohydrological Impact Assessment report.</p> <p>As per the responses above, it is incorrect to infer that the EIA falls short of the sections referred to in this comment.</p>
11.	<p>Another experience from which Tetra4 and its EAP should have gained further knowledge, and which information should have been reflected in the revised EIA was the commissioning of an Agricultural Economist Study. The revised EIA recommends “In cases where there the [sic] <i>farmer does not agree with the compensation offered by Tetra4 related to loss of potential income due to exploration, construction or operational activities, Tetra 4 must appoint an agricultural economist at their cost to</i></p>	

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	<p><i>determine what the actual losses will be to the farmers due to the drilling and trenching activities on their properties”.</i></p> <p>It bears mentioning that this recommendation is listed under the sub-category “<i>mitigation measures</i>” and is repeated on page 484 under “<i>Recommendations for Inclusion in Integrated Decision</i>”.</p> <p>Landowners have been engaged by Tetra4 to negotiate the Phase II Land Access and Use Agreements. Pursuant to these negotiations, there was a disagreement between the parties regarding compensation. As such, Tetra4 commissioned a report entitled “<i>An Estimation of the Total Gross Margin for Different Agricultural Enterprises in the Virginia Region of the Free State Province</i>”. The Landowners, however, contended that this report was not ostensibly an Agricultural Economist Study and, moreover, did not account for the realities of the losses which would be experienced by the individual landowners as the report was not site specific. Landowners accordingly had to commission their own agricultural studies at their own cost, to counter the findings in the Tetra4 report.</p> <p>The primary issues here are that Tetra4 were required to commission a full Agricultural Economist Study and, additionally, this Study should have been subject to public participation so that I&amp;APs were provided with an opportunity to formally comment on same. This is confirmed by Item 1(1)(f) of Appendix 4 to the EIA Regulations, which requires that an EMPr include a description of proposed impact management actions. Under section 23(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, the EMPr, inclusive of this information, must be subject to public participation.</p> <p>In this instance however, no Agricultural Economist Study was included as an annexure to the EMPr, nor were the specific impact management actions and/or mitigation measures which would have been included therein reflected in the EMPr. This falls short of what is required in terms of the NEMA and its regulations,</p>	<p>The references to the requirement for an Agricultural Economist Study in the case of a dispute as you quote above would become legally binding when the Cluster 2 EA is issued and acted upon. In terms of the Phase II Land Access and Use Agreements being referred to, these would be guided by the current Cluster 1 EA (2017). Accordingly, the concern raised should be directed to Tetra4 under the auspices of the 2017 EA and its relevant provisions.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, Tetra4 will be legally obliged to comply with all the mitigation measures and conditions of authorisation for Cluster 2 (including the updated EMPr) if a positive decision is rendered and enacted.</p> <p>Kindly refer to the response directly above. The requirement for this study to be subject to public participation as part of this EIAR is pre-emptive as the study would be property specific (if and when a dispute arises) and furthermore this study would be based upon a specific perceived loss of economic value.</p> <p>Kindly refer to the response directly above.</p>

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	<p>specifically Items 3(1)(o) and (p) of Appendix 3 to the EIA Regulations.</p> <p>Again, I am advised that the matter of <i>The Green Connection NPC and Natural Justice v Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and Others</i> is relevant here. In this matter, the Court found that the fact that the Oil Spill Contingency Plan and Blow Out Contingency Plan had not been subject to public participation was a fatal flaw in the environmental assessment process, which rendered the decision to grant authorization, and the decision to confirm that authorisation on appeal, reviewable.</p> <p>On the basis of the above, I submit that the failure of the revised EIA to include a full Agricultural Economist Study and subject that Study to a public participation process is a significant flaw in the revised EIA.</p>	<p>With reference to the above responses, we would respectfully disagree that the referenced finding in the matter of <i>The Green Connection NPC and Natural Justice v Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and Others</i> has similarity to the requirement for a site specific Agricultural Economist Study to settle a landowner dispute in future.</p> <p>Further to our responses above, various specialist studies were commissioned as part of this EIAR including a Social Impact Assessment, Economic Impact Assessment and a Soil and Agricultural Impact Assessment which identified and assessed potential generic impacts across the entire application area. The requirement for an Agricultural Economist Study was included as part of an unforeseen disagreement between Tetra4 and any specific landowners on the final work to be performed on a respective property.</p>
12.	<p>I am of the view that the EIA in its current form falls short of what is required in terms of the NEMA and its regulations in that the following has not been adequately assessed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The revised EIA and CCA fails to adequately elaborate on LNG as a viable bridging fuel.</li> <li>2. The revised EIA and CCA fails to assess how climate change may impact the operation, and there is also no consideration of how the impacts of climate change may be avoided, mitigated or remedied.</li> <li>3. The assessment of need and desirable is asymmetric as it fails to account for the full scope of climate change impacts that production will have. As such, it falls foul of what is required in terms of Item 3(1)(f) of Schedule 3 to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, promulgated under the NEMA and what is required in terms of the relevant case law.</li> </ol>	<p>The Physical Risks of Climate Change on the Project's Construction and Operations were reported under Section 4.4.3 of the Climate Change Assessment Report (refer to Appendix 4 of the EIA Report). Impacts from climate change can be avoided/mitigated through engineering design to ensure equipment can handle heat and temperature increases, and extreme weather conditions such as strong winds, increased humidity and floods. As indicated in the updated hydrological impact assessment (Appendix 4 and Section 9.8 of the Final EIA Report) and specifically the updated floodline delineation which considers climate change adjusted rainfall, the overall impact of climate change on the extent of potential flooding is not significantly different to the original floodline delineation. As such, the extent of potential impact on the project infrastructure has been adequately delineated and assessed in the EIA Report.</p> <p>The need and desirability section of the EIA report is informed by and linked to the outcomes of the EIA process and has been compiled in accordance with</p>

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	<p>4. The significance of the impact on groundwater, specifically in relation to agriculture as well as livelihoods and food security, has not been adequately assessed.</p> <p>5. The revised EIA does not include new information which has come to light in the over two and half years since the initial EIA was published for comment, including proposed layout maps and additional mitigation measures which are required to manage the impacts of the project.</p> <p>6. The public participation process was inadequate in that a full Agricultural Economist Study was not included for consideration and comment by I&amp;APs.</p> <p>On this basis, I conclude that the EIA is flawed and an EA cannot be granted on the basis thereof as such a decision would fall short of what is required in terms of s240 of the NEMA.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of these comments, and that it has been provided to the Competent Authority in this form.</p> <p>Please provide the information of the relevant contact/responsible person at the Competent Authority.</p> <p>We reserve our right to submit further comments in respect of the current EIA, including should further information be provided.</p>	<p>the Need and Desirability Guideline published by the DFFE. The EIA Report identified and assessed climate change impacts (including adaptation and vulnerability- refer to Section 9.14 and 10.2) and the impact on biodiversity (refer to Section 9.11 and 10.2).</p> <p>Within the groundwater impact assessment (refer to Appendix 4 and Section 9.9 of the EIA Report), it is specifically acknowledged that groundwater is the primary source of water in the area. The relevant impacts identified and assessed in the groundwater report (and Section 10 of the EIA Report) specifically focus on potential impacts on groundwater resources.</p> <p>With respect to the comment on the revised EIA Report purported to not include new information which has come to light, no specific detail or evidence of what detail was purported to be missing is provided. As such, it is difficult to provide a targeted response to this comment. Kindly note that new information has been considered and included where relevant including but not limited to the latest IRP 2025, updated climate change studies, updated geohydrology including further hydrocensus, etc.</p> <p>With respect to the comment relating to the Agricultural Economist Study, kindly note that this study would be pre-emptive at this stage as the specific impacts of wells and pipelines on a specific farm are to be discussed and agreed with the relevant landowners prior to construction. In the absence of the final landowner agreed project infrastructure, it would not be possible to quantify the exact economic impact on a particular land parcel.</p>

## Mbali Tshabalala

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 October 2025 07:48  
**To:** Gert Oosthuizen  
**Cc:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Subject:** RE: Comments on the revised Enviromental Impact Assessment Tetra Cluster 2

Good day Gert,

Your Comments have been received and noted. A response will be forwarded to you as soon as it is finalised.

For any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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**From:** Gert Oosthuizen <ggj.oosthuizen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, 13 October 2025 14:52  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** Comments on the revised Enviromental Impact Assessment Tetra Cluster 2

Good afternoon Mbali Tshabalala

Attached please find my comments on the revised environmental impact assessment and environmental management programme in regards to the Tetra4 Cluster2 Gas Production Project.

Please will you confirm receipt of this email?

Kind regards

Gert Oosthuizen

## Mbali Tshabalala

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 29 September 2025 12:58  
**To:** Canny Mosebjadi Mothapo  
**Subject:** RE: Notification: Updated EIA Report Availability and Public Meeting - Tetra4 Cluster 2

Good day,

Your email has been noted and the database has been updated accordingly.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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**From:** Canny Mosebjadi Mothapo <MothapoC@caa.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 September 2025 10:24  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** RE: Notification: Updated EIA Report Availability and Public Meeting - Tetra4 Cluster 2

Good morning,

Thank you for the EIA notification, may you kindly resend the attachments to [environment@caa.co.za](mailto:environment@caa.co.za) and delist all other SACAA email addresses on your database. Kindly save and send your environmental impact analysis reports/meeting requests and request for comments to [environment@caa.co.za](mailto:environment@caa.co.za), going forward please.

Regards

Canny Mosebjadi Mothapo  
Data Coordinator  
Air Navigation Services  
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Report fraud and corruption: 0800 204 911 | [sacaa@thehotline.co.za](mailto:sacaa@thehotline.co.za) | SMS: 30916

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**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 9, 2025 3:02 PM

**Subject:** Notification: Updated EIA Report Availability and Public Meeting - Tetra4 Cluster 2

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**"This message was sent from outside of SACAA. Please use caution when opening links and/ or attachments"**

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

Please find attached notification regarding the availability of the updated Environmental Impact Assessment Report for Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production project near Virginia. This notification serves to inform you of the opportunity to further participate in the Environmental Approval process.

Further, Please be advised about the **public meeting** scheduled as follows:

**Where:** NG Virginia Church | 69 Highlands Ave, Virginia, 9431

**When:** Tuesday, 2 October 2025, from 12pm to 2pm

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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---



## Alexander Msipa

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 August 2024 10:34  
**To:** Nazley Towfie  
**Subject:** RE: I&AP registration Tetra Cluster 2

Dear Nazley,

Thank you for your email. I confirm that you have been registered as an I&AP for the Tetra4 Cluster 2 project.

**KIND REGARDS**  
**ALEX MSIPA**



**T** +27 11 789 7170  
**F** +27 86 571 9047  
**E** [Alex@eims.co.za](mailto:Alex@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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---

**From:** Nazley Towfie <nazleytowfie@solagroup.co.za>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 August 2024 05:18  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** I&AP registration Tetra Cluster 2

Good day,

I trust this email finds you well. I would like to register as an I&AP for the proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 near Welkom/Virginia area. Please add the following two emails on the list:

1. [nazleytowfie@solagroup.co.za](mailto:nazleytowfie@solagroup.co.za)
2. [iap@solagroup.co.za](mailto:iap@solagroup.co.za)

Best regards

**Nazley Towfie**

Senior Project Developer

**Telephone:** +27 21 421 9764

**Email:** [nazleytowfie@solagroup.co.za](mailto:nazleytowfie@solagroup.co.za)

**SOLA**



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## Mbali Tshabalala

---

**From:** Siphesihle Mvundla <sphe@groundwork.org.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 07 October 2025 13:14  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Cc:** Brian Whitfield  
**Subject:** RE: Notification: Requested Reports

Hello Mbali,

Thank you sharing these with us.

Best



NPO Number: 045-235-NPO [www.groundwork.org.za](http://www.groundwork.org.za)

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[www.no-burn.org](http://www.no-burn.org) (GAIA)  
[www.lifeaftercoal.org.za](http://www.lifeaftercoal.org.za) (Life After Coal/Impilo Ngaphandle Kwamalahle)  
[www.no-harm.org](http://www.no-harm.org) (Health Care Without Harm)

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 6, 2025 12:41 PM  
**Cc:** Brian Whitfield <brian@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** Notification: Requested Reports

Good day,

As requested during the public meetings held in Stilte Community and NG Virginia Kerk on 01 October 2025 and 02 October 2025 respectively, please find attached documents for your perusal.

Attached to this email is the Non-Technical Executive Summary of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report in both English and Afrikaans, a copy of the PowerPoint Presentation, and the notification letter.

Note that the full Environmental Impact Assessment Report is available on our website (URL provided below). A data-free website is available upon request.

Please take note that the public comment and review period ends on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 2025.

For further information that may not be included as an attachment in this email please refer to our website <https://www.eims.co.za/2025/09/09/1473ea-cluster2-tetra4/>.

For any queries and/or comments please do not hesitate to contact us, remember to include the reference number 1473 on all correspondence.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



T +27 11 789 7170  
F +27 86 571 9047  
E [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
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area covers approximately 27 500 hectares, and the area showing the farms and portions can be found on the E

EIMS will be following the procedures defined in the EIA Regulations, a public participation process will be used as an I&AP and that your comments are captured, please provide future project information and opportunities for participation available at [www.eims.co.za/public-participation](http://www.eims.co.za/public-participation). In or application, as soon as possible. Please include the project

## **KENNISGEWING MET BETREKKING TOT GELEENTHEID OM EN PRODUKSIEPROJEK, IN DIE VIRGINIA AREA, VRYSTAAT**

Tetra4 (Edms) Bpk (hierna as die aansoeker genoem) het die vereiste magtigingsprosesse (insluitend die statutêre ooreenstemming met die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbe



## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Sent:** Thursday, 07 April 2022 11:30  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Subject:** RE: Expansion Virginia - Proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 Expansion Project  
**Attachments:** 1473\_BID\_Afrikaans.pdf; 1473\_BID\_English.pdf

Good day Lola,

Please find the second part to my previous email, as explained. Attached herewith are the Background Information Documents in English and Afrikaans.

If you have any comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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**M** +27 78 580 6692  
**F** +27 86 571 9047  
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---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 07 April 2022 11:22  
**To:** Lola Trollip <trolliplola@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Expansion Virginia - Proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 Expansion Project

Good day Lola,

Thank you for your email. Due to the size of the attachments, I will send the requested documents in two email parts, apologies for the inconvenience this may cause. Attached herewith are the cadastral maps relating to the proposed project.

Please note, you will be notified of any further public participation opportunities for the proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 project as they become available.

If you have any comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS

Kind regards,

QAPHELA MAGAQA



# EIMS

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---

**From:** Lola Trollip <[trolliplola@gmail.com](mailto:trolliplola@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 07 April 2022 10:20

**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Subject:** Expansion Viirginia

Please send me the documents regarding the above.

Kind regards

Lola Trollip

082 561 8127





## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 26 April 2022 11:06  
**To:** Lola Trollip  
**Subject:** RE: Expansion Virginia - Proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 Expansion Project  
**Attachments:** 1473\_IAP Registration English.pdf

Dear Lola, please find the attached Interested and Affected Party registration form as requested.

If you have any queries or comments, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** Lola Trollip <trolliplola@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 26 April 2022 10:05  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** Re: Expansion Virginia - Proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 Expansion Project

Good day

Please urgently send me the Interested and Affected Parties Registration Documents.

Kindest regards  
Lola Trollip  
082 561 8127

On Thu, 07 Apr 2022, 11:22 AM 1473 Tetracluster2, <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)> wrote:

## INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES REGISTRATION FORM

<b>EIMS Ref #:</b>	1473	<b>PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:</b> Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS) Attention : Qaphela Magaqa Fax : 086 571 9047 Phone : (011) 789 7170 E-mail : <a href="mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za">tetracluster2@eims.co.za</a> Postal Address : P.O. Box 2083, Pinegowrie, 2123, South Africa	
<b>Project Title:</b>	Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project		



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This form serves to register Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) for the above-mentioned project and to solicit input and participation to be considered by the EAP during the application process. This form will be submitted to the Competent Authority for consideration in the decision-making process.

<b>Title</b>	nr	<b>Full name and surname</b>	JOHAN BENJAMIN KOTZÉ	
<b>Contact details</b>	<b>Tel (w)</b>		<b>Tel (h)</b>	
	<b>Fax</b>		<b>Cell</b>	0823757757
	<b>E-mail</b>	j.kotze@gmail.com		
	<b>Postal Address</b>	PO Box 419 WELKOM 9460		
<b>Organisation and/or property description (if landowner/ lawful occupier)</b>		METZ FARM; THEUNISSEN DISTRICT.		
Please state your interest in the proposed project (you are welcome to add additional pages if required):				
We are in close proximity of the proposed expansion project. The Sand River borders our property and we farm the lands both with crops & cattle.				
Please assist by completing the questions below. These responses will be utilised to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment Process. Please submit additional pages if more space is required.				
<b>Are you a land owner or legal land occupier within the application area?</b>		LAND OWNER.		
<b>Are you aware of any communities which exist within the application area (or on your property) that should be consulted, provide detail and possible contact details?</b>		NO.		
<b>Are you aware of any tribal authorities within, or affected by the application area, provide detail and possible contact details?</b>		NO.		
<b>Are you aware of any other I&amp;APs who need to be notified, please provide detail and possible contact details?</b>		we have provided them with forms.		
<b>Please can you provide us with a high level description of the</b>		Agricultural crops; vegetables; live-		

receiving environment pertaining to your interest? (including land uses such as farming, grazing etc; vegetation; topographical features; Infrastructure; sensitive flora/fauna).	stock farming & game farming. Water from underground boreholes for human consumption as well.
Are you aware of any land developments (current or proposed) within the application area that may be relevant to the proposed project?	NO.
Are you aware of any cultural or heritage features within the study area and surrounds, please provide detail?	NO.
Please describe any bio-physical and/or socio-economic impacts that you believe should be considered during the study?	water use; River course & quality of water; underground water contamination.
Do you have any specific concerns, comments or objections to the proposed project, if so could you please provide us with additional information?	Availability of water samples from current and proposed projects to farmers. Air quality information.
General Comments:	

EIMS respectfully requests that you please sign this document and return it to EIMS at the details provided on the top of the first page to ensure that your comments, concerns and inputs are recorded. Please note that only registered I&AP's will be included in future correspondence regarding this EIA process.

Signed  Name J.B. Kotze Date 28/04/2022

## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 03 May 2022 08:39  
**To:** Lola Trollip  
**Subject:** RE: Emailing: SCAN\_20220429\_130526807, SCAN\_20220429\_131529467

Dear Lola,

Thank you for your correspondence, we have received the attached Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) registration form. Please note that you have been registered as and I&AP for the Tetra4 Cluster 2 project. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of public participation opportunities as and when they become available.

Should you have any queries or comments, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** Lola Trollip <trolliplola@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 April 2022 13:11  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Emailing: SCAN\_20220429\_130526807, SCAN\_20220429\_131529467

Attached is the Interested and Affected Parties form for Metz Farm

Kind regards  
Lola Trollip  
0825618127  
Johan Kotze  
0823357757

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <[eugeneo@areng.co.za](mailto:eugeneo@areng.co.za)>

Date: Fri, 29 Apr 2022, 1:09 PM

Subject: Emailing: SCAN\_20220429\_130526807, SCAN\_20220429\_131529467

To: <[Trolliplola@gmail.com](mailto:Trolliplola@gmail.com)>

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

SCAN\_20220429\_130526807

SCAN\_20220429\_131529467

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## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 15 June 2022 14:58  
**To:** trolliplola@gmail.com  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 - Reminder Notification Regarding Tetra4 Call to Register

Good day Lola,

We confirm that you have already been registered on the Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Gathering and Production Project. Would you kindly confirm Mr. JB Kotze's email address so that we can also add it to our distribution list.

Should you have any comments and/or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind Regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** trolliplola@gmail.com <trolliplola@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 15 June 2022 14:15  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 - Reminder Notification Regarding Tetra4 Call to Register

Please Can you confirm that we have already registered as I&AP's.

Kind Regards  
L TROLLIP  
JB KOTZE

NE PLY COATINGS (PTY) LTD  
METZ AND MERIBAH FARMS

THEUNISSEN DISTRICT.

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 15 June 2022 10:11  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Subject:** 1473 - Reminder Notification Regarding Tetra4 Call to Register

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This serves as a reminder should you wish to register and forward your completed registration form and questionnaire (attached herewith) for the Proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Gathering and Production Project as soon as possible. You may also register by simply indicating your desire for such via fax, email, letter or telephonically. Should you have any comments or queries please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Kind Regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 May 2022 14:36  
**To:** Mdhluli Sibo (BFN); 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Cc:** Melato Boitumelo (BFN); Nel George  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA and WULA: Initial Call to Register

Good day Sibo,

Thank you for the clarification. Please note, you will be deregistered as an I&AP for the Tetra4 Cluster 2 project. Further consultation will be conveyed to the Provincial head as per your explanation.

Should you have any further comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** Mdhluli Sibo (BFN) <MdhluliS@dws.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 May 2022 12:19  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Cc:** Melato Boitumelo (BFN) <MelatoB@dws.gov.za>; Nel George <NelG@dws.gov.za>  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA and WULA: Initial Call to Register

As per telephone discussion.

For Consultation with the DWS Free State Regional Office Upper Orange and Middle Vaal kindly send the documents as follows:

Dr T Ntili  
Provincial Head: Free State



Department of Water and Sanitation  
Private Bag 528  
Bloemfontein  
9300

For courier our physical address is as follows:

Dr T Ntuli  
Provincial Head: Free State  
Department of Water and Sanitation  
2nd Floor  
Bloem Plaza Building  
Cnr Charlotte Maxeke and East Burger Street  
Bloemfontein  
9300

You may get clarity on all water use authorization and registration matters from Mr Vernon Blair

Tel: +27(0) 51 405 9000  
Cell: +27(0) 82 807 3552  
E-mail: [blairv@dwa.gov.za](mailto:blairv@dwa.gov.za)

**Kindly send both hardcopy and disc documents.**

Regards  
**Sibo Mdhuli**  
**Department of Water and Sanitation**  
**Water Regulation**  
**Tel: 051 405 9204**  
**Cell: 082 8794970**



---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 May 2022 10:02  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Subject:** 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA and WULA: Initial Call to Register

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

Kindly find attached notification regarding opportunity to participate in the integrated Environmental Authorisation Application and Water Use Licence Application process for the Proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 gas gathering and production project, in the Virginia Area, Free State Province, South Africa.

Should you have any comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS and please quote reference number 1473.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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W [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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## Qaphela Magaqa

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 May 2022 14:19  
**To:** Nel George  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA and WULA: Initial Call to Register

Good day,

Thank you for your correspondence, we have the Department of Water and Sanitation – Free State in our I&AP database. Please confirm if we need to deregister the National Department of Water and Sanitation on this project for further Public Participation opportunities.

Should you have any further comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

QAPHELA MAGAQA



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---

**From:** Nel George <NelG@dws.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 May 2022 11:51  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA and WULA: Initial Call to Register

Morning,

Please register the Dept Water and Sanitation – Free State as an Interested and Affected Party

Dept Water and Sanitation  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Bloem Plaza  
East Burger Street  
Bloemfontein

051 405 9000

Thank you  
George Nel  
Dept Water and Sanitation

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 May 2022 10:05  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Subject:** 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA and WULA: Initial Call to Register

You don't often get email from [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

Kindly find attached notification regarding opportunity to participate in the integrated Environmental Authorisation Application and Water Use Licence Application process for the Proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 gas gathering and production project, in the Virginia Area, Free State Province, South Africa.

Should you have any comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS and please quote reference number 1473.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 May 2022 13:43  
**To:** John Geeringh  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA and WULA: Initial Call to Register  
**Attachments:** Cluster 2 boundary Study Area.kmz

Dear Mr Geeringh,

Please find the attached KMZ file outlining the boundary of the affected area.

Should you have any further comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind Regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** John Geeringh <GeerinJH@eskom.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 May 2022 11:11  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA and WULA: Initial Call to Register

Please send me a KMZ file of the affected area.

Kind regards

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat) Reg. EAP (EAPASA)  
Senior Consultant Environmental Management  
Grid Planning: Land and Rights  
Eskom Transmission Division  
Megawatt Park, D1Y42, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton.  
P O Box 1091, Johannesburg, 2000.

Tel: 011 516 7233  
Cell: 083 632 7663  
Fax: 086 661 4064  
E-mail: [john.geeringh@eskom.co.za](mailto:john.geeringh@eskom.co.za)

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 May 2022 10:00  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Subject:** [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] - 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA and WULA: Initial Call to Register

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

Kindly find attached notification regarding opportunity to participate in the integrated Environmental Authorisation Application and Water Use Licence Application process for the Proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 gas gathering and production project, in the Virginia Area, Free State Province, South Africa.

Should you have any comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS and please quote reference number 1473.

Kind regards,

QAPHELA MAGAQA



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## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 15 June 2022 12:01  
**To:** Natasha Higgitt  
**Cc:** Sityhilelo Ngcatsha  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 - Reminder Notification Regarding Tetra4 Call to Register

Good day Natasha,

Thank you for your email. We note the contents thereof. Please note, an application will be created on the SAHRIS platform and all documents pertaining to the environmental authorisation application will be uploaded as indicated in your email below.

Should you have any further comments and/or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** Natasha Higgitt <nhiggitt@sahra.org.za>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 15 June 2022 11:26  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Cc:** Sityhilelo Ngcatsha <sngcatsha@sahra.org.za>  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 - Reminder Notification Regarding Tetra4 Call to Register  
**Importance:** Low

Good morning,

Please note that all development applications are processed via our online portal, the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) found at the following link: <http://sahra.org.za/sahris/>. We do not accept emailed, posted, hardcopy, faxed, website links or DropBox links as official submissions.

Please create **an application on SAHRIS** and upload all documents pertaining to the Environmental Authorisation Application Process. As per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA), an assessment of heritage resources must form part of the process and the assessment must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA.

Once all documents including all appendices are uploaded to the case applications, please ensure that the status of the case is changed from DRAFT to SUBMITTED. Please ensure that all documents produced as part of the EA process are submitted as part of the application.

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Sent:** 15 June 2022 10:08  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Subject:** 1473 - Reminder Notification Regarding Tetra4 Call to Register

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This serves as a reminder should you wish to register and forward your completed registration form and questionnaire (attached herewith) for the Proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Gathering and Production Project as soon as possible. You may also register by simply indicating your desire for such via fax, email, letter or telephonically. Should you have any comments or queries please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Kind Regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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**Natasha Higgitt**

Heritage Officer: Archaeology, Palaeontology and  
Meteorites Unit







**T:** +27 21 462 4502/ 8660  
**M:** +27 82 507 0378  
**E:** [nhiggitt@sahra.org.za](mailto:nhiggitt@sahra.org.za)  
**A:** SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town, 8001,  
Western Cape, ZA  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

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## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 May 2022 13:30  
**To:** Thami Hadebe Transnet Pipelines DBN  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA and WULA: Initial Call to Register

Dear Mr Hadebe,

We kindly confirm receipt of your email, and your comment has been noted.

Should you have any further comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** Thami Hadebe Transnet Pipelines DBN <Thami.Hadebe@transnet.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 May 2022 10:14  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA and WULA: Initial Call to Register

Dear Mr Magaqa,

Your wayleave application with project reference number Bw/qm/1473 dated 20 May 2022 has reference.

Transnet Pipelines, a division of Transnet SOC Limited, is not affected by the proposal.

Your awareness of the existence of Transnet's pipeline servitudes and concern for their integrity is highly appreciated.

**This authorisation shall be valid for 48 months from the date - 20 May 2022.**

Yours Sincerely  
Mr MT (Thami) Hadebe  
Tel: 031 – 361 1454



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**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 May 2022 10:07 AM  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Subject:** 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA and WULA: Initial Call to Register

"External email: Open with Caution"

---

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

Kindly find attached notification regarding opportunity to participate in the integrated Environmental Authorisation Application and Water Use Licence Application process for the Proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 gas gathering and production project, in the Virginia Area, Free State Province, South Africa.

Should you have any comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS and please quote reference number 1473.

Kind regards,

QAPHELA MAGAQA



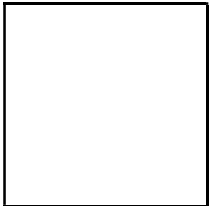
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## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 August 2022 08:47  
**To:** Livhuwani Ndou Transnet Freight Rail JHB  
**Cc:** Zanele Manyathi Transnet Freight Rail JHB  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 - Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project - Public Open Day

Greetings Livhuwani,

Thank you for your correspondence. Please note that you have been deregistered from the Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production project.

Should you have any comments and/or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** Livhuwani Ndou Transnet Freight Rail JHB <Livhuwani.Ndou@transnet.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, 08 August 2022 08:36  
**To:** Zanele Manyathi Transnet Freight Rail JHB <Zanele.Manyathi@transnet.net>  
**Cc:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** FW: 1473 - Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project - Public Open Day

Dear Zanele

For consideration.

**NB:** Applicant:- Please direct all future correspondences in this regard to Zanele Manyathi.

Kind regards

Ndou

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Sent:** Friday, 05 August 2022 13:53

**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Subject:** 1473 - Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project - Public Open Day

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Dear Registered Interested and Affected Party,

Kindly find attached the notification regarding opportunity to participate in the Public Open Day, the details of which are included in the attached.

Should you have further comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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## Qaphela Magaqa

---

**From:** Zanele Manyathi Transnet Freight Rail JHB <Zanele.Manyathi@transnet.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 July 2022 11:59  
**To:** Sibabalwe Nwelende Transnet Freight Rail PE  
**Cc:** Yuza Chabalala Transnet Freight Rail PTA; Livhuwani Ndou Transnet Freight Rail JHB; Takalani Radzilani Transnet Freight Rail JHB; 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Subject:** FW: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project: Scoping Report Availability Notification  
**Attachments:** 1473\_Scoping Report Notification\_Combined.pdf  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Siba,  
The email below and the attached are for your attention.  
Regards  
Zanele

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 July 2022 11:33  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project: Scoping Report Availability Notification

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Dear Registered Interested and Affected Party,

Kindly find attached the notification regarding opportunity to participate in Environmental Approval Processes for the Proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project near Virginia, in the Masilonyana and Matjhabeng Local Municipalities, Free State Province.

Should you have further comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

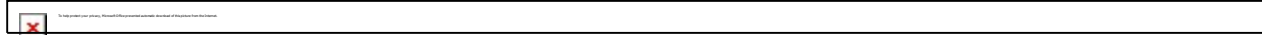
Mr Qaphela Magaqa



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## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 June 2022 07:36  
**To:** Nadia Hetzel  
**Cc:** johan@boshoffsmuts.co.za  
**Subject:** RE: TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT  
**Attachments:** 1473\_BID\_English.pdf

Dear Ms Hetzel,

Thank you for your correspondence. We acknowledge receipt of your filled Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) registration form and confirm that you have been registered as an I&AP for the proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Gathering and Production Project.

Attached herewith is the Background Information Document (BID) to the aforementioned project. For further available documentation on the proposed project please visit our website (<https://www.eims.co.za/public-participation/>). Please note, as a registered I&AP you will be notified of public participation opportunities as and when they become available for this project.

Should you have any comments and/or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** Nadia Hetzel <nadia@boshoffsmuts.co.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 20 June 2022 12:58  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Cc:** Johan Smuts <johan@boshoffsmuts.co.za>  
**Subject:** TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT

Dear Mr Magaqa,

We refer to the abovementioned matter and confirm that we are acting on behalf of AFGRI Operations (Pty) Ltd herein.

Your reference number is 1473.

Kindly find attached hereto our client's interested and affected registration form.

Please provide us with all the documentation and/or reports in respect of this project in order for us to advise our client.

We trust you find the above in order and await your reply.

Kind Regards,



**NADIA HETZEL**

**DIRECTOR**

Waterford Court Office Park | Block A | Unit 3  
234 Glover Avenue | (Cnr Rabie & Glover Ave) |  
Centurion | 0157  
Docex 8 | Centurion  
(012) 644 2661

[www.boshoffsmuts.co.za](http://www.boshoffsmuts.co.za)

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---

**From:** Stefanie Bezuidenhout <[stefanie@boshoffsmuts.co.za](mailto:stefanie@boshoffsmuts.co.za)>

**Sent:** Monday, 20 June 2022 12:53

**To:** Nadia Hetzel <[nadia@boshoffsmuts.co.za](mailto:nadia@boshoffsmuts.co.za)>

**Subject:** SCANS



**STEFANIE BEZUIDENHOUT**

**ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY**

Waterford Court Office Park | Block A | Unit 3  
234 Glover Avenue | (Cnr Rabie & Glover Ave) |  
Centurion | 0157  
Docex 8 | Centurion  
(012) 644 2661

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## INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES REGISTRATION FORM

	1473	<b>PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:</b> Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS) Attention : Qaphela Magaqa Fax : 086 571 9047 Phone : (011) 789 7170 E-mail : <a href="mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za">tetracluster2@eims.co.za</a> Postal Address : P.O. Box 2083, Pinegowrie, 2123, South Africa
Project Title:	Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project	 <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; font-size: 0.8em;">             ENVIRONMENTAL              IMPACT              MANAGEMENT              SERVICES           </div>

This form serves to register Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) for the above-mentioned project and to solicit input and participation to be considered by the EAP during the application process. This form will be submitted to the Competent Authority for consideration in the decision-making process.

Title		Full name and surname	Boshoff Smuts Inc.		
Contact details		Tel (w)	012644 2661	Tel (h)	
		Fax		Cell	0723997939
		E-mail	nadia@boshoffsmuts.co.za		
		Postal Address			
		Organisation and/or <u>property description</u> (if landowner/ lawful occupier)	AFGRI Operations (pty) Ltd		
Please state your interest in the proposed project (you are welcome to add additional pages if required):					
Please provide us with all documents and/or reports in respect of this project in order to determine our client's risks.					
Please assist by completing the questions below. These responses will be utilised to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment Process. Please submit additional pages if more space is required.					
		Are you a land owner or legal land occupier <u>within the application area</u> ?	will be able to confirm once we have the information of where the proposed project will take place.		
		Are you aware of any communities which exist within the application area (or on your property) that should be consulted, provide detail and possible contact details?			
		Are you aware of any tribal authorities within, or affected by the application area, provide detail and possible contact details?			
		Are you aware of any other I&APs who need to be notified, please provide detail and possible contact details?			
		Please can you provide us with a high level description of the			

receiving environment pertaining to your interest? (including land uses such as farming, grazing etc; vegetation; topographical features; Infrastructure; sensitive flora/fauna).	
Are you aware of any land developments (current or proposed) within the application area that may be relevant to the proposed project?	
Are you aware of any cultural or heritage features within the study area and surrounds, please provide detail?	
Please describe any bio-physical and/or socio-economic impacts that you believe should be considered during the study?	
Do you have any specific concerns, comments or objections to the proposed project, if so could you please provide us with additional information?	
General Comments:	

EIMS respectfully requests that you please sign this document and return it to EIMS at the details provided on the top of the first page to ensure that your comments, concerns and inputs are recorded. Please note that only registered I&AP's will be included in future correspondence regarding this EIA process.

Signed Pretoria Name Nadia Metzel Date 20 June 2022



## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 August 2022 11:55  
**To:** Nadia Hetzel  
**Cc:** Johan Smuts  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 - Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project - Public Open Day  
**Attachments:** RE: TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT

Good day Nadia,

Please be advised that a response to your initial email was provided as attached.

Kindly advise on the properties owned by AFGRI within or in close proximity to the application area.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT  
MANAGEMENT  
SERVICES**

**T** +27 11 789 7170  
**M** +27 78 580 6692  
**F** +27 86 571 9047  
**E** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

8 Dalmeny Road, Pine Park,  
Randburg, 2194

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ZA

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---

**From:** Nadia Hetzel <nadia@boshoffsmuts.co.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 22 August 2022 15:02  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Cc:** Johan Smuts <johan@boshoffsmuts.co.za>  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 - Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project - Public Open Day

Dear Qaphela,

We have requested all documents previously in respect of this project, which we have not yet received.

Kindly indicate how AFGRI will be affected by this project.

Kind Regards,



**NADIA HETZEL**  
DIRECTOR  
Waterford Court Office Park | Block A | Unit 3  
234 Glover Avenue | (Cnr Rabie & Glover Ave) |  
Centurion | 0157  
Docex 8 | Centurion  
(012) 644 2661  
[www.boshoffsmuts.co.za](http://www.boshoffsmuts.co.za)

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---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 05 August 2022 13:53  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Subject:** 1473 - Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project - Public Open Day

Dear Registered Interested and Affected Party,

Kindly find attached the notification regarding opportunity to participate in the Public Open Day, the details of which are included in the attached.

Should you have further comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



**EIMS** | ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT  
MANAGEMENT  
SERVICES

<b>T</b>	+27 11 789 7170	8 Dalmeny Road, Pine Park, Randburg, 2194
<b>M</b>	+27 78 580 6692	
<b>F</b>	+27 86 571 9047	
<b>E</b>	<a href="mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za">tetracluster2@eims.co.za</a>	PO Box 2083, Pinetown, 2123, ZA
<b>W</b>	<a href="http://www.eims.co.za">www.eims.co.za</a>	

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## Lucien James

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 June 2023 09:38  
**To:** Paul Lado; 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Cc:** WARMSFreestate@dws.gov.za; Catherine Horsfield; Dimakatso Mary Sefatsa  
**Subject:** RE: MEJCON-SA & MACUA OBJECTION TO TETRA4's WATER USE LICENCE AMENDMENT APPLICATION FOR CLUSTER 2 EXPANSION

Dear I&AP,

Please see the included link to a downloadable file including responses to your comments. The link and associated file includes a table of responses to the comments noted as well as appendices and other relevant documentation. Should you have any queries, please let me know. Please also confirm receipt of this email and if you have been able to access the documents.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/b8ipzzc43jg1g0c/AAA9amWkZon9uLIRc2VCzOyda/CER?dl=0&lst=>

**KIND REGARDS**  
**LUCIEN JAMES**



**T** +27 11 789 7170  
**F** +27 86 571 9047  
**E** [lucien@eims.co.za](mailto:lucien@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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---

**From:** Paul Lado <plado@cer.org.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 9, 2023 4:30 PM  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Cc:** WARMSFreestate@dws.gov.za; Catherine Horsfield <chorsfield@cer.org.za>; Dimakatso Mary Sefatsa <dsefatsa@cer.org.za>  
**Subject:** MEJCON-SA & MACUA OBJECTION TO TETRA4's WATER USE LICENCE AMENDMENT APPLICATION FOR CLUSTER 2 EXPANSION

Good afternoon Mr. Magaqa

Your Notice dated 6 March 2023, with reference 1473/QM/bw, advising that Tetra4's Integrated Water and Waste Management Plan is available for public review and comment, refers.



Kindly find annexed hereto objections raised on behalf of the Mining and Environmental Justice Communities Network of South Africa (MEJCON-SA) and the Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA).

Thanking you

Paul Wani Lado  
Attorney

Centre for Environmental Rights NPC  
A non-profit company with registration number 2009/020736/08  
PBO No. 930032226, NPO No. 075-863, VAT No. 4770260653  
and a Law Clinic registered with the Legal Practice Council

Cape Town: 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Birkdale 2, River Park, 1 River Lane, Liesbeek Parkway, Mowbray 7700, South Africa  
Johannesburg: 2 Sherwood Road, Forest Town, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Tel: +27 21 447 1647

Email: [plado@cer.org.za](mailto:plado@cer.org.za) Website: [www.cer.org.za](http://www.cer.org.za)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CentreEnvironmentalRights](https://www.facebook.com/CentreEnvironmentalRights) Twitter: [www.twitter.com/CentreEnvRights](https://www.twitter.com/CentreEnvRights)



Report violations of environmental rights to the 24-hour Environmental Crimes & Incidents Hotline on **0800 205 005**.  
More reports of environmental violations assist in justifying more investment in more inspectors, and more enforcement of environmental laws.

Numbers matter! Take the time to report violations, even if you have done so elsewhere. For more information about this CER campaign, visit <http://cer.org.za/news/numbers-matter-join-us-in-reporting-violations-of-environmental-rights>.

**Lucien James**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 21 June 2023 08:00  
**To:** Paul Lado; 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Cc:** WARMSFreestate@dws.gov.za; Catherine Horsfield; Dimakatso Mary Sefatsa  
**Subject:** RE: MEJCON-SA & MACUA OBJECTION TO TETRA4's WATER USE LICENCE AMENDMENT APPLICATION FOR CLUSTER 2 EXPANSION  
**Attachments:** xW1578 Gradient HG-L-22-001 Water - 05 April 2022\_Results.pdf; xW1578 Gradient HG-L-22-001 Water - 05 April 2022.pdf

Good morning Mr Lado.

As requested, kindly find attached the water quality certificates.

Please note that the Cluster 2 application documentation was removed from our website as the consultation periods for the EIA and WULA have been concluded.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** Paul Lado <plado@cer.org.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2023 10:48 AM  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Cc:** WARMSFreestate@dws.gov.za; Catherine Horsfield <chorsfield@cer.org.za>; Dimakatso Mary Sefatsa <dsefatsa@cer.org.za>  
**Subject:** RE: MEJCON-SA & MACUA OBJECTION TO TETRA4's WATER USE LICENCE AMENDMENT APPLICATION FOR CLUSTER 2 EXPANSION

Good morning Mr. James

Thank you for your e-mail. We acknowledge receipt of the contents thereof.

In an e-mail to EIMS dated 14 June 2023 we had advised Mr. Magaqa that: *"In looking at Appendix 4.5 to the Tetra4 Cluster 2 FEIAR documents (Geohydrology Assessment), we note that the Water Quality Analysis Laboratory Certificate is missing from page 211. We assume that this was excluded in error."*

Along with the documents provided, which we are thankful for, would you also be in a position to kindly provide us with the aforementioned Water Quality Analysis Lab Certificate from the Geohydrology Report?

Best,  
Paul

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 June 2023 09:38

**To:** Paul Lado <[plado@cer.org.za](mailto:plado@cer.org.za)>; 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Cc:** [WARMSFreestate@dws.gov.za](mailto:WARMSFreestate@dws.gov.za); Catherine Horsfield <[chorsfield@cer.org.za](mailto:chorsfield@cer.org.za)>; Dimakatso Mary Sefatsa <[dsefatsa@cer.org.za](mailto:dsefatsa@cer.org.za)>

**Subject:** RE: MEJCON-SA & MACUA OBJECTION TO TETRA4's WATER USE LICENCE AMENDMENT APPLICATION FOR CLUSTER 2 EXPANSION

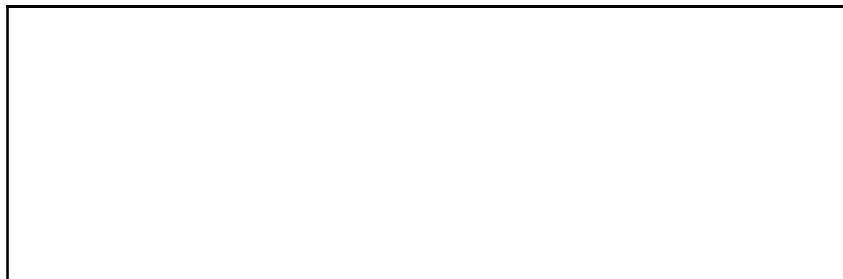
Some people who received this message don't often get email from [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear I&AP,

Please see the included link to a downloadable file including responses to your comments. The link and associated file includes a table of responses to the comments noted as well as appendices and other relevant documentation. Should you have any queries, please let me know. Please also confirm receipt of this email and if you have been able to access the documents.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/b8ipzzc43jg1g0c/AAA9amWkZon9uLIRc2VCzOyda/CER?dl=0&lst=>

KIND REGARDS  
LUCIEN JAMES



**T** +27 11 789 7170  
**F** +27 86 571 9047  
**E** [lucien@eims.co.za](mailto:lucien@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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---

**From:** Paul Lado <[plado@cer.org.za](mailto:plado@cer.org.za)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 9, 2023 4:30 PM

**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Cc:** [WARMSFreestate@dws.gov.za](mailto:WARMSFreestate@dws.gov.za); Catherine Horsfield <[chorsfield@cer.org.za](mailto:chorsfield@cer.org.za)>; Dimakatso Mary Sefatsa <[dsefatsa@cer.org.za](mailto:dsefatsa@cer.org.za)>

**Subject:** MEJCON-SA & MACUA OBJECTION TO TETRA4's WATER USE LICENCE AMENDMENT APPLICATION FOR CLUSTER 2 EXPANSION

Good afternoon Mr. Magaqa

Your Notice dated 6 March 2023, with reference 1473/QM/bw, advising that Tetra4's Integrated Water and Waste Management Plan is available for public review and comment, refers.

Kindly find annexed hereto objections raised on behalf of the Mining and Environmental Justice Communities Network of South Africa (MEJCON-SA) and the Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA).

Thanking you

Paul Wani Lado  
Attorney

Centre for Environmental Rights NPC  
A non-profit company with registration number 2009/020736/08  
PBO No. 930032226, NPO No. 075-863, VAT No. 4770260653  
and a Law Clinic registered with the Legal Practice Council

Cape Town: 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Birkdale 2, River Park, 1 River Lane, Liesbeek Parkway, Mowbray 7700, South Africa  
Johannesburg: 2 Sherwood Road, Forest Town, Johannesburg, South Africa

Tel: +27 21 447 1647

Email: [plado@cer.org.za](mailto:plado@cer.org.za) Website: [www.cer.org.za](http://www.cer.org.za)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CentreEnvironmentalRights](https://www.facebook.com/CentreEnvironmentalRights) Twitter: [www.twitter.com/CentreEnvRights](https://www.twitter.com/CentreEnvRights)



Report violations of environmental rights to the 24-hour Environmental Crimes & Incidents Hotline on **0800 205 005**. More reports of environmental violations assist in justifying more investment in more inspectors, and more enforcement of environmental laws.

Numbers matter! Take the time to report violations, even if you have done so elsewhere. For more information about this CER campaign, visit <http://cer.org.za/news/numbers-matter-join-us-in-reporting-violations-of-environmental-rights>.

## Mbali Tshabalala

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 October 2025 07:56  
**To:** Paul Lado  
**Cc:** Tarisai Placedes Mugunyani; Ghogha Molomo; tladitieh@gmail.com; veli.ntsuku@actonline.org.za; Astone Chaole; nthabisengmakitiki65@gmail.com; FreestateCAO  
**Subject:** RE: Notification: Updated EIA Report Availability and Public Meeting - Tetra4 Cluster 2

Good day Mr. Lado,

Please note that the comments have been received and noted. Please be advised that a response will be forwarded as soon as it is finalised.

For any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



8 Dalmeny Road, Pine Park,  
Randburg, 2194

**T** +27 11 789 7170  
**F** +27 86 571 9047  
**E** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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---

**From:** Paul Lado <plado@cer.org.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 13 October 2025 18:29  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>; mail <mail@eims.co.za>  
**Cc:** Tarisai Placedes Mugunyani <tmugunyani@cer.org.za>; Ghogha Molomo <margaretghogha@gmail.com>;

tladitieh@gmail.com; veli.ntsuku@actonline.org.za; Astone Chaole <chaoleastone@outlook.com>;  
nthabisengmakitiki65@gmail.com; FreestateCAO <freestatecao@macua.org.za>

**Subject:** RE: Notification: Updated EIA Report Availability and Public Meeting - Tetra4 Cluster 2

Dear Ms. Tshabalala

Kindly find attached hereto CER on behalf of MEJCON-SA and MACUA's comments with regards to Tetra4's revised Cluster 2 EIA.

We trust that our clients' comments will be duly considered and addressed.

Thanking you

Paul Wani Lado

Attorney

Centre for Environmental Rights NPC

A non-profit company with registration number 2009/020736/08

PBO No. 930032226, NPO No. 075-863, VAT No. 4770260653

and a Law Clinic registered with the Legal Practice Council

Cape Town: 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Birkdale 2, River Park, 1 River Lane, Liesbeek Parkway, Mowbray 7700, South Africa

Tel: +27 21 447 1647

Email: [plado@cer.org.za](mailto:plado@cer.org.za) Website: [www.cer.org.za](http://www.cer.org.za)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CentreEnvironmentalRights](http://www.facebook.com/CentreEnvironmentalRights) Twitter: [www.twitter.com/CentreEnvRights](http://www.twitter.com/CentreEnvRights)





Report violations of environmental rights to the 24-hour Environmental Crimes & Incidents Hotline on **0800 205 005**.

More reports of environmental violations assist in justifying more investment in more inspectors, and more enforcement of environmental laws.

Numbers matter! Take the time to report violations, even if you have done so elsewhere. For more information about this CER campaign, visit <http://cer.org.za/news/numbers-matter-join-us-in-reporting-violations-of-environmental-rights>.

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 09 September 2025 15:02

**Subject:** Notification: Updated EIA Report Availability and Public Meeting - Tetra4 Cluster 2

Dear Interested and Affected Party,



Please find attached notification regarding the availability of the updated Environmental Impact Assessment Report for Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production project near Virginia. This notification serves to inform you of the opportunity to further participate in the Environmental Approval process.

Further, Please be advised about the **public meeting** scheduled as follows:

**Where:** NG Virginia Church | 69 Highlands Ave, Virginia, 9431

**When:** Tuesday, 2 October 2025, from 12pm to 2pm

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



8 Dalmeny Road, Pine Park,  
Randburg, 2194

**T** +27 11 789 7170  
**F** +27 86 571 9047  
**E**  
**W** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
[www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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7 April, 2026

Our ref: 1473

Centre for Environmental Rights NPC ref: MEJCON, MACUA/Objections to Tetra4's Revised Cluster 2 EIA

**RE: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT IN THE MASILONYANA AND MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA**

Dear Mr Paul Lado:

I refer to your e-mail dated 13 October 2025 and comments on Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the above-mentioned project. Please refer to the attached table providing responses to the comments you raised (Table 1). Your comments will be captured as part of this project's Public Participation Process and in the subsequent Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

Thank you for your involvement in this process. Your comments and inputs are noted and appreciated and will be included in the final EIA Report for the Competent Authorities consideration.

Kind regards

**EIMS Public Participation Team**

**EIMS Reference Number:** 1473

**Postal Address:** P.O. Box 2083; Pinegowrie; 2123

**Telephone:** (011) 789 7170

**Fax:** (086) 571 9047

**E-mail:** tetracluster2@eims.co.za

Table 1: Comments and Responses regarding comments provided by Centre for Environmental Rights.

No.	Comment	Response
1.	<p><b>OBJECTION TO TETRA4's REVISED CLUSTER 2 EIA</b></p> <p><b>OUR CLIENTS: MINING AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES NETWORK OF SOUTH AFRICA AND MINING AFFECTED COMMUNITIES UNITED IN ACTION.</b></p> <p>We refer to your Notice on 09 September 2025 that your client's revised EIA was available for public review and comment. We submit these comments on behalf of the Mining and Environmental Justice Community Network of South Africa (MEJCON-SA) and Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA).</p> <p>MEJCON-SA comprises a network of communities, community-based organisations and community members who's environmental and human rights are impacted by extractives industries. MEJCONSA was constituted in October 2012 with one of its main objectives being promoting and defending the environmental and human rights of communities that are both directly and indirectly affected by extraction. Its members play an active role in fighting for this objective and ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources.</p> <p>MACUA serves as a platform for community members and mine workers find and build solidarity between different forms of struggle in order to ensure a democracy wherein the needs of people are placed before the greed of profits. MACUA affirms that there is no authority that is greater than the will of the people. MACUA works towards respect for human rights, the promotion of and respect for women's rights, economic, environmental and social justice, a participatory democracy that involves inclusive decision-making and solidarity with the working class.</p> <p>Tetra4 (Pty) LTD (Tetra4) seeks to expand its gas and helium production at its current site near the town of Virginia in Free State, South Africa. Tetra4 previously applied for an environmental authorisation (EA) for Cluster 2 and was granted one on 13 July 2023. The granting of this environmental authorisation was appealed and on 1 August 2024 the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment set aside the Cluster 2 EA. Tetra4 were</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment and the clarification provided on behalf of MEJCON-SA and MACUA. It is noted that certain concerns are raised herewith which are addressed in detail in the specific comments and responses provided below. We trust you find this in order.</p> <p>During the public participation process, it was observed that MACUA appeared to engage primarily with its own members or affiliated communities, rather than representing all affected communities. At the Adamsonsvlei community focus group meeting, representatives of MACUA arrived prior to the scheduled start despite the meeting being intended for a different community. Following discussion with the EAP and the public participation team, it was agreed that MACUA would depart so that engagement with the Adamsonsvlei community could proceed as planned. At the Meloding community focus group meeting, which was arranged at MACUA's request, differing views were expressed regarding MACUA's representativeness. Some attendees indicated that MACUA did not represent their interests and suggested that the organisation's focus was primarily on opportunities for its own members.</p>

No.	Comment	Response
	<p>ordered to revise the specialist studies in the cluster 2 EIA and ensure that the revised studies were available for public comment.</p> <p>In particular, the Groundwater Impact Assessment report and the Climate Change Impact Assessment (CCIA) were impugned and they were ordered to be revised to address the concerns raised by the experts in the EA appeal lodged in 2023 to the initial Cluster 2 EA. It is our submission that considerable flaws remain in the aforementioned reports, which flaws we detail below and in the attached standalone reports.</p> <p>Our concerns regarding the project thus remain, and they are; (a) the shortcomings in the groundwater impact analysis, (b) the failure to comprehensively consider climate change impacts, (c) the failure to conduct adequate public participation, (d) the lack of necessity and desirability of the project, (e) the impact on agriculture and tourism and (f) the fact that it is irrational and dangerous to authorise projects with egregious impacts when the state lacks the resources and capacity to adequately ensure compliance with the conditions of the EA and environmental laws. These concerns are laid out below.</p>	
2	<p>The 2023 Appeal cited numerous deficiencies and failure to adequately consider the project's groundwater impacts in the Groundwater Impact Assessment (the "2022 GWIA") supporting the original EIAR. The 2023 Appeal is attached hereto as Annexure A1. The 2023 appeal included a critique of the 2022 GWIA prepared by Dr. Steven Campbell, Consulting Geologist and Hydrogeologist (the "Campbell Critique") (appended as Annexure A2).</p> <p>The Campbell Critique decried the scarcity of site-specific geology and hydrogeology, despite data having been presumably gleaned during the Cluster 1 exploration and production phases. Furthermore, the computer-generated groundwater flow model for the Cluster 2 area was deemed to be inadequate and had no regard to the complex nature of fractured-rock aquifers. The contamination simulations for TDS and methane migration were said to be unreliable.</p>	<p>Please note that the responses to these groundwater related comments have been prepared by the EAP in consultation with the appointed groundwater specialist.</p> <p>The Campbell Critique (dated July 2023) relied on the initial EIA and original GWIA. The Revised GWIA (refer to report ref. HG-R-22-004-V5 dated July 2025) explicitly acknowledges the 2023 grounds of appeal and details the new work undertaken to address them.</p> <p>The main objectives addressed as part of the revised report included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Gather more site-specific geological and hydrogeological information. Additional site work, i.e., drilling and testing of site characterisation boreholes to determine site-specific hydraulic parameters and to inform the conceptual model.</li> </ul>

No.	Comment	Response
		<p>ii. The conceptual groundwater model should be refined and updated with newly gathered site-specific information.</p> <p>iii. Potential source terms should be clearly defined, i.e., what is the risk of contamination of potential waste material.</p> <p>iv. Water flow and water qualities between various flow components should be defined more clearly.</p> <p>v. Additional information is required on the mitigation measures of contact water storage facilities i.e., will facilities be lined, where is water sourced from and what will the water quality be.</p> <p>vi. Details of the construction of the gas wells should be addressed.</p> <p>vii. Details of the stratigraphy and hydrogeology of the gas wells are required.</p> <p>viii. Incorporate all newly gathered site characterisation information as well as newly formulated conceptual model into the numerical groundwater flow and pollution plume migration model.</p> <p>The Revised Assessment (2025) explicitly incorporated a new "Phase C: Site Characterisation" to generate more site specific geological and hydrogeological data as requested and entails the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 44 (30 = Cluster 1 and 14 = Cluster 2) geophysical traverses were conducted to delineate sub-surface lineaments. The latter equates to a combined total length of &gt;10.0km of geophysical traverses.</li> <li>- Furthermore, two aeromagnetic geophysical surveys were conducted (Xcalibur, 2023) covering the entire Cluster 2 application area, in which regional geological lineaments i.e., fault zones as well as dyke structures were clearly delineated.</li> <li>- Following the geophysical surveys, a total of eleven (11) new boreholes (6 = Cluster 1 and 5 = Cluster 2) were drilled. The latter equates to a combined drilling of 800m and were strategically positioned to specifically target</li> </ul>

No.	Comment	Response
		<p>various lithological units within the application area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newly established site characterisation boreholes were subjected to hydraulic testing with a total of 12 constant discharge pump tests conducted. Additionally, to these tests, another 9 privately owned boreholes were also tested, bringing the total tested boreholes to 21 boreholes.</li> <li>- Borehole receptors and geosites visited as part of the Cluster 2 application equates to a total of 182 (89 sites visited as part of the 2022 investigation and another 93 sites visited as part of 2025 investigation). Additionally, to this, 26 existing monitoring boreholes were also incorporated into the data evaluation.</li> <li>- The regional groundwater flow behaviour was evaluated by applying data derived from 82 boreholes while the regional groundwater quality was based on a total of 83 boreholes.</li> <li>- The conceptual model was formulated based on all data gathered as part of the site characterisation phase. Furthermore, the conceptual model were informed by review and interpretation of more than 740 exploration boreholes.</li> <li>- Based on the newly gathered data and refined conceptual model formulated, the existing model was updated to better reflect the complex hydrogeology.</li> </ul>
	<p>The Campbell Critique called on Tetra4 to address the data gaps and associated flaws identified in their computer modelling and contamination simulations, to specify a more robust monitoring well network and groundwater monitoring plan and to formulate specific groundwater and remediation plans.</p> <p>The Minister, in his decision of 1 Augst 2024 in which the Cluster 2 environmental authorisation was set aside, ordered Tetra4 to address Dr. Campbell's concerns.</p>	<p>Please note that the responses to these groundwater related comments have been prepared by the EAP in consultation with the appointed groundwater specialist.</p> <p>The applicant provided responses to the Campbell Critique in their responding statements to the appeal. The DFFE then considered these submissions and determined that certain aspects, but not all the Campbell Critique were justified. The revised EIR addressed these shortcomings. The critique called for robust monitoring and specific remediation plans. The Revised Assessment includes a more detailed</p>

No.	Comment	Response
		<p>Groundwater Management Plan and an expanded monitoring network.</p> <p>It is the opinion of the EAP that the revised assessment and resultant EIA Report addresses the shortcomings identified by the DFFE. It is noted that no further submissions were provided from Dr Campbell on the revised GWIA which aimed to address the initial Campbell Critique.</p>
	<p>A report prepared by Dr. Fanie de Lange and Dr. Anton Lukas at Sustainable Surface and Groundwater Solutions look at Tetra4's revised groundwater impact assessment ("the Dr. de Lange report"). The report is attached hereto as Annexure A3.</p> <p>Dr. de Lange's report identified significant concerns with the revised groundwater assessment, particularly regarding its methodology, data interpretation, and numerical modelling. These issues raise doubts about the reliability and accuracy of the findings, which are crucial for decision-making regarding the project's environmental impact.</p>	<p>Please note that the responses to these groundwater related comments have been prepared by the EAP in consultation with the appointed groundwater specialist.</p> <p>The concerns raised by Dr De Lange are addressed in detail in the response report attached.</p> <p>The critique suggests the methodology was insufficient. However, the Revised Assessment demonstrates a comprehensive data gathering process adhering to best practise standards. To address uncertainty, the simulations applied a worst-case approach. This ensures that even if minor data gaps exist, the environmental risk is likely overstated rather than understated, providing a safe margin for decision-making. As also stated in the revised report, where model assumptions were made or reference values used, a conservative approach was followed.</p> <p>Groundwater modelling is a decision-support tool, not an exact replica of field conditions. It is designed to simulate key hydrogeological processes as realistically as possible using available data and justified assumptions; however, due to subsurface complexity and data limitations, model outputs cannot be regarded as 100% accurate.</p> <p>Whilst the comments received from Dr De Lange are valuable and appreciated, it is respectfully the specialists and EAPs opinions that the revised assessment does provide reliable and accurate findings which allow for decision-making on this application for environmental authorisation.</p>
	<p>The Dr. de Lange report criticised the site characterization process utilised and highlighted flaws in the geophysical survey and drilling activities. Dr. de Lange's report raises concerns about Tetra4's interpretation of aquifer testing data, noting that the</p>	<p>Please note that the responses to these groundwater related comments have been prepared by the EAP in consultation with the appointed groundwater specialist.</p>

No.	Comment	Response
	<p>chosen analytical solutions lacked justification and were applied without a clear understanding of the aquifer characteristics. This raises questions about the validity of the groundwater parameters used in the numerical model.</p>	<p>All site characterisation i.e. borehole citing, drilling and aquifer testing was conducted according to SANS 10299-4:2003 standards.</p> <p>Contrary to the claim that interpretation lacked justification, the report details that constant discharge tests were performed on boreholes (e.g., RTBH01, RTBH05, RTBH08, RTBH10) and interpreted using recognized analytical methods appropriate for the observed drawdown behaviours. The derived transmissivity values align with regional literature, validating the interpretation. An argument can be made questioning the application of the analytical methods used in the assessment, but as stated previously similar aquifer parameters are reported in available literature and model calibration assumes an effective hydraulic conductivity as opposed to explicit hydraulic conductivities at the positions where pumping tests were conducted.</p>
	<p>Other numerical modelling aspects were also found to be problematic. The use of constant head boundaries to simulate rivers is considered inappropriate by Dr. de Lange and Dr. Lukas in this context, as it overlooks areas where river infiltration might occur. The model's treatment of known faults and fractures as porous equivalents rather than discrete features is another point of concern, as it could lead to inaccurate predictions regarding contaminant migration. Additionally, the report criticized the inclusion of a dolerite sill layer in the model without supporting data, which could affect groundwater flow and contaminant transport. The modelling also lacked detail on crucial parameters such as diffusion coefficients and failed to incorporate multiphase models necessary for accurate simulation of methane migration.</p>	<p>Please note that the responses to these groundwater related comments have been prepared by the EAP in consultation with the appointed groundwater specialist.</p> <p>The use of constant head boundaries for rivers can be hydrogeologically justified because the regional drainages (Sandrivier and Doringrivier) are classified as "gaining stream systems" where groundwater discharges into the river. The suggested Cauchy boundary condition can also be applied, however will require assumptions on flow/stage data which, if not available, will add to more model uncertainties.</p> <p>The critique that the model treated fractures as porous equivalents is inaccurate. The model explicitly simulated geological structures (fault zones and dyke contacts) as "permeable linear zones". These zones were assigned significantly higher hydraulic conductivity values compared to the matrix rock to simulate preferential flow. By incorporating fault zones as a discrete fracture will require assigning a certain dimension of these structures which is not available and if assumed, will add to more model uncertainties.</p> <p>The inclusion of the dolerite sill is not an assumption but is based on supporting data and evidence from exploration borehole geological logs (refer to geological logs included in Appendix C of the Geohydrological Report), which confirm its presence</p>



No.	Comment	Response
		<p>at an average depth of &gt;300m. It should be noted that the inclusion of the dolerite sill has been based on evaluation and interpretation of 704 exploration boreholes.</p> <p>The critique regarding a lack of detail on diffusion parameters is addressed in the report's specific model settings. The report explicitly defines the transport parameters, specifying a longitudinal and transverse dispersivity. These are the governing parameters for dispersion in this type of transport model. Determining these parameters would require calibration against observed data which is not available. It should be noted that the groundwater modelling software applied does make use of specific solute dispersion parameters sorption constants as well as diffusion coefficients which were assigned as part of the contaminant transport simulations.</p> <p>The method followed is considered a conservative worst-case approach. The model assumes methane reaches saturation in water (28 mg/L) and simulates the migration of this dissolved plume. By modelling the transport of the dissolved phase at saturation concentrations, the assessment adheres to a "worst-case scenario" approach. This ensures that the potential spread of contamination is not underestimated due to the complexities and uncertainties inherent in multiphase flow parameterization. It should be noted that the model calibration process entails a series of sensitivity analysis in order to evaluate the model behaviour and cater for uncertainties identified.</p>
	<p>Dr. de Lange's report suggests that the revised groundwater impact assessment remains fundamentally flawed and does not provide a reliable basis for decision-making. Given the issues identified in the site characterisation, aquifer testing, and numerical modelling, the report calls for further evaluation and refinement of the groundwater impact assessment. Without these improvements, the groundwater risks associated with the Cluster 2 expansion may not be accurately understood, potentially leading to misguided decisions on the project's environmental impact.</p>	<p>Please note that the responses to these groundwater related comments have been prepared by the EAP in consultation with the appointed groundwater specialist.</p> <p>It is the groundwater specialist and the EAP's opinion that the assessment is scientifically sound, follows a conservative risk-management approach, and provides a sufficient basis for informed decision-making. Dr. de Lange suggests the assessment is unreliable for decision-making however, the assessment adopts a "worst-case approach" to explicitly address uncertainty and ensure that risks are not underestimated. The model simulated catastrophic failure modes, such as unmitigated</p>

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		<p>leaking gas production boreholes over 20, 50, and 100-year periods.</p> <p>Furthermore, Section 17 of the revised hydrogeological report provides a guideline and framework for the applicant to identify, mitigate and minimize potential impacts as part of an integrated groundwater management plan and stipulates mitigation and adaptive controls to be implemented as safety nets if the model and groundwater impact assessment underestimates potential impacts.</p>
		<p><b><u>Conclusion:</u></b></p> <p>Groundwater models are often discredited due to their inherent complexity and reliance on assumptions that may not fully capture real-world conditions. These models require extensive data on aquifer properties, recharge rates, and boundary conditions, which are frequently incomplete or uncertain, leading to potential inaccuracies. Simplifications, such as assuming homogeneous subsurface conditions or steady-state flow, can deviate from the dynamic and heterogeneous nature of actual groundwater systems. Additionally, calibration processes may overfit data, masking underlying flaws, while validation against limited or biased datasets can undermine credibility. In order to cater for these uncertainties a "worst-case approach" is applied to explicitly address uncertainty and ensure that risks are not underestimated. It should be noted that the model calibration process entails a series of sensitivity analysis in order to evaluate the model behaviour and cater for uncertainties identified. Where model assumptions were made or reference values used, a conservative approach was followed to identify the most significant possible outcomes. The groundwater model should be a dynamic tool and updated as newly gathered monitoring results become available in order to verify modelling assumptions and confirm uncertainties identified. The latter also form part of the EIA recommendation and are included in the Environmental Management Program.</p> <p>All being said, a groundwater model remains a computer-generated algorithm which mimics on-site conditions as accurate as possible (similar to climate change models), however, it can never fully represent the complexity and nature of heterogeneous fractured-rock aquifers. Thus, the groundwater model</p>

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		<p>should be viewed merely as a supporting tool to be applied for future scenario predictions in order to provide guidance on best practice mitigation and management measures but cannot replace the value of a robust monitoring network and protocol. The latter is incorporated into the dedicated groundwater management plan with continuous monitoring serving as an early warning and detection system for potential impacts.</p> <p>As stated in the revised report, the most significant impact of the project on the regional groundwater regime is the potential deterioration of the potable Karoo aquifer water quality as well as modification of the riparian zone primary porosity aquifer associated with alluvium material deposited in flood plains. Groundwater is the sole water resource to the landowners and rural communities within the study area and can be classified as a sensitive sole source aquifer. Thus, the potential impact(s) of the proposed development are not being denied, and it is clearly noted and taken cognizance of. However, it is the geohydrological specialists' opinion that, if the recommended mitigation measures be implemented along with management principals as set out in detail in the groundwater management plan (Section 17 of the revised report), the potential impacts associated with the project can be adequately managed.</p> <p>During the construction phase the environmental significance rating of groundwater quality impacts on down-gradient receptors are rated as <b>medium negative</b> without implementation of remedial measures and <b>low negative</b> with implementation of proposed mitigation measures.</p> <p>During the operational phase the environmental significance rating of groundwater quality impacts on down-gradient receptors are rated as <b>medium to high negative</b> without implementation of remedial measures and <b>low to medium negative</b> with implementation of proposed mitigation measures.</p> <p>During the decommissioning and post-closure phase the environmental significance rating of groundwater quality impacts on down-gradient receptors are rated as <b>medium negative</b> without implementation of remedial measures and <b>low to medium negative</b> with implementation of proposed mitigation measures.</p>

No.	Comment	Response
		An external peer review of the updated Geohydrological Impact Assessment Report was undertaken by Professor S.R. Dennis (attached hereto and included in Appendix 4 of the Final EIA Report) and the external reviewer is of the opinion that the study objectives were met, and the author has shown diligence in investigating aspects related to the geohydrological behaviour of the study area and determining the status quo based on available data. The report is considered on par with industry standard when compared to projects with a similar theme.
3	<p>Furthermore, the 2023 Appeal cited numerous deficiencies and failure to adequately consider the project's climate change impacts in the Climate Change Impact Assessment (the "2022 CCIA") supporting the original EIAR. The appeal included a critique of the 2022 CCIA prepared by Dr. Eloise Marais, Professor of Atmospheric Chemistry and Air Quality at University College London (the "Marais Critique") (appended as Annexure A4).</p> <p>The revised Cluster 2 EIAR includes a revised CCIA.<sup>1</sup> The revised CCIA includes a large amount of new background information on climate change risks drawn from the IPCC 6th Assessment Report and includes a dramatically increased estimates for Scope 1 emissions from the project, but does little to address the numerous deficiencies with the CCIA itself cited in the Appeal and Marais Critique.</p> <p>Dr. Marais reviewed the revised CCIA and prepared an Addendum to her Critique (the "Marais Addendum") (appended as Annexure A5), describing the ongoing issues in the revised CCIA, as well as new issues involving the increased Scope 1 emission estimates.</p> <p>The Marais Critique noted that the 2022 CCIA failed to include methane fugitive and flaring emissions from operational gas production, the largest source of fugitive methane<sup>2</sup>. Likely in response to the critique, the revised CCIA added emissions estimates</p>	<p>Please note that the responses to these Climate Change related comments have been prepared by the EAP in consultation with the appointed Climate Change specialist.</p> <p>The increased Scope 1 emissions estimates have been incorporated in the impact calculations as reported under Table 12 of the AQIA Report (July 2025). Even with a 3.2-fold increase in Scope 1 emissions, the significance rating under Section 5.2, Table 16 based on the Environmental screening methodology provided by EIMS remained as <i>Medium</i> because the underlying criteria – magnitude, reversibility, and probability – remain at level 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Magnitude (Level 3 – Moderate): The affected environment is altered but natural, cultural and social functions and processes continue albeit in a modified way.</li> <li>• Reversibility (Level 3): Impacts are reversible only by incurring significant time and cost.</li> <li>• Probability (Level 3): The likelihood of occurrence does not increase as a result of higher GHG emissions.</li> </ul> <p>Although Scope 1 emissions have increased by a factor of 3.2, the combined Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions from the proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 project account for only 0.09% of South Africa's national GHG emissions (excluding LULUCF) and 0.12% of the total emissions from the South African energy sector, based</p>

<sup>1</sup> Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA App 4-3 Climate Change Impact Assessment, Final Rev 6 (2 July, 2025).

<sup>2</sup> Eloise A. Marais, Orianna Akker & Christine Wiedinmyer, Greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions from power barges (powerships), 1, Environ. Sci. Adv., 164–169 (2022); Alexander Q. Gilbert & Benjamin K. Sovacool, US liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports: Boom or bust for the global climate? 141, Energy, 1671–1680 (2017).

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	<p>for gas production flaring and fugitives, and increased the estimates for gas processing flaring and fugitives<sup>3</sup>. As explained in the Marais Addendum, “these added emissions drastically increase the total emissions estimates for the project. Scope 1 emissions alone increase by nearly 225% (a 3.2-fold increase), and combined Scope 1 and 2 emissions increased by almost 35%. The gas production and fugitive and flaring emissions excluded in the 2022 CIA are also the majority (68.9%) of total Scope 1 emissions.”</p> <p>The Marais Addendum observes that, despite the substantial increases in emissions estimates in the revised CCIA, the numerical Impact Significance Rating presented in Section 5.2 remains identical to that of the 2022 CCIA. The Addendum notes that the revised CCIA provides no explanation for why the numerical risk factors, such as magnitude, reversibility, and probability of impacts, are unchanged, even though estimated Scope 1 emissions more than triple. The CCIA should explicitly justify why such significantly higher emissions estimates do not alter the impact significance ratings.</p>	<p>on 2022 data (GN 5850 in GG No. 52067, 7 February 2025). Accordingly, the impact is still assessed as being of <i>Medium</i> significance.</p> <p>The extent of climate change impact is always national or wider, and since the overall consequence and significance are not influenced by the extent, but rather by the intensity of emissions, “extent” was not included in the significance rating.</p>
	<p>Dr. Marias further highlights that Section 5.3 of the revised CCIA introduces an “alternative significance rating” system based on tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e per year, but incorrectly classifies the project’s Scope 1 operational emissions as “Low” significance.<sup>4</sup> The revised Scope 1 estimate of 163,748 tCO<sub>2</sub>e clearly falls within the “Medium” qualitative rating category (100,000–1,000,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) set out in Table 17 of the revised CCIA. Although this misclassification does not change the “Medium” rating for combined Scope 1 and 2 emissions, “it materially downplays the scale of Scope 1 emissions [and] undermines the credibility of the CCIA’s significance assessment,” according to Dr. Marais.</p>	<p>Please note that the responses to these Climate Change related comments have been prepared by the EAP in consultation with the appointed Climate Change specialist.</p> <p>Section 5.3 “Alternative Significance rating” Scope 1 now falls in the <i>Medium</i> qualitative rating and not in the <i>Low</i> category, as reported. This makes no difference to the combined Scope 1 and 2 rating which remains at <i>Medium</i>. Also, the conclusion under Section 6 states “Construction- and operational-related GHG emissions from the proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 project cannot be attributed directly to any particular climate change effects, and, when considered in isolation, will have a Low to Medium impact on the National GHG inventory total.” – the Construction activities fall in the <i>Low</i> significance</p>

<sup>3</sup> See 2022 CCIA Table 8 and revised CCIA Table 12.

<sup>4</sup> Revised CCIA, p. 61.

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		<p>rating and operational falls within the <i>Medium</i> significance.</p> <p>It should be noted that the <i>Alternative Significance Rating</i>, on which the comment is based, is used in addition to the EIA significance rating as provided in Table 16 (AQIA Report, July 2025) and intended to be used as guidance.</p> <p>The draft <i>National Guideline for the consideration of climate change implications in applications for environmental authorisations, atmospheric emission licenses and waste management licenses</i> (GN 6759 in GG 53574, 24 October 2025) proposes a Climate Change Significance Rating Framework for assessments. Since this is still out for public comment, this methodology could not be applied.</p>
	<p>Aside from the addition of fugitives and flaring emissions to the Scope 1 estimates, the revised CCIA fails to address any of the concerns raised in the Appeal (Para. 42-58) and the Marais Critique. We therefore incorporate our arguments from the Appeal and the Marais Critique into these comments. Dr. Marais elaborates further on several of the ongoing issues in her Addendum.</p> <p>For example, The Marais Addendum explains that the revised CCIA continues to apply outdated methane global warming potential (GWP) values from the 2001 IPCC Third Assessment Report (GWP of 24 for methane), rather than the updated IPCC value of 28, which is 17% higher and reflects current scientific consensus on greenhouse gas lifetimes and radiative efficiencies.<sup>5</sup> This shortcoming is compounded by applying the outdated GWP to the large additional fugitive and flaring emissions introduced in the revised CCIA. While these additions substantially increase estimated Scope 1 emissions, the totals would be even greater if contemporary state-of-science GWP values were used.</p>	<p>Please note that the responses to these Climate Change related comments have been prepared by the EAP in consultation with the appointed Climate Change specialist.</p> <p>With respect to the Marais Critique which was considered by the DFFE Minister in the appeal decision, it should be noted that the Minister only identified certain shortcomings associated with the GHG emissions and did not indicate all of the Marais Critique had merit.</p> <p>The GWP values used in the 2022 and revised 2025 CCIA are based on the DFFE <i>Methodological guidelines for Quantification of Greenhouse Gas Emissions. A companion to the South African National GHG Emission Reporting Regulations. Version No. MG-2022.1. Government Gazette no 47257, MG-2022.1. Pretoria, South Africa: DFFE, published 7 October 2022.</i> As stated on page 1 "The purpose of these Methodological Guidelines is to provide additional guidance and commentary to assist data providers in estimating Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions for reporting on the Greenhouse Gas reporting module of the National Atmospheric Emission Inventory System (NAEIS)." It is stated on page 7 of this document "In annexure G please use the 100-year GWP values highlighted in bold." And Annexure G: Global Warming</p>

<sup>5</sup> See revised CCIA, Table 12 (applying the same methane GWPs as the 2022 CCIA).

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		<p>Potential Values. IPCC Third Assessment Report, 2001 (IPCC 2001, Ch6, 388).</p> <p>By applying the ARC6 GWP (as indicated in the table below), Scope 1 emissions increased by 19%, and the combined Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions increased by 8%. The contribution from the proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 project to the national GHG emissions will be 0.1% (excluding LULUCF) and 0.13% to the energy sector, based on 2022 data (GN 5850 in GG No. 52067, 7 February 2025). Accordingly, the impact is still assessed as being of <i>Medium</i> significance.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th>SA GG47257 (2022)</th><th>IPCC AR6 (2021)</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>GWP CH<sub>4</sub></td><td>23</td><td>29.8 <sup>a</sup></td></tr> <tr> <td>GWP N<sub>2</sub>O</td><td>296</td><td>273</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td><b>Total CO<sub>2</sub>-e (tonnes)</b></td><td><b>Total CO<sub>2</sub>-e (tonnes)</b></td></tr> <tr> <td>Scope 1</td><td>163 748.3</td><td>201 398.0</td></tr> <tr> <td>Scope 2</td><td>278 251.1</td><td>278 251.1</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td><b>441 999.4</b></td><td><b>479 649.0</b></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Notes: <sup>a</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment (AR6) indicates GWP as 29.8 (fossil) 27.2 (non-fossil)</p>		SA GG47257 (2022)	IPCC AR6 (2021)	GWP CH <sub>4</sub>	23	29.8 <sup>a</sup>	GWP N <sub>2</sub> O	296	273		<b>Total CO<sub>2</sub>-e (tonnes)</b>	<b>Total CO<sub>2</sub>-e (tonnes)</b>	Scope 1	163 748.3	201 398.0	Scope 2	278 251.1	278 251.1		<b>441 999.4</b>	<b>479 649.0</b>
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	<p>The Marais Addendum finds that the revised CCIA, like the 2022 version, fails to account for methane emissions from well drilling and testing, even though the project anticipates up to 400 exploration and 300 production wells.<sup>6</sup> While Table 8 of the 2022 CCIA listed CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for these activities, it omitted methane despite available emission factors in the DFFE Guideline. Table 12 of the revised CCIA continues this omission. The CCIA also relied on undisclosed measurements from Tetra4 with no information on methods, equipment, or flaring efficiency, and assumed an unrealistic 100% efficiency rather than a plausible range. Independent calculations in the Marais Critique showed actual well testing emissions could be 5.5 times higher than the 14,517 tCO<sub>2</sub>e reported. The revised CCIA repeats these same estimates, leaving the flaws unaddressed and the omission unsubstantiated.</p>	<p>Please note that the responses to these Climate Change related comments have been prepared by the EAP in consultation with the appointed Climate Change specialist.</p> <p>With reference to Section 1.5 of the updated CCIA Report, the well drilling and testing emissions from construction phase were based on measurements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well drilling – Data obtained from kestrel flow meter while drilling and extrapolated for drilling duration in gas bearing structures (10 days). Average emissions during exploration drilling equals 0.446 tonnes per well for 10 days duration (446.5 kg at 75% CH<sub>4</sub>).</li> <li>Well testing – Data obtained from flow measurement during flow testing and flaring of existing exploration wells. Average flowed/flared volume per well is 2 592.3 kg per day (at 75% CH<sub>4</sub> composition with density of 0.73). Total emissions are therefore 181 461 kg for 10 wells over 7 days each.</li> <li>Well servicing – Data obtained from fugitive monitoring of both existing production and exploration wells collected by independent third party. Average emissions per</li> </ul>																					

<sup>6</sup> See revised CCIA, Table 12 (listing zero methane emissions from well drilling and testing).



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		<p>well/annum equals 1,1 CO<sub>2</sub> eq tons based on available information.</p> <p>The IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (Volume 1, Chapter 2) state that measured emissions should be used whenever reliable monitoring data is available, with measured emissions always taking precedence over calculated emissions using emission factors. It is understood that the measured emissions reflect “real-world operating conditions”.</p> <p>The reported emissions in Table 12 are only as tonne CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (at 75% CH<sub>4</sub> composition). When the emission factors as provided in Appendix A, (1.B.2.b.ii), and NGERs GWP as provided in Table 2, are applied, well drilling is 6.76 times lower than the provided data, with well testing 1.3 times higher and well servicing 3.05 times higher. This results in 1.08 times lower total Scope 1 emissions. By applying the ARC6 GWP to these calculations, the total Scope 1 &amp; 2 GHG emissions from Construction are 34 052 CO<sub>2</sub>-e (tonnes/year), thus 1.02 times higher than the initial GHG emissions.</p>



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	<p>The revised CCIA continues to assume unrealistically high flaring efficiency in operational gas processing. Although methane emissions from processing flaring were increased slightly—from 6 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in the 2022 CCIA to 7 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in the revised version—the methods behind this change are not explained. Without evidence to support the efficiency assumption, the estimate cannot be assessed for reasonableness. As the Marais Critique recommended, a more robust approach would apply a range of plausible flaring efficiencies to reflect both best-case and real-world operating conditions.</p>	<p>Please note that the responses to these Climate Change related comments have been prepared by the EAP in consultation with the appointed Climate Change specialist.</p> <p>The emission factors are listed in Appendix A of the CCIA report. These are based on the SA 2022 Methodological guidelines for quantification of GHG emissions, and 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Table 4.2.5: <i>Tier 1 emission factors for fugitive emissions (including venting and flaring) from oil and gas operations in developing countries and countries with economies in transition</i>. In the July 2025 CCA report, the upper range EFs listed below were used for flaring, based on 203,786,670m<sup>3</sup> gas processed.</p> <table><tr><th rowspan="2">IPCC Category</th><th rowspan="2">Description</th><th colspan="3">Emission factors (Gg per 10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup> raw gas feed)</th></tr><tr><th>CO<sub>2</sub></th><th>CH<sub>4</sub></th><th>N<sub>2</sub>O</th></tr><tr><td>1.B.2.b.ii</td><td>Gas production - flaring</td><td>1.2E-03 to 1.6E-03</td><td>7.6E-07 to 1.0E-06</td><td>2.1E-08 to 2.9E-08</td></tr><tr><td>1.B.2.b.ii</td><td>LNG/LHe processing - flaring</td><td>1.8E-03 to 2.5E-03</td><td>1.2E-06 to 1.6E-06</td><td>2.5E-08 to 3.4E-08</td></tr></table> <p>As indicated in the comment above, the revised report used the upper range, thus provided the most conservative estimate based on the IPCC emission factors. The 98% flaring efficiency is what the IPCC EFs are based on, and no other efficiency was assumed.</p>	IPCC Category	Description	Emission factors (Gg per 10 <sup>6</sup> m <sup>3</sup> raw gas feed)			CO <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>4</sub>	N <sub>2</sub> O	1.B.2.b.ii	Gas production - flaring	1.2E-03 to 1.6E-03	7.6E-07 to 1.0E-06	2.1E-08 to 2.9E-08	1.B.2.b.ii	LNG/LHe processing - flaring	1.8E-03 to 2.5E-03	1.2E-06 to 1.6E-06	2.5E-08 to 3.4E-08
IPCC Category	Description	Emission factors (Gg per 10 <sup>6</sup> m <sup>3</sup> raw gas feed)																		
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	<p>The Marais Addendum confirms that the revised CCIA still provides no clear information on the destination or mode of LNG transport, instead relying on the unsupported assumption that 60% of output would be exported to China while the remaining 40% is unaccounted for. This assumption underpins the Scope 3 emissions calculation but is unjustified, incomplete, and ignores both the lack of LNG export infrastructure in South Africa and the need to consider domestic transport. The CCIA also continues to use UK tanker conversion factors while omitting inland transport emissions and failing to assess a range of plausible end-use scenarios or import-to-export ratios, despite the availability of relevant factors. The revised CCIA repeats these same flaws, leaving the Scope 3 analysis vague and incomplete.</p>	<p>Please note that the responses to these Climate Change related comments have been prepared by the EAP in consultation with the appointed Climate Change specialist.</p> <p>The 60/40 split between international end users and local users were provided by Tetra4 at the time and this represents a worst-case scenario assumption. Note that exports of LNG in the volumes represented by this project do not require a dedicated LNG export terminal as these volumes can be exported in LNG ISO containers which are able to be exported via container terminals. The information provided assumed that 40% will be locally used and transported over an average distance of 1 200km per trip. This was accounted for under Scope 1 (see CCA Report Appendix A). The remaining 60% was given to be exported to China, as a worst-case scenario and the</p>																		

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		<p>distance was assumed to be 16 433 km. This has been indicated under CCA Report Section 1.5: Assumptions and Limitations, and Appendix A.</p> <p>Although there are fuel-based emission factors embedded in the National GHG Inventory (2000-2020, as updated in 2022) and in the Green Transport Strategy (2018-2050), there are none specific to the trucks, ships etc. used in the Tetra4 study, and hence use was made of international EFs.</p> <p>According to the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) published in October 2025, South Africa will need to significantly expand locally sourced natural gas to meet future energy demands, especially as coal is phased down and renewable integration accelerates. Natural gas is positioned as a transition fuel to complement renewables. Current imports from Mozambique's Pande-Temane fields are projected to decline sharply and effectively end around 2028<sup>7</sup>, increasing the demand for locally sourced gas to reduce reliance on imports and ensure energy security.</p>
	<p>Dr. Marais notes that the revised CCIA repeats the claim from the 2022 assessment that end-use of LNG will reduce indirect GHG emissions by 14.6% on the assumption it will replace diesel, heavy fuel oil, and LPG. Both versions present this substitution for 100% of projected LNG output (Table 10 in 2022; Table 14 in the revised CCIA). However, the Addendum points out that the markets for Tetra4's LNG remain undefined, and no evidence or justification is provided to support this scenario. Without economic or technological backing, the assumption of full fuel substitution is speculative and misleading. The revised CCIA leaves this flaw unresolved and continues to rely on the same unsubstantiated claim of emissions reduction from displacement.</p> <p>It is submitted that Tetra4 have failed to comply with the Minister's order in his decision of 1 August 2024 in which he advised that Tetra4 should address the concerns raised by Dr. Marais in her critique.</p>	<p>Please note that the responses to these Climate Change related comments have been prepared by the EAP in consultation with the appointed Climate Change specialist.</p> <p>The use of LNG is unlikely to be in addition to the use of existing fuels and hence the assumption that it would replace other fuels are regarded feasible. Since it is not known what the ratio replacement of the other fuels would be, the statement was rephrased "As it is assumed that LNG will be replacing other fuels already in use, it could result in a reduction of 14.6% in indirect GHG emissions." According to the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) published in October 2025, South Africa will need to significantly expand locally sourced natural gas to meet future energy demands, especially as coal is phased down and renewable integration accelerates. Natural gas is positioned as a transition fuel to complement renewables. Current imports from Mozambique's Pande-Temane fields are projected to decline sharply and effectively end around 2028, increasing the</p>

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.parliament.gov.za/press-releases/media-statement-committee-electricity-calls-urgency-addressing-gas-cliff-facing-south-africa?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.parliament.gov.za/press-releases/media-statement-committee-electricity-calls-urgency-addressing-gas-cliff-facing-south-africa?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

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		<p>demand for locally sourced gas to reduce reliance on imports and ensure energy security.</p> <p>As per the above responses and with reference to the updated CCA report, all concerns were addressed, and in cases where they were not explicitly covered in the report, a justification was provided for retaining the original approach or results.</p>
4.	<p>The FEIAR describes its approach to public participation, which involved compiling an initial Interested and Affected Parties (I&amp;AP) database based on previous applications, stakeholder databases, and landowner lists. However, the database appears to have largely excluded local communities; those most directly impacted by the project. The public consultation was limited to placing 78 site notices and posters in select areas over a short 4-day period and notifying only pre identified I&amp;APs.</p>	<p>It is noted that the CER also raised concerns about the public participation process in the appeal which were responded to by the applicant. Where your current comments align with those raised in appeal we refer to the applicants responses thereto in the appeal responding statement, as well as the Ministers evaluation thereof.</p> <p>The public participation process was not limited to the placement of notices and posters. Chapter 6 of the NEMA EIA Regulations sets forth the minimum requirements for public participation. A comprehensive public participation process was undertaken which in many respects exceeds the minimum requirement for PPP as set forth in Chapter 6 of the NEMA EIA Regulations. Kindly refer to Section 8 and Appendix 3 of the EIA Report. The I&amp;AP database included in Appendix B1 of the EIA Report contains a number of local community members who were consulted. Focus group meetings were held with local communities (Adamsonsvlei Community, Stille Community) during the Scoping Phase an original EIA Phase. During the revised EIA Phase consultations community focus group meetings were held in Adamsonsvlei Community, Stille Community and Meloding Community.</p> <p>EIMS undertook a comprehensive public notification process to inform stakeholders of this opportunity and responsibility to register. Regulation 42 of the EIA Regulations requires the opening and maintaining of a database of I&amp;AP's who submit written comments, attended meetings, requested to be registered- this was done. The process did not exclude any local communities, or persons impacted by the project, from registering on the database, and consequently participating in the process.</p> <p>Regulation 41(2)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations prescribes that 1 site notice be placed however for this application a total of 78 site notices were placed which is substantially more than the minimum requirement.</p>

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		<p>It is further stated in this comment that the site notices were placed “over a short 4-day period” however we wish to correct this misunderstanding in that it physically took 4 days to erect the site notices while the notices remained in place for a few months thereafter.</p>
	<p>The EIA further refers to dates for public consultations in 2022 and 2023. This is surprising as these dates pertain to the previous EIA and not the revised EIA. Notice of consultations that were held subsequent to the revision of the EIA do not reflect in the Public participation Report on Tetra4’s website nor any of its annexures. It is thus difficult to ascertain the breadth and scope of the current public consultation process that is underway. The lack of reference to this phase in the Public Participation Report attached to the EIA, and no mention of consultations conducted during this phase in the document’s annexures, further undermines the credibility of the public participation process.</p> <p>Furthermore, there is no evidence that documents were provided to attendees at these meetings. Instead, participants were shown posters and given brief presentations, with opportunities to comment on the project on the spot. These meetings should have been used as proper informational sessions given the scale and complexity of the proposed project, but instead, they appear to have been a superficial attempt at consultation.</p>	<p>Section 8 of the EIA Report provides a description of the previous public participation undertaken since the inception of the application which culminated in an EA decision dated 13 July 2023. The environmental authorisation was appealed and on 1 August 2024 the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment set aside the Cluster 2 EA. The Ministers Appeal Decision included the requirement to revise certain specialist studies and ensure that the revised studies were available for public comment. The revised EIA Report was made available for comment from 10 September 2025 to 13 October 2025 as required by the Ministers Appeal Decision.</p> <p>All registered I&amp;APs were notified of the availability of the revised EIA Report, provided with detail on where access to the report could be found, informed of the comment period from 10 September 2025 to 13 October 2025 and furthermore notified of the public meetings and focus group meetings. During the meetings, a detailed presentation was provided which summarised the pertinent contents of the revised EIA report. Hard copies of the revised EIA Reports executive summary were made available at the meetings, and these hard copies included all three relevant languages (English, Afrikaans and Sesotho). No I&amp;APs requested additional hard copies of documentation during the consultation process. The public participation that was undertaken was in line with the principles of the NEMA EIA Regulations.</p>
	<p>The most vulnerable members of the affected communities, those living and working on farms, stand to be the most directly impacted by the expansion. Yet, Tetra4 has still made no effort to ensure that these individuals are properly informed or meaningfully consulted. The Social Impact Assessment attached to the EIA primarily addresses landowners, neglecting to consider the impacts on farm workers who are likely to be disproportionately</p>	<p>As detailed above, specific consultation and focus group meetings with directly affected communities were held. The focus group meetings at the Adamsonsvlei Community, Stilte Community and Meloding Community were well attended and it should be noted that some of the community members at the Adamsonsvlei and Stilte communities indicated that they were farm workers. Kindly refer to Section 10 of the EIA Report (including relevant</p>

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	affected by the project. Ignoring these vulnerable groups will only deepen poverty and exacerbate inequality.	specialist reports in Appendix 4) where the impacts of land-use changes, groundwater, air quality and security, to name but a few, apply equally to the communities living in the application area. It is incorrect to state that these vulnerable groups were ignored. A public participation process was undertaken that exceeds the requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations, and fair opportunity was provided to all stakeholders to participate in the process. Even in instances where impacts were not identified by stakeholders, the EAP and the relevant specialist did identify and assess the potential impacts on the receiving environment (inclusive of vulnerable groups).
	The Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) Public Participation Guidelines state that in areas suffering from socio-economic or environmental challenges, extensive consultation should be undertaken with those likely to be affected. Given the context of high unemployment and potential environmental risks in the area, this is a critical oversight by Tetra4.	This comment does not provide specific examples for the perceived shortfalls. Kindly refer to the DFFE Ministers Appeal Decision relating to the Third Ground of Appeal (i.e. insufficient PPP) in which the Minister considered and dismissed this contention.
	The Constitutional Court's decision in Bengwenyama emphasized that consultations for projects that impact land use must be thorough and fair. The Court highlighted that the consultation process must provide landowners and occupiers with sufficient information to make informed decisions. In the case of the Cluster 2 expansion, Tetra4 has failed to adequately identify and consult with those living and working on the affected farms, despite having the means to do so. This failure further undermines the fairness and procedural integrity of the consultation process.	As indicated above, the public consultation process is presented in Section 8 of the EIA Report with public consultation documentation and evidence included in Appendix B of the EIA Report. Overall, the consultation process that was undertaken exceeded the minimum requirements for public participation as required in terms of Chapter 6 of the NEMA EIA Regulations.
	We submit that Tetra4 has not adequately fulfilled its consultation obligations under the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) and its regulations. This is especially concerning given the potential socio-economic impacts of the expansion, which could affect the livelihoods of people living and working on farms. Tetra4's Social Impact Assessment, which highlights the significant risks to agricultural livelihoods and food security, fails to mention any consultation with farm workers or	The public consultation process is presented in Section 8 of the EIA Report with public consultation documentation and evidence included in Appendix B of the EIA Report. Overall, the consultation process that was undertaken exceeded the minimum requirements for public participation as required in terms of Chapter 6 of the NEMA EIA Regulations.

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	compensation plans for those who may lose their homes and livelihoods as a result of the project.	
	Based on the inadequate consultation process, the process conducted by Tetra4 does not comply with constitutional principles of fairness and transparency, as well as NEMA's regulations and the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (PAJA). The consultation process was deeply flawed.	The public consultation process is presented in Section 8 of the EIA Report with public consultation documentation and evidence included in Appendix B of the EIA Report. Overall, the consultation process that was undertaken exceeded the minimum requirements for public participation as required in terms of Chapter 6 of the NEMA EIA Regulations. It should be noted that this same concern was raised in one of the grounds of appeal by yourselves in the appeal process. These grounds were responded to in detail in the applicants responding statement. The appeal grounds and the responding statements were evaluated by the DFFE Minister in the adjudication of the appeal and determined that it was satisfied that the public participation process conducted complied with and met (and in fact exceeded) the requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations.
5.	Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) empowers the Minister to regulate procedures for preparing, assessing, adopting, and reviewing environmental impact assessments (EIAs). The Minister has implemented the EIA Regulations, which outline the necessary content of an EIA report. Regulation 18 specifies that the "need and desirability" of a proposed project must be considered when evaluating applications for environmental authorisation. As such, an EIA report must include a justification for the need and desirability of the project.	Kindly refer to Table 2 in Section 2.1 of the Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA Report which links the content requirements of an EIA Report in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations and where each requirement is addressed in the EIA Report.
	In accordance with Section 24J of NEMA, guidelines can be published to assist in implementing the need and desirability criteria. Section 24(5) allows the Minister to determine procedures for preparing and evaluating environmental management instruments, including EIAs. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) has issued the "Guideline on Need and Desirability," in line with Section 24J(b) of NEMA, outlining how these criteria should be assessed.	Kindly refer to Section 6 of the Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA Report which presents an assessment of the need and desirability of the proposed project. Section 6.4 provides a comprehensive need and desirability analysis in terms of the Guideline on Need and Desirability in terms of the EIA Regulations (Notice 819 of 2014).
	The assessment of need and desirability also considers spatial plans, such as Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), Spatial Development	A discussion and assessment of the IDP's for the Lejweleputswa District Municipality (LDM) as well as



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	Frameworks (SDFs), Environmental Management Frameworks (EMFs), and other relevant strategies. The process involves evaluating reasonable alternatives, including a meaningful consideration of the "no-go" option.	the Matjhabeng and Masilonyana Local Municipalities are included in Section 9.4 of the EIA Report. The economy of the district relies heavily on the gold mining sector which is dominant in the Matjhabeng and Masilonyana Local Municipalities (Lejweleputswa DM IDP 2021/22). The mining sector is on a downward trend and many businesses that have traditionally depended on the mining sector have either closed down or are in the process of closing down. The proposed project will promote and support the sustainability of existing business in the local and regional economy and assist in increasing local beneficiation and shared economic growth, through extending the output production of gas. Kindly refer to Section 7 of the EIA report where a detailed alternative analysis was undertaken and presented.
	NEMA's Section 2 principles further guide the analysis of need and desirability. These principles must be considered alongside other relevant factors, including the state's responsibility to uphold social and economic rights, particularly for disadvantaged communities. These principles provide a framework for state entities to make decisions related to environmental protection.	The principles enshrined in Section 2 of the NEMA are the overarching basis upon which the EIA Report and specifically the need and desirability assessment was undertaken. Furthermore, the basis on which the impacts were assessed are clearly articulated in Section 10 of the report and relevant specialist studies are in the view of the EAP aligned to the requirements of the regulations, which therefore provides the Competent Authority and other commenting Government authorities with the information necessary to make an informed decision.
	Locking into new gas infrastructure, particularly in the context of the climate crisis, could be economically irrational. Fossil fuel infrastructure risks becoming stranded assets (assets that lose value rapidly as the world transitions away from fossil fuels). The lack of an analysis of these risks means that the relevant economic impacts were not fully considered when the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) made its decision.	It should be noted that a similar concern was raised in one of the grounds of appeal by yourselves in the appeal process. These grounds were responded to in detail in the applicants responding statement. The appeal grounds and the responding statements were evaluated by the DFFE Minister in the adjudication of the appeal and the basis of this concern was dismissed. An assessment of the economic impacts is included in Section 10 of the EIA Report. The majority of the economic impacts of this project have been rated as positive with the impacts extending from a local level, through to the region and also to a national level. This project will need to comply with these provisions which compliance will have an obvious positive impact on economic transformation. During the construction phase, the positive impacts on the local economy will be the greatest (through employment opportunities as well as material and contractor requirement) while during the operational

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		<p>phase the economic impacts move towards a more regional and national level when gas production and distribution is in full swing. With respect to the concern that this project could potentially result in a stranded asset, it should be noted that the requirements for financial provisioning were undertaken and the scheduled and unscheduled costs were calculated and included in Appendix 6 of the EIA Report.</p>
	<p>The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) conducted an assessment of whether natural gas is necessary for South Africa. While acknowledging the country's energy crisis and the need for low-carbon energy, the IISD warns that rushing to adopt gas could be a costly mistake. South Africa's commitment to the Paris Agreement, coupled with the increasing understanding of natural gas's climate impact, suggests that transitioning away from fossil fuels is imperative.</p> <p>Internationally, there is growing pressure to phase out gas. The International Energy Agency (IEA) has advised against new investments in oil and gas to limit global warming to 1.5°C. Additionally, over 100 countries have signed the Global Methane Pledge to reduce methane emissions by 30% by 2030. Banks, including Nedbank in South Africa, are halting financing for gas exploration, signalling a broader shift away from fossil fuels. These global trends highlight the risks of gas becoming stranded as an asset.</p> <p>Natural gas poses an economic risk. Carbon Tracker initiative warns that gas-fired power plants may not yield returns on investment due to the declining profitability of such projects. In regions like Europe and the United States, a significant portion of existing gas-fired plants are operating at a loss, and this trend is expected to continue. South Africa, with its regulatory gaps and limited capacity to enforce existing laws, is likely to be affected by this decline. Furthermore, Tetra4's plan to export 60% of its gas to China may also face challenges.</p>	<p>As detailed in Section 6.2.3 of the EIA Report, the 2025 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) provides a government approved framework for the future energy mix. In terms of the latest IRP, gas is expected to form a substantive piece of the overall electricity mix, projected to contribute a meaningful share (around ~11 % of supply by the late 2030s). While it is acknowledged that various non-governmental institutions conduct assessments in terms of whether natural gas is necessary for South Africa, the current national policy which guides the assessment for needs and desirability must be taken into consideration in the EIA Report.</p>
	<p>The National Development Plan 2030 advocates for investing early in low-carbon technologies to reduce emissions and position South Africa to compete in a</p>	<p>In addition to low-carbon technological investment, the National Development Plan 2030 also identifies</p>



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	carbon-constrained world. By focusing only on the positive economic impacts of the project without meaningfully considering the risks, Tetra4 fails to provide a comprehensive assessment.	natural gas as an alternative to coal that can help reduce South Africa's carbon intensity and greenhouse gas emissions. The Tetra4 Cluster 2 project is therefore considered to be aligned with the National Development Plan 2030.
	Under NEMA, the consideration of alternatives is a crucial part of the environmental assessment process. Alternatives should be evaluated based on factors such as the general purpose of the activity, the need to avoid negative impacts, and the need for equitable distribution of benefits. Tetra4 acknowledges the importance of considering alternatives but focuses primarily on natural gas, failing to adequately assess renewable energy alternatives.	Kindly refer to the detailed alternative assessment included in Section 7 of the EIA Report in which activity alternatives, location alternatives, design and layout alternatives, process alternatives, technology alternatives and the no-go alternative were assessed. Furthermore, as detailed in Section 4 of the EIA Report, Tetra4 is the holder of a Production Right for gas resources and therefore it would be unrealistic to assess a renewable energy alternative as opposed to gas production.
	<p>South Africa's lack of infrastructure for a full gas lifecycle, combined with the climate impacts and potential for asset stranding, makes promoting natural gas as a bridging fuel irrational. Additionally, renewable energy alternatives such as solar and wind are faster to deploy and significantly cheaper than gas-fired power. These alternatives should have been assessed from both a need and desirability perspective.</p> <p>Renewable energy is increasingly cost-competitive compared to fossil fuels like gas. Despite rising costs for solar and wind installations, fossil fuel prices have increased even more, enhancing the competitiveness of renewable energy. Battery storage technology has also become cheaper, further reducing the need for gas peaking plants. In countries like Australia and South Africa, renewable battery storage is emerging as a more cost-effective solution than gas.</p>	<p>South Africa has numerous gas infrastructure projects in the pipeline such as the Richards Bay LNG Terminal, repurposing of some coal fired power stations to gas, etc. As detailed in the need and desirability assessment in the EIA Report (Section 6), Sasol Gas is the dominant gas enterprise in South Africa, and it plays a major role in production, transmission and distribution. There are not that many rivals in the South Africa gas sector and therefore the sector may not be as efficient a sector as in countries with robust competition. It is well known that Sasol Gas and South Africa in general faces a real risk of gas supply shortfalls in the next few years due to the supply decline from Mozambique. It is important that other gas reserves are developed locally to provide more resilience in the face of the potential looming gas supply shortfall.</p> <p>While it is acknowledged that electricity production from renewable energy is increasing, the need and desirability of natural gas and helium was also assessed based on the various uses of natural gas and helium other than just electricity production (refer to Table 21 in the EIA Report). Natural gas is also used in the manufacture of fabrics, glass, steel, plastics, paint, and other products, is a major feedstock for the production of ammonia (fertilizer), etc. It is therefore concluded that a wholistic assessment of the need and desirability of gas was therefore undertaken.</p>
	Tetra4's assessment of the "no-go" alternative lacks clarity and depth. The company states that the	Kindly refer to Section 2.7 of the EIA Report which clarifies that when considering the No Go alternative,

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	<p>impacts of the no-go alternative are inherently addressed by assessing other alternatives but does not provide a detailed analysis of the indirect impacts associated with maintaining the status quo. The FEIAR assumes that most of the gas will be exported to China, but fails to explain how this will be feasible given South Africa's inadequate infrastructure for such exports.</p>	<p>the impacts (both positive and negative) associated with any other specific alternative, or the current project proposal would not occur and in effect the impacts of the No-Go alternative are therefore inadvertently assessed by assessing the other alternatives. In addition to the direct implications of retaining the status quo there are certain other indirect impacts, which may occur should the No-Go alternative be followed. As clarified in an earlier response, exports of LNG in the volumes represented by this project do not require a dedicated LNG export terminal as these volumes can be exported in LNG ISO containers which are able to be exported via container terminals.</p>
	<p>The economic benefits touted by Tetra4, including the creation of jobs and the development of a sustainable gas industry, fail to adequately address the long-term impacts on local communities.</p> <p>While short-term employment may be created during the construction and operation phases, these jobs are often temporary and concentrated in specialized sectors that do not necessarily translate into broad-based community development. Furthermore, the reliance on gas infrastructure risks locking South Africa into an economically unstable fossil fuel future, where global shifts towards renewable energy could lead to stranded assets and job losses in the long run.</p>	<p>As per the impact assessment contained in Section 10 of the EIA Report, the impact of job creation and the development of a sustainable gas industry was identified as a positive impact. Based on the feedback received during the focus group meetings undertaken with local communities, the predominant impact identified by the community members was job creation which was perceived in a very positive manner (refer to meeting minutes contained in Appendix 3 of the EIA Report).</p>
	<p>Moreover, the economic focus of Tetra4 overlooks the potential for more sustainable, community centred growth through investments in renewable energy. Unlike gas, which carries inherent risks of volatility and climate-related costs, renewable energy sources like wind and solar could create far more permanent and equitable job opportunities. These industries have the potential to stimulate local economies through widespread skills development, entrepreneurship, and the growth of green technologies. By prioritizing fossil fuels, Tetra4 diverts resources away from these more inclusive and forward-thinking alternatives, limiting the broader economic upliftment that South Africa's disadvantaged communities truly need.</p>	<p>As stated above, Tetra4 is the holder of a Production Right for gas resources and therefore it would be unrealistic to assess a renewable energy project as opposed to a gas production project.</p>

No.	Comment	Response
	<p>It is submitted that Tetra4 have not meaningfully addressed the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment's question about demonstrating that LNG is a bridging fuel. Natural gas remains an economic risk, to both the economy and local communities and its use cannot be justified.</p>	
6.	<p>The Free State remains South Africa's "breadbasket" due to its significant role in agricultural production, with the Lejweleputswa region being a key contributor. Maize is the primary crop grown in the area, although the region also supports a diverse range of agricultural activities. Agriculture is essential for the local economy, providing food security, employment, and contributing to the country's GDP through exports. It also serves as a vital driver for rural development, particularly in the context of a climate emergency, where food production is more crucial than ever.</p> <p>The Economic Impact Assessment included in the project's EIA notes that the proposed project could lead to the an erosion of farmland values. However, the assessment still fails to properly evaluate the broader impacts, such as the loss of employment for farm workers, who are already a vulnerable group. Furthermore, the project's effect on local tourism, a sector increasingly important as mining in the region declines, was also not adequately assessed. The Lejweleputswa District Municipality has identified tourism as a key area for economic development, yet the EIA disregards the potential for the project to harm this industry by permanently altering the landscape and disrupting the area's "sense of place," which is central to tourism activities.</p> <p>Given these gaps, the EIA does not provide a comprehensive evaluation of the project's full economic impact on the agricultural and tourism sectors. The lack of consideration for alternative energy options, such as renewable energy, and the failure to properly assess the adverse effects on local communities point to a broader neglect of sustainable development goals. As a result, the proposed project is likely to worsen poverty, unemployment, and inequality in the region,</p>	<p>It is noted that this comment is largely the same as the fourth ground of appeal that was subsequently dismissed by the DFFE Minister. No new material argument or evidence is provided in this comment and therefore we refer you to the applicants responses to the appeal and DFFE Ministers evaluation thereof which found that this argument is <i>"without merit and is accordingly dismissed"</i>.</p>

No.	Comment	Response
	exacerbating the very challenges it purports to address.	
7.	<p>The Appellants argue that the proposed project should not proceed due to South Africa's current inability to effectively ensure compliance with environmental laws and licenses for gas operations, particularly in terms of monitoring and enforcement.</p> <p>According to Section 50 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), the Minister responsible for Mineral Resources and Energy is tasked with implementing the provisions related to oil and gas operations. The Petroleum Agency of South Africa (PASA), designated under Section 70 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA), is responsible for recommending the granting of environmental authorizations and overseeing the monitoring and enforcement of compliance at gas operations. Additionally, the Minister has the authority to designate Environmental Mineral Resource Inspectors (EMRIs) under Section 31BB of NEMA.</p> <p>There are no EMRIs, the persons responsible for ensuring compliance with environmental management at mining operations, designated for the gas sector as of 2023. All 94 current EMRIs assigned to mining activities. Furthermore, PASA operates only one office in Cape Town, with no regional offices to provide oversight across the country.</p> <p>The Appellants contend that both PASA and the Minister responsible for Mineral Resources and Energy lack the resources and capacity to meet their obligations under Section 24 of the Constitution as well as NEMA, which requires the protection of the environment.</p>	<p>Thank you for this comment which is noted. It is understood that the PASA has been mandated by the DMPR to dispense with petroleum applications due to the existing institutional knowledge contained within the structures of the PASA. As per the Applicants response to the seventh ground of appeal (to which this comment relates), it was suggested that this comment be referred to parliament or directed to the appropriate authorities for further clarification. It is unclear based on this comment whether this matter has been referred by yourselves to the appropriate authorities.</p>
8.	<p>It is submitted that the revised Cluster 2 EIA does not meaningfully address the concerns raised by Dr. Marais and Dr. Campbell in their critique of the Climate Change Impact Assessment and the Groundwater Impact Assessment. The aspect of providing substantiation on the idea that gas is a bridging fuel has also not been addressed. Thus,</p>	<p>Thank you for this comment which is noted as a summary of the above comments. Kindly refer to the relevant responses provided above. It is the EAPs opinion that the shortcomings defined in the Ministers appeal decision have been addressed in the revised EIAR.</p>

No.	Comment	Response
	<p>together with the flaws in the public participation process, the need and desirability assessment, the impacts on agriculture and tourism and the lack of capacity to ensure compliance, monitoring and enforcement at oil and gas operations in South Africa render the revised Cluster 2 EIA a flawed document.</p> <p>We trust that our concerns will be duly addressed.</p>	

1 September, 2022

Our ref: BW/qm/1473

**Mr Gert Oosthuizen**

Dear Sir:

**RE: RESPONSE TO YOUR SCOPING REPORT COMMENTS**

Thank you for your comments submitted on the Scoping phase report. We appreciate the detail you provided and the questions you raised as these will assist us in sourcing the relevant information and answers which will allow us to have even more meaningful discussions during the upcoming EIA phase.

Kindly refer to Table 1 overleaf for our responses. Where information is not currently available to provide the level of detail you require, we will make every effort to source this information.

Sincerely,



**Brian Whitfield**

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Directors: L Whitlow, A Smith.

*Table 1: Comments and responses.*

Your Comment (Afrikaans)	Your Comment (English)	Response / Way Forward
<p>Ek voel dat die impak op grondeienaars, in meeste van die spesialis studie afdelings, onderskat is. Net om 'n paar voorbeelde te noem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Die impak van erosie, konstrusie en operasionele fases. (Gesien uit cluster 1 se 'rehabilitasie')</li> <li>• Indringerpante, alle fases. (Gesien uit Cluster 1)</li> <li>• Boorproses in Bewerkbare landerye en wildskampe (Ekonomiese impak vir grondeienaar)</li> <li>• Mangat-oppervlakte in landerye en wildskampe (Produksie vermoë en werksaamhede)</li> <li>• Bo-gronde kompressorstasies en aanjaagstasies. (Werksaamhede, sekuriteit, lewenswyse)</li> <li>• Impak op groundwater en waterkwaliteit. (cluster 1 is nog nie eers behoorlik aan die gang nie.)</li> <li>• Toegangspaaie op grondvlak, plaaspaaie (GROOT kopseer vanaf cluster 1)</li> <li>• Visuele impak en landskapkarakter, Plantegroei.</li> <li>• Versteuring van wild, (Konstrusie en operasioneel fases)</li> <li>• Lewensbestaan, sin van plek, toegangsbeheer, GRONDBESIT en GRONDWAARDE</li> <li>• Ekonomiese impak op grondeienaars, niks word eers genoem nie (Grondwaarde, vermoë om te produseer, Produskie)</li> <li>• Sosiale impak (Oorerflikheid van grond, aard van lewenswyse, Veiligheid)</li> </ul>	<p>I feel that the impact on landowners, in most of the specialist study sections, has been underestimated. Just to name a few examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The impact of erosion, construction and operational phases. (Seen from cluster 1's 'rehabilitation')</li> <li>• Alien and invader plant species, all phases. (Viewed from Cluster 1)</li> <li>• Drilling process in Arable fields and wildlife camps (Economic impact for landowner)</li> <li>• Low point drain manhole surface area in fields and wildlife camps (Production capacity and operations)</li> <li>• Above ground compressor stations and booster stations. (Jobs, security, way of life)</li> <li>• Impact on groundwater and water quality. (Cluster 1 is not even properly up and running yet.)</li> <li>• Access roads at ground level, farm roads (BIG headache from cluster 1)</li> <li>• Visual impact and landscape character, Vegetation.</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife, (Construction and operational phases)</li> <li>• Livelihood, sense of place, access control, LAND OWNERSHIP and LAND VALUE</li> </ul>	<p>Thank you for this comment on the list of impacts you feel have been underestimated in the Scoping Report. Please note that the purpose of the Scoping Phase and consultation process is to solicit feedback from affected parties in order to consider them further in the upcoming EIA Phase.</p> <p>We therefore confirm that we have taken note of your comment and the list of impacts you consider underestimated and will share this with our specialists for them to consider your inputs and re-evaluate their findings where relevant.</p> <p>The impact assessment presented in the Scoping Report is a preliminary assessment and your comments are considered extremely valuable in helping us focus on the impacts that require more detailed interrogation and whether suitable mitigation measures that are both feasible and acceptable to affected landowners can be put in place.</p>

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Your Comment (Afrikaans)	Your Comment (English)	Response / Way Forward
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic impact on landowners, nothing is even mentioned (Land value, ability to produce, production volumes)</li> <li>Social impact (Heritability of land, nature of way of life, Safety)</li> </ul>	
Op die verslag sien ons die impak voor en na maatreëls ingestel, maar dit is nie duidelik wat in ag geneem was om die impak te bepaal en daarna, watter maatreëls voorgestel was nie.	On the report we see the impact before and after measures were introduced, but it is not clear what was taken into account to determine the impact and afterwards, what measures were proposed.	Within the Scoping Report, the Impact Assessment methodology is included in Section 11.1 with each impact described in Section 11.2. Table 50 in Section 11.3 provides the detailed impact assessment for each impact where the nature, extent, duration, magnitude, reversibility and probability scores for both pre-mitigation and post mitigation scenarios are presented.
Die grondeienaars wat deur Tetra4 se Fase 2 gas eksplorاسie beïnvloed word is baie bekommerd oor die omvang en die invloed van hierdie projek. En tereg so. Hierdie projek gaan verrykende effekte op baie mense se lewens hê veral in die lang duur. Die idee om jou bate, jou lewens werk, jou vooruitgang, jou inkomste en jou nalatenskap oor te gee en potensieel af te teken laat die hare in jou nek regop staan.	The landowners who are affected by Tetra4's Phase 2 gas exploration are very concerned about the scope and the impact of this project. And rightly so. This project is going to have enriching effects on many people's lives, especially in the long run. The idea of handing over your asset, your life's work, your progress, your income and your legacy and signing away potential makes the hair on the back of your neck stand up.	Your concerns regarding the control over your assets is noted and therefore as part of this EIA process, we wish to have open engagement with yourself and all affected landowners to discuss what (if any) realistic mitigation measures we can develop or improve upon, and which will be legally binding on Tetra4 to achieve an amicable outcome for all.
Die algemene gevoel is een van onsekerheid. Nie een van die grondeienaars het 'n idee hoe Tetra4 die projek gaan aanpak ten einde hul doel te bereik nie. Ons verstaan die boer van gate (op ons grond), die installasie van pypleine (op ons grond) die oprig van aanjaagstasies (op ons grond) en die eindpunt van die plant. Die onsekerheid oor , hoe, wat , presies waar en wanneer, laat die toekoms maar donker lyk vir elke grondeienaar.	The general feeling is one of uncertainty. None of the landowners have any idea how Tetra4 will tackle the project in order to achieve their goal. We understand the drilling of holes (on our land), the installation of pipelines (on our land), the construction of compressor stations (on our land) and the termination of the plant. The uncertainty about, how, what, exactly where and when, makes the future look dark for every landowner.	Thank you for this comment as it provides the sought-after insight from yourself as a landowner into your material concerns. We shall interrogate this issue of uncertainty with Tetra4 in order to present to you (and all landowners) within the upcoming EIA phase as much detail as possible on the how, what, where, when, etc. This issue of uncertainty has been flagged by the social specialist has a high negative impact and therefore requires close scrutiny moving forward in the EIA process.
Hier is te make met komersiële landbougrond, wildsplase, veeplase en aftreegrond. Dit is	Here we are dealing with commercial agricultural land, game farms, livestock farms and retirement	Thank you for this comment. As mentioned above, we wish to have open engagement with yourself and



Your Comment (Afrikaans)	Your Comment (English)	Response / Way Forward
produktiewe grond wat deur harde werk bekom is en inkomste vir baie gesinne genereer. Dit is 'n bate, in sekere gevalle die enigste bate van die grondeienaars en dit word goed opgepas. Dit is 'n manier van leef, 'n voorreg. Enige inmenging van buite het 'n impak en die impak is altyd negatief.	land. This is productive land that has been acquired through hard work and generates income for many families. It is an asset, in certain cases the only asset of the landowners and it is well looked after. It is a way of life, a privilege. Any interference from outside has an impact and the impact is always negative.	all affected landowners to discuss what (if any) realistic mitigation measures we can develop or improve upon, and which will be legally binding on Tetra4 to achieve an amicable outcome for all.
Om 'n ope kontrak met bitter min spesifikasies, amper geen verduideliking en vir 'n onbepaalde tydperk Carte Blanche aan Tetra4 gee voor enige grondeienaar te sit is onbillik en onverantwoordelik. Elke kontrak moet 'n baie riglyn hê wat aanvaarbaar vir almal is waarna die detail persoonlik met elke eienaar onderhandel moet word aangesien elke situasie baie verskil.	Putting an open contract with very few specifications, almost no explanation and giving Tetra4 carte blanche for an indefinite period in front of any landowner is unfair and irresponsible. Each contract must have very clear conditions that are acceptable to everyone, after which the details must be negotiated personally with each owner as each situation is very different.	We will liaise with Tetra4 to discuss your concerns around the contractual arrangements and provide feedback during the EIA phase.
Hieronder volg 'n paar kwelpunte wat aangespreek moet word.	Below are a few points of concern that need to be addressed.	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Die basiese omvang van die projek moet verduidelik word.</li> <li>a. Diepte en roete van die pyplyn</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The basic scope of the project must be explained.</li> <li>a. Depth and route of the pipeline</li> </ol>	<p>With reference to Section 4.1 of the Scoping Report, and specifically to Section 4.1.3.2 where the pipelines detail is provided, the pipelines will be a minimum of 1.5 meters below ground level (to top of pipe).</p> <p>Due to the nature of gas exploration, the exact routing of the pipelines cannot be determined until the exploration drilling campaign begins and data on each exploration well is analysed. Once exploration wells are confirmed successful (i.e. adequate commercial gas volumes), the exact routing of connection pipelines and trunklines can be determined. It is for this reason that the current application is considering 300m wide pipeline corridors as indicated in Figure 6 of the Scoping Report (Section 4.1.1). A pre-requisite for the exact pipeline routing within these predefined corridors will be that the affected landowners be fully involved with the final route decision.</p>

Your Comment (Afrikaans)	Your Comment (English)	Response / Way Forward
b. Tydsduur en verloop van die drilling proses en instalasie proses.	b. Duration and course of the drilling process and installation process.	The drilling and installation process would be encompassed within the “construction” phase. This phase would commence in ~May 2023 and be completed by ~October 2025 (~2.5 years) as indicated in Section 4.1.11 of the Scoping Report. It is our understanding that you are looking for more specific detail in this regard and will therefore we engage Tetra4 to obtain more detail on the construction phase schedule and make this available to you in the EIA phase.
<p>c. Well heads/ bore holes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Ons as eienaars verlang meer inligting rondom die drilling process.</li> <li>ii. Kan meer as een borehole van dieselfde drillpoint geboor word?</li> <li>iii. Hoe lank neem die proses per borehole ongeveer?</li> <li>iv. Watter drillpoints is werklik van belang of word daar net gesoek na ‘n toegangsooreenkoms sodat Tetra kan voortgaan en doen soos hul goed dink?</li> <li>v. Verduideliking rondom die infrastruktuur by well heads.</li> <li>vi. Sketse moet voorsien word.</li> <li>vii. Wat as daar van ooreengekome infrastruktuur afgewyk word?</li> <li>viii. Kan meer as een wellhead vanaf een ondergrondse manhole bedryf word?</li> <li>ix. Gaan die borehole oop gelaat word vir ‘n sekere tyd na dit klaar geboor is of gaan dit dadelik per pyp weg gevoer word?</li> <li>x. Hoe word die wellheads aan mekaar gekoppel?</li> <li>xi. Wat gebeur as daar geen gas by ‘n borehole gevind word nie?</li> </ul>	<p>c. Well heads/bore holes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. We as owners want more information about the drilling process.</li> <li>ii. Can more than one borehole be drilled from the same drillpoint?</li> <li>iii. Approximately how long does the process take per borehole?</li> <li>iv. Which drillpoints are really important or are they just looking for an access agreement so that Tetra can go ahead and do as they see fit?</li> <li>f. Explanation about the infrastructure at well heads.</li> <li>vi. Sketches must be provided.</li> <li>vii. What if agreed infrastructure is deviated from?</li> <li>viii. Can more than one wellhead be operated from one underground manhole?</li> <li>ix. Will the borehole be left open for a certain time after it has been drilled or will it be piped away immediately?</li> <li>x. How are the wellheads connected to each other?</li> <li>xi. What happens if no gas is found at a borehole?</li> <li>xii. Will unproductive boreholes be re-examined later?</li> </ul>	<p>Your request for more detail is noted and while some of your questions are addressed in the Scoping Report, we will engage with Tetra4 to obtain more detail and make this available to you in the EIA phase.</p> <p>Kindly refer to Figure 13 in Section 4.1.3 of the Scoping Report for the engineering design drawing of a typical subterranean precast well chamber layout.</p>

Your Comment (Afrikaans)	Your Comment (English)	Response / Way Forward
xii. Sal onproduktiewe boreholes later weer ondersoek word?		
d. Blowers, Boosters en kompressors indien enige i. Posiesie van hierdie pompe ii. Aandrywing van die pompe, geen oorhoofse kraglyne iii. Indien elektriese kables benodig word, kabel begrawe saam met pype? iv. Infrastruktuur rondom hierdie pompe...sketse moet voorsien word. v. Instandhouding en bemanning van die pompe met klem op toegang en sekuriteit.	d. Blowers, Boosters and compressors if any i. Position of these pumps ii. Power supply to the pumps, no overhead power lines iii. If electrical cables are required, cable buried with pipes? iv. Infrastructure around these pumps...sketches to be provided. f. Maintenance and manning of the pumps with emphasis on access and security	<p>Your request for more detail is noted and while some of your questions are addressed in the Scoping Report, we will engage with Tetra4 to obtain more detail and make this available to you in EIA Phase.</p> <p>Kindly refer to Section 4.1.3.3 of the Scoping Report where preliminary detail is provided for the various stations along the pipeline network. Only the location of the 3 new compressor stations are certain at this time while the location of the blower stations, pigging stations and low point drains depend on the final pipeline location which in turn depends on the final production well locations. The compressor station locations are shown in Figure 6 (Section 4.1.1 of the Scoping Report).</p>
e. Posiesie van Kondensasie wells i. Posiesie moet dus al geïdentifiseer kan word. ii. Hoeveelheid en ligging van hierdie wells beïnvloed onderhandelings tot toegang. iii. Plan rondom die verwydering van die kondensasie water. iv. Volgens kontrak, nie meer as een keer per week nie...is dit per well of per roete van die honey sucker?	e. Position of Condensation wells i. Position must therefore already be identifiable. ii. Quantity and location of these wells influence negotiation over access. iii. Plan around the removal of the condensation water. iv. According to contract, no more than once a week...is it per well or per route of the honey sucker?	<p>Your request for more detail on the location of the low point drains (condensation wells) is noted and while some of your questions are addressed in the Scoping Report, we will engage with Tetra4 to obtain more detail and make this available to you in EIA phase.</p> <p>Only the location of the 3 new compressor stations are certain at this time while the location of the low point drains depend on the final pipeline location which in turn depends on the final production well locations.</p>
f. Monitering van pyplyn en infrastruktuur i. Frekwensie van besoeke ii. Toegang van personeel na reën is beperk. iii. Plan rondom instandhouding tot toegangsroetes. Na fase 1 is daar min rondom dit gedoen.	f. Monitoring of pipeline and infrastructure i. Frequency of visits ii. Access of staff after rain is limited. iii. Plan around maintenance in relation to access routes. After phase 1, little has been done around it.	Your request for more detail is noted and we will engage with Tetra4 to obtain more detail and make this available to you in the EIA phase.

Your Comment (Afrikaans)	Your Comment (English)	Response / Way Forward
<p>g. Sekuriteit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Plan rondom Sekuriteit ivm diefstal of vandalisme</li> <li>ii. Versekering teen die ontstaan van brande</li> <li>iii. Versekering tov skade tot grond, diere en eiendom van grondeienaar.</li> <li>iv. Beweerlikheidsplan tov lekkasie in die pyplyne of wellheads, aanjaagstasies en kompressors.</li> <li>v. Instelasie van hekke in lyndrade vir die beheer van toegang</li> <li>vi. Toegangs roetes oor grensdrade van en na buurplase.</li> <li>vii. Vervanging en herstel van drade en plaas infrastruktuur waar beskadig</li> <li>viii. Die grondeienaar dra nie verantwoordelikheid vir enige toerusting van Tetra4 nie.</li> </ul>	<p>g. Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Plan around Security in relation to theft or vandalism</li> <li>ii. Insurance against the occurrence of fires</li> <li>iii. Insurance against damage to land, animals and property of landowner.</li> <li>iv. Resilience plan in relation to leakage in the pipelines or wellheads, booster stations and compressors.</li> <li>v. Installation of gates in farm fences for access control.</li> <li>vi. Access routes over boundary wires to and from neighboring farms.</li> <li>vii. Replacement and repair of fences and farm infrastructure where damaged</li> <li>viii. The landowner is not responsible for any equipment from Tetra4.</li> </ul>	<p>Your request for more detail is noted and we will engage with Tetra4 to obtain more detail and make this available to you in the EIA phase.</p>
<p>h. Sonder die plan, schedule, 'n idee van toegang benodig en tydsduur van prosesse kan kontraksluiting nie bereik word nie.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Oeste op lande of toekomstige oeste moet in aanmerking geneem word.</li> <li>ii. Aard en gebruik van grond beïnvloed, moet ook in ag geneem word. Bv jagseisoen en saaigrond.</li> <li>iii. Tydsduur van drilling en installasie proses speel ook 'n rol.</li> <li>iv. Dit is onregverdig en onbillik om van grondeienaars te verwag om 'opsies' op hul grond (bate) oor te teken vir 'n onbepaalde tydperk.</li> <li>v. Geen tydperk vir die geldigheid van die kontrak word gemeld nie.</li> </ul>	<p>h. Without the plan, schedule, an idea of access required and duration of processes, contract conclusion cannot be achieved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Crops on fields or future crops must be taken into account.</li> <li>ii. Nature and use of land influence must also be taken into account. Eg hunting season and sowing land.</li> <li>iii. Duration of drilling and installation process also plays a role.</li> <li>iv. It is highly unfair to expect landowners to sign over 'options' on their land (asset) for an indefinite period.</li> <li>v. No period for the validity of the contract is mentioned.</li> <li>vi. Shouldn't the option to explore the land come to an end somewhere. The one contract now cannot</li> </ul>	<p>Your request for more detail is noted and we will engage with Tetra4 to obtain more detail and make this available to you in the EIA phase.</p>

Your Comment (Afrikaans)	Your Comment (English)	Response / Way Forward
<p>vi. Moet die opsie om die grond te eksploreer nie tot 'n einde kom iewers nie. Die een kontrak nou kan mos onmoontlik nie vir die leeftyd van die produksiereg en potensieël die hernuwing daarvan geldig wees nie.</p> <p>vii. Miskien moet die drill en instelasie proses as twee verskillende ooreenkomste gesien en hanteer word.</p>	<p>possibly be valid for the lifetime of the production right and potentially its renewal.</p> <p>vii. Perhaps the drilling and installation process should be seen and handled as two different agreements.</p>	
<p>i. Serwitiete</p> <p>i. Serwitiete registrasie is nie eerste keuse nie</p> <p>ii. Serwitiete verlaag die toekomstige waarde van enige grond. Dit kan veroorsaak dat grond nie in die toekoms verkoopbaar is nie.</p> <p>iii. Ooreenkomste vir serwitiete kan nie gesluit word voordat grondeienaars nie weet waar gas gevind is nie en waar pyplyne geïnstalleer word nie.</p> <p>iv. Dus sal die drilling proses eers afgehandel moet word waarna die roete van die pyplyne bepaal moet word.</p> <p>v. Sou 'n spesifieke pyplyn of wellhead nie meer in gebruik wees nie, moet die serwitiet gekanseleer word op Tetra se onkoste.</p> <p>vi. Tyd faktor rondom die kanselasie van 'n onproduktiewe pyplyn of wellhead serwitiet moet per kontrak ooreengekom word.</p> <p>vii. Serwitiete kan nie noodwendig as toegangsroetes gesien word nie.</p>	<p>i. Servitudes</p> <p>i. Servitude registration is not first choice.</p> <p>ii. Servitudes reduce the future value of any land. This can cause land not to be sold in the future.</p> <p>iii. Agreements for servitude cannot be closed until landowners know where gas has been found and where pipelines are being installed.</p> <p>iv. So the drilling process will have to be completed first, after which the route of the pipelines must be determined.</p> <p>f. Should a specific pipeline or wellhead no longer be in use, the servitude must be cancelled at Tetra's expense.</p> <p>vi. Time factor around the cancellation of an unproductive pipeline or wellhead servitude must be agreed per contract.</p> <p>vii. Servitude cannot necessarily be seen as access routes.</p>	<p>Your request for more detail is noted and we will engage with Tetra4 to obtain more detail and make this available to you in the EIA phase.</p>
<p>j. Kompensasie</p> <p>i. Moet gesien word as ongerieflikheids koste tov instelasie, instandhouding, monitering en algemene toegang tot privaat eiendom.</p> <p>ii. Kan ook gesien word as kontrak sluit koste.</p>	<p>j. Compensation</p> <p>i. Should be seen as inconvenience costs in relation to installation, maintenance, monitoring and general access to private property.</p> <p>ii. Can also be seen as contract closing costs.</p>	<p>Your request for more detail is noted and we will engage with Tetra4 to obtain more detail and make this available to you in the EIA phase.</p>

Your Comment (Afrikaans)	Your Comment (English)	Response / Way Forward
iii. Die onsekerheid van waar presies pyplynroetes en boreholes gaan wees maak die onderhandeling baie moeilik.	iii. The uncertainty of where exactly pipeline routes and boreholes will be makes the negotiation very difficult.	
k. Infrastruktuur op gate. i. Die presiese ligging van hierdie infrastruktuur gaan ook 'n rol in onderhandelings speel agv die verskillende gebruike van grond. ii. Dit is gekoppel aan die frekwensie wat toegang nodig is, sowel as die tye voertuie wat paaie gaan gebruik. iii. Eienaars moet insae hê op die finale posisie van infrastruktuur. iv. Aard van die infrastruktuur en afwyking vanaf die sketse, soos vroeër genoem, sal ook 'n verskil maak.	k. Infrastructure on exploration and production wells. i. The exact location of this infrastructure will also play a role in negotiations due to the different uses of land. ii. This is linked to the frequency that access is required, as well as the types of vehicles that will be using the roads. iii. Owners must have insight into the final position of infrastructure. iv. Nature of the infrastructure and deviation from the sketches, as mentioned earlier, will also make a difference.	Your request for more detail is noted and we will engage with Tetra4 to obtain more detail and make this available to you in the EIA phase.
l. Installasie proses i. Hoe lank neem die proses en wanneer neem hierdie proses aanvang? Direk na die drill proses op elke einaar se eiendom afgehandel is, of eers na alle drilling klaar is? ii. Geen vergoeding sal vir die stoor van masjienerie gedurende die installasie betaal word nie. iii. Werk kan van son op tot son onder geskied waarna geen werker op die plaas sal agterbly nie. Boete sal van toepassing wees. iv. Waar masjienerie wat vir die installasie gebruik word die paaie beskadig, moet ooreenkoms tussen die eienaar en Tetra4 bereik word tov hestel van die paaie	l. Installation process i. How long does the process take and when does this process start? Immediately after the drilling process on each owner's property is completed, or only after all drilling is finished? ii. No compensation will be paid for the storage of machinery during installation. iii. Work can be done from sun up to sun down, after which no worker will be left behind on the farm. Penalty will apply. iv. Where machinery used for the installation damages the roads, agreement must be reached between the owner and Tetra4 regarding the repair of the roads.	Your request for more detail is noted and we will engage with Tetra4 to obtain more detail and make this available to you in the EIA phase.
m. Toegangspaaie i. Toegangsroetes sal deur elke einaar van die plaas uitgewys word. Geen afwyking van hierdie roetes sal geduld word nie.	m. Access roads i. Access routes will be indicated by each owner of the farm. No deviation from these routes will be tolerated.	Your request for more detail is noted and we will engage with Tetra4 to obtain more detail and make this available to you in the EIA phase.

Your Comment (Afrikaans)	Your Comment (English)	Response / Way Forward
<p>ii. Serwitiete kan nie noodwendig as toegangsroetes gesien word nie.</p> <p>iii. Waar nuwe roetes gebou moet word sal onderhandeling tussen die eienaar van die grond en Tetra4 moet plaasvind.</p> <p>iv. Nadat toegangsroetes vasgestel en gebou is waar nodig, sal geen nuwe roetes deur Tetra4 gebruik of gebou word nie.</p> <p>v. Aangesien elke einaar sy eie manier van pad bou verkies, sowel as die moeilike vasstel van kostes, sal baie goeie onderhandeling moet plaasvind op individual vlak.</p>	<p>ii. Servitudes cannot necessarily be seen as access routes.</p> <p>iii. Where new routes are to be built, negotiations will have to take place between the owner of the land and Tetra4.</p> <p>iv. After access routes are established and constructed where necessary, no new routes will be used or constructed by Tetra4.</p> <p>f. Since each owner prefers his own way of building the road, as well as the difficult determination of costs, very good negotiation will have to take place on an individual level.</p>	

## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** Gert Oosthuizen <gert@optavit.co.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 August 2022 13:48  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Cc:** cindy@pracpro.co.za  
**Subject:** Tetra4 Cluster2 Scoping Report Kommentaar

Geagte leser.

Hiermee vol kommentaar oor die EIMS Scoping Report vir Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Projek.

Nadat die verslag gelees is het ek as geaffekteerde party (Eienaar Doornrevier 330 dele 1,2 en 3, Palmietkuil 328 deel 4 en Decier 642) 'n paar punte om onder u aandag te bring.

Ek voel dat die impak op grondeienaars, in meeste van die spesialis studie afdelings , onderskat is.

Net om 'n paar voorbeelde te noem:

- Die impak van erosie, konstrusie en operasionele fases. (Gesien uit cluster 1 se 'rehabilitasie')

- Indringerpante, alle fases. (Gesien uit cluster 1)

- Boorproses in Bewerkbare landerye en wildskampe (Ekonomiese impak vir grondeienaar)

- Mangat-oppervlakte in landerye en wildskampe (Produksie vermoë en werksaamhede)

- Bo-gronde kompressorstasies en aanjaagstasies. (Werksaamhede, sekuriteit, lewenswyse)

- Impak op groundwater en waterkwaliteit. (cluster 1 is nog nie eers behoorlik aan die gang nie.)

- Toegangspaaie op grondvlak, plaaspaaie (GROOT kopseer vanaf cluster 1)

- Visuele impak en landskapkarakter, Plantegroei.

- Versteuring van wild, (Konstrusie en operasioneel fases)

- Lewensbestaan, sin van plek, toegangsbeheer, GRONDBESIT en GRONDWAARDE

- Ekonomiese impak op grondeienaars , niks word eers genoem nie ( Grondwaarde, vermoë om te produseer, Produskie)

- Sosiale impak ( Oorerflikheid van grond, aard van lewenswyse, Veiligheid)

**Op die verslag sien ons die impak voor en na maatreëls ingestel, maar dit is nie duidelik wat in ag geneem was om die impak te bepaal en daarna, watter maatreëls voorgestel was nie.**

Die grondeienaars wat deur Tetra4 se Fase 2 gas eksplorاسie beïnvloed word is baie bekommerd oor die omvang en die invloed van hierdie projek. En tereg so.

Hierdie projek gaan verrykende effekte op baie mense se lewens hê veral in die lang duur. Die idee om jou bate, jou lewens werk, jou vooruitgang, jou inkomste en jou nalatenskap oor te gee en potensieël af te teken laat die hare in jou nek regop staan.

Die algemene gevoel is een van onsekerheid. Nie een van die grondeienaars het 'n idee hoe Tetra4 die projek gaan aanpak ten einde hul doel te bereik nie. Ons verstaan die boor van gate (op ons grond), die instelasie van pyplyne (op ons grond) die oprig van aanjaagstasies (op ons grond) en die eindpunt van die plant. Die onsekerheid oor , hoe, wat , presies waar en wanneer, laat die toekoms maar donker lyk vir elke grondeienaar.

Hier is te make met komersiële landbougrond, wildsplase, veeplase en aftreegrond. Dit is produktiewe grond wat deur harde werk bekom is en inkomste vir baie gesinne genereer. Dit is 'n bate, in sekere gevalle die



einigste bate van die grondeienaars en dit word goed opgepas. Dit is 'n manier van leef, 'n voorreg. Enige inmenging van buite het 'n impak en die impak is altyd negatief.

Om 'n ope kontrak met bitter min spesifikasies, amper geen verduideliking en vir 'n onbepaalde tydperk Carte Blanche aan Tetra4 gee voor enige grondeienaar te sit is onbillik en onverantwoordelik. Elke kontrak moet 'n baie riglyn hê wat aanvaarbaar vir almal is waarna die detail persoonlik met elke eienaar onderhandel moet word aangesien elke situasie baie verskil.

Hieronder volg 'n paar kwelpunte wat aangespreek moet word.

1. Die basiese omvang van die projek moet verduidelik word.
  - a. Diepte en roete van die pyplyn
  - b. Tydsduur en verloop van die drilling proses en instelasie proses.
  - c. Well heads/ bore holes
    - i. Ons as eienaars verlang meer inligting rondom die drilling process.
    - ii. Kan meer as een borehole van dieselfde drillpoint geboor word?
    - iii. Hoe lank neem die proses per borehole ongeveer?
    - iv. Watter drillpoints is werklik van belang of word daar net gesoek na 'n toegangsooreenkoms sodat Tetra kan voortgaan en doen soos hul goed dink?
    - v. Verduideliking rondom die infrastruktuur by well heads.
    - vi. Sketse moet voorsien word.
    - vii. Wat as daar van ooreengekome infrastruktuur afgewyk word?
    - viii. Kan meer as een wellhead vanaf een ondergrondse manhole bedryf word?
    - ix. Gaan die borehole oop gelaat word vir 'n sekere tyd na dit klaar geboor is of gaan dit dadelik per pyp weg gevoer word?
    - x. Hoe word die wellheads aan mekaar gekoppel?
    - xi. Wat gebeur as daar geen gas by 'n borehole gevind word nie?
    - xii. Sal onproduktiewe boreholes later weer ondersoek word?
  - d. Blowers, Boosters en kompressors indien enige
    - i. Posiesie van hierdie pompe
    - ii. Aandrywing van die pompe, geen oorhoofse kraglyne
    - iii. Indien elektriese kables benodig word, kabel begrawe saam met pype?
    - iv. Infrastruktuur rondom hierdie pompe...sketse moet voorsien word.
    - v. Instandhouding en bemanning van die pompe met klem op toegang en sekuriteit.
  - e. Posiesie van Kondensasie wells
    - i. Posiesie moet dus al geïdentifiseer kan word.
    - ii. Hoeveelheid en ligging van hierdie wells beïnvloed onderhandeling tov toegang.
    - iii. Plan rondom die verwydering van die kondensasie water.
    - iv. Volgens kontrak, nie meer as een keer per week nie...is dit per well of per roete van die honey sucker?
  - f. Monetering van pyplyn en infastruktuur
    - i. Frekwensie van besoeke
    - ii. Toegang van personeel na reën is beperk.
    - iii. Plan rondom instandhouding tov toegangsroetes. Na fase 1 is daar min rondom dit gedoen.

- g. Sekuriteit
  - i. Plan rondom Sekuriteit ivm diefstal of vandalisme
  - ii. Versekering teen die ontstaan van brande
  - iii. Versekering tov skade tot grond, diere en eiendom van grondeienaar.
  - iv. Beweerliksheidsplan tov lekkasie in die pyplyne of wellheads, aanjaagstasies en kompressors.
  - v. Instelasie van hekke in lyndrade vir die beheer van toegang
  - vi. Toegangs roetes oor grensdrade van en na buurplase.
  - vii. Vervanging en herstel van drade en plaas infrastruktuur waar beskadig
  - viii. Die grondeienaar dra nie verantwoordelikheid vir enige toerusting van Tetra4 nie.
- h. Sonder die plan, schedule, 'n idee van toegang benodig en tydsduur van prosesse kan kontraksluiting nie bereik word nie.
  - i. Oeste op lande of toekomstige oeste moet in aanmerking geneem word.
  - ii. Aard en gebruik van grond beïnvloed, moet ook in ag geneem word. Bv jagseisoen en saaigrond.
  - iii. Tydsduur van drilling en installasie proses speel ook 'n rol.
  - iv. Dit is onregverdig en onbillik om van grondeienaars te verwag om 'opsies' op hul grond (bate) oor te teken vir 'n onbepaalde tydperk.
  - v. Geen tydperk vir die geldigheid van die kontrak word gemeld nie.
  - vi. Moet die opsie om die grond te eksploreer nie tot 'n einde kom iewers nie. Die een kontrak nou kan mos onmoontlik nie vir die leeftyd van die produksiereg en potensieël die hernuwing daarvan geldig wees nie.
  - vii. Miskien moet die drill en instelasie proses as twee verskillende ooreenkomste gesien en hanteer word.
- i. Serwitiete
  - i. Serwitiete registrasie is nie eerste keuse nie
  - ii. Serwitiete verlaag die toekomstige waarde van enige grond. Dit kan veroorsaak dat grond nie in die toekoms verkoopbaar is nie.
  - iii. Ooreenkomste vir serwitiete kan nie gesluit word voordat grondeienaars nie weet waar gas gevind is nie en waar pyplyne geïnstalleer word nie.
  - iv. Dus sal die drilling proses eers afgehandel moet word waarna die roete van die pyplyne bepaal moet word.
  - v. Sou 'n spesifieke pyplyn of wellhead nie meer in gebruik wees nie, moet die serwitiet gekanseleer word op Tetra se onkoste.
  - vi. Tyd faktor rondom die kanselasie van 'n onproduktiewe pyplyn of wellhead serwitiet moet per kontrak ooreengekom word.
  - vii. Serwitiete kan nie noodwendig as toegangsroetes gesien word nie.
- j. Kompensasie
  - i. Moet gesien word as ongerieflikheids koste tov instelasie, instandhouding, monitering en algemene toegang tot privaat eiendom.
  - ii. Kan ook gesien word as kontrak sluit koste.
  - iii. Die onsekerheid van waar presies pyplynroetes en boreholes gaan wees maak die onderhandeling baie moeilik.
- k. Infrastruktuur op gate.

- i. Die presiese ligging van hierdie infrastruktuur gaan ook 'n rol in onderhandeling speel agv die veskillende gebruike van grond.
  - ii. Dit is gekoppel aan die frekwensie wat toegang nodig is, sowel as die tiepe voertuie wat paaie gaan gebruik.
  - iii. Eienaars moet insae hê op die finale posiesie van infrastruktuur.
  - iv. Aard van die infastruktuur en afwyking vanaf die sketse, soos vroër genoem, sal ook 'n verskil maak.
- I. Instelasie proses
- i. Hoe lank neem die proses en wanneer neem hierdie proses aanvang? Direk na die drill proses op elke einaar se eiendom afgehandel is, of eers na alle drilling klaar is?
  - ii. Geen vergoeding sal vir die stoor van masjienerie gedurende die instelasie betaal word nie.
  - iii. Werk kan van son op tot son onder geskied waarna geen werker op die plaas sal agterbly nie. Boete sal van toepassing wees.
  - iv. Waar masjienerie wat vir die instelasie gebruik word die paaie beskadig, moet ooreenkoms tussen die eienaar en Tetra4 bereik word tov hestel van die paaie
- h. Toegangspaaie
- a. Toegangsroetes sal deur elke einaar van die plaas uitgewys word. Geen afwyking van hierdie roetes sal geduld word nie.
  - b. Serwitiete kan nie noodwendig as toegangsroetes gesien word nie.
  - c. Waar nuwe roetes gebou moet word sal onderhandeling tussen die eienaar van die grond en Tetra4 moet plaasvind.
  - d. Nadat toegangsroetes vasgestel en gebou is waar nodig, sal geen nuwe roetes deur Tetra4 gebruik of gebou word nie.
  - e. Aangesien elke einaar sy eie manier van pad bou verkies, sowel as die moeilike vasstel van kostes, sal baie goeie onderhandeling moet plaasvind op individual vlak.

Hieruit is dit duidelik dat 'n hoë vlak van onsekerheid heers. Die omvang en skaal van hierdie projek is masief. Die aard van eiendom wat beïnvloed word sluit widing, jagplase, saaigrond en besproeiings grond in. Die vermoë van elke eienaar om inkomste te verdien uit sy bate, gaan verseker geaffekteer word en ons is glad nie gemaklik daarmee nie.

Die grootste bekommernis vir elke grondeienaar is die invloed wat hierdie Tetra4 projek op die waarde van hul bate, hul eiendom, hul grond gaan hê.

Ek glo u sal hierdie kommentaar nagaan en aanspreek.

Baie dankie.

Gert Oosthuizen  
0824193001



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## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Sent:** Friday, 03 February 2023 13:19  
**To:** Cindy Oosthuizen  
**Cc:** Gert Oosthuizen; Gert Oosthuizen; Cindy Oosthuizen  
**Subject:** RE: COMMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT  
**Attachments:** 1473\_Gert Oosthuizen EIA Response Letter.pdf

Good day Mr & Mrs Oosthuizen,

Further to your email and comments submitted below, kindly find the attached response letter for your attention.

Should you have any queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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8 Dalmeny Road, Pine Park,  
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ZA

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**From:** Cindy Oosthuizen <cindy@pracpro.co.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 January 2023 17:34  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Cc:** Gert Oosthuizen <ggj.oosthuizen@gmail.com>; Gert Oosthuizen <gert@optavit.co.za>; Cindy Oosthuizen <cinnaoost@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** COMMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT

2023 / 01 /24

Attention : Qaphela Magaqa

RE: COMMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME  
SUBMITTED IN RESPECT OF AN APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION BY TETRA4 FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER  
2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT NEAR VIRGINIA, IN THE MASILONYANA AND MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, FREE  
STATE PROVINCE

Dear Qaphela Magaqa

Kindly find attached hereto our comments and relevant annexures on the Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Programme for your consideration.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this email.

Kind Regards,



---

Cindy Oosthuizen  
Phone: (057) 212 9876  
Mobile: 082 450 1442  
Email: cindy@pracpro.co.za  
Web: www.pracpro.co.za  
Co Reg: 2015/257327/07

3 February, 2023

Our ref: BW/bw/1473

**Mr Gert Oosthuizen**

**Managing Director, Optavit**

Dear Sir:

**RESPONSES TO YOUR COMMENTS ON THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT**

Your comments on the Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Programme for the Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project dated 24 January 2023 refers.

We wish to thank you for your comments and continued participation in the application process.

Our responses to your comments are included in Table 1 overleaf.

Sincerely,

**Brian Whitfield**

**8 Dalmeny Road**, Pine Park, 2194 | **PO** Box 2083, Pinegowrie 2123, South Africa  
**T** (011) 789-7170 | **F** (086) 571- 9047

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**Directors:** L Whitlow, A Smith.

Table 1: Comments and responses.

Comment		Response / Way Forward
<b>i. Introduction</b>		
2.	I confirm that I am duly authorised to submit these comments on behalf of Optavit Boerdery (Pty) Ltd, the farming entity operating on the following farms and representing the following landowners: a. Portion 1 and 3 of Farm Doornrivier 330 owned by Jacobus Hendrikus Oosthuizen; b. Portion 2 of Farm Doornrivier 330 owned by Mandalay Trust; c. Portion 4 of Farm Palmietkuil 328 owned by Mandalay Trust; and d. Portion 0 of Farm Digito 642 owned by Mandalay Trust (the properties).	Noted.
3.	These comments are submitted in respect of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted for an Environmental Authorization (EA) by Environmental Impact Management Services (the EAP or EIMS) on behalf of Tetra4 (the Applicant) to undertake a gas production project on various portions of land, including the properties operated on by Optavit.	Noted. Your comments as well as these responses will be included in the documentation to be submitted to the Competent Authority for consideration and decision making.
4.	The EIA documentation was released on 02 December 2022 for comment by Interested and Affected Parties ("I&APs") by 24 January 2023 and therefore these comments are submitted within the period provided for public comment.	Noted.
5.	The principal comments on the EIA relate to the following main issues: a. Gaps and inadequate level of information in the EIA; b. Inadequacy of consultative processes; c. Negative impact significance for groundwater, farmland and landowners and land value; d. Inclusion of specific mitigation measures as conditions to the environmental authorization; e. Impacts on agricultural resources and landowner farming operations not properly considered; f. Biased Information in the EIA; and g. Inadequate and deficient consideration of needs and desirability.	These principal comments are noted here and discussed in detail in the sections below.
6.	We request that a copy of these comments be provided directly to the competent authority in this format in addition to them being included in your comments and response report. Kindly also provide us with the details of the responsible person at the Competent Authority.	We confirm that a copy of your comments in the format in which they were received (as well as our responses to your comments) will be incorporated into the EIA Report and submitted to the Competent Authority for their consideration. As requested, the contact details of the responsible person at the Competent Authority are Z Mazwana: +2721 938 3574 (info@petroleumagency.com) as provided in the acceptance letter of the application dated 4 August 2022 (Ref: 12/4/007).



Comment	Response / Way Forward
<b>ii. Nature of Optavit's Operations on the Properties</b>	
7. To give greater context to Optavit's comments on the Applicant's application for an environmental authorization, it is first necessary to provide a description of the numerous activities undertaken by Optavit on the properties.	Noted.
8. Optavit undertakes the following activities on the properties: a. A significant agricultural operation cultivating 1644 hectares of farmland and producing 11 508 tons of maize per annum; b. The maintenance of 400 heads of cattle; c. Farm maintenance storage and offices; d. Employment of 13 individual workers; e. Employee compound; and f. Homestead.	Noted.
9. Given the extent of the above Optavit activities on the properties, which fall under the production right held by Tetra4, it is evident that undertaking gas production activities will have a significant impact on Optavit's operations, the production of maize crops, the integrity of valuable infrastructure and machinery as well as nearby water sources.	The EIA clearly identifies and describes the nature of the intensive agricultural activities situated within the application area as included but not limited to the EIA Report Sections 9.4.2 – 9.4.4, 10.2.1.4, 10.2.2.4, 10.3 and 11). While Points 7 and 8 above are noted, kindly refer to our response to Point 29 below which elaborates on the compensation to be provided by Tetra4 for any loss of income/land use and furthermore that during the operational phase, the Cluster 2 project infrastructure will be located such that ongoing land use such as cultivation can coexist (with compensation provided on an annual basis for project servitudes).
<b>iii. Gaps and inadequate level of information in the EIA</b>	
10. The EIA itself is littered with a number of unknown variables and uncertainties which, in our view, renders the EIA premature as affected parties such as Optavit and the farm owners cannot ascertain what the impacts on their land will be and the EAP could not properly assess impacts in these circumstances. a. By way of example, the EAP notes that the Applicant cannot confirm where the well heads will be placed at this time, only that the exploration wells and production wells will be placed within designated 600 m wide corridors. This also means that landowners have no indication of how many well heads will be placed on their respective properties. Furthermore, where there are multiple corridors bisecting a single piece of land, very large areas of land fall under these corridors (for example, please see attached map depicting the spatial footprint of the exploration corridor on Portion 3 of Farm Doornrivier 330 marked "A"). Landowners are unable to determine the extent of farmland available to us	<b>Response to Point 10 (a):</b> The EIA has been compiled based on the best available information and where uncertainties or gaps were identified, these are clearly articulated in the report. We acknowledge the uncertainty in the final well and pipeline infrastructure and this is unfortunately an aspect driven by the nature of the resource. However the potential impact of these wells and pipelines has been identified and mitigation measures suggested which if applied will result in only a temporary disruption to farming during construction, whilst farming activities can then continue unabated during the operational phase. Where losses are directly attributable to the construction phase or even the operation phase these would need to be compensated by Tetra4.  Based on the nature of gas exploration and production operations, it is our understanding that the ability of Tetra4 to finalise the location of all proposed 400 exploration wells

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<p>which will be feasible to farm. There is simply insufficient specificity provided as to where these well heads will be placed and, accordingly, what the cumulative impact on landowners will be.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. I refer here to the email received from Mr Nick Mitchell dated 20 January 2023 (attached herewith marked “B”) wherein Mr Mitchell undertakes, on behalf of Tetra4, to “update our drilling location targets and issue new maps to each landowner depicting the selected collar position. This will substantially remove the uncertainty and risk detailed in the mail below for landowners as they will know exactly where Tetra4 intends to drill and route its pipeline, booster station and compressor station infrastructure”.</li> <li>ii. These updated location targets must be provided to the EAP and to I&amp;APs, particularly directly affected landowners, so that they are provided with an opportunity to properly assess and comment on same prior to the EIA report being finalised. Furthermore, it is necessary for the decision-maker to have sight of these updated targets and the comments by I&amp;APs before a decision on the EA can be made. It appears as if the availability of this information is imminent (although it is noted that yet again there is no timeframe regarding provision of this information) and therefore there is no reason why this information should not be included in the EIA process.</li> <li>iii. It is also noted with concern that the Applicant is unable to provide an indication as to how many well heads will be located on the properties. As there is no indication provided in the EIA as to how large the overall gas production project is intended to be, it is impossible to ascertain the intensity of operations on the properties. The spatial footprint of the production right area is of no assistance in this regard. Cluster I had a relatively large spatial footprint but entailed the construction of far fewer well heads on the properties than in Phase II. Now, as part of Phase II, the spatial footprint of the Cluster area is not much larger, but the intensity of gas production activities is evidently much higher than in Phase I. Landowners must be provided with clarity in this regard.</li> </ul> <p>b. In relation to the gas gathering network, the EAP is furthermore unable to provide confirmation of the following:</p>	<p>upfront is not possible. This is due to the iterative feedback of information from each exploration well into the exploration model for refinement of the model and subsequent predictive exploration plans. This was described in the EIA Section 1.3.1: <i>“As the exact location of exploration well drilling cannot be identified at this stage owing to the nature of exploration models being continually refined, this study has followed the approach of assessing well corridors (600 m wide or 300 m on either side of known target fault lines)”</i>.</p> <p>Section 4 of the EIA Report provides a detailed description of the various project infrastructure components and while that the exact positions of these wells cannot be spatially confirmed at this stage, the total number of wells and kilometres of pipelines has been described (~400 exploration wells, ~300 production wells and ~480km of pipelines). It is our understanding that these wells would be spread over the application area as indicated in Figure 6 of the EIA Report and not all clustered onto one or two properties however the exact number of wells on any particular property is not known at this stage and would be discussed with the individual landowner prior to commencement.</p> <p><b>Response to Point 10 (b):</b></p> <p>The pipeline routing connecting the wellheads to the remaining pipeline network is dependent on the final location of the wells. This is therefore subject to the final well siting and will follow the process of landowner negotiation prior to exploration/construction of the wells. The temporary or permanent access routes are similarly dependent on the final location of the wells and pipelines and therefore will also follow the process of landowner negotiation prior to exploration/construction of the wells. The locations of booster stations are again dependent on the final production well locations and therefore will also follow the process of landowner negotiation prior to final siting. The description of the booster stations is provided in Section 4.1.3.3 of the EIA Report which states that the “booster stations will be installed for each cluster of 7-10 wells which will feed pressurised gas via pipelines from the production wells to the compressor stations. The booster stations will occupy an area of 10 m x 14 m”. The typical designs for a booster station is included in Figure 16 of the EIA Report. The location of low point drains is dependent on the final pipeline routing and the drains would be in depressions (low points) in the topography. Tetra4 will investigate the use of nitrogen purging which would aim to reduce the number of required low point drains. The impact of low point drains has been assessed in a cautious manner and with the implementation of the management and mitigation measures can be reduced to an acceptable significance.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The pipeline routing which connects the wellheads and makes up the remainder of the gas gathering network.</li> <li>ii. Where temporary and permanent routes will be located in order to access the gas gathering network. This also means that the EAP and the landowners cannot identify access points on farmlands nor the cumulative impact of access control on security.</li> <li>iii. The locations of booster stations, how these booster stations will be powered, the design of these stations and the exact spatial footprint of same.</li> <li>iv. Where low point drains will be located or otherwise whether there is actually a need for low point drains as nitrogen purging may be employed in order to replace the need for these drains.</li> </ul> <p>c. It is critical that a higher degree of specificity is provided in respect of the above. In Phase I, certain designs such as those relating to well heads and compressor stations were found to be unfit for purpose by Tetra4. As a result, Tetra4 simply altered and/or overhauled these designs. The result was that the gas gathering network had a larger spatial footprint than was ever indicated to landowners as well as a far greater visual impact. This raises the concern that the uncertainties, gaps in information and general lack of details, specifically in relation to the layout and design of the gas gathering network, may be taken advantage of by the Applicant in order to make changes to same without having to observe the procedures provided for in the EIA Regulations for amendment of the EA and public consultation. An EIA should not result in the equivalent of a “blank cheque” where the applicant can establish whatever infrastructure they wish to in any location and make ad hoc changes without consultation or approval.</p> <p>d. Additionally, the EAP cannot confirm whether electricity for booster stations on farmland, or otherwise will be sourced directly from ESKOM or whether the Applicant will install solar panels. In the event that additional powerlines are required in order to link facilities to the grid, it is uncertain where these powerlines and pylons will be laid. In the event that solar power is employed, there is no confirmation as to how this will impact the project footprint.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. In both instances, the expansion of the project footprint and/or establishing new powerline routes and pylons will significantly impact farming activities, and the time and cost effectiveness of these activities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Response to Point 10 (c):</b></p> <p>An additional condition of authorisation has been added to Section 13.4 of the EIA Report which states: “If any deviations are to be undertaken from the designs and/or footprints of infrastructure or activities to take place outside of the assessed well or pipeline transects (as indicated in the EIA/EMPr), Tetra4 must follow due process in terms of applications for Amendments where such applications are determined to be required. The Competent Authority must be notified of any deviations and the required amendment process confirmed with the Competent Authority prior to implementing any deviations”. This will ensure that no deviations are undertaken without following due process.</p> <p><b>Response to Point 10 (d):</b></p> <p>Kindly refer to the EIA Report Section 4.1.8 in which the following is stated: "The booster stations will require 220 V (low voltage) and will be powered by either solar PV, LNG generator or municipal pole mounted transformers". Furthermore Section 13.4 of the EIA Report includes a requirement that "A revised landowner contract must be finalized prior to commencement of construction and Tetra4 will engage with each individual affected landowner regarding the detailed planned works on their properties" and “Tetra4 must take reasonable measures to prevent any disruption to the landowners’ use of the properties (e.g. farming, crops, pivots, crop-dusting safety limitations, etc.). Landowners/tenants should be compensated for loss of arable land in accordance with the landowner access agreements (contracts)”. Therefore all infrastructure to be placed on a particular property must be discussed with each landowner including taking cognisance of farming practices with a culmination of a formal agreement in writing prior to construction.</p> <p>With reference to Section 13.4 of the EIA Report (Recommendations for Inclusion in the Integrated Decision), significant emphasis has been placed on the requirement that Tetra4 consults with each affected landowner prior to construction to discuss and agree upon the final infrastructure locations with the culmination of a formal agreement. Through these requirements, it is possible to avoid, reduce, manage or mitigate the likely impacts relevant to any specific circumstance. It is the EAP’s view that the impacts of the Cluster 2 project will be mitigated to acceptable levels to all parties. These measures are considered in our opinion to provide adequate justification for the EIA Report to provide the Competent Authority with sufficient information to make an informed decision.</p>

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<p>ii. More specifically, any interruptions in and surrounding crops can greatly disturb the farming process. Power lines and pylons pose an obstacle to aerial crop dusting as planes are forced to pull up to avoid collisions. In so doing, the spray is dispersed resulting in less concentrated application on crops and inefficacy of application. The result is that manual labour must be utilised to ensure removal of pests and weeds. Both powerlines, pylons, and solar panels pose obstacles to various farming implements through restriction of movement. For example, ground based crop sprayers and cultivators lose navigable area. This is highly sophisticated machinery and with technological advancements, the impact may become greater where these machines increase in size.</p>	<p>To address your concern more directly, an additional mitigation measure has been added to the EMPr (Section 5.1.1 Item 27) which states: “The power source designs and location for the booster stations (e.g. powerlines, solar PV, etc) must be discussed and agreed with the landowners prior to finalisation of the booster station locations to ensure that no adverse impacts occur on ongoing agricultural activities (e.g. aerial crop dusting, restriction of movement of ground-based farming implements, etc.)”.</p>
<p>11. There are areas of the EIA where there is uncertainty as to whether the concepts of “exploration” and “construction” should be considered as separate and distinct concepts or one in the same. These concepts accordingly need to be strictly defined and referenced in order to provide I&amp;APs with clarity as to when certain activities will take place and when their input or co-operation will be required.</p>	<p>To clarify, exploration drilling falls within the “construction phase”. With reference to the EMPr Section 5.3.2 (Construction Phase) and Section 5.3.3 (Operational Phase), you will note that a statement is included in the operational phase table (Section 5.3.3) which clarifies that there are no operational phase management measures for this activity. Exploration drilling is temporary in nature, and it is therefore our understanding that the financial impact of exploration drilling will be compensated according to the “disruption fee”.</p> <p>For clarity in the EIA and EMPr, the following has been included in Section 13.4 of the EIA and Section 5 of the EMPr: “All references to “construction” in the EIA Report and EMPr shall be deemed to include commencement of a listed activity including all exploration related activities. The terms “construction” and “exploration” should be deemed to be synonymous in so far as they relate to temporary disturbance of the receiving environment”.</p>
<p>12. These are all issues which are material to the overall impact of the study with the result that affected landowners are placed at a significant disadvantage when providing comments on the EIA and EMPr in the absence of this information. This confusion significantly compromises the rights of landowners. To the extent that there are simply too many uncertainties in this project, it is submitted that this application is premature and we have not been placed in a position where we can fully comprehend and/or comment on the actual impact which the activities will have on each of the properties.</p>	<p>It is understood that your reference to the “uncertainties” relate primarily to the exact number and location of the various infrastructure components on your properties. It is important to bear in mind that Tetra4 cannot commence with the Cluster 2 gas gathering and production activities without an Environmental Authorisation whilst at the same time, prior to commencing the activities Tetra4 cannot provide final positions of all the wells due to the limitations described in our response to Point 10 above. Therefore the EIA has addressed these limitations by putting forward detailed conditions for inclusion in the decision to protect the landowners’ rights. These specific conditions include the requirement for negotiations and written agreements of where infrastructure is placed prior to construction as well as compensation for any loss of income.</p>

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	<p>Considering the nature of the drilling/ exploration to locate the resource and the fact that the specific locations are defined based on an iterative and progressive process the only other alternative would be undertake separate EIA's and EA's for each well or cluster of wells as and when they are defined. This would in our view create a situation where there are multiple piecemeal applications and authorizations which is likely to unreasonably burden the applicant, the authority, and the landowners. This iterative process would also not consider a cumulative impact of the overall Cluster 2 project. It is the EAP's opinion that the impacts associated with the activities can be reasonably predicted based on the high-level cluster 2 description and that relevant and reasonable management and mitigations measures defined which can ensure that the environment and the rights of the landowners are protected throughout the project lifecycle.</p> <p>An attempt has been made to identify sensitive areas to avoid, and to assess all potential impacts associated with the relevant activities following a risk averse approach to accommodate the location uncertainty. The suggested management and mitigation measures are similarly developed to be applicable irrespective of the specific locations which are eventually selected.</p>
<b>iv. Inadequacy of consultative processes</b>	
<p>13. Further to the above, I refer to regulation 40(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 ("EIA Regulations), which states the following:  <i>"The public participation process contemplated in this regulation must provide access to all information that reasonably has or may have the potential to influence any decision with regard to an application unless access to that information is protected by law".</i></p>	<p>Noted. It is the EAP's view that all information available to the EAP which has or may have the potential to influence the decision has been made available as part of the public consultation process and the associated reports.</p>
<p>14. To the extent that such information has not been submitted or is otherwise unclear, as illustrated above, the EIA is materially defective. The information which has been provided is not only inadequate for landowners to comment on the full impact of the project but is, furthermore, inadequate for purposes of the EAP conducting a full assessment of such impact as it does not allow for a "reasonable opportunity" to participate as envisaged by section 24(4)(a)(v) of NEMA.</p>	<p>Further to our responses to your concerns above, and with specific reference to our response in Point 12 above, the information provided in the EIA is as detailed as possible given the limitations of the gas gathering programme. The numerous recommendations for inclusion in the decision (EIA Section 13.4) will in the opinion of the EAP ensure that detailed consultation takes place prior to finalisation of the landowner agreements and furthermore will take place prior to commencement of construction.</p> <p>Section 24(4)(a)(v) of NEMA states: (4) Procedures for the investigation, assessment and communication of the potential consequences or impacts of activities on the environment – (a) must ensure, with respect to every application for an environmental authorisation-(v)</p>

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	<p>public information and participation procedures <u>which provide all interested and affected parties, including all organs of state in all spheres of government that may have jurisdiction over any aspect of the activity, with a reasonable opportunity to participate in those information and participation procedures;</u></p> <p>In this regard it is the EAP's view that reasonable opportunity has been provided to all I&amp;APs to review the information available and to participate in the EIA process.</p>
<p>15. It is further noted that, per regulation 2 contained in Appendix 3 to the EIA Regulations, "The objective of the environmental impact assessment process is to, through a consultative process... determine the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of the impacts occurring to inform identified preferred alternatives".</p>	<p>The Social Specialist assessment and specifically the social impacts relating to your concerns above, has elevated these concerns without detracting from the perceptions of landowners. The mitigation measures put forward for inclusion in the decision provide for stringent post authorisation negotiations between Tetra4 and yourselves prior to construction to ensure that any site-specific location or extent of infrastructure is minimised.</p> <p>With reference to Table 57 of the EIA Report, all identified impacts have been assessed in terms of the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of the impacts occurring. The process and associated report have been subjected to a through public participation process.</p>
<p>16. I am advised that this is also confirmed In the Constitutional Court case Bengwenyama Minerals (Pty) Ltd and Others v Genorah Resources (Pty) Ltd and Others wherein the Court found that consultation should provide the landowner or lawful occupier with the necessary information on everything that is to be done so that they can make an informed decision in relation to the representations being made. This includes informing the landowner in sufficient detail of what the mining or prospecting operations will entail on the land.</p>	<p>The EIA report provides a detailed description of the gas gathering and production project with specific focus on the scale/extent of each infrastructure component. The limitations on Tetra4 being able to provide firm locations of infrastructure and the process to be followed prior to construction is described in our response to Point 10 and Point 12 above. Considering the uncertainties around the location of the activities, the EAP is of the view that the potential impacts can be reasonable described, defined and consequently management and mitigated to an acceptable level. In our view the level of information provided in the EIA is adequate for the landowners to be able to make an informed decision on the likely impacts of the activist and that the management and mitigation measures suggested, and informed in large part by the landowners' consultations, are adequate to address the predicted impacts.</p>
<p>17. As landowners, we want to be meaningfully consulted with, however, in order to do so, we need to be fully appraised of all information necessary to determine the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of the impacts occurring. However, the EIA in its present form falls short of what is required under both NEMA and the MPRDA. On this basis, I contend that this application is</p>	<p>Each impact identified in the EIA has been rated according to the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of the impacts occurring. The uncertainty resulting from the inherent inability to determine firm locations of infrastructure has been taken into consideration by the EAP and specialist team in determining the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability assessments. The fine-tuning</p>

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premature and that an EA cannot be granted until the EIA and EMPr comply with the relevant legislative provisions.	of final placement of infrastructure is mitigated through the recommended conditions of decision where negotiations between affected landowners and Tetra4 must be concluded with signed agreements and agreeable compensation prior to construction.
<b>v. Negative impact significance for groundwater, farmland, landowners and land value</b>	
18. The first area of concern in this regard is the hydrogeological study, which confirms that the primary source of gas originates from the Witwatersrand Supergroup as well as the shallower Karoo sediments. Additionally, it is confirmed that the most significant impact of the project on the regional groundwater regime is deterioration of the potable Karoo aquifer water quality.	Noted.
19. The hydrologist proceeds to acknowledge that “groundwater is the sole water resource to the landowners and rural communities with[in] the study area”. However, the hydrologist further confirms that there will be a medium negative impact on water sources with implementation of proposed mitigation measures. After presenting this information, which showcases environmental sensitivities on water sources, how does EAP then come to the conclusion that the application should be granted? Particularly considering that this is largely an agricultural area which produces food for human consumption?	<p>Further to your extract from the Geohydrological specialist report, the following extracts from this specialist report are also of relevance in the overall conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “The hydrochemical results of the hydrocensus boreholes water samples analyzed suggest the overall ambient groundwater quality is good with most macro and micro determinants falling within or below the SANS 241:2015 limits. Groundwater can be described as neutral, saline to very saline and hard to very hard. The groundwater quality is impacted by the geological formations, which were deposited in shallow marine environments and are therefore naturally saline (Lea, 2017).</li> <li>• It is observed that most of the boreholes indicate elevated Nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>) concentrations. The latter may be attributed to the agricultural land-use activities dominating the greater study area with elevated NO<sub>3</sub> concentrations potentially derived from leachate of fertilizer to the local aquifer. It should be noted that elevated nitrate concentrations were also recorded in most of the hydrocensus boreholes identified during the initial groundwater study of 2017.</li> <li>• A total number of &gt;15 000 historical exploration wells have been drilled throughout the study area, some of which remain uncased and unsealed. The latter may act as preferential pathways and conduits for groundwater flow and contaminant transport mechanisms”.</li> </ul> <p>The following conditions relating directly to groundwater are included in the EMPr:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 5.3.1 Condition 7: “A hydrocensus must be undertaken within a 500 m radius around each future gas production target to confirm the presence of private boreholes that have not already been identified as part of the 2016 and 2022 hydrocensus. All private boreholes inside this zone must be visited and</li> </ul>



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	<p>inspected. The information gathered must be used to plan for, and implement, groundwater management measures. A photo must be taken of each private borehole within the 500 m radius for future record. The testing requirements for each borehole should be evaluated based on field conditions. A sound groundwater monitoring programme must be implemented in the hydrocensus boreholes that will be affected as well as in the newly drilled monitoring boreholes. Should the results of the monitoring programme indicate a negative impact on private groundwater users as a result of Tetra4's activities, alternative arrangements must be negotiated with the affected parties."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 5.3.2 Condition 14: "Drilling fluids should be environmentally friendly to prevent any harm to the environment or groundwater regime and should be kept in a lined mud pit or surface container."</li> <li>• Section 5.4.2 Condition 4: "A groundwater monitoring programme (to monitor gas pressure and potential leaks) must be implemented in the monitoring and hydrocensus boreholes to detect dissolved methane and ethane gas."</li> </ul> <p>The Geohydrological specialist study has not identified any fatal flaws in relation to the project and has further stated the following opinion: "It can be concluded that, should the prescribed mitigation and management measures, as stipulated in the groundwater management plan, be implemented and honoured, the impacts associated with the project phases can be minimised".</p> <p>In the unlikely event that the water supply and useability is detrimentally affected due to Tetra4s operations, Tetra4 must provide compensation or alternative sources as per the Condition 7 of Section 5.3.1 of the EMPr as well as the recommended conditions for inclusion in the decision (EIA Section 13.4).</p> <p>Therefore based on the findings of this specialist assessment, the historical impacts on groundwater resources and the continued utilisation of the groundwater by landowners and rural communities despite the historical impacts on groundwater in the area, the EAP is satisfied that the identified management measures are adequate to minimise the Cluster 2 projects impact on groundwater and therefore it is the opinion of the EAP that the application should be granted.</p>
<p>20. Further to the above, it is noted that the EAP identifies various areas which will experience a high negative impact, including landowners and land value. To this end,</p>	<p>As per your mention of the proposed mitigation measures that were put forward for the impacts on landowners and land value, your overall submission herewith (including your</p>



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<p>the EAP lists various mitigation measures which must be employed in order minimise the impact on these sensitivities.</p>	<p>“D – Table 1” is understood to provide agreement with these proposed mitigation measures.</p>
<p><b>21.</b> In the context of landowners, the EAP specifically references, inter alia, the following measures) which are commented on in turn below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Paragraph 6 on page 290 of the EIA states that “Temporary access and land arrangements must be made until there are more certainty on exactly where the wells will be. Servitudes should only be registered for productive wells [sic]”.</li> <li>b. Paragraph 4 on page 124 of the EIA states that “Exploration drilling sites will be negotiated and agreed with the affected landowners prior to final siting and appropriate compensation will additionally be agreed upon contractually and provided on an annual basis during construction and operations”.</li> <li>c. Paragraph 4 on page 273 of the EIA states that “It is recommended that construction and drilling be done outside the peak planting and harvesting seasons”.</li> <li>d. Paragraph 8 on page 365 of the EIA states that “Tetra4 must consult with landowners about any new work or potential changes that may take place on their properties”.</li> <li>e. Paragraph 5 on page 366 of the EIA states that “Tetra4 must engage with the affected landowners for consensus of the preferred final pipeline routing. The preferred or final routing will be developed (where possible) in conjunction with landowner for the respective property. The agreed upon routing must be attached to Landowner agreements as a sketch plan and indicate the provisional servitude area”.</li> </ul>	<p>Noted and responded to in Point 22 below.</p>
<p><b>22.</b> While these are arguably appropriate mitigation measures in the context of this project, Tetra4 has made clear statements in the process of negotiating the Cluster II land access agreements which show that these measures will not be complied with.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. In respect of paragraph 20 (a) above: Per the email received from Mr Nick Mitchell dated 20 January 2023 Tetra4 will not provide landowners with a temporary access and land agreement on the basis that “the program is funded by external financiers who require certainty on rights and access upfront before the program can commence”.</li> <li>i. This is not only in contravention of the mitigation measures stipulated in under the EIA but it is further one of only two mitigation measures provided in the social assessment conducted by Equispectives</li> </ul>	<p><i>It is understood that all your references to paragraph “20” in this comment should have reflected paragraph “21” and is responded to below with this understanding in mind.</i></p> <p><b><u>Response to Point 22(a):</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In your email to Ms. Mirna de Hart dated 19 January 2023 your request stated the following: “<i>Did you receive any feedback on the email I sent last week about the issue of separating the exploration agreement from the use, access and servitude agreement?</i>”.</li> <li>• Mr. Mitchell responded on 20 January 2023 as follows: “<i>The request to separate the agreement into an exploration agreement and a further access, use and servitude agreement is simply not possible given the program is funded by external</i></li> </ul>

Comment	Response / Way Forward
<p>Research &amp; Consulting Services in respect of mitigation of the impact of servitudes of landowners.</p> <p>ii. It is noted that this mitigation measure has not been incorporated into the EMPr despite the fact that it is identified in the social assessment as necessary to “protect the land rights and property values of the landowners”.</p> <p>b. In respect of paragraph 20(b) above: It is noted that compensation is provided for at paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 in the access, use and servitude agreement provided to landowners by Tetra4 for comment (attached herewith marked “C”). However, it is noted that the amount proposed by Tetra4 is wholly inadequate and cannot be negotiated without information regarding the extent of impact on each property. Firstly, while it is agreed that the so-called Disruption Fee amount should be higher than Servitude Payment due to the high impact of construction activities on agricultural activities, it is wholly insufficient to cover the entire construction period as it is a once-off payment only. Secondly, the Servitude Payment amount falls short of the losses that will be incurred by landowners as a result of production activities.</p> <p>c. In respect of paragraph 20(c) above: There is absolutely no reference in the access, use and servitude agreement to construction being outside peak planting and harvesting seasons, merely that Tetra4 will be entitled to access and use of the Working Area and subsequently the Servitude Area. There must, furthermore, be compensation where it is unavoidable that construction takes place during peak planting and harvesting seasons.</p> <p>d. In respect of paragraph 20(d) above: Tetra4 has not undertaken to consult with Optavit or the landowners regarding any new installations or changes which may take place on their properties.</p> <p>i. Rather, paragraph 6.1 of the access, use and servitude agreement states that “[i]f Tetra4 identifies a site other than the Servitude Area on the Property, subsequent to the Effective Date, and elects to commence with exploration or production activities on the identified site, as permitted by the Production Right, Tetra4 shall by no later than 21 (twenty-one) Business Days prior to the commencement of such activities: (6.1.1.) Give the Landowner written notice of its intention to commence with the exploration or production activities [emphasis added]”.</p>	<p><i>financiers who require certainty on rights and access upfront before the program can commence.”.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on a cursory review of the Tetra4 landowner agreement you shared (C – Access Use and Servitude Agreement), it appears that the temporary access and land agreement is included in the overall agreement covering construction (including exploration) as well as operational activities. Therefore it is our understanding that one single agreement is intended to cover all pre-construction, construction and operational phase agreements.</li> <li>Whilst the specialist has recommended a “temporary access and land arrangements” it is the opinion of the EAP that the “temporary access and land arrangements” are included in the contract and therefore this is in effect covered in the EMPr Sections 5.1.1, 5.2.1 and 5.3.1 as follows: “Landowners must be consulted, and all reasonable requests complied with. A written landowner agreement should be negotiated and concluded prior to commencement. Should this not be possible, a record should be kept of reasonable negotiations with the landowners.”</li> <li>The content of the landowner agreement is not part of this EIA study. The outcome of the EIA is to allow for a process of reasonable prior and informed consent between T4 and the landowners. In this regard, your attention is drawn to the recommended condition for inclusion in the authorization in Section 13.4 of the EIA namely: “Tetra4’s activities will cause a certain level of economic displacement for some of the affected farmers. In the event that the farmer disagrees with the compensation offered, the actual impact on their livelihoods must be assessed by an agricultural economist or suitably experienced third party. Compensation must be done according to international best practice”. It is therefore our understanding that the expected losses to the landowners and the land uses are limited if the management and mitigation is implemented.</li> <li>There was no intentional exclusion of certain management and mitigation measures from the EMPr. All specialist mitigation measures were included in the EIA and the EAP has cross checked the EMPr and updated with mitigation measures were relevant.</li> </ul> <p><b>Response to Point 22(b):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is our understanding based on review of the email you shared from Mr. Nick Mitchell, that Tetra4 wishes to engage with affected landowners on “specific</li> </ul>

Comment	Response / Way Forward
<p>ii. This is in spite of the fact that, per the Department of Mineral Resources “Guidelines for Consultation with Communities and Interested and Affected Parties” at pages 3 – 4, “consultation” means “a two way communication process between the applicant and the community or interested and affected party wherein the former is seeking, listening to, and considering the latter’s response, which allows openness in the decision making process” which is clearly not synonymous with “written notification”. It is noted that Paragraph 6.1 (6.1.1. included) is therefore inconsistent with the mitigation measures provided for in the EIA.</p> <p>e. In respect of paragraph 20(e) above: Not only has the final pipeline routing not been discussed and/or agreed to with input from landowners, but the provisional servitude area is not attached to the access, use and servitude agreement.</p>	<p>comments on the content and clauses” of the Access, Use and Servitude Agreement and that a meeting will be scheduled later in February 2023 to discuss this in more detail. This engagement by Tetra4 is in line with the specific recommendation for inclusion in the decision (Section 13.4 of the EIA Report) namely: “A written landowner agreement should be negotiated and concluded prior to commencement”.</p> <p><b>Response to Point 22(c):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your comment is noted, and your attention is drawn to the EMPr condition 10 in Section 5.6.1 of the EMPr which states: “<i>Adverse impacts on farming activities during the planting or harvesting season must be minimised as far as possible however should tangible impacts occur during these times, adequate compensation must be provided to the affected party</i>”. Irrespective of the other contracts and agreements Tetra 4 will be legally bound by these EMPr conditions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Response to Point 22(d):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The intention of Paragraph 8 on page 365 of the EIA (as presented in your Point 21 (d) above) is that any deviations to pre-agreed to activities must be further discussed through consultation with the landowners in terms of the definition of consultation as presented in your Point 22 (d) (ii). Irrespective of the other contracts and agreements Tetra 4 will be legally bound by these EMPr conditions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Response to Point 22(e):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requirements within the EIA Report (as per your reference to Paragraph 5 on page 366 of the EIA) are recommendations for inclusion in the decision. As a decision has not yet been issued, these recommendations are not yet legally binding. These recommendations are aimed at ensuring that final agreements are signed, with final infrastructure locations, routings, servitudes etc agreed to, prior to construction commencing on a particular property.</li> </ul> <p><b>Concluding Response to Point 22:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is understood that many of your concerns relate to the landowner agreement in its current form. Within Section 13.4 of the EIA (Recommendations for Inclusion in Integrated Decision) a specific requirement has been included to address these contractual concerns as follows: “<i>A revised landowner contract must be finalized</i>”</li> </ul>

Comment	Response / Way Forward
	<p><i>prior to commencement of construction and Tetra4 will engage with each individual affected landowner regarding the detailed planned works on their properties."</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Once a decision is issued, Tetra4 must comply with the legal requirements of the decision as well as the EMPr.</li> </ul>
<p>23. The above is in spite of the fact that Mr Mitchell, on behalf of Tetra4, claims in his email of 20 January 2023 that the Applicant has gone "above and beyond" to accommodate landowners.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>24. It is notable that, at page 394 of the EIA, the EAP specifically states that "[t]he findings of the specialist studies conclude that there are no environmental fatal flaws that should prevent the proposed project from proceedings, <u>provided that the recommended mitigation and management measures are implemented</u> [emphasis added]". To the extent that Tetra4 has already shown non-compliance with the recommended mitigation measures and has further confirmed that they cannot comply with such measures, we contend that the application for an EA is fatally flawed as it currently stands.</p>	<p>A decision has not yet been issued; however it is expected that once a decision is reached, and should such decision be to issue the EA, then the requirements of the decision and the EMPr would be legally binding on T4.</p>
<p><b>vi. Inclusion of specific mitigation measures as conditions to the environmental authorization</b></p>	
<p>25. Once the aforementioned uncertainties in the EIA have been resolved, included and properly assessed and reported on, this will place I&amp;APs in a position to properly consider and comment on the content of same. That being said, there are various further elements which should be incorporated into the conditions to the EA, as and when it is issued, in order to provide greater certainty to these parties, particularly landowners. To this end, I refer to "Table 1: Mitigation Measure to be Incorporated into Conditions to Environmental Authorization" (attached herewith marked "D") which lists such items and where they are mentioned within the EIA and EMPr.</p>	<p>It was the intention of the EAP and the EIA that the recommendations of the specialist studies be included as compliance obligations in any consequent EA (either specifically or by virtue of their inclusion in the EMPr). However, for the purpose of clarity your Table 1 suggested additional conditions from the specialist reports have been incorporated into Section 13.4 of the EIA Report as recommendations for inclusion in the decision.</p>
<p>26. Firstly, while I note that the EIA and EMPr do recommend various measures that must be taken to attempt to ensure the effective rehabilitation of project area both during construction and decommissioning, it is also noted that rehabilitation efforts under Cluster I were undertaken on much the same terms as those proposed for Cluster II. The issue here is that there has been widespread discontent amongst landowners with the manner in which rehabilitation has been carried out under Cluster I. As such, the rehabilitation measures outlined at items 7 – 9 of Table 1 must be incorporated into the conditions to any EA which may be issued at a later stage in order to ensure effective implementation and enforcement.</p>	<p>Your Table 1 suggested additional conditions (including items 7 – 9 of your Table 1) have been incorporated into Section 13.4 of the EIA Report as recommendations for inclusion in the decision.</p>

Comment	Response / Way Forward
<p><b>27. Further to the above, I highlight the following passage extracted from the Executive Summary of the social assessment:</b></p> <p><i>“One of the most significant potential social impacts associated with the proposed project is the potential impacts on livelihoods of the farming community. There are high levels of uncertainty about exactly how the Cluster 2 project will unfold. Farmers fear that their land rights and property values will be affected. The project will require access to farms, and because of the current socio-political issues in South Africa, this is a sensitive matter. Farmers are concerned about the impact of the Cluster 2 project on their existing way of life, and on the infrastructure on their farms. Although they are appreciative of Tetra4’s efforts to communicate with them, there has been instances where the communication was insufficient, of where some of the Tetra4 staff have not followed procedures that was agreed to. A number of stakeholder groups will be affected by the proposed project, and the most affected groups are the farmers and farm workers. Although the Tetra4 project will have a positive economic impact in South Africa, the direct benefit for the local communities is limited. The job creation benefits, both primary and secondary are not significant. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that the local social impacts must be managed and monitored to the best of Tetra4’s ability, since the parties who pay the social cost of the development will not be beneficiaries of the development. Equispectives Social Impact Assessment Tetra4 Cluster 2 Project, Lejweleputswa District Municipality, April 2022</i></p> <p>Based on the findings of this study, the following key recommendations are made:</p> <p><i>There is a possibility that Tetra4’s activities will cause economic displacement for some of the affected farmers. The actual impact on their livelihoods must be assessed by an agricultural economist and compensation must be done according to international best practice;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>o There are several questions from the landowners that Tetra4 should respond to in writing before any contracting can proceed. These questions are related to timeframes and the construction phase;</i></li> </ul>	<p>This extract from the Social Impact Assessment Report is noted and responded to in Point 28 below.</p>

Comment	Response / Way Forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>The impacts of servitudes on the land value of the affected properties must be considered and mitigated by means of negotiation. If the negotiation process is unsuccessful, it must be arbitrated by a lawyer with knowledge about environmental law, the MPRDA and property law. This should be a last resort;</i></li> <li>o <i>Farm safety must be a priority and the landowners and Tetra must agree on security measures;</i></li> <li>o <i>Tetra4 must consult with landowners about any new work or potential changes that may take place on their properties;</i></li> <li>o <i>Protocols on farm access, compensation, communication, and road maintenance must be agreed upon and be in place before construction commences. The affected landowners must have input in the development of these protocols;</i></li> <li>o <i>A grievance mechanism and claims procedure must be in place and shared with all the stakeholders before the construction commences; and</i></li> <li>o <i>A special meeting must be conducted with farm workers and other vulnerable parties, in their mother languages, to ensure that they understand the technical and safety aspects of the project. The potential impact on the livelihoods of some of the directly affected farmers will be severe.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>This will have a spinoff impact on farm workers, food security and the local Equispectives Social Impact Assessment Tetra4 Cluster 2 Project, Lejweleputswa District Municipality, April 2022 iii economy. <u>Every possible measure must be implemented to ensure that the production of the farmers is not permanently impacted. The project can only be recommended if the livelihood impacts are mitigated and managed successfully</u> [emphasis added]."</i></p>	
<p>28. This clearly illustrates that due caution must be exercised in decisions which impact landowners and that the decision-maker should adopt a precautionary approach in this regard. To this end, should the decision-maker proceed to issue an EA, at the very least, all of the social mitigation measures listed in Table 1 should be included as conditions to same and as preconditions to the commencement of construction.</p>	<p>It is our understanding that all conditions in the EIA as well as specialist reports will become legally binding should the Competent Authority issue a positive decision (EA). The requirements of the Social study have been captured and included in the EIA and EMPr.</p>
<p><b>vii. Impacts on agricultural resources and landowner farming operations not properly considered</b></p>	

Comment	Response / Way Forward
<p>29. It must be highlighted that one of the areas that will experience the highest negative impact is the social impact of the project, which includes livelihoods and land values. It is important to note that a significant proportion of the “livelihoods” and “land values” referred to in this context are farmers and farms. It is accordingly a major concern that future gas production activities would come at the expense of the current land-use i.e. agriculture. In this regard, we highlight the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment’s recent appeal decision in the appeal against the decision to grant an Integrated EA to Anglo Operations (Pty) Ltd in respect of a mining right application (reference: LSA 181971). In this case, the Minister set aside the decision to grant the EA on the basis that she found that it is imperative to preserve the current land use, namely commercial agriculture. The land use for this EA application shares many similarities with the appeal decision by the Minister of Forestry Fisheries and Environment. Most significant in this regard is that possible future gas production activities may impact the economic viability of farms in the area and therefore food security in South Africa. In effect, the gas producing operation may sterilize the land from an economic perspective.</p>	<p>The impacts of livelihoods and land values has been identified in the EIA Report as one of the key potential impacts of the project. Therefore significant emphasis has been placed on including relevant mitigation measures into the decision and EMP to ensure that the impacts on current land use and the current landowners’ activities is minimised. While the activities may pose a temporary and limited disruption to current land use, the inclusion of fair compensation has also been included as mitigation. During the operational phase, the Cluster 2 pipelines will be below ground (&gt;1.5m below surface) which will allow continued agricultural land use over the pipeline servitudes while compensation for the pipeline servitude will continue to be paid on an annual basis for the life of operations. Furthermore, well chambers and booster stations will be located outside of cultivated land to prevent becoming obstacles to farming machinery and implements.</p> <p>The detailed surrounding the referenced Anglo EA application are unknown- however in general opencast mining operations are in our view significantly different to the activities be proposed by Tetra4 and specifically in so far as direct impact on land-use is concerned. It is our view that should the management and mitigation measures be implemented, there is a reasonable expectation that the farming land uses can continue in parallel with the production activities.</p>
<p>30. The EAP emphasizes the fact that a number of the impacts of this project will not be permanent (the project life is limited to 20 years) and will be reversed upon decommissioning, yet the impact on agricultural activities will likely be irreversible, where farmers are forced to scale down or cease operations and the impacts on their farms are not properly rehabilitated. As such, why did the EIA not highlight that only limited short-lived gains will be realised from potential mining where economical reserves are present, while the impact on the use of the land for commercial crop-growing purposes will be long-term, or even permanent. Moreover, why did the EAP not consider the impacts on food security which the project may have?</p>	<p>It is unclear which specific impacts on the use of the land for commercial crop production are deemed to be long term and permanent.</p> <p>With reference to Table 57 of the EIA report, none of the impacts have been deemed to be “irreversible”. As per the response to Point 29 above, the project will not result in the permanent sterilization of land.</p> <p>With reference to Table 49 of the EIA report, the impact assessment methodology definition of “duration” considers a “permanent” duration when the impact is greater than 65 years. As the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of this project will occur in less than 65 years, no permanent scores were assigned to impacts as presented in Table 57 of the EIA report.</p> <p>The impact on food security was not raised by any I&amp;AP’s (including yourself) during the scoping phase comment period. As the project has a very limited footprint in terms of construction disruption and fair compensation to landowners is to be provided for this temporary disruption, the impact on food security is not deemed to have a measurable impact. Furthermore, as detailed in the response to Point 29 above, the current agricultural crop production will be able to continue during the Cluster 2 operational phase which will not impact in any material way on food security.</p>



Comment	Response / Way Forward
<p>31. While the EAP indeed considers the option of not implementing the proposed activity, the argument is entirely one-sided. Most notably, the EAP entirely overlooks the current land use of the property, i.e. agriculture, and the specific potential negative impacts which gas exploration and gas production could have on same. Instead, it clearly favours the gas production option and the economic benefits arising from same, focusing only on the perceived negative economic effects if production were not to take place. It therefore fails to mention any of the positive implications of not fragmenting or disturbing the agricultural land in question. These positives include the preservation of the agricultural land that will continue to produce food for many more years and the associated socio-economic benefits associated with same. Why has the EAP presented such a one-sided view (with the exception of the social impact assessment) in favour of production versus the no-go option, particularly in light of the present land use?</p>	<p>The statement that the EAP has entirely overlooked the impact on the current land-uses is incorrect. The current land use of various properties and specifically agricultural land use is acknowledged in the EIA Report in numerous sections (e.g.: Sections 6.4, 7.1, 8.1, 9.4, 9.7, 9.13.2.1, 9.14.2, 9.16.2, 10.2.1.5, 10.2.1.9, 10.2.2.5, 10.2.2.8, 10.2.3.4, 10.2.3.7, 11 and 13.1.10). Furthermore the potential negative impacts on the current land use including agriculture are detailed in the EIA Report impact assessment (Section 10.2) with specific focus on providing numerous mitigation measures to prevent adverse impacts on current land use activities (refer to EIA Report Section 13.4 as well as EMPr mitigation measures).</p> <p>It is our view, based on the specialist findings that should the mitigation and management measures be implemented that it is reasonable to expect that both land uses can continue in parallel in the area with the associated benefits attached to each being realised.</p>
<p><b>viii. Biased Information in the EIA</b></p> <p>32. It is noted that the EIA, specifically in the motivation or need for this project provided at page 1, is premised on liquid natural gas (LNG) being a “cleaner” alternative to coal and oil. This is apparently due to the fact that it is accepted that LNG produces less carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) than these fossil fuels. This should not, however, detract from the fact that LNG is nevertheless a fossil fuel which produces a significant amount of greenhouse gases (GHGs). More specifically, LNG primarily produces methane (CH<sub>4</sub>). The issue here is that methane itself has a far higher global warming potential than carbon dioxide. In fact, over a 20year period, methane is 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Thus, it is potentially misleading for the EAP to rely on the rhetoric of the LNG portion of the project being a “cleaner burning” source of energy when it is still a significant contributor to climate change.</p>	<p>Within Section 6.3.1 of the Need and Desirability section of the EIA Report, it is acknowledged that natural gas is “a potent greenhouse gas and major contributor to global warming”. A Climate Change Assessment (CCA) was undertaken as part of the EIA which assessed not only the Scope 1 emissions as required in terms of the DFFE guidelines but included Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions. This CCA study identified that the main source of Scope 3 emissions would be the end use of the LNG. However as LNG would be replacing other fuels already in use, there would be a reduction in indirect GHG emissions of 85 960 tons per annum as detailed in Table 47 of the EIA Report.</p> <p>While it is acknowledged that atmospheric methane is a more potent GHG than CO<sub>2</sub>, there is no intention to simply release the methane into the atmosphere.</p>
<p><b>ix. Inadequate and deficient consideration of needs and desirability</b></p> <p>33. It is noted that the motivations provided for by the EAP in respect of the needs and desirability of the project are not juxtaposed against the potential loss of agriculturally related jobs that would occur on the properties as well as on neighboring properties due to the fragmentation, sterilization and deterioration of crop land and loss of productivity. Moreover, there is no assessment of the food security impact that would occur if gas exploration and gas production were to take place, and which could have a significant impact on maize production in South Africa as well as on the surrounding agricultural activities.</p> <p>Why did the EAP not undertake this comparative analysis?</p>	<p>Kindly refer to the response provided in Point 30 above.</p> <p>It is our view, based on the specialist findings that should the mitigation and management measures be implemented that it is reasonable to expect that both land uses can continue in parallel in the area with the associated benefits attached to each being realised.</p>



Comment	Response / Way Forward
34. Moreover, the EAP indeed acknowledges that there will be a high negative impact on the local economy upon decommissioning of the plant. This would be exacerbated where farms have been forced to scale down or cease operations due to gas production on farmland. The EAP fails to engage with these issues when considering the needs and desirability of the project.	Kindly refer to the response provided in Point 29 above.
<b>x. Conclusion</b>	
35. I hereby confirm that we have recently sought the assistance of specialist legal counsel and have been directed to request certain documentation from the Applicant, which has been attended to. I accordingly reserve the right to supplement these comments within a reasonable time period upon receipt of these documents in response to any new information which may come to light.	Noted.
36. It is my respectful opinion that the requested environmental authorization cannot be granted on the basis of the current content of the EIA and EMPr and it is our suggestion that the application needs to be updated with at least the following information before it can be properly assessed by the EAP and considered by I&AP's and the Competent Authority: a. Locations and number of exploration and production well heads on each property; b. Pipeline layout with coordinates; c. Power sources for booster stations; d. Location of low point drains or otherwise whether nitrogen purging will be employed.	Kindly refer to the response provided in Points 10 and 12 above.  Although there are uncertainties the EAP is of the opinion that the impacts associated with the activities in general and in the context of the broader area have been adequately identified, assessed and reasonable management and mitigation measures suggested to reduce the expected impact to an acceptable level.
37. Until this information is provided, this application must be considered premature as the EAP and the specialists are unable to consider the full impact of the project and I&APs. More particularly landowners are not place in a position where they can comment on same.	Kindly refer to the response provided in Points 10 and 12 above.
38. Notwithstanding the above, I confirm that it is our firm desire to find a way for our farms to coexist in a viable manner with the Tetra4 project, as well as any future owners of the gas production operation.	Noted.
39. Kindly provide written confirmation of receipt of these comments within 5 days of the date hereof and confirm that we will receive responses to such comments and that the comments and responses thereto will be submitted to the Competent Authority in the manner requested above.	With reference to our acknowledgement email dated 25 January 2023 we confirmed receipt of your comments. We also confirmed that your original verbatim comments as well as our responses thereto would be submitted to the Competent Authority for their consideration.
<b>END</b>	



# OPTAVIT BOERDERY (PTY) LTD

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## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Att: Qaphela Magaqa

Per email: [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)

24 January 2023

Dear Qaphela Magaqa

**RE: COMMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME SUBMITTED IN RESPECT OF AN APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION BY TETRA4 FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT NEAR VIRGINIA, IN THE MASILONYANA AND MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, FREE STATE PROVINCE**

### i. Introduction

2. I confirm that I am duly authorised to submit these comments on behalf of Optavit Boerdery (Pty) Ltd, the farming entity operating on the following farms and representing the following landowners:
  - a. Portion 1 and 3 of Farm Doornrivier 330 owned by Jacobus Hendrikus Oosthuizen;
  - b. Portion 2 of Farm Doornrivier 330 owned by Mandalay Trust;
  - c. Portion 4 of Farm Palmietkuil 328 owned by Mandalay Trust; and
  - d. Portion 0 of Farm Digito 642 owned by Mandalay Trust **(the properties)**.

3. These comments are submitted in respect of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted for an Environmental Authorization (EA) by Environmental Impact Management Services (**the EAP or EIMS**) on behalf of Tetra4 (**the Applicant**) to undertake a gas production project on various portions of land, including the properties operated on by Optavit.
4. The EIA documentation was released on 02 December 2022 for comment by Interested and Affected Parties ("**I&APs**") by 24 January 2023 and therefore these comments are submitted within the period provided for public comment.
5. The principal comments on the EIA relate to the following main issues:
  - a. Gaps and inadequate level of information in the EIA;
  - b. Inadequacy of consultative processes;
  - c. Negative impact significance for groundwater, farmland and landowners and land value;
  - d. Inclusion of specific mitigation measures as conditions to the environmental authorization;
  - e. Impacts on agricultural resources and landowner farming operations not properly considered;
  - f. Biased Information in the EIA; and
  - g. Inadequate and deficient consideration of needs and desirability.
6. We request that a copy of these comments be provided directly to the competent authority in this format in addition to them being included in your comments and response report. Kindly also provide us with the details of the responsible person at the Competent Authority.

**ii. Nature of Optavit's Operations on the Properties**

7. To give greater context to Optavit's comments on the Applicant's application for an environmental authorization, it is first necessary to provide a description of the numerous activities undertaken by Optavit on the properties.

8. Optavit undertakes the following activities on the properties:
  - a. A significant agricultural operation cultivating 1 644 hectares of farmland and producing 11 508 tons of maize per annum;
  - b. The maintenance of 400 heads of cattle;
  - c. Farm maintenance storage and offices;
  - d. Employment of 13 individual workers;
  - e. Employee compound; and
  - f. Homestead.
  
9. Given the extent of the above Optavit activities on the properties, which fall under the production right held by Tetra4, it is evident that undertaking gas production activities will have a significant impact on Optavit's operations, the production of maize crops, the integrity of valuable infrastructure and machinery as well as nearby water sources.

**iii. Gaps and inadequate level of information in the EIA**

10. The EIA itself is littered with a number of unknown variables and uncertainties which, in our view, renders the EIA premature as affected parties such as Optavit and the farm owners cannot ascertain what the impacts on their land will be and the EAP could not properly assess impacts in these circumstances.
  - a. By way of example, the EAP notes that the Applicant cannot confirm where the well heads will be placed at this time, only that the exploration wells and production wells will be placed within designated 600 m wide corridors. This also means that landowners have no indication of how many well heads will be placed on their respective properties. Furthermore, where there are multiple corridors bisecting a single piece of land, very large areas of land fall under these corridors (for example, please see attached map depicting the spatial footprint of the exploration corridor on Portion 3 of Farm Doornrivier 330 marked "A"). Landowners are unable to determine the extent of farmland available to us which will be feasible to farm. There is simply insufficient

specificity provided as to where these well heads will be placed and, accordingly, what the cumulative impact on landowners will be.

- i. I refer here to the email received from Mr Nick Mitchell dated 20 January 2023 (attached herewith marked "**B**") wherein Mr Mitchell undertakes, on behalf of Tetra4, to *"update our drilling location targets and issue new maps to each landowner depicting the selected collar position. This will substantially remove the uncertainty and risk detailed in the mail below for landowners as they will know exactly where Tetra4 intends to drill and route its pipeline, booster station and compressor station infrastructure"*.
- ii. These updated location targets must be provided to the EAP and to I&APs, particularly directly affected landowners, so that they are provided with an opportunity to properly assess and comment on same prior to the EIA report being finalised. Furthermore, it is necessary for the decision-maker to have sight of these updated targets and the comments by I&APs before a decision on the EA can be made. It appears as if the availability of this information is imminent (although it is noted that yet again there is no timeframe regarding provision of this information) and therefore there is no reason why this information should not be included in the EIA process.
- iii. It is also noted with concern that the Applicant is unable to provide an indication as to how many well heads will be located on the properties. As there is no indication provided in the EIA as to how large the overall gas production project is intended to be, it is impossible to ascertain the intensity of operations on the properties. The spatial footprint of the production right area is of no assistance in this regard. Cluster I had a relatively large spatial footprint but entailed the construction of far fewer well heads on the properties than in Phase II. Now, as part of Phase II, the spatial footprint of the Cluster area is not much larger, but the intensity of gas production activities is evidently much higher than in Phase I. Landowners must be provided with clarity in this regard.

- b. In relation to the gas gathering network, the EAP is furthermore unable to provide confirmation of the following:
  - i. The pipeline routing which connects the wellheads and makes up the remainder of the gas gathering network.
  - ii. Where temporary and permanent routes will be located in order to access the gas gathering network. This also means that the EAP and the landowners cannot identify access points on farmlands nor the cumulative impact of access control on security.
  - iii. The locations of booster stations, how these booster stations will be powered, the design of these stations and the exact spatial footprint of same.
  - iv. Where low point drains will be located or otherwise whether there is actually a need for low point drains as nitrogen purging may be employed in order to replace the need for these drains.
- c. It is critical that a higher degree of specificity is provided in respect of the above. In Phase I, certain designs such as those relating to well heads and compressor stations were found to be unfit for purpose by Tetra4. As a result, Tetra4 simply altered and/or overhauled these designs. The result was that the gas gathering network had a larger spatial footprint than was ever indicated to landowners as well as a far greater visual impact. This raises the concern that the uncertainties, gaps in information and general lack of details, specifically in relation to the layout and design of the gas gathering network, may be taken advantage of by the Applicant in order to make changes to same without having to observe the procedures provided for in the EIA Regulations for amendment of the EA and public consultation. An EIA should not result in the equivalent of a "blank cheque" where the

applicant can establish whatever infrastructure they wish to in any location and make ad hoc changes without consultation or approval.

d. Additionally, the EAP cannot confirm whether electricity for booster stations on farmland, or otherwise will be sourced directly from ESKOM or whether the Applicant will install solar panels. In the event that additional powerlines are required in order to link facilities to the grid, it is uncertain where these powerlines and pylons will be laid. In the event that solar power is employed, there is no confirmation as to how this will impact the project footprint.

i. In both instances, the expansion of the project footprint and/or establishing new powerline routes and pylons will significantly impact farming activities, and the time and cost effectiveness of these activities.

ii. More specifically, any interruptions in and surrounding crops can greatly disturb the farming process. Power lines and pylons pose an obstacle to aerial crop dusting as planes are forced to pull up to avoid collisions. In so doing, the spray is dispersed resulting in less concentrated application on crops and inefficacy of application. The result is that manual labour must be utilised to ensure removal of pests and weeds. Both powerlines, pylons, and solar panels pose obstacles to various farming implements through restriction of movement. For example, ground based crop sprayers and cultivators lose navigable area. This is highly sophisticated machinery and with technological advancements, the impact may become greater where these machines increase in size.

11. There are areas of the EIA where there is uncertainty as to whether the concepts of "exploration" and "construction" should be considered as separate and distinct concepts or one in the same. These concepts accordingly need to be strictly defined and referenced in order to provide



I&APs with clarity as to when certain activities will take place and when their input or co-operation will be required.

12. These are all issues which are material to the overall impact of the study with the result that affected landowners are placed at a significant disadvantage when providing comments on the EIA and EMPr in the absence of this information. This confusion significantly compromises the rights of landowners. To the extent that there are simply too many uncertainties in this project, it is submitted that this application is premature and we have not been placed in a position where we can fully comprehend and/or comment on the actual impact which the activities will have on each of the properties.

#### **iv. Inadequacy of consultative processes**

13. Further to the above, I refer to regulation 40(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 ("EIA Regulations), which states the following:

*"The public participation process contemplated in this regulation must provide access to all information that reasonably has or may have the potential to influence any decision with regard to an application unless access to that information is protected by law".*

14. To the extent that such information has not been submitted or is otherwise unclear, as illustrated above, the EIA is materially defective. The information which has been provided is not only inadequate for landowners to comment on the full impact of the project but is, furthermore, inadequate for purposes of the EAP conducting a full assessment of such impact as it does not allow for a "reasonable opportunity" to participate as envisaged by section 24(4)(a)(v) of NEMA.

15. It is further noted that, per regulation 2 contained in Appendix 3 to the EIA Regulations, *"The objective of the environmental impact assessment process is to, through a consultative process... determine the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of the impacts occurring to inform identified preferred alternatives"*.

16. I am advised that this is also confirmed in the Constitutional Court case *Bengwenyama Minerals (Pty) Ltd and Others v Genorah Resources (Pty) Ltd and Others* wherein the Court found that consultation should provide the landowner or lawful occupier with the necessary information on everything that is to be done so that they can make an informed decision in relation to the representations being made. This includes informing the landowner in sufficient detail of what the mining or prospecting operations will entail on the land.

17. As landowners, we want to be meaningfully consulted with, however, in order to do so, we need to be fully apprised of all information necessary to determine the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of the impacts occurring. However, the EIA in its present form falls short of what is required under both NEMA and the MPRDA. On this basis, I contend that this application is premature and that an EA cannot be granted until the EIA and EMPr comply with the relevant legislative provisions.

**v. Negative impact significance for groundwater, farmland, landowners and land value**

18. The first area of concern in this regard is the hydrogeological study, which confirms that the primary source of gas originates from the Witwatersrand Supergroup as well as the shallower Karoo sediments. Additionally, it is confirmed that the most significant impact of the project on the regional groundwater regime is deterioration of the potable Karoo aquifer water quality.

19. The hydrologist proceeds to acknowledge that *“groundwater is the sole water resource to the landowners and rural communities with[in] sic the study area”*. However, the hydrologist further confirms that there will be a medium negative impact on water sources **with** implementation of proposed mitigation measures. **After presenting this information, which showcases environmental sensitivities on water sources, how does EAP then come to the conclusion that the application should be granted? Particularly considering that this is largely an agricultural area which produces food for human consumption?**
20. Further to the above, it is noted that the EAP identifies various areas which will experience a **high negative impact, including landowners and land value**. To this end, the EAP lists various mitigation measures which must be employed in order to minimise the impact on these sensitivities.
21. In the context of landowners, the EAP specifically references, *inter alia*, the following measures) which are commented on in turn below:
- a. Paragraph 6 on page 290 of the EIA states that *“Temporary access and land arrangements must be made until there are more certainty on exactly where the wells will be. Servitudes should only be registered for productive wells [sic]”*.
  - b. Paragraph 4 on page 124 of the EIA states that *“Exploration drilling sites will be negotiated and agreed with the affected landowners prior to final siting and appropriate compensation will additionally be agreed upon contractually and provided on an annual basis during construction and operations”*.
  - c. Paragraph 4 on page 273 of the EIA states that *“It is recommended that construction and drilling be done outside the peak planting and harvesting seasons”*.

- d. Paragraph 8 on page 365 of the EIA states that *"Tetra4 must consult with landowners about any new work or potential changes that may take place on their properties"*.
- e. Paragraph 5 on page 366 of the EIA states that *"Tetra4 must engage with the affected landowners for consensus of the preferred final pipeline routing. The preferred or final routing will be developed (where possible) in conjunction with landowner for the respective property. The agreed upon routing must be attached to Landowner agreements as a sketch plan and indicate the provisional servitude area"*.

22. While these are arguably appropriate mitigation measures in the context of this project, Tetra4 has made clear statements in the process of negotiating the Cluster II land access agreements which show that these measures will not be complied with.

- a. In respect of paragraph 20 (a) above: Per the email received from Mr Nick Mitchell dated 20 January 2023 Tetra4 will not provide landowners with a temporary access and land agreement on the basis that *"the program is funded by external financiers who require certainty on rights and access upfront before the program can commence"*.
  - i. This is not only in contravention of the mitigation measures stipulated in under the EIA but it is further one of only two mitigation measures provided in the social assessment conducted by Equispectives Research & Consulting Services in respect of mitigation of the impact of servitudes of landowners.
  - ii. It is noted that this mitigation measure has not been incorporated into the EMPr despite the fact that it is identified in the social assessment as necessary to *"protect the land rights and property values of the landowners"*.

- b. In respect of paragraph 20(b) above: It is noted that compensation is provided for at paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 in the access, use and servitude agreement provided to landowners by Tetra4 for comment (attached herewith marked "C"). However, it is noted that the amount proposed by Tetra4 is wholly inadequate and cannot be negotiated without information regarding the extent of impact on each property. Firstly, while it is agreed that the so-called Disruption Fee amount should be higher than Servitude Payment due to the high impact of construction activities on agricultural activities, it is wholly insufficient to cover the entire construction period as it is a once-off payment only. Secondly, the Servitude Payment amount falls short of the losses that will be incurred by landowners as a result of production activities.
  
- c. In respect of paragraph 20(c) above: There is absolutely no reference in the access, use and servitude agreement to construction being outside peak planting and harvesting seasons, merely that Tetra4 will be entitled to access and use of the Working Area and subsequently the Servitude Area. There must, furthermore, be compensation where it is unavoidable that construction takes place during peak planting and harvesting seasons.
  
- d. In respect of paragraph 20(d) above: Tetra4 has not undertaken to consult with Optavit or the landowners regarding any new installations or changes which may take place on their properties.
  
- i. Rather, paragraph 6.1 of the access, use and servitude agreement states that "[i]f Tetra4 identifies a site other than the Servitude Area on the Property, subsequent to the Effective Date, and elects to commence with exploration or production activities on the identified site, as permitted by the Production Right, Tetra4 shall by no later than 21 (twenty-one) Business Days prior to the commencement of such activities: (6.1.1.) Give the Landowner written notice of its intention to commence with the exploration or production activities [emphasis added]".

ii. This is in spite of the fact that, per the Department of Mineral Resources “Guidelines for Consultation with Communities and Interested and Affected Parties” at pages 3 – 4, “consultation” means *“a two way communication process between the applicant and the community or interested and affected party wherein the former is seeking, listening to, and considering the latter’s response, which allows openness in the decision making process”* which is clearly not synonymous with “written notification”. It is noted that Paragraph 6.1 (6.1.1. included) is therefore inconsistent with the mitigation measures provided for in the EIA.

e. In respect of paragraph 20(e) above: Not only has the final pipeline routing not been discussed and/or agreed to with input from landowners, but the provisional servitude area is not attached to the access, use and servitude agreement.

23. The above is in spite of the fact that Mr Mitchell, on behalf of Tetra4, claims in his email of 20 January 2023 that the Applicant has gone “above and beyond” to accommodate landowners.

24. It is notable that, at page 394 of the EIA, the EAP specifically states that “[t]he findings of the specialist studies conclude that there are no environmental fatal flaws that should prevent the proposed project from proceedings, provided that the recommended mitigation and management measures are implemented [emphasis added]”. To the extent that Tetra4 has already shown non-compliance with the recommended mitigation measures and has further confirmed that they cannot comply with such measures, we contend that the application for an EA is fatally flawed as it currently stands.

vi. **Inclusion of specific mitigation measures as conditions to the environmental authorization**

25. Once the aforementioned uncertainties in the EIA have been resolved, included and properly assessed and reported on, this will place I&APs in a position to properly consider and comment on the content of same. That being said, there are various further elements which should be incorporated into the conditions to the EA, as and when it is issued, in order to provide greater certainty to these parties, particularly landowners. To this end, I refer to “*Table 1: Mitigation Measure to be Incorporated into Conditions to Environmental Authorization*” (attached herewith marked “**D**”) which lists such items and where they are mentioned within the EIA and EMPr.
26. Firstly, while I note that the EIA and EMPr do recommend various measures that must be taken to attempt to ensure the effective rehabilitation of project area both during construction and decommissioning, it is also noted that rehabilitation efforts under Cluster I were undertaken on much the same terms as those proposed for Cluster II. The issue here is that there has been widespread discontent amongst landowners with the manner in which rehabilitation has been carried out under Cluster I. As such, the rehabilitation measures outlined at items 7 – 9 of Table 1 must be incorporated into the conditions to any EA which may be issued at a later stage in order to ensure effective implementation and enforcement.
27. Further to the above, I highlight the following passage extracted from the Executive Summary of the social assessment:

*“One of the most significant potential social impacts associated with the proposed project is the potential impacts on livelihoods of the farming community. There are high levels of uncertainty about exactly how the Cluster 2 project will unfold. Farmers fear that their land rights and property values will be affected. The project will require access to farms, and because of the current socio-political issues in South Africa, this is a sensitive matter. Farmers are concerned about the impact of the Cluster 2 project on their existing way of life, and on the infrastructure on their farms. Although they are appreciative of Tetra4’s efforts to communicate with them, there has been instances where the communication was insufficient, of where some of the Tetra4 staff have not followed procedures that was agreed to. A number of stakeholder groups will be affected by the proposed project, and the most affected groups are the farmers and farm workers. Although the Tetra4 project will have a positive economic impact in South Africa, the direct benefit for the local communities is limited. The job creation benefits, both primary and secondary are not significant. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that the local social impacts must be managed and monitored to the best of Tetra4’s ability, since the parties who pay the social cost of the development will not be beneficiaries of*

the development. Equispectives Social Impact Assessment Tetra4 Cluster 2 Project, Lejweleputswa District Municipality, April 2022 ii Based on the findings of this study, the following key recommendations are made:

There is a possibility that Tetra4's activities will cause economic displacement for some of the affected farmers. The actual impact on their livelihoods must be assessed by an agricultural economist and compensation must be done according to international best practice;

- There are several questions from the landowners that Tetra4 should respond to in writing before any contracting can proceed. These questions are related to timeframes and the construction phase;
- The impacts of servitudes on the land value of the affected properties must be considered and mitigated by means of negotiation. If the negotiation process is unsuccessful, it must be arbitrated by a lawyer with knowledge about environmental law, the MPRDA and property law. This should be a last resort;
- Farm safety must be a priority and the landowners and Tetra must agree on security measures;
- Tetra4 must consult with landowners about any new work or potential changes that may take place on their properties;
- Protocols on farm access, compensation, communication, and road maintenance must be agreed upon and be in place before construction commences. The affected landowners must have input in the development of these protocols;
- A grievance mechanism and claims procedure must be in place and shared with all the stakeholders before the construction commences; and
- A special meeting must be conducted with farm workers and other vulnerable parties, in their mother languages, to ensure that they understand the technical and safety aspects of the project. The potential impact on the livelihoods of some of the directly affected farmers will be severe.

This will have a spinoff impact on farm workers, food security and the local economy. Every possible measure must be implemented to ensure that the production of the farmers is not permanently impacted. The project can only be recommended if the livelihood impacts are mitigated and managed successfully [emphasis added]."

28. This clearly illustrates that due caution must be exercised in decisions which impact landowners and that the decision-maker should adopt a precautionary approach in this regard. To this end, should the decision-maker proceed to issue an EA, at the very least, all of the social mitigation measures listed in Table 1 should be included as conditions to same and as preconditions to the commencement of construction.

**vii. Impacts on agricultural resources and landowner farming operations not properly considered**



29. It must be highlighted that one of the areas that will experience the highest negative impact is the social impact of the project, which includes livelihoods and land values. It is important to note that a significant proportion of the "livelihoods" and "land values" referred to in this context are farmers and farms. It is accordingly a major concern that future gas production activities would come at the expense of the current land-use i.e. agriculture. In this regard, we highlight the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment's recent appeal decision in the appeal against the decision to grant an Integrated EA to Anglo Operations (Pty) Ltd in respect of a mining right application (reference: LSA 181971). In this case, the Minister set aside the decision to grant the EA on the basis that she found that it is imperative to preserve the current land use, namely commercial agriculture. The land use for this EA application shares many similarities with the appeal decision by the Minister of Forestry Fisheries and Environment. Most significant in this regard is that possible future gas production activities may impact the economic viability of farms in the area and therefore food security in South Africa. In effect, the gas producing operation may sterilize the land from an economic perspective.
30. The EAP emphasizes the fact that a number of the impacts of this project will not be permanent (the project life is limited to 20 years) and will be reversed upon decommissioning, yet the impact on agricultural activities will likely be irreversible, where farmers are forced to scale down or cease operations and the impacts on their farms are not properly rehabilitated. **As such, why did the EIA not highlight that only limited short-lived gains will be realised from potential mining where economical reserves are present, while the impact on the use of the land for commercial crop-growing purposes will be long-term, or even permanent. Moreover, why did the EAP not consider the impacts on food security which the project may have?**
31. While the EAP indeed considers the option of not implementing the proposed activity, the argument is entirely one-sided. Most notably, the EAP entirely overlooks the current land use of the property, i.e. agriculture, and the specific potential negative impacts which gas exploration and gas production could have on same. Instead, it clearly favours the gas production option and the

economic benefits arising from same, focusing only on the perceived negative economic effects if production were not to take place. It therefore fails to mention any of the positive implications of not fragmenting or disturbing the agricultural land in question. These positives include the preservation of the agricultural land that will continue to produce food for many more years and the associated socio-economic benefits associated with same. **Why has the EAP presented such a one-sided view (with the exception of the social impact assessment) in favour of production versus the no-go option, particularly in light of the present land use?**

**viii. Biased Information in the EIA**

32. It is noted that the EIA, specifically in the motivation or need for this project provided at page 1, is premised on liquid natural gas (LNG) being a “cleaner” alternative to coal and oil. This is apparently due to the fact that it is accepted that LNG produces less carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) than these fossil fuels. This should not, however, detract from the fact that LNG is nevertheless a fossil fuel which produces a significant amount of greenhouse gases (GHGs). More specifically, LNG primarily produces methane (CH<sub>4</sub>). The issue here is that methane itself has a far higher global warming potential than carbon dioxide. In fact, over a 20-year period, methane is 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Thus, it is potentially misleading for the EAP to rely on the rhetoric of the LNG portion of the project being a “cleaner burning” source of energy when it is still a significant contributor to climate change.

**ix. Inadequate and deficient consideration of needs and desirability**

33. It is noted that the motivations provided for by the EAP in respect of the needs and desirability of the project are not juxtaposed against the potential loss of agriculturally related jobs that would occur on the properties as well as on neighboring properties due to the fragmentation, sterilization and deterioration of crop land and loss of productivity. Moreover, there is no assessment of the food security impact that would occur if gas exploration and gas production were to take place, and which could have a significant impact on maize

production in South Africa as well as on the surrounding agricultural activities.

**Why did the EAP not undertake this comparative analysis?**

34. Moreover, the EAP indeed acknowledges that there will be a high negative impact on the local economy upon decommissioning of the plant. This would be exacerbated where farms have been forced to scale down or cease operations due to gas production on farmland. The EAP fails to engage with these issues when considering the needs and desirability of the project.

**x. Conclusion**

35. I hereby confirm that we have recently sought the assistance of specialist legal counsel and have been directed to request certain documentation from the Applicant, which has been attended to. I accordingly reserve the right to supplement these comments within a reasonable time period upon receipt of these documents in response to any new information which may come to light.
36. It is my respectful opinion that the requested environmental authorization cannot be granted on the basis of the current content of the EIA and EMP and it is our suggestion that the application needs to be updated with at least the following information before it can be properly assessed by the EAP and considered by I&AP's and the Competent Authority:
- a. Locations and number of exploration and production well heads on each property;
  - b. Pipeline layout with coordinates;
  - c. Power sources for booster stations;
  - d. Location of low point drains or otherwise whether nitrogen purging will be employed.
37. Until this information is provided, this application must be considered premature as the EAP and the specialists are unable to consider the full impact of the project and I&APs. More particularly landowners are not placed in a position where they can comment on same.

38. Notwithstanding the above, I confirm that it is our firm desire to find a way for our farms to coexist in a viable manner with the Tetra4 project, as well as any future owners of the gas production operation.

39. Kindly provide written confirmation of receipt of these comments within 5 days of the date hereof and confirm that we will receive responses to such comments and that the comments and responses thereto will be submitted to the Competent Authority in the manner requested above.

Yours faithfully

Gert Oozthuisen  
Managing Director, Optavit

Table 1: *Mitigation Measure to be Incorporated into Conditions to Environmental Authorization*

Item	Description of item	Inclusion in EMPr and/or EIA
1.	Confirmation of landowner's rights	Impact management action 14 on page 91 of the EMPr confirms that "[l]andowners must be consulted, and all reasonable requests complied with. A written landowner agreement should be negotiated and concluded prior to commencement. Should this not be possible, a record should be kept of reasonable negotiations with the landowners".
2.	Prevention or restriction of gas producing activities from infringing on agricultural activities	Impact management action 9 on page 97 of the EMPr requires that the Applicant "[e]nsure that as much of the infrastructure as possible is sited away from agricultural lands". Moreover, Impact Management Action 2 on page 141 of the EMPr requires that "[t]he identified drill site should, where possible, not infringe on the landowners' surface activities". Further to this, action item 5 on page 142 confirms that "[t]he location of the drilling site should be done so as to impact minimally on the daily activities of the landowner. The location of the site should be consulted with the landowner".
3.	Agreement between Tetra4 and landowners regarding pipeline routes on properties	Impact Management Action 6 on page 111 of the EMPr confirms that "[t]he impacts of servitudes on the land value of the affected properties must be considered and mitigated by means of negotiation. If the negotiation process is unsuccessful, it must be arbitrated by a suitably qualified third party. Once the preferred routing has been identified, Tetra4 must engage with the affected landowners for consensus of the preferred final pipeline routing. The preferred or final routing will be developed (where possible) in conjunction with landowners for their respective property. The agreed upon routing must be attached to Landowner agreements as a sketch

		<i>plan and indicate the provisional servitude area".</i>
<b>4.</b>	Compensation for exploration and construction	Impact Management Action 1 on page 175 of the EMPr confirms that <i>"[t]he applicant must take reasonable measures to prevent any disruption to the landowners' use of the properties (e.g. farming). Landowners/tenants should be compensated for loss of arable land in accordance with the landowners access agreements (contracts)".</i> Additionally, Management/Mitigation Measure 118 on page 19 of the Change Register to the EMPr provides that <i>"Tetra4's activities will cause a certain level of economic displacement for some of the affected farmers. In the event that the farmer disagrees with the compensation offered, the actual impact on their livelihoods must be assessed by an agricultural economist or suitably experienced third party. Compensation must be done according to international best practice".</i>
<b>5.</b>	Compensation for, or otherwise avoidance of, disruptions during planting/harvesting season	Impact Management Action 10 on page 173 specifically provides that <i>"[a]dverse impacts on farming activities during the planting or harvesting season must be minimised as far as possible however should tangible impacts occur during these times; adequate compensation must be provided to the affected party".</i>
<b>6.</b>	Compensation for damages	Impact Management Action 5 on page 11 of the EMPr confirms that <i>"[i]f any damage is done to the property or harvest of the landowner, they must be compensated for their losses".</i> Additionally, Impact Management Action 24 on page 183 of the EMPr requires that <i>"[i]f any damage as a result of project activities, Tetra4 must carry the cost of rehabilitation /repair /replacement and compensate the farmer for his losses. If needed an external mediation process should be followed"</i> while action 25 provides that <i>"[t]here must be a formal procedure in place on how to report</i>

		<p>incidents and/or damage to landowner property and a claims procedure to ensure records of all grievances are kept. To receive compensation, the claim forms must be submitted to the Tetra4 CLO or suitable representative.</p> <p>Compensation should follow the IFC principles, which states that market related prices should be paid, and if anything is restored, it must be to the same or better standards than before".</p>
7.	Road maintenance	<p>Impact Management Action 14 on page 167 of the EMPr states that "Tetra4 should engage with the relevant farmers about road maintenance, as some of landowners have preferential ways in which the roads must be maintained. The road maintenance agreements must be formalised before construction commences".</p>
8.	Removal of weeds as part of rehabilitation	<p>Impact Management Action 5 on page 114 of the EMPr confirms that "[w]eed species should be eradicated at all disturbed areas. This must be monitored for a period following rehabilitation to ensure that alien invasive plants do not establish themselves". This is reiterated at Impact Management Action 5 on page 139.</p>
9.	Rehabilitation of land	<p>Impact Management Action 1 on page 138 of the EMPr requires that the Applicant "[r]ehabilitate area to its original landform or as agreed to by the landowner. Tenants and/or authorities".</p>
10.	Access protocols	<p>Impact Management Action 63 on page 107 of the EMPr states that "[l]andowners should be notified prior to accessing their land. The number and identity of workers, the purpose of the visit and specific areas to be visited, should be provided in the notification". Additionally, Impact Management Action 7 on page 172 of the EMPr states that "[a] procedure to arrange access to properties must be devised and formalised. All</p>

		<p>reasonable efforts must be taken to obtain agreement on the procedure with the landowners and it must be formalised. Access must be arranged at least 24 hours prior, except in emergencies, when the landowners should also be informed immediately. If routine access is required, the landowners must be provided with a roster indicating dates and approximate times that access will be required". Impact Management Action 11 on page 173 of the EMPr further stipulates that "Tetra4 must meet with the landowners before the construction phase commences and formalise security arrangements in writing and where appropriate include the existing forums".</p>
11.	New or changes in operation/layout of site	<p>Impact Management Action 7 on page 172 of the EMPr states that "[i]f any new activities are planned for a property, Tetra4 must consult with the landowner and take reasonable steps to obtain his consent to execute the activity on his/her land".</p>
12.	Temporary access agreements	<p>The Social Impact Assessment Report provides only two mitigation measures in respect of the impact of servitudes on landowners. The second conditions which reads "Temporary access and land arrangements must be made until there are more certainty on exactly where the wells will be. Servitudes should only be registered for productive wells" is most crucial here. This measure is reiterated at page 290 of the EIA</p>
13.	Restriction of security lighting on production sites	<p>Impact management action 22 on page 98 of the EMPr confirms that "[l]ight visual) impact should be kept to a minimum (e.g. use of full cut-off lighting fixtures if necessary)".</p>



**ACCESS, USE AND SERVITUDE AGREEMENT (PHASE II)**

made and entered into by and between:

Name	
Registration Number	
Address	
Herein represented	
Tel number(s)	
Email address	

**(Landowner)**

and

Name	<b>TETRA4 (PTY) LTD</b>
Registration number	<b>2005/012157/07</b>
Herein represented by	<b>Nick Mitchell</b>
Tel number(s)	<b>078 654 3853</b>
Email address	<a href="mailto:nick@renergen.co.za">nick@renergen.co.za</a>

**(Tetra4)**

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## 1. Interpretation

- 1.1 Unless otherwise stated, or the context otherwise requires, the words and expressions listed below shall bear the meanings ascribed to them:
- 1.1.1 **Access Notification** means a written notification given by Tetra4 to the Landowner, not less than 2 (two) months before the planned Construction Period;
- 1.1.2 **Access Road** means the access routes as indicated in Annexure B (Landowner Information Form) which Tetra4 needs to access for the purpose of the activities as more fully set out in clause 7;
- 1.1.3 **AFSA Rules** means the commercial rules as published by the Arbitration Foundation of Southern Africa from time to time;
- 1.1.4 **Agreement** means this access, use and servitude agreement concluded between the Parties, including all appendices hereto;
- 1.1.5 **Approvals** means any permit, licence, environmental authorisation, registration certificate, record of decision, consent, environmental management plan, environmental management programme, exemption and any other approval as well as any conditions attaching to such approvals under any Law;
- 1.1.6 **Booster Station** means booster pumps or compressors located at intervals along a gas pipeline to boost the pressure of the flowing fluid to keep it moving towards its destination;
- 1.1.7 **Booster Station Servitude** means a servitude for a Booster Station, not exceeding a Servitude Area of 12 m x 12 m (twelve meter by twelve meter) footprint together with such rights ancillary thereto, including access rights and right of way as more fully set out and subject to the terms and conditions contained in the Notarial Deed of Servitude;
- 1.1.8 **Booster Station Working Area** means an area encompassing the Booster Station with a total area of 20 m x 20 m (twenty by twenty) meters as required for the Construction Activities of the Booster Stations;
- 1.1.9 **Business Days** means a Day other than a Saturday, a Sunday or a designated public holiday in South Africa;
- 1.1.10 **Completion Certificate** means a certificate of completion in the form of [insert] issued by Tetra4 to the Landowner; [NOTE: to be completed. Consider including environmental rehab sign-off.]
- 1.1.11 **Consents** means any permission, permit, approval, consent, licence, authorisation, registration, grant, acknowledgement, exemption or agreement

to be obtained from any Government Agency by either Party to enable Tetra4 to undertake its obligations under this Agreement;

- 1.1.12 **Construction Activities** means all activities regarding Phase II Project during the Construction Period to be undertaken by Tetra4 on the Property and/or Working Area, subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement;
- 1.1.13 **Construction Period** means the period of constructing the Phase II Project, which will commence with the issuing of an Access Notification and will conclude with a Construction Completion Certificate with an estimated duration not exceeding 36 (thirty-six) months unless otherwise agreed by the Parties in writing;
- 1.1.14 **CPI** means the average annual rate of change (expressed as a percentage) in the Consumer Price Index, excluding interest rates on mortgage bonds, for all metropolitan areas, as published in the *Government Gazette* by Statistics South Africa, or such other index reflecting the official rate of inflation in the Republic of South Africa as may replace it, which annual change shall be determined by comparing the most recently published index with the index published in respect of the corresponding month in the previous year as more fully set out in **Annexure D**;
- 1.1.15 **Disruption Fee** means the fee payable by Tetra4 to the Landowner for the use of the Working Area during the Construction Period as referred to in clause 4.1;
- 1.1.16 **Disruption Fee Payment Date** means a date not later than 30 (thirty) Business Days after the date that Tetra4 has given an Access Notification to the Landowner;
- 1.1.17 **DMRE** means the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy;
- 1.1.18 **Effective Date** means the effective date of this Agreement, namely the date of signature of this Agreement by the Party signing last in time;
- 1.1.19 **Equipment** means Well Sites, Low Point Drains and Pigging Stations;
- 1.1.20 **Exploration Activities** means the exploration activities in the Working Area as referred to in clause 5, which will commence on receipt by the Landowner of formal written notification from Tetra4 of the pegging of Exploration Well positions;
- 1.1.21 **Exploration Well** means a well drilled with the primary intention of discovering an underground petroleum or gas deposit to be converted to a Production Well in the case of gas discovery or to be rehabilitated in the event of no gas discovery as referred to and subject to the terms and conditions in clause 5.4.3;

- 1.1.22 **Exploration Working Area** means the area encompassing an Exploration Well with a total area of 50 x 50 (fifty by fifty) meters as required for Exploration Activities as more fully set out in **Annexure E**;
- 1.1.23 **Government Agency** means the government of South Africa, as the case may be, or any tier of government in South Africa (such as provincial, local, tribal or district governments, authorities or councils as appropriate), any ministry, department, political subdivision, instrumentality, agency, company, corporation, government undertaking or commission under the direct or indirect control of the government of South Africa;
- 1.1.24 **Landowner Information Form** means the Landowner Information Form attached hereto as **Annexure B**;
- 1.1.25 **Landowner** means the person referred to in the table above as Landowner of the Property and the Landowner Information Form and includes any successors in title or assigns;
- 1.1.26 **Law** means the laws of, or having application in or to South Africa, including any statute, act, ordinance or other law, treaty, regulation or by-law or any rule, code or direction or any licence, consent, permit, authorisation or other approval including any conditions attached thereto of any Government Agency or of any public body or authority, local or national agency, department, ministry, an official or public or statutory person which has appropriate jurisdiction, including fiscal and social legislation and customs regulations;
- 1.1.27 **Low Point Drain** means the surface area not exceeding 1.5 x 1.5 (one point five by one point five) square meters potentially occupied by Equipment or facilities necessary for the Production Operations as may be required for capturing water knock-out along the Pipelines under the Production Right of Tetra4;
- 1.1.28 **New Site** means any new site identified on the Property in accordance with the provisions of clause 6.1.2;
- 1.1.29 **Notarial Deed of Servitude** means the Notarial Deed of Servitude to be Notarially Executed and Registered in respect of a Servitude Area for the duration of the Production Right Period, substantially in accordance with the draft Notarial Deed of Servitude annexed hereto as **Annexure C**;
- 1.1.30 **Notarial Execution** means the notarial execution of the Notarial Deed of Servitude by the notary appointed by Tetra4 to notarially execute and Register the Notarial Deed of Servitude;
- 1.1.31 **Parties** means Tetra4 and the Landowner, and “**Party**” shall mean any of them as the context may require;

- 1.1.32 **PASA** means the Petroleum Agency of South Africa;
- 1.1.33 **Phase II Project** means the Tetra4 Phase II construction project which consists of the Exploration Activities as well as engineering, procurement, construction, and installation of its Phase II gas gathering activities and Pipelines to enable Tetra4 to conduct the Pipeline Operations and Production Operations;
- 1.1.34 **Pigging Stations** means the area not exceeding 5 x 5 (Five by five) square meters potentially occupied by Equipment or facilities necessary for the Production Operations associated with major road/river crossings as may be required under the Production Right of Tetra4;
- 1.1.35 **Pipeline Operations** means any operation, activity or matter that relates to the development, operation, inspection, servicing, maintenance, or any activity incidental thereto, of the Pipelines in terms of the Production Right;
- 1.1.36 **Pipeline Route** means the center line of the Pipelines within a width of 10 (ten) meters);
- 1.1.37 **Pipeline Working Area** means an area encompassing the Pipeline Route with a total width of 20 meters as required for the Construction Activities of the Pipelines, Equipment (as may be applicable) as more fully set out in **Annexure F**, but which excludes the Provisional Servitude Area and Servitude Area;
- 1.1.38 **Pipelines** means underground or overground pipe and/or pipelines and any Equipment or facilities necessary for the Production Operations;
- 1.1.39 **Production Operations** means any operation, activity or matter that relates to the exploration, appraisal, development and production of natural gas in terms of the Production Right;
- 1.1.40 **Production Right** means the production right held by Tetra4 for the duration of the Production Right Period in terms of Section 84 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act 28 of 2002 over various farms in the Free State Provinces with reference number 12/4/07;
- 1.1.41 **Production Right Period** means the duration of the Production Right which was granted for an initial period of 30 (thirty) years commencing on 20 September 2012 and lapsing on 19 September 2042, and any renewal thereof;
- 1.1.42 **Production Well Site Servitude** means a servitude for a Production Well, not exceeding a Servitude Area of 1.5 x 1.5 (one point five by one point five) meters together with such rights ancillary thereto, including access rights and right of way as more fully set out and subject to the terms and conditions contained in the Notarial Deed of Servitude;

- 1.1.43 **Production Well Site** means the surface area occupied by Equipment or facilities necessary for the Production Operations under the Production Right;
- 1.1.44 **Production Well** means an Exploration Well at a Production Well Site where petroleum or gas deposits have been discovered and which has the primary purpose of bringing petroleum or gas from the underground deposit to the surface for commercial utilisation;
- 1.1.45 **Property** means the Landowner's property as more fully described in the Landowner Information Form;
- 1.1.46 **Provisional Servitude Area** means an area of 5 (five) meters on either side of the Pipeline Route substantially in accordance and as indicated by the figure and marked on the preliminary map attached hereto as **Annexure A**, as amended or varied from time to time in terms of clause 4.3;
- 1.1.47 **Registration** means registration by the registrar of deeds in the relevant deeds office;
- 1.1.48 **Servitude Area** means the final servitude area in respect of the Servitude Rights which will be measured and recorded in a Servitude Diagram to be attached to the Notarial Deed of Servitude;
- 1.1.49 **Servitude Diagram** means a diagram to be drawn and prepared in respect of the Servitude Area, which diagram will be approved by the office of the Surveyor-General and attached to the Notarial Deed of Servitude for purposes of Registration;
- 1.1.50 **Servitude Payment Date** means the date of Notarial Execution of the Notarial Deed of Servitude;
- 1.1.51 **Servitude Payment** means the annual payment that Tetra4 will pay the Landowner as contemplated in clause 4.2;
- 1.1.52 **Servitude Rights** means a Pipeline Servitude and/or Production Well Servitude and/or Booster Station Servitude together with such rights ancillary thereto, including access rights and right of way as more fully set out and subject to the terms and conditions contained in the Notarial Deed of Servitude;
- 1.1.53 **South Africa** means the Republic of South Africa;
- 1.1.54 **Third Party** means any party other than the Parties;
- 1.1.55 **VAT** means Value-Added Tax in terms of the VAT Act;
- 1.1.56 **VAT Act** means the Value-Added Tax Act, No. 89 of 1991, as amended from time to time; and

- 1.1.57 **Working Area** means an area which TETRA4 needs for the Construction Activities, which includes part or in full the Booster Station Working Area, Exploration Working Area and Pipeline Working Area.

## 2. Introduction

- 2.1 Tetra4 owns the Production Rights and wishes to commence with the Construction Activities on the Property.
- 2.2 The Landowner has agreed to grant Tetra4 the access and use of the Working Area and the Servitude Rights, on the terms and subject to the conditions set out in this Agreement.
- 2.3 The Parties accordingly agree as set out herein.

## 3. Access Rights and Registration of Servitude Rights

- 3.1 The Landowner hereby irrevocably grants to Tetra4, which Tetra4 hereby accepts –
- 3.1.1 the right to access and use the Working Area on the Property during the Construction Period; and
- 3.1.2 the Servitude Rights, for the duration of the Production Rights as more fully set out in the Notarial Deed of Servitude,
- subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- 3.2 The Parties agree that at the Effective Date, the Provisional Servitude Area is a preliminary map for the purposes of the execution of Construction Activities. Upon the issuing of a Completion Certificate, **Annexure A** indicates the Provisional Servitude Area that will be replaced by a Servitude Diagram which will constitute the Servitude Area. Upon completion of the Construction Activities, the Landowner shall execute the Notarial Deed of Servitude.
- 3.3 Notwithstanding clause 3.1 and the execution of this Agreement, the Landowner hereby irrevocably consents to the registration of the Servitude Rights over the Servitude Area. The Parties shall execute the Notarial Deed of Servitude on receipt by Tetra4 of the Servitude Diagrams.
- 3.4 Tetra4 will bear the costs for the Notarial Execution and Registration of the Notarial Deed of Servitude as well as any applicable costs relating to bondholder consents which need to be obtained from the Landowner's financial institution, as well as the costs for deregistration of the Notarial Deed of Servitude and/or associated costs in relation thereto. The Landowner undertakes to furnish all title deeds relating to the Property which may be required for the purposes of Registration to the notary public and to render such assistance as may be reasonably required by the notary public to procure Registration, including signing a special power of attorney upon demand from the said notary.
- 3.5 Tetra4 agrees that it shall be tasked with the responsibility of obtaining and maintaining all Consents required, from time to time, for the Phase II Project, and that it shall bear the costs of same. The Landowner undertakes to co-operate



with Tetra4 and provide such information, documentation and assistance to Tetra4, at Tetra4's cost, as may reasonably be required of the Landowner in relation to the application for, obtaining and maintaining of all the Consents required and the Landowner shall issue and execute all documents and do all such things which may be reasonably required in order for Tetra4 to procure such Consents. The Landowner shall not object to any planning application or procedure made on or initiated by Tetra4 in respect of its use or development of the Property as contemplated in this Agreement.

- 3.6 The Landowner undertakes to supply to Tetra4 all reasonable information regarding the Property that may have an effect on the Phase II Project, including without limitation boreholes and water monitoring, within a reasonable time after being called to do so.
- 3.7 The Landowner may request the cancellation of the Notarial Deed of Servitude at the cost of Tetra4 under the following circumstances:
  - 3.7.1 the lapsing of the Production Right due to expiry of the Production Right Period; and
  - 3.7.2 in the case of voluntary abandonment by Tetra4 of the Production Right in terms of Clause 10 of the Production Right.
- 3.8 If the Notarial Deed of Servitude is cancelled, Tetra4 will be obliged to clear and rehabilitate the Servitude Area in accordance with its approved Environmental Management Programme, which will include, but will not be limited to, the decommissioning and removal of all above-ground infrastructure. It is, however, recorded that the installed pipeline will remain underground and will not be removed. The Landowner shall permit the necessary access to the Property to allow for such rehabilitation activities.
- 3.9 Tetra4 shall be obliged to vacate the Servitude Area on the expiration of this Agreement and to place the Landowner in possession thereof. Tetra4 shall be obliged to follow the same procedure as referred to in clause 3.6 of this agreement.
- 3.10 This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties and contains all the agreements between them with respect to the subject matter hereof, subject to the Notarial Deed of Servitude being Registered and supersedes any and all other agreements or contracts, either oral or written, between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof.

#### **4. Consideration**

- 4.1 The Disruption Fee will be an upfront payment in the amount of R36 000.00 (thirty-six thousand Rand) per hectare or part of a hectare for the access and use of the Working Area during the Construction Period. Tetra4 shall pay the Disruption Fee to the Landowner on the Disruption Fee Payment Date.
- 4.2 The Servitude Payment shall be an annual payment in the amount of R18 000.00 (eighteen thousand Rand) per hectare or part thereof of the Servitude Area. Tetra4 shall pay the first payment to the Landowner on the Servitude Payment

Date and subsequent payments annually on the anniversary of the Servitude Payment Date.

- 4.3 The Parties agree that the Provisional Servitude Area as described in **Annexure A** may be amended from time to time as required by Tetra4's Pipeline Operations and Production Operations by agreement in writing between the Parties (provided that any amendment will not exceed the width of the Servitude), which agreement will not be unreasonably withheld or delayed by the Landowner, and may result in the increase or decrease of the consideration payable in terms of this clause 4, pro rata to the increase or decrease in the Servitude Area.
- 4.4 The consideration payable in terms of this clause 4 excludes VAT thereon. Should the Landowner be registered for VAT, Tetra4 shall pay the VAT on submission by the Landowner of a VAT invoice.
- 4.5 The consideration payable in terms of clause 4.2 shall escalate annually on the anniversary of the Servitude Payment Date, at the rate of the CPI as per **Annexure E**".
- 4.6 Any amounts owed by TETRA4 under this Agreement that are not paid when due shall bear interest, from the time the payment was due until the time paid, at a rate equal to the prime rate as quoted by First National Bank.

## 5. Access and use of the Working Area and Servitude Area

- 5.1 Tetra4 shall be entitled to access and use the Working Area and subsequently the Servitude Area for the Construction Activities and for purposes of conducting the Pipeline Operations and/or Production Operations, as well as any operations incidental to the Pipeline Operations and/or Production Operations (including, but not limited, to operate, maintain and repair the Pipelines), and shall be entitled to install, erect or construct any facilities or infrastructure required for successfully operating the Pipeline Operations and/or Production Operations.
- 5.2 The underground infrastructure in relation to the Pipeline Operations and/or Production Operations includes the underground gas gathering pipeline and wellheads for Production Wells and any other ancillary Equipment, which will be located at a minimum depth of 1.5m (one point five meters) measured from the ground surface of the Servitude Area to the top of the Pipeline, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Parties.
- 5.3 The surface infrastructure in relation to the Pipeline Operations and/or Production Operations includes Well Sites granting access to the Production Wells, associated instrumentation required for the manholes, Booster Stations, Pigging Stations and Low Point Drains (where applicable).
- 5.4 The Parties specifically agree that -
  - 5.4.1 during the installation, erection or construction of the facilities and/or infrastructure contemplated in clauses 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3, all such facilities and/or infrastructure will be located within the Working Area which period is envisaged to be no longer than the Construction Period;

- 5.4.2 if a Production Well is located within an area of arable land, then the wellhead chamber granting access to the particular Production Well will be relocated to an area falling outside of the area of arable land; and
- 5.4.3 if an Exploration Well is not a gas-producing well, then such Exploration Well will be rehabilitated during the Construction Period by being cut and sealed 1.5m (one point five meters) underground, provided that if an Exploration Well is, in the sole opinion of Tetra4, not producing sufficient gas, such Exploration Well shall be held in suspension and Tetra4 shall be entitled to reopen it within a period of not exceeding the Construction Period for Production Operations.
- 5.5 Following Registration of the Notarial Deed of Servitude, Tetra4 shall have the right of access and to enter upon the Servitude Area with such persons, vehicles, pipelines, plant, surface or underground infrastructure, Equipment, machinery, appliances, instruments, or materials as may be necessary for the purpose of, including but not limited to, conducting the Production Operations and/or Pipeline Operations and to perform such other acts upon the Property as may be necessary for or incidental to that purpose.
- 5.6 Tetra4 shall give the Landowner due notification of access as more fully set out in clause 9 below.

## **6. Further Pipeline Operations and/or Production Operations**

- 6.1 If Tetra4 identifies a site other than the Servitude Area on the Property, subsequent to the Effective Date, and elects to commence with exploration or production activities on the identified site, as permitted by the Production Right, Tetra4 shall by no later than 21 (twenty one) Business Days prior to the commencement of such activities:
  - 6.1.1 give the Landowner written notice of its intention to commence with the exploration or production activities; and
  - 6.1.2 provide the Landowner with a sketch plan indicating the New Site where such activities will be undertaken.
- 6.2 In the event of clause 6.1 above the Landowner agrees to grant to Tetra4
  - 6.2.1 rights of access and use of the New Site; and
  - 6.2.2 a Pipeline Servitude and/or Production Well Servitude and/or Booster Station Servitude and/or Low Point Drain Servitude and/or Pigging Station Servitude, together with such rights ancillary thereto, including access rights and right of way, in respect of the New Site;
  - 6.2.3 in consideration for the rights granted under clause 6.2, Tetra4 shall pay the Landowner as set out in clause 4.2; and
  - 6.2.4 the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the rights granted to Tetra4 in respect of the New Site.

## **7. Maintenance and Access Roads**

- 7.1 Tetra4 acknowledges that –

- 7.1.1 its use and enjoyment of the Access Roads to the Servitude Area necessitates constant monitoring of the road conditions; and
- 7.1.2 especially during the Construction Period, but also during its ongoing Production Operations and inspection of its infrastructure, the conditions of the access roads will deteriorate.
- 7.2 The Parties agree that, prior to the commencement of the Construction Period (excluding Exploration Activities), both the Landowner and a representative of Tetra4 will take video footage and/or photographs of the road condition of the access roads, which footage will be kept on record.
- 7.3 After the Construction Period the Parties undertake to arrange an access road inspection by both the Landowner and Tetra4 at which inspection subsequent photos or video footage will be taken of the condition of the access roads. Tetra4 will be obliged to rehabilitate and/or reconstruct the access roads in the same condition as reflected in the initial photographs and/or video footage at its costs.

## **8. Accession**

- 8.1 All Pipelines, plant, surface or underground infrastructure, Equipment, machinery, appliances, instruments, or materials as may be necessary for the purpose of conducting the Production Operations and/or Pipeline Operations brought onto the Servitude Area or Property by Tetra4 and are intended to remain on the Servitude Area or within the ground below the Servitude Area for so long as this Agreement is in existence, shall not accede to the Property or any land belonging to the Landowner.
- 8.2 All Pipelines, plant, surface or underground infrastructure, Equipment, machinery, appliances, instruments, or materials as may be necessary for the purpose of conducting the Production Operations and/or Pipeline Operations shall not be regarded as permanent fixtures and shall at all times be regarded as moveable.
- 8.3 The ownership of all Pipelines, plant, surface or underground infrastructure, Equipment, machinery, appliances, instruments, or materials as may be necessary for the purpose of conducting the Production Operations and/or Pipeline Operations shall at all times remain vested in Tetra4.

## **9. Access to Working Area**

- 9.1 The Landowner shall be responsible for completing the Landowner Information Form shall ensure that all details contained in Annexure B are accurate and up to date.
- 9.2 Upon first access to the Working Area, Tetra4 will provide the Landowner with an Access Notification, or a notice to be given for such shorter period as may be agreed between the Parties in the Landowner Information Form.
- 9.3 For each subsequent access to the Working Area, Provisional Servitude Area and Servitude Area the form and period of notice will be in accordance with the provisions of the Landowner Information Form.

- 9.4 If the Landowner does not complete the Landowner Information Form, Tetra4 will give the Landowner 5 (five) Business Days' prior written notice and will obtain access to the areas referred to in clause 9.3 by using the routes agreed by the Parties and indicated on Annexure B.
- 9.5 The Landowner acknowledges that circumstances may occur which require Tetra4 to access the areas described in clause 9.3 upon shorter notice than stipulated in this Agreement or the Landowner Information Form.
- 9.6 The Landowner acknowledges that Tetra4 may be required to access the areas described in clause 9.3 without prior written notice to the Landowner due to (amongst other things) health and safety, environmental risk or security reasons. In such cases Tetra4 will use its best endeavours to contact the Landowner telephonically before accessing the said areas, failing which as soon as practicable thereafter.
- 9.7 Access to the areas described in clause 9.3 includes any access roads required by Tetra4 to gain entrance to the area or any Pipelines, plant, surface or underground infrastructure, Equipment, machinery, appliances, instruments or materials.
- 9.8 The Parties shall ensure that any gates on the Property used by either Party, as the case may be, be kept securely closed and locked.

## **10. Health and Safety**

- 10.1 Tetra4 shall maintain all installations erected for the safety of the operations and all Pipelines and wells in good repair and condition and shall execute all operations in a proper and workmanlike manner in accordance with methods customarily used in good international industry practices.
- 10.2 Tetra4 shall prepare a fire contingency plan designed to achieve rapid and effective emergency response in the event of fire which threatens the Work Area and shall implement such plan, if necessary, in collaboration with the Landowner. The Landowner shall be responsible for general health and safety including fire safety management on the remainder of the Property.
- 10.3 In any other emergency or accident arising from its operations affecting the environment, Tetra4 shall take such action as may be prudent and necessary in accordance with good international industry practice in such circumstances.

## **11. Public Liability Insurance**

- 11.1 Tetra4 shall procure Public Liability Insurance to cover damages resulting from Tetra4 exercising any of its rights in terms of this Agreement.
- 11.2 Tetra4 undertakes to submit any claim, pursuant to clause 11.1, within a period of no longer than 10 (ten) Business Days after Tetra4 receives a written notification from Landowner.
- 11.3 Tetra4 shall at its cost and expense insure all Pipelines, plant, surface or underground infrastructure, Equipment, machinery, appliances, instruments or materials for the duration of this Agreement. The Landowner shall not do

anything or permit anything to be done within the Working Area and/or Servitude Area or in relation to any Tetra4 surface or underground infrastructure, Equipment etc. that will increase the risks and/or damages to the insured interests of Tetra4.

- 11.4 The Landowner undertakes to inform its own insurance company as soon as possible after the Effective Date of the intended operations on the Property.

## **12. Non-interference with Tetra 4 Property**

- 12.1 The Landowner, including any successors in title or assigns, its agents or invitees, shall not interfere with or compromise any vehicles, Pipelines, plant, surface or underground infrastructure, Equipment, machinery, appliances, instruments or materials as may be necessary for the purpose of conducting the Production Operations and/or Pipeline Operations or any operations incidental thereto.
- 12.2 The Landowner, including any successors in title or assigns, its agents or invitees, shall:
- 12.2.1 ensure that no building or structure is erected or installed above or below the surface of the ground within the Servitude Area and no tree or bush is planted within the Servitude Area;
- 12.2.2 ensure that no tree is planted or left within the vicinity of the Servitude Area; and
- 12.2.3 ensure that no material which may, in the opinion of Tetra4, endanger any Pipeline/s, is placed within the Servitude Area.

## **13. Alienation of Property**

- 13.1 This Agreement is binding and enforceable against the Landowner and the Landowner's successors in title, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns.
- 13.2 The Landowner shall not be entitled to sell, mortgage, hypothecate, lease or otherwise alienate or dispose of the whole or any portion of the Property to any Third Party, unless the Landowner shall have:
- 13.2.1 informed the Third Party in writing of Tetra4's rights in terms of this Agreement; and
- 13.2.2 delivered to Tetra4 a written acknowledgment by the Third Party that they have been so informed and will be bound by the terms and conditions of this Agreement and the Servitude once executed.

## **14. Dispute Resolution**

- 14.1 Tetra4 and the Landowner shall negotiate in good faith and make every effort to settle any dispute or claim that may arise out of or relate to this Agreement.
- 14.2 In the event of the negotiation between Tetra4 and the Landowner not resulting in an agreement signed by the Parties resolving the dispute within 15 (fifteen) Business Days, the Parties must refer the dispute for resolution by way of arbitration in terms of this Agreement.

## 15. Arbitration

15.1 Any unresolved dispute between the Parties arising out of or in connection with this Agreement, including, its existence, application, breach, interpretation, validity, termination or cancellation, shall be submitted to and decided by arbitration in terms of the AFSA Rules, subject to the following provisions:

15.1.1 the tribunal shall consist of 1 (one) arbitrator;

15.1.2 the arbitration proceedings shall be in accordance with the formalities and/or procedures determined by the arbitrator;

15.1.3 the place of the arbitration shall be chosen by the Claimant in the arbitration and shall be either Bloemfontein or Johannesburg;

15.1.4 the language of the arbitration shall be English;

15.1.5 the arbitrator's decision shall be appealable to a panel of three arbitrators agreed upon by the Parties. Should the Parties fail to reach agreement within 3 (three) Business Days from receipt of a notice from any Party calling for same, the panel shall be appointed by the Secretariat, as determined in the AFSA Rules;

15.1.6 the Parties shall endeavour to ensure that the arbitration is completed within 60 (sixty) days after notice requiring the claim to be referred to arbitration is given;

15.1.7 the decision of the arbitrator shall be in writing. The arbitrator shall give reasons for their award; and

15.1.8 the proceedings and decision shall be confidential to the Parties and their advisors.

15.2 The arbitrator shall be:

15.2.1 if the issue is primarily a legal matter, a practising attorney or advocate of not less than 20 (twenty) years standing or a retired judge, who, in the absence of agreement reached within 14 (fourteen) Business Days of the arbitration being demanded, shall be appointed by the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson of the National Legal Practice Council; or

15.2.2 if the issue is primarily a technical matter, an appropriately qualified and skilled person of stature in the applicable technical area and who is totally independent from the Parties, and such person, in the absence of agreement reached within 14 days of the arbitration being demanded, shall be appointed by the president of the South African Engineering Council of South Africa, alternatively, South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions.

15.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of this clause 15:

15.3.1.1 this arbitration clause shall not preclude a Party from seeking urgent relief in a court of appropriate jurisdiction, where grounds for urgency exist; and

15.3.1.2 in the event of any Party having a claim against any other Party for a liquidated amount or an amount which arises from a liquid document, then the Party having such claim shall be entitled to institute action therefor in

a court of Law rather than in terms of the above clauses, notwithstanding the fact that such other Party may dispute such claim.

- 15.4 The periods for negotiation may be shortened or lengthened by written agreement between the Parties.
- 15.5 The commencement of Dispute Resolution processes shall not suspend the operation of this Agreement and more particularly, TETRA4's right to access the Property and continue its Pipeline Operations and/ or Production Operations.

## 16. Breach

In the event that either Party fails to comply with an arbitration award or in the event that either Party fails to comply with any urgent interim relief granted by the High Court, then and in such event, either Party shall have the right, after 15 (fifteen) Business Days' written notice has been received either Party to rectify the breach to:

- 16.1 cancel this Agreement by e-mail and a registered letter to either Party's Chosen Address; and/or
- 16.2 notify either PASA or the DMRE of the said breach and subsequently request PASA or the DMRE to issue the relevant notices to Tetra4 in terms of the applicable law or Act; and/or
- 16.3 have the right to institute a claim for damages.

## 17. Notices and Legal Processes

- 17.1 Each Party chooses this address for all purposes under this Agreement (**Chosen Address**), whether for serving court process or documents, giving any notice, or making any other communications of whatsoever nature and for whatsoever purpose under this Agreement:

<b>Landowner</b>	The Address as indicated in the Landowner Information Form
<b>Tetra4</b>	Tetra4 (Pty) Ltd 1st Floor, No 1 Bompas Road Dunkeld West Johannesburg 2196 Email: nick@renergen.co.za

- 17.2 Any notice required or permitted under this Agreement is valid only if in writing.
- 17.3 Any notice transmitted by email to it at a Party's Chosen Address shall be deemed to have been received on the day of transmission.
- 17.4 Any Party may by notice to the other Parties change its Chosen Address to another physical address in the Republic of South Africa and that change takes



effect on the seventh day after the date of receipt by the Party who last receives the notice.

17.5 Any notice delivered by hand to the Chosen Address of a Party before 17h00 is deemed to have been received on the date of delivery.

17.6 Despite anything to the contrary in this Agreement, a written notice actually received by a Party, including a notice sent by telefax or email, is an adequate notice to it even though not sent or delivered to its Chosen Address.

## **18. Cession, Transfer and Assignment of Rights**

The Parties shall not be entitled to cede, transfer, assign or subcontract any or all of its rights and/or obligations under this Agreement to any Third Party without any further consent.

## **19. Independent Advice**

Each of the Parties hereby acknowledges that it has been free to secure independent legal, tax, accounting and/or other advice as to the nature and effect of all of the provisions of this Agreement and that it has either taken such independent legal, tax, accounting and/or other advice or dispensed with the necessity of doing so.

## **20. Interpretation**

20.1 Clause and paragraph headings are for purposes of reference only and shall not be used in interpretation.

20.2 Unless the context clearly indicates a contrary intention, any word connoting:

20.2.1 any gender includes the other two genders;

20.2.2 the singular includes the plural and vice versa;

20.2.3 natural persons includes juristic and artificial persons and vice versa;

20.2.4 insolvency includes provisional or final sequestration, liquidation or business rescue.

20.3 A reference to days (as opposed to Business Days) shall mean calendar days.

20.4 When any number of days, or Business Days, is prescribed, such number shall exclude the first and include the last, unless, in the case of days, the last day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or a public holiday in South Africa, in which case the last day shall be the next succeeding Business Day.

20.5 A reference to an enactment is a reference to that enactment as at the date of signature of this Agreement (being the date of the last signature to this Agreement) and as amended or re-enacted from time to time.

20.6 The rule of interpretation that a written agreement shall be interpreted against the party responsible for the drafting or preparation of that agreement shall not apply.

20.7 If any provision in a definition is a substantive provision conferring rights or imposing obligations on any Party, notwithstanding that it is only in the

definition clause, effect shall be given to it as if it were a substantive provision in the body of the Agreement.

- 20.8 The *eiusdem generis* rule shall not apply and accordingly, whenever a provision is followed by the word "including" and specific examples, such examples shall not be construed so as to limit the ambit of the provision concerned.
- 20.9 Where figures are referred to in numerals and in words, and there is any conflict between the two, the words shall prevail, unless the context indicates a contrary intention.
- 20.10 Where any term is defined within the context of any particular clause in this Agreement, then, unless it is clear from the clause in question that the term so defined has limited application to the relevant clause, the term so defined shall bear the meaning ascribed to it for all purposes in terms of this Agreement, notwithstanding that that term has not been defined in the definition clause.

## 21. General

### 21.1 No amendments except in writing

No addition to, variation or agreed cancellation of, or waiver of any right under this Agreement shall be of any force or effect unless recorded in writing and signed in manuscript by or on behalf of the Parties, and no form of electronic signature or electronic communication or exchange shall constitute compliance with this requirement.

### 21.2 Sole record of agreement

This Agreement constitutes the sole record of the agreement between the Parties with regard to the subject matter hereof. No Party shall be bound by any express or implied term, representation, warranty, promise or the like not recorded herein.

### 21.3 Counterparts

This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original and all of which shall be deemed to constitute the same Agreement.

### 21.4 Waivers

No relaxation or indulgence which any Party may grant to any other shall constitute a waiver of the rights of that Party and shall not preclude that Party from exercising any rights which may have arisen in the past or which might arise in future.

### 21.5 Survival of obligations

Any provision of this Agreement which contemplates performance or observance subsequent to any termination or expiration of this Agreement shall survive any termination or expiration of this Agreement and continue in full force and effect.

### 21.6 Approvals and consents

An approval or consent given by a Party under this Agreement shall only be valid if in writing and shall not relieve the other Party or Parties from responsibility for complying with the requirements of this Agreement nor shall it be construed as a waiver of any rights under this Agreement except as and to the extent otherwise expressly provided in such approval or consent, or elsewhere in this Agreement.

**21.7 Agreement made with Third Parties**

Tetra4 takes no responsibility for any agreements or arrangements/consents made between the Landowner and Parties working on the Phase II Project and related activities which fall outside of this Agreement; nor shall it be construed as a waiver of any rights under this Agreement except as and to the extent otherwise expressly provided in such approval or consent, or elsewhere in this Agreement.

**21.8 Severability**

If any one or more of the provisions of the Agreement shall be declared or adjudged (formally or informally) to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable under any law applicable, that provision shall be deemed for all purposes to be severable from all the other provisions of the Agreement, which provisions shall continue in force unaffected.

**21.9 Contra Proferentem**

Each and every provision of this Agreement shall be construed as though the Parties participated equally in the drafting of same, and any rule of construction that a document be construed against the drafting party, including without limitation the doctrine commonly known as contra proferentem, shall not be applicable to this Agreement.

**22. Costs**

Each Party shall be responsible for its own costs associated with the preparation and execution of this Agreement.

**23. Confidentiality**

23.1 All matters relating to this Agreement shall be treated by the Parties as confidential and no such matter shall be disclosed to any third party without the prior written approval of the other Party. No Party shall be party to the dissemination of publicity relating to this project or the Agreement without the prior written approval of the Landowner or Tetra4.

23.2 These provisions do not apply to information which is:

- 23.2.1 publicly known or becomes publicly known through no unauthorised act of a Party;
- 23.2.2 rightfully received by a Party from a Third Party;
- 23.2.3 independently developed by a Party without use of the other Party's information;

- 23.2.4 disclosed by the other Party to a Third Party without similar restrictions;
- 23.2.5 required to be disclosed pursuant to a sale transaction being entered into by one of the Parties, or to a requirement of a Governmental Agency or any Law, so long as the Party required to disclose the information gives the other Party prior notice of such disclosure; or
- 23.2.6 publicly disclosed with the other Party's written consent.

Signed at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 2023

[●]

**LANDOWNER**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Who warrants authority

Signed at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 2023

**TETRA4 PROPRIETARY LIMITED**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Who warrants authority

**Annexure A**

**SKETCH PLAN OF SITE (PROVISIONAL SERVITUDE AREA)**

**Annexure B**

**LANDOWNER INFORMATION FORM**

This form aims to obtain relevant information from Landowners and lawful occupiers of properties on which exploration and production activities are agreed upon with Tetra4.

**Personal Details**

Full name

Work telephone

Home telephone

Mobile phone

Email address

Postal address

(please include the postal code)


**Property Details**

Farm name

Farm portion

Square meters dist.


**Are you a Landowner or tenant? (please circle one of the options)**

Landowner

Tenant

**Have you entered a land access and land use agreement with Tetra4?  
(please circle one of the options)**

Yes

No

**If yes, please indicate the date on  
which the agreement was signed.**

--

**Please provide Tetra4 with banking details for the payment of rentals:**

Name of Bank	
Branch Number	
Account Number	
Type of Account	
Name of Account holder	

**Please provide a brief description of the land use activities underway on the property:**

--

**Please provide a list of infrastructures that are located on the property:**

--

**Please provide information on how you would like to be notified by Tetra4 before accessing your property/ies:**

--

**Please provide further information regarding how your property is to be accessed, areas on your property to avoid, use of existing access roads and sensitive areas within the property that Tetra4 must remain aware of.**

--

**Have you entered an agreement regarding the use of water resources on the property?**  
**(Please circle one of the options)**

Yes

No

**If yes, please indicate the date on  
which the agreement was signed.**

**Have you been informed of the activities scheduled to take place on the property?**  
**(Please circle one of the options)**

Yes

No

**Do you have any further comments regarding accessing the property by Tetra4?**

Tetra4 respectfully request that you sign the completed form and return as soon as possible.  
Should you have any queries, please contact us.

**Signature**

**Full name**

**Date**

### **Stakeholder Enquiries and Communication**

Mirna de Hart

Telephone: (+2783) 276 4847

Email: [mirna@renergen.co.za](mailto:mirna@renergen.co.za)

Environmental Enquiries and Communication

Gerhard Muller

Telephone: (+2782) 067 4833

Email: [gerhard@renergen.co.za](mailto:gerhard@renergen.co.za)



**Annexure C**

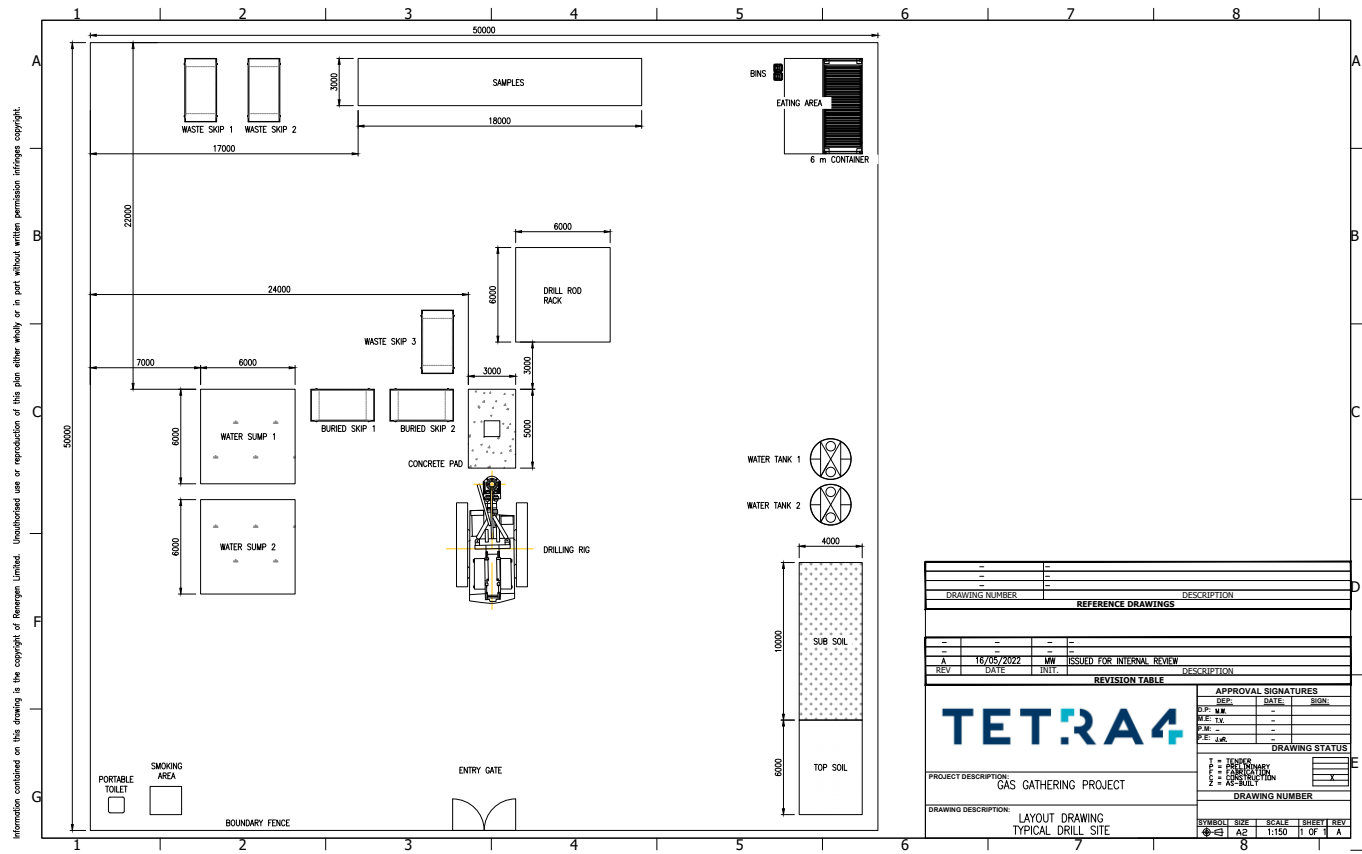
**NOTARIAL DEED OF SERVITUDE**

**Annexure D**

**CPI INCREASES**

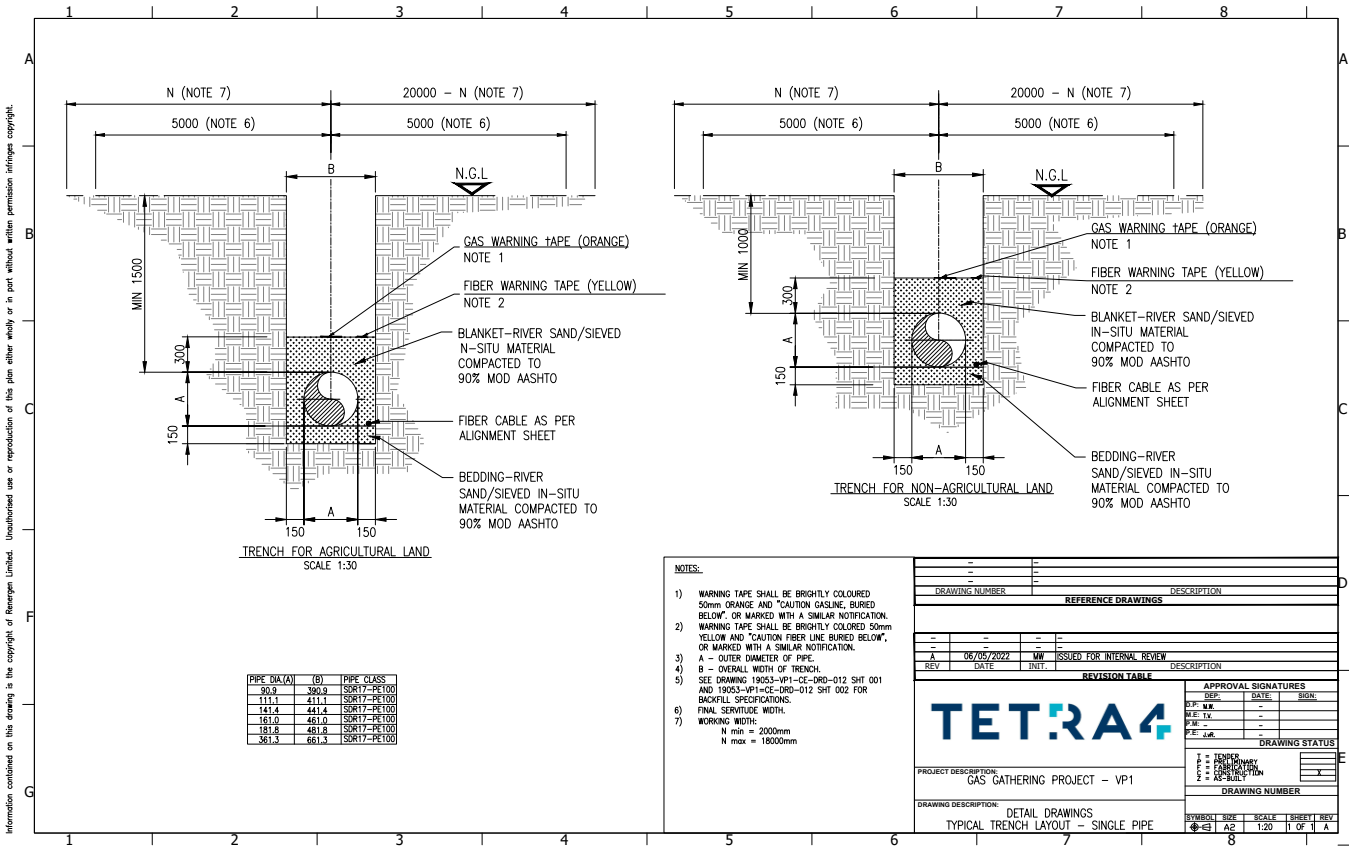
Annexure E

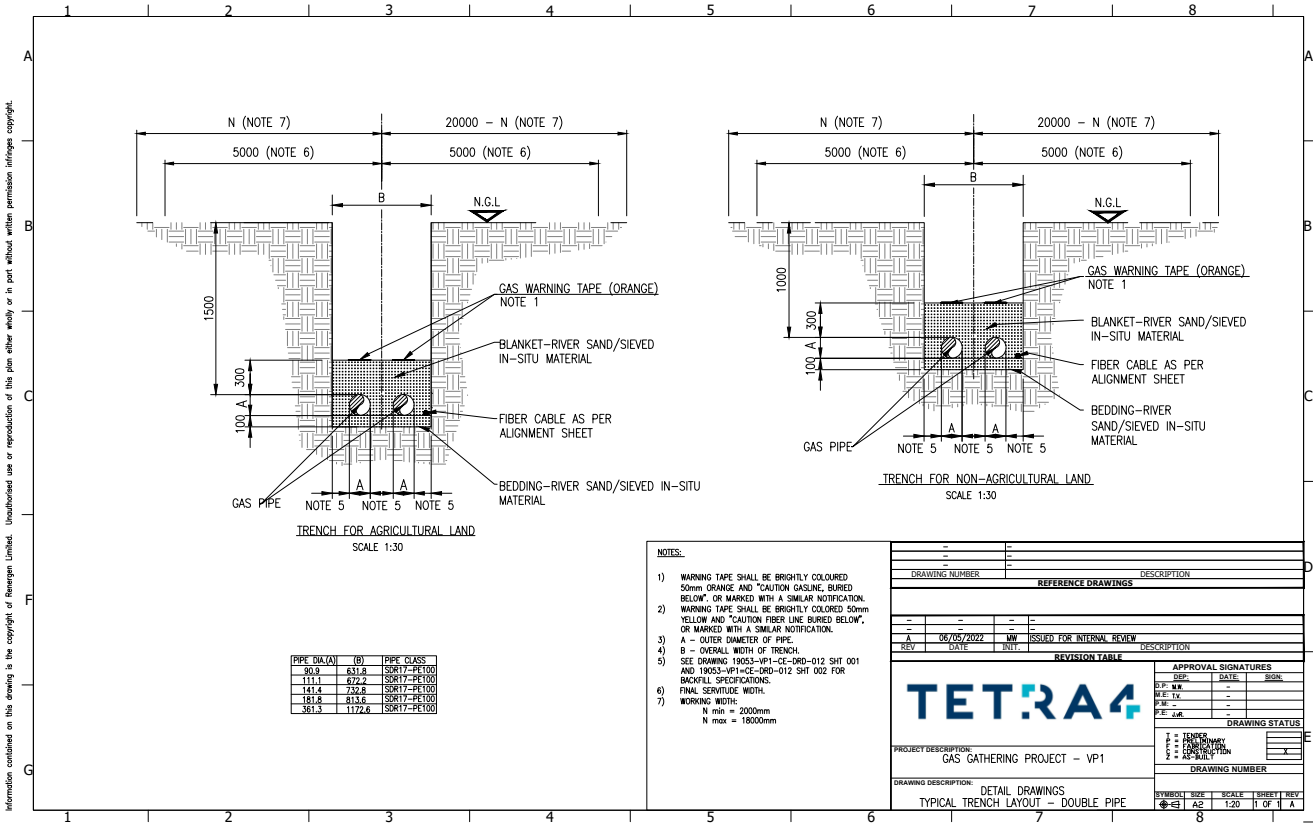
EXPLORATION WORKING AREA



Annexure F

PIPELINE WORKING AREA





## Qaphela Magaqa

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 25 January 2023 16:16  
**To:** 'Cindy Oosthuizen'  
**Cc:** Gert Oosthuizen; Gert Oosthuizen; Cindy Oosthuizen  
**Subject:** RE: COMMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT

Good day Cindy.

We hereby confirm receipt of your below email and your attached comments/documents. EIMS will provide responses to your comments in due course.

We also confirm that your original verbatim comments as well as our responses thereto will be submitted to the Competent Authority for their consideration.

Kind regards,

QAPHELA MAGAQA



**EIMS**

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT  
MANAGEMENT  
SERVICES**

**T** +27 11 789 7170  
**M** +27 78 580 6692  
**F** +27 86 571 9047  
**E** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

8 Dalmeny Road, Pine Park,  
Randburg, 2194

PO Box 2083, Pinetown, 2123,  
ZA

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**From:** Cindy Oosthuizen <cindy@pracpro.co.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 January 2023 17:34  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Cc:** Gert Oosthuizen <ggj.oosthuizen@gmail.com>; Gert Oosthuizen <gert@optavit.co.za>; Cindy Oosthuizen <cinnaoost@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** COMMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT

2023 / 01 / 24

Attention : Qaphela Magaqa

RE: COMMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME  
SUBMITTED IN RESPECT OF AN APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION BY TETRA4 FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER  
2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT NEAR VIRGINIA, IN THE MASILONYANA AND MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, FREE  
STATE PROVINCE

Dear Qaphela Magaqa

Kindly find attached hereto our **comments** and relevant annexures on the Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Programme for your consideration.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this email.

Kind Regards,



Cindy Oosthuizen  
Phone: (057) 212 9876  
Mobile: 082 450 1442  
Email: cindy@pracpro.co.za  
Web: www.pracpro.co.za  
Co Reg: 2015/257327/07

## Lucien James

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 June 2023 09:37  
**To:** William du Plessis; 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Cc:** Mikaella@warburtons.co.za  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Tetra4 Gas Cluster 2 - Water Use Licence amendment - Preliminary Comments/Concerns

Dear I&AP,

Please see the included link to a downloadable file including responses to your comments. The link and associated file includes a table of responses to the comments noted as well as appendices and other relevant documentation. Should you have any queries, please let me know. Please also confirm receipt of this email and if you have been able to access the documents.

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/b8ipzzc43jg1g0c/AACO\\_hl1LGpCMDjrOYDs01mLa/William?dl=0&lst=](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/b8ipzzc43jg1g0c/AACO_hl1LGpCMDjrOYDs01mLa/William?dl=0&lst=)

KIND REGARDS  
LUCIEN JAMES



**T** +27 11 789 7170  
**F** +27 86 571 9047  
**E** [lucien@eims.co.za](mailto:lucien@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

8 Dalmeny Road, Pine Park,  
Randburg, 2194

PO Box 2083, Pinegowrie, 2123,  
ZA

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**From:** William du Plessis <williamdup@vodamail.co.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 9, 2023 5:07 PM  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Cc:** Mikaella@warburtons.co.za  
**Subject:** Proposed Tetra4 Gas Cluster 2 - Water Use Licence amendment - Preliminary Comments/Concerns

Dear EIMS

1. We refer to the SMS notification we received as registered I&APs on **7 March 2023** indicating that the 'Water Use Licence technical report for the Cluster 2 Project is available for public review and comment' until today (attached for reference).
2. As you are aware, we are the registered landowners of several farms that will be directly impacted by Tetra4's Cluster 2 development, including Farms: Palmietkuil 328 (Portion 5) and Kalkoenkrans 225 (Portions 0 and 2), where we reside and conduct farming operations.



3. We understand from the IWWMP that the uploaded documents form part of Tetra4's application to amend its Water Use Licence (**WUL Amendment**) which will impact on our properties and land use. The documents are extremely voluminous (more than 1000 pages, in 12 different categories/folders) - the IWWMP alone consists of 264 pages. As you would appreciate, these reports and documents are of a technical and specialist nature, and it is difficult to identify and understand the direct impacts on our properties, operations, and land use (from these documents).

4. Our preliminary comments/concerns/questions in respect of the WUL Amendment and its process are:

4.1. **WUL Amendment Application Form:** We have not been able to locate the completed **WUL amendment application form** that precedes/ accompanies the documents uploaded. We can see the IWWMP and the 12 folders containing its Appendices and the EIA application form, but not the completed **WUL amendment application form**. Please could you provide it or indicate where we may find it.

4.2. **WUL:** We don't have a copy of the WUL that is being amended through this process, please could you provide a copy.

4.3. **WUL Amendment process specific consultation:** Public Participation documents appear to have been uploaded as part of the WUL Amendment documents on the EAP/your website. However, these seem to relate to the EIA process specifically and our comments and meetings regarding that process, which preceded the WUL amendment documents released on **7 March 2023**. Although the IWWMP refers to 'integrated' consultation, our recollection is that we've discussed/considered project impacts more broadly, and not necessarily focused on the WUL Amendment process/specific water uses contemplated (and have not had sight of the WUL). Based on the IWWMP (released on 7 March 2023) we are struggling to understand the specific water impacts.

Is there an intention to conduct specific consultation on the WUL Amendment process covering water impacts specifically? As registered I&APs that will also be affected by this process, we request further consultation to understand the specific impacts emanating from this amendment.

4.4. **Clarity request:** We've perused the IWWMP, but it is not particularly clear to us what specific water related impacts (contemplated as part of the WUL Amendment) will occur on our properties and how it will/may impact our land use, operations, and activities (which include agricultural/farming activities). For instance, on an initial review it appears that-

- 4.4.1. There are underground aquifers that may be impacted, but it is not particularly clear where they are located in relation to water use activities/impacts and our land use/operations;
- 4.4.2. Infrastructure such as pipelines/transmission lines will trigger 21 (c) & (i) uses but the locality still needs to be determined;
- 4.4.3. It seems from the IWWMP that in addition to the 50 x 50m drill rig footprint, further impacted areas may be contemplated for infrastructure (e.g., sumps).

We note the listing of properties in Table 6, but it is unclear exactly how the impacts mentioned and discussed in the IWWMP relate to our land use and properties. We would be grateful if you could indicate and clarify the impacts on our properties and the locations and impacts on our properties and land uses contemplated by the IWWMP.

5. In addition to addressing our questions above, please could you to set up a call/online meeting to discuss the WUL Amendment so we may better understand the process and impacts on us so that we are able to adequately consider and comment.

6. Please ensure that our comments are also submitted to the licensing authority as part of the public participation/consultation process record/report.

7. We reserve our rights to submit any further comments or concerns.

8. Please acknowledge receipt.

Thank you and kind regards

William du Plessis  
082 821 1053

## Mbali Tshabalala

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 October 2025 11:18  
**To:** Celine Oates  
**Cc:** Richard Summers; Reception – Richard Summers Inc.; Clarice Arendse  
**Subject:** RE: RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Good day Celine,

Here with confirmation of receipt of email.

We can confirm that the listed I&APs have been added to our database and will receive all notifications regarding the project progression from now going forward.

Regarding the request for an extension, could we please get shapefiles or any indicator of the extent of your client's projects locations. This will assist us in providing a more concrete response to your request.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



8 Dalmeny Road, Pine Park,  
Randburg, 2194

**T** +27 11 789 7170  
**F** +27 86 571 9047  
**E** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

PO Box 2083, Pinegowrie, 2123, ZA

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**From:** Celine Oates <celine@summersinc.co.za>

**Sent:** Friday, 10 October 2025 08:25

**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>

**Cc:** Richard Summers <Richard@summersinc.co.za>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc. <Reception@summersinc.co.za>; Clarice Arendse <clarice@summersinc.co.za>

**Subject:** RE: RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to the above matter and below correspondence.

Kindly confirm receipt of the below correspondence and provide an indication as to when we should expect a response.

Many thanks.

Kind regards,

Celine Oates

RICHARD SUMMERS INC.

Candidate Attorney



**Office** +27 21 891 4402

**Mobile** +27 71 868 8101

Unit 126, Victoria Junction, 57 Prestwich Street, De Waterkant, Cape Town

---

**From:** Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 9, 2025 9:08 AM

**To:** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc.  
<[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

**Importance:** High

Dear sir / madam

We refer to the above matter and confirm that we act on behalf of Red Rocket Energy (Pty) Ltd, Piscis Energy (Pty) Ltd, Lupus Energy (Pty) Ltd, URSA Energy (RF) (Pty) Ltd, Norma Energy (Pty) Ltd, Fornax Energy (Pty) Ltd, Volans Energy (Pty) Ltd, and K2022579146 (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd.

Please see attached hereto correspondence for your urgent attention.

We shall be most grateful if you will acknowledge receipt hereof.

Kind regards,

Clarice Arendse

RICHARD SUMMERS INC.

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

**Office** +27 21 891 4402

**Mobile** +27 79 485 9851



Unit 126, Victoria Junction, 57 Prestwich Street, De Waterkant, Cape Town,  
8000



## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 06 April 2022 07:26  
**To:** elmar.roberg@africary.com  
**Subject:** RE: Tetra4 project 1473 I&AP registration

Good morning Elmar,

Thank you for your correspondence and interest in the Proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 Project. Kindly note that you have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) in the projects database. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of opportunities to participate in the Environmental Authorisation Application Process as they become available.

Should you have any queries or comments, please feel free to contact EIMS.

**KIND REGARDS**  
**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** Elmar (Africary) <elmar.roberg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 05 April 2022 11:29  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** Tetra 4 project 1473 I&AP registration

Hi there,

on behalf of Palmietkuil 548/1

Thank you

--

with kind regards,

**Elmar Roberg**

Programme Manager: Underground Gasification

**African Carbon Energy (Pty) Ltd**

email: [elmar.roberg@afriqary.com](mailto:elmar.roberg@afriqary.com)

mobile: +27 (82) 651 5138

fax: +27 (86) 672 3998;

web: [www.afriqary.com](http://www.afriqary.com)



# INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES REGISTRATION FORM

<b>EIMS Ref #:</b>	1473	<b>PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:</b> Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS) Attention : Qaphela Magaqa Fax : 086 571 9047 Phone : (011) 789 7170 E-mail : <a href="mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za">tetracluster2@eims.co.za</a> Postal Address : P.O. Box 2083, Pinegowrie, 2123, South Africa
<b>Project Title:</b>	Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project	

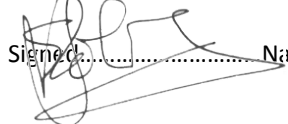


This form serves to register Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) for the above-mentioned project and to solicit input and participation to be considered by the EAP during the application process. This form will be submitted to the Competent Authority for consideration in the decision-making process.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Mr</b>	<b>Full name and surname</b>	Elmar Roberg		
<b>Contact details</b>		<b>Tel (w)</b>		<b>Tel (h)</b>	
		<b>Fax</b>	086 672 3998	<b>Cell</b>	082 651 5138
		<b>E-mail</b>	Elmar.roberg@africary.com		
		<b>Postal Address</b>	P O Box 450, Standerton 2430		
<b>Organisation and/or <u>property description</u> (if landowner/ lawful occupier)</b>			African Carbon Energy (Pty) Ltd		
Please state your interest in the proposed project (you are welcome to add additional pages if required):					
Palmietkuil 548/1 and Remainder Affects coal rights					
Please assist by completing the questions below. These responses will be utilised to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment Process. Please submit additional pages if more space is required.					
Are you a land owner or legal land occupier <u>within the application area</u> ?		Palmietkuil 548/1 and Remainder			
Are you aware of any communities which exist within the application area (or on your property) that should be consulted, provide detail and possible contact details?					
Are you aware of any tribal authorities within, or affected by the application area, provide detail and possible contact details?					
Are you aware of any other I&APs who need to be notified, please provide detail and possible contact details?					
Please can you provide us with a high level description of the					

receiving environment pertaining to your interest? (including land uses such as farming, grazing etc; vegetation; topographical features; Infrastructure; sensitive flora/fauna).	
Are you aware of any land developments (current or proposed) within the application area that may be relevant to the proposed project?	
Are you aware of any cultural or heritage features within the study area and surrounds, please provide detail?	
Please describe any bio-physical and/or socio-economic impacts that you believe should be considered during the study?	
Do you have any specific concerns, comments or objections to the proposed project, if so could you please provide us with additional information?	
General Comments:	

EIMS respectfully requests that you please sign this document and return it to EIMS at the details provided on the top of the first page to ensure that your comments, concerns and inputs are recorded. Please note that only registered I&AP's will be included in future correspondence regarding this EIA process.



Signature..... Name...Elmar Roberg.....Date...25 June 2022.....

## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 January 2023 11:16  
**To:** elmar.roberg@gmail.com  
**Subject:** RE: a query  
**Attachments:** Tetra4 Cluster 2 Google Earth Files.zip

Good day Mr Roberg,

Thank you for your correspondence.

Please find the attached KMZ files of the Tetra4 Cluster 2 study area and its associated infrastructure.

Should you have any comments and/or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

QAPHELA MAGAQA

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+27 86 571 9047  
tetracluster2@eims.co.za  
www.eims.co.za  
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PO Box 2083, Pinegowrie, 2123, ZA

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-----Original Message-----

From: Elmar (gmail) <elmar.roberg@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, 17 January 2023 16:58  
To: 1473 Tetrcluster2 <tetrcluster2@eims.co.za>  
Subject: a query

Hi Brian

(palmietkuil 548 / 1)

I was surprised to see in the heritage report that the specialist was denied access. No reason that that should have been .

I am struggling to identify exactly where the boundaries of Phase 2 are.

Is it possible to provide a KMZ of the the overall project?

Thank you.

--

with kind regards, Elmar Roberg +27 82 651 5138

## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 January 2023 15:27  
**To:** elmar.roberg@gmail.com  
**Subject:** RE: a query  
**Attachments:** Tetra4 Cluster 2 Google Earth Files.zip; Cluster 2 Project History and Mineral Tenure\_QM (1).jpg

Good day Mr Roberg,

Thank you for your correspondence.

With reference to your email below, please find the attached map showing the Production right area, Cluster 1 boundary and the current application area for cluster 2. I have also attached the proposed infrastructure KML files to this email. Kindly note that the Cluster 2 exploration/production wells cannot be defined at this point, hence the application for 600m wide well transects.

Kind regards,

QAPHELA MAGAQA

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-----Original Message-----

From: Elmar (gmail) <elmar.roberg@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, 18 January 2023 12:25  
To: 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
Subject: Re: a query

Dear Qaphela,

Can you also send me the outline for the Production Right, Phase 1 and the borehole locations.

Appreciate that very much.

with kind regards, Elmar Roberg +27 82 651 5138 On 2023/01/18 11:16, 1473 Tetracluster2 wrote:

> Good day Mr Roberg,  
>  
> Thank you for your correspondence.  
>  
> Please find the attached KMZ files of the Tetra4 Cluster 2 study area and its associated infrastructure.  
>  
> Should you have any comments and/or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.  
>  
> Kind regards,  
>  
> QAPHELA MAGAQA  
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>  
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> -----Original Message-----

> From: Elmar (gmail) <elmar.roberg@gmail.com>  
> Sent: Tuesday, 17 January 2023 16:58  
> To: 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
> Subject: a query  
>  
> Hi Brian  
>  
> (palmietkuil 548 / 1)  
>  
> I was surprised to see in the heritage report that the specialist was denied access. No reason that that should have been .  
>  
> I am struggling to identify exactly where the boundaries of Phase 2 are.  
>  
> Is it possible to provide a KMZ of the the overall project?  
>  
> Thank you.  
>  
> --  
> with kind regards, Elmar Roberg +27 82 651 5138

## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 03 February 2023 13:36  
**To:** elmar.roberg@africary.com  
**Cc:** Sam Monkoe  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 - Tetra4 Cluster 2 Expansion Project: EIA Report Availability and Public Meeting Notification  
**Attachments:** 1473\_Elmar Roberg EIA Response Letter.pdf

Good day Mr Roberg,

As your email below refers, kindly find the attached response letter to your comments submitted during the EIA review period.

Kindly note, you have been registered on both databases as requested below. Furthermore, we have also added Mr Sam Monkoe to the projects' Interested and Affected Parties database as requested.

Should you have any queries, feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



**EIMS**

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---

**From:** Elmar (Africary) <elmar.roberg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 January 2023 10:23  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Cc:** Sam Monkoe <monkoe.s@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Re: 1473 - Tetra4 Cluster 2 Expansion Project: EIA Report Availability and Public Meeting Notification  
**Importance:** High



Dear Qaphela,

I trust you were able to establish why I received the notification for the first meeting and not the second?

Is it that your system only sends the notifications to one of the two lists? If so, I am representing Palmietkuil 548/1 and thus should be on the farms list. In any event, I would like to be on both.

Please also add Mr Sam Monkoe to the list. Thank you.

Please also find attached a list of additional questions.

Thank you.

with kind regards,

**Elmar Roberg**

Programme Manager: Underground Gasification

**African Carbon Energy (Pty) Ltd**

email: [elmar.roberg@afriquiry.com](mailto:elmar.roberg@afriquiry.com)

mobile: +27 (82) 651 5138

fax: +27 (86) 672 3998;

web: [www.afriquiry.com](http://www.afriquiry.com)

On 2022/12/02 15:14, 1473 Tetracluster2 wrote:

Dear Registered Interested and Affected Party,

Kindly find attached the notification regarding further opportunity to participate in Environmental Approval Processes for the Proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project near Virginia, in the Masilonyana and Matjhabeng Local Municipalities, Free State Province.

Should you have any questions and/or comments, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind Regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



**EIMS**

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**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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## Queries: EIMS

A general comment: by our estimate the EIAR must be in excess of 2,000 pages and it is by nature authored by specialists to be read by people not used to dealing with such material. A non-technical narrative summary of 3 pages is like a 3 page contract with 2,000 pages of fine print.

Some of a farmer's biggest fears are the availability of usable water; ensuring the product (crops, livestock); and getting it to the market in time. It would be nice if the summaries could be written from such a perspective.

After reviewing the EIAR we have the following additional questions in addition to those raised at the meetings on 11 January 2023:

1. At meeting on 11 January 2023, request was made that a picture of the Booster station be provided, when will this be provided?
2. How many blowers were active when the current owners took over the Rights?
3. How many are still active now?
4. How many additional wells were drilled since then?
5. How many of them actively produce gas?
6. Appx 4-12 Visual, p5 says "Drilling and establishment of further production wells throughout the entire production area (260 production wells)" Is this a limit on the production right? If not, what is the limit?
7. Why does the word "mineral" appear in the map "Phase 2 project and mineral tenure"?
8. P35 (4.2.3) says "Visually compressor stations are **similar to wells** in that they will be comprised of compressor plant enclosed by a mesh security fence in the order of 2.5m high." This does not seem to be correct.
9. Please explain map 10 (p50)

## EMPr 2017 (Appendix G):

10. Since reference in the EMPr 2023 is made to this one, I believe we are entitled to ask for clarification on matters in that the 2017 document. If not, please explain why.
11. "The original Environmental Authorisation and associated EMPr, **only applied to the areas with certified reserves only** (refer to the green area)." Be more specific.
12. "A change register must be maintained to track these changes. All amendments and additions must comply with the relevant requirements of the MPRDA and the NEMA." what are our rights in this regard? What is best practice?
13. How is waste water stored at the inline extraction sites?
14. You mentioned that a better approach to "honey suckers" will used. What is this method?
15. Is there any waste water produced at a pigging site?

## EMPr 2023 (Appendices 5, 6):

16. (4.3.1.1) The diagram seems to have text cut off in boxes – please provide updated version.
17. (4.3.1.6.2) pigging station not shown in this diagram. Why not?
18. It was mentioned that if any inline infrastructure is included in the pipeline in currently farmed land, this would be moved to a suitable spot to avoid impacting on farming and other activities. Considering that

the pipelines will be in operation for 20 years or more, what measures are anticipated if the “suitable spot” becomes part of farming activities in the future?

19. There appears to be an opinion amongst many practising geologists that there is no petroleum of note to be found in continental South Africa. There has been confirmation by the CEO in the oft-repeated “only inland gas licence” (paraphrased).

From our reading it would appear that the specialist reports which were prepared by overseas specialists were based on information provided by the company (Tetra4). None of these specialists seem to have a local presence, and only visited the country very briefly.

Whilst it is accepted that decisions are made on the basis of the best information at the time, and that promises made by Tetra4 management are done so in good faith, the viability of the whole project is dependent on actual gas in excess of what has been produced to date.

Since these promises are known, unknowns, they are unlikely to have been included in funds already catered for.

We notice from public financial reporting that since inception, Tetra4 has never exceeded an average of R2.3m turnover per annum. Debt stood at in excess of R770m at the end of FY 2022. By now, substantial infrastructure is already in place.

What percentage of compensation-related liabilities are covered by the balance sheet as opposed to a ring-fenced externally controlled fund?

20. What measures have been taken to compensate farmers for losses incurred due to these unrealised expectations (“promises” like “every possible measure will be taken to prevent xxxx from happening”)? (Reduced income this year impacts directly on the ability to produce an income next year; and the promise of compensation in five years time, has zero benefit to survivability.)
21. Will Tetra4 consider establishing an escrow account to compensate for any “promises” made? The amount of which to be determined by a local (SA) registered specialist and revised annually.

### **FARMERS Q&A (11 January 2023)**

**Q (William?):** What does the well look like at phase 2?

**EAP:** It looks a lot like a low point drain – it's an above ground structure

**NIMI:** William - a slab on top of surface on the ground, it protrudes quite significantly out of the ground, would like you to come through to our facility and see what it looks like. The darker grey part is what is on top of the surface. It has no security fencing around it.

**Micayla?:** Will there be any cameras, or will there be no more cameras?

**NIMI:** Based on this new design we will not need any security measures. It will be very minimal, not in your cropland. It will be moved to a boundary or servitude.

**William:** I just want it on record that the previous well would have been 2m below the ground and there would be no concrete or no structure above ground. You must remember this is in a plowed land, if you have a structure like that, even if it is just a pole, it makes it 15x15 unworkable place. The previous planning was that it is 2m underground that we can work over it.

**NIMI:** William nothing has changed from that perspective, we will deviate the well head so that you can work on your cropland. No surface concrete seen where it is in your cropland.

**Micayla:** On the topic of wellhead - could you say in what situations it would not be possible?

**NIMI:** The cost of deviating the wellhead and the operational impact is a significant impact to our business. In the scenario where it is commercial agricultural farm land we recognise our activity there would be a disturbance. Where it isn't being plowed and we are not necessarily sterilizing the land, we'll be looking to implement all other areas. Resting with the perspective of rotations, it would be treated as agricultural.

**William:** The planning phase, do you mean that as the prospecting?

**EAP:** Exploration. It includes desktop planning but it is most of the temporary phases. It will include the exploration phase, the exploration drilling

**William:** Revised landowners contract must be finalized prior to commencement of exploration, not construction.

**Micayla:** Would it not be commencement of any listed activity, any clearing, any such thing?

**EAP:** We'll change the wording to commencement of any listed activity.

**Cindy Oosthuizen:** I think we should also change the wording to listed activity, not construction (talking about compensation 36:28).

**William:** Same wording must be changed to listed activity (schedule handed out before it is done).

**Micayla:** If we are changing wording, the notion of engaging, can we change it to consultation, to fit into what compensation entails?

**ELRO:** Might have a misunderstanding - you said 480km is a trunkline - does that connect all the pipelines that connect to the well itself, it that included in the 480km?

**EAP:** Yes it is.

ELRO: In September last year the Renergen CEO made mention, and the way it was written in the article was that there was going to be a 60MW power station as a part of phase 2. Is that correct?

EAP: no there is nothing in our application covering a powerline.

NIMI: We are looking at options on how our gas will be used. Multiple parties involved adjacent to our facility. That will be a separate EA. at this stage it is too early to tell. We are busy with discussion, multiple users, different industries.

ELRO: Remember I asked about the booster - I can't remember anywhere where there said how many pigging stations there would be.

It appears as if the trunkline would cross the canal - how would you do it, go under it, over it?

NIMI: Pigging stations will ultimately be influenced by the roots. Will be on either end of a river crossing or a directional drill site. Allows us to clean out residual water.

EAP: crossing of perennial water bodies would be horizontal, starting with drilling and turning the drill, coming up the other side. It goes under.

NIMI: Horizontal directional drilling going under surfaces. Will be way below 2m so it does not affect infrastructure.

ELRO: I read that the exploration was planned to start in May of this year?

EAP: Yes, it was the original plan - depends on decision makers.

ELRO: How will the process of compensation work if harm is actually done? Related to that - understand if it cannot be answered here. There is some scepticism about the quantity of gas that will actually be found, say you've done all the construction but then it turns out it is not going to work out. In the mean time, where does all the money come from to do the EmPr.

EAP: You have to provide a mining provision, financial provision has been costed for and accounted for and Tetra must make that available should anything go wrong, like an insurance policy. Before you get your final final approval, you have to already have that in place.

NIMI: We are regulated by regulators, we have to have provisions in place. Tetra4's parent company is a listed company and raised equity when needed, and it is no secret that we are funded by the American government and they have typically funded us on our debt requirements. Part of our modeling requires us to make provision for rehabilitation.

NIMI: We have a defined grievance mechanism, we work through that process. We work with you directly. It would follow a typical grievance procedure. Sometimes involving a third party. We follow IEC? Mechanisms. They are well tested. We deliver what we say.

Gert Oosthuizen: We didn't see a photo of the booster stations, how is it going to be powered? Overhead powerlines? And then there are people out there that think you are going to provide 60 GW power, so maybe hold out on the comments you put out there.

NIMI: It would look like the size of phase 1 wells, maybe 10x12, the power requirements on that we are still working through, it is still being defined. We need to assess what is practical and what is available.

We believe we can provide that power as the company needs more power - stabilizing the grid. It would be a commodity for the country. Our lenders have placed certain restrictions on us, we need their go ahead before we can do gas to power.

Micayla: Powerline cumulative effect not considered as an EIA is a major flaw given the significant impact it would have on farmers, it is not something that can just be added on later. Having a powerstation has its own issues, transmission lines etc. It speaks to having more power lines in the area.

NIMI: The power facility is a separate issue that we would embark on a completely different process.

Gerhard Tetra4: Ito the booster stations, we will either tie into already established connections, or gas to power on a small scale, or diesel power. We are busy with all three. Depending on the final location of the booster station, will determine the power requirements. We are running a separate EIA process for the powerlines to our plant.

Gert Oosthuizen: Did something happen with the flying surveys?

NIMI: We did complete those surveys and it will improve our area of focus. It is still being assessed and evaluated. Within the 600m corridor, we'll look to narrow the focus. We'll look to improve the focus when we actually undertake the activity.

Cindy Oosthuizen: Can we get back to those images? What happens if there is no alternative to a low point drain?

NIMI: It was certainly a contentious point in phase 1. We've been operating relatively stable, through the flare or through the farm since August last year. We changed the methodology of extraction, it no longer requires a honeysuckle vehicle. It can be completed on one of the Renergen bakkies. We have a skit that is modified that we can put on. It is a requirement, but if we look at it from an impact perspective, we don't believe it is an issue. It will not be as invasive. We engineer away from croplands wherever we can.

Cindy: Everywhere it says where possible - what do you define it as?

NIMI: Wells will be drilled in the middle of croplands, but it will not surface, they will be deviated. Drains - we will need to take the well as close as possible to the boundary to get the drain to the lowest point, that is typically the most complex. I don't foresee it happening a lot. It is determined by the topography of the surface land. We would look at other options.

ELRO: Many farms are included that were not a part of phase 1 - those farmers have experienced what things have been like. The others have no idea what you mean by like phase 1. It would be useful if you make known what the experiences were during phase 1.

EAP: Where lessons learned and improvements were made, it is mentioned in the report.

Cindy: You say approval to move forward - is it dependent on them mitigating the litigation options?

EAP: We understand it will be complied with and that is why we approve it. All our recommendations are legally binding.

NIMI: All mitigation options are sent to regulators to review, and they place them as requirements on us then. We will be sanctioned and could cost our license.

ELRO: When do they become legally binding?

EAP: all recommendations are legally binding through EMP.

## **I&AP Q&A MEETING (NGO's, Govt, etc.)**

ELRO: 2 comments, stated humorously, but underlying concern. White font on yellow background, unreadable. Too much info to cypher through to see what is of concern.

EAP: No other meetings held since last one at Goldfields Ranch.

ELRO: Last meeting you spoke about 800 wells and 700 production wells

EAP: stated no 300 and 400.

ELRO: Put up slide with pics of different piece of infrastructure. Pigging station is (42:40?). Booster station not shown on this slide. Low point drain, you say there is a free flow of gas from well – pumping in booster station – booster creates vacuum and compressor creates pressure to move it to the next point. Booster has connection to electricity through nearby powerstation – ideally by overhead cable. You have your 600m corridor, for exploration purposes. Pipeline corridor – 300m wide. Are you compelled to remain in those boundaries based on authorisations that you receive?

EAP: Depends – pipelines need to be inside those corridors, anything else may be just outside of those corridors- but additional risk assessment needs to be done.

ELRO: You have not identified exactly where you are going to drill the boreholes – has the specialist walked the entire length of the corridors?

EAP: Yes, as far as landowner access was granted – have info on who did not grant access. Specialist studies were done on all 27 000 hectares – but you cannot ground truth the whole entire area.

ELRO to provide specific amendment stating that entire area must be explored once applied for, not only just before working/mining on it.

ELRO: Piping area lies outside of the 600 m corridor area – there is some overlap. Piping corridor ends before your exploration corridor, there is some overlap – what happens if (looking at the palmietkuilspruit) the production well that you've identified falls at the bottom tip of your exploration area, how do you get that to a pipe? Presumably the pipe can only be laid in the white area.

EAP: the white is only for high pressure pipelines – we are allowed to lay pipes in the other areas as well. There are small pipelines to tie the pipes together.

ELRO: What would happen if you discover that your gas is outside of the area/pipelines you have? Have to follow relevant steps, can't just do and move that (52:15). Are there standards governing the piping and do you list that?

EAP: Yes it is named. We do not allow for wells to stay open for farmers to gain water – risk is too great. Wells are completely sealed, water cannot get contaminated. There are multiple casings.

ELRO: How does one tell if a rupture has occurred in the pipeline?

EAP: There are a lot of sensors along the entire pipeline, any change in pressure from any particular well means that an investigation needs to be done.

ELRO: Can't you only measure substantial change in pressure by booster stations?

EAP: not that long stretch (50km) before you get to booster station.

ELRO it is a fair concern that should be answered – EAP it is a fair comment.





3 February, 2023

Our ref: BW/bw/1473

**Elmar Roberg**

**Landowner: Palmietkuil 548-1**

**Company: African Carbon Energy (Pty) Ltd**

Dear Sir:

**RESPONSES TO YOUR COMMENTS ON THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT**

Your comments on the Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Programme for the Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project received via email on 24 January 2023 refers.

We wish to thank you for your comments and continued participation in the application process. Your comments as well as these responses will be included in the documentation to be submitted to the Competent Authority for consideration and decision making.

Our responses to your comments are included in Table 1 overleaf.

Sincerely,

**Brian Whitfield**

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**Directors:** L Whitlow, A Smith.

Table 1: Comments and responses.

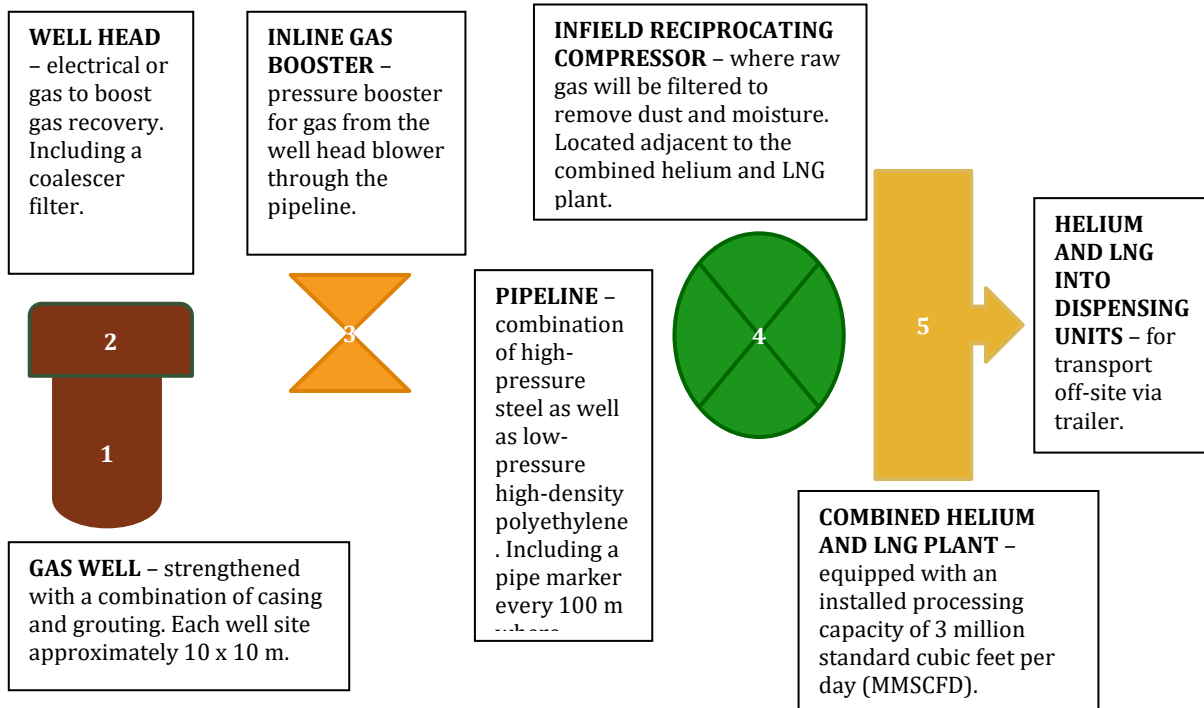
Comment	Response / Way Forward
<b>Queries: EIMS</b>	
A general comment: by our estimate the EIAR must be in excess of 2,000 pages and it is by nature authored by specialists to be read by people not used to dealing with such material. A non-technical narrative summary of 3 pages is like a 3 page contract with 2,000 pages of fine print.	Noted. The EIA Report with associated appendices has been compiled in line with Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations (GNR 982) to provide I&AP's, Authorities and the Competent Authority with sufficient information to enable informed participation and to make informed decisions. The non-technical executive summary (14 pages in total) provides a high-level overview of the EIA study, and the table of contents allows the reader to easily locate sections of the EIA report which they wish to read in more detail. The appendices include all relevant information and specialist reports should the reader require that information.
Some of a farmer's biggest fears are the availability of usable water; ensuring the product (crops, livestock); and getting it to the market in time. It would be nice if the summaries could be written from such a perspective.	The non-technical executive summary of the EIA Report (Section 1) includes a table of impacts in Section 1.5 which provides a high-level overview of the impact assessment which includes the impact on livelihoods, and is aimed at a broader readership. Should the reader wish to investigate these impacts in more detail, the impact assessment section (Section 10) provides this detail. It is our views that the table of content provides a clear breakdown of the report and that should a reader wish to review or target a specific aspect or impact they would be able to locate these distinct areas of the report with relative ease.
<b>After reviewing the EIAR we have the following additional questions in addition to those raised at the meetings on 11 January 2023:</b>	
1. At meeting on 11 January 2023, request was made that a picture of the Booster station be provided, when will this be provided?	No photographs of booster stations are available as the Cluster 1 development did not include booster stations. As described in Section 4.1.3.3 of the EIA Report, "the booster stations will occupy an area of 10 m x 14 m" and a typical design of a booster station is included in Figure 16 of the EIA Report.
2. How many blowers were active when the current owners took over the Rights?	We would encourage you to direct this query directly to Tetra4 as it relates to matters outside of the ambit of this EIA study.
3. How many are still active now?	No current active blowers within the Cluster 2 project footprint area have been brought to the EAPs attention at this time. No landowners have identified any active blowers during the consultation process as part of this current application. As per the response above, we encourage you to direct this query to Tetra4 directly.
4. How many additional wells were drilled since then?	It is our understanding that 16 further wells have been drilled under Cluster 1. For any further information on the historic activities outside of this application, kindly refer to the Renergen website ( <a href="http://www.renergen.co.za">www.renergen.co.za</a> ) or feel free to contact Renergen/Tetra4 directly.
5. How many of them actively produce gas?	It is our understanding that 11 of the 16 wells mentioned above are gas producing. For any further information on the historic activities outside of this application, kindly refer to the Renergen website ( <a href="http://www.renergen.co.za">www.renergen.co.za</a> ) or feel free to contact Renergen/Tetra4 directly.

Comment	Response / Way Forward
6. Appx 4-12 Visual, p5 says “Drilling and establishment of further production wells throughout the entire production area (260 production wells)” Is this a limit on the production right? If not, what is the limit?	Your reference to the Visual specialist report is in reference to the original Production Right number of wells. When the Production Right was approved in 2011 this right included 260 production wells however on 4 December 2014 commencement of new mineral and petroleum activities required approval under the NEMA. Tetra4 has undertaken NEMA EIA processes for Cluster 1 and Cluster 2 thus far to obtain requisite approvals and amendments as part of the Production Right.
7. Why does the word “mineral” appear in the map “Phase 2 project and mineral tenure”?	It is our understanding that “mineral tenure” is the accepted terminology when referring to the security of tenure of any resource under the MPRDA. In this context, “mineral” would include mineral and petroleum resources as governed under the MPRDA.
8. P35 (4.2.3) says “Visually compressor stations are similar to wells in that they will be comprised of compressor plant enclosed by a mesh security fence in the order of 2.5m high.” This does not seem to be correct.	This statement in the visual specialist study is referring to the existing Cluster 1 wells which contain similar mesh security fence to the compressor stations. Section 4.2.1 of the Visual specialist report provides a description of the Cluster 2 production wells as follows: “Once drilling and well construction is complete, well infrastructure will be below ground and all that will be visible is an access manhole. It is unlikely that the manhole will be visible for more than 300m.”
9. Please explain map 10 (p50)	Map 10 on page 51 of the Visual specialist report presents the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) of the 132kV powerline. This is the area or proximity to the powerline (i.e.: zone) in which it would be theoretically possible that the powerline would be visible to a receptor based on the dimensions of the powerline and the surrounding topography.
<b>EMPr 2017 (Appendix G):</b>	
10. Since reference in the EMPr 2023 is made to this one, I believe we are entitled to ask for clarification on matters in that the 2017 document. If not, please explain why.	We assume you meant to refer to the “EMPr 2022” (November 2022) and not “EMPr 2023”. Your queries related to historic documents are responded to below however it is important to bear in mind that the purpose of the current EIA is to solicit comments on the current application.
11. “The original Environmental Authorisation and associated EMPr, only applied to the areas with certified reserves only (refer to the green area).” Be more specific.	The EIA and associated EMPr undertaken as part of the 2011 Production Right application applied for activities within the area where certified reserves were identified. This is depicted in Figure 1 of the 2022 EMPr with a green outline shown on the map.
12. “A change register must be maintained to track these changes. All amendments and additions must comply with the relevant requirements of the MPRDA and the NEMA.” what are our rights in this regard? What is best practice?	It is our understanding that the EMPr must comply with the relevant legislative provisions at the time of compilation thereof. As such, the 2022 EMPr complies with the Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for Gas Pipeline Infrastructure which was promulgated by the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment through Government Notice (GN) 373 of 23 April 2021. The 2022 EMPr furthermore includes a change register in Appendix 5. As part of the current application and EMPr update, I&APs are provided with

Comment	Response / Way Forward
	an opportunity to provide comments which is understood to be the reason for your involvement and therefore you are exercising your rights in this regard.
13. How is waste water stored at the inline extraction sites?	Waste water removed from the inline extraction sites is removed from site and disposed of at a licenced waste disposal facility.
14. You mentioned that a better approach to “honey suckers” will used. What is this method?	In the landowner meeting held on 11 January 2022 at which you were present, Tetra4 confirmed that instead of a honey sucker truck being used, Tetra4 intends to use vehicles with a lower impact (e.g. bakkie with a tank on the back).
15. Is there any waste water produced at a pigging site?	It is understood that negligible amounts of waste water will be produced at the pigging stations. The main wastewater removal from the pipelines is removed from the low point drains. Any wastewater that may be generated will be handled, stored and disposed of according to the relevant legal prescripts.
<b>EMPr 2023 (Appendices 5, 6):</b>	
16. (4.3.1.1) The diagram seems to have text cut off in boxes – please provide updated version.	Thank you for identifying this small error. We have rectified this in the final EMPr and kindly refer to the end of this letter where this updated diagram is provided.
17. (4.3.1.6.2) pigging station not shown in this diagram. Why not?	Kindly refer to our response to your Point 15 above.
18. It was mentioned that if any inline infrastructure is included in the pipeline in currently farmed land, this would be moved to a suitable spot to avoid impacting on farming and other activities. Considering that the pipelines will be in operation for 20 years or more, what measures are anticipated if the “suitable spot” becomes part of farming activities in the future?	Any future changes to surface land use should be communicated to Tetra4 which will subject to further discussions and agreements. It is not within the ambit of this EIA to predict where future land use changes may occur. Should any landowner be planning on such changes at this time, this should have been brought to the EAP and Tetra4’s attention during the EIA process.
<p><b>19. There appears to be an opinion amongst many practising geologists that there is no petroleum of note to be found in continental South Africa. There has been confirmation by the CEO in the oft-repeated “only inland gas licence” (paraphrased).</b></p> <p><b>From our reading it would appear that the specialist reports which were prepared by overseas specialists were based on information provided by the company (Tetra4). None of these specialists seem to have a local presence, and only visited the country very briefly.</b></p> <p><b>Whilst it is accepted that decisions are made on the basis of the best information at the time, and that promises made by Tetra4 management are done so in good faith, the viability of the whole project is dependent on actual gas in excess of what has been produced to date.</b></p>	In this comment you provide broad statements and raise questions related to aspects outside of the ambit of the EIA process. The required financial provision for the Cluster 2 project is provided in Appendix 6 of the EIA report which provides for the liabilities of the overall project in line with the legal requirement for such. We would encourage you to direct any queries that relate to matters outside of the ambit of this EIA study directly to Tetra4/Renergen.

Comment	Response / Way Forward
<p>Since these promises are known, unknowns, they are unlikely to have been included in funds already catered for.</p> <p>We notice from public financial reporting that since inception, Tetra4 has never exceeded an average of R2.3m turnover per annum. Debt stood at in excess of R770m at the end of FY 2022. By now, substantial infrastructure is already in place.</p> <p>What percentage of compensation-related liabilities are covered by the balance sheet as opposed to a ringfenced externally controlled fund?</p>	
<p>20. What measures have been taken to compensate farmers for losses incurred due to these unrealised expectations (“promises” like “every possible measure will be taken to prevent xxxx from happening”)? (Reduced income this year impacts directly on the ability to produce an income next year; and the promise of compensation in five years time, has zero benefit to survivability.)</p>	<p>Kindly refer to Section 13.4 of the EIA Report (Recommendations for Inclusion in Integrated Decision) in which the following condition is included: “Tetra4’s activities will cause a certain level of economic displacement for some of the affected farmers. In the event that the farmer disagrees with the compensation offered, the actual impact on their livelihoods must be assessed by an agricultural economist or suitably experienced third party. Compensation must be done according to international best practice”. As such contractual agreements with affected landowners must be in place which will specify compensation to be provided for any losses.</p>
<p>21. Will Tetra4 consider establishing an escrow account to compensate for any “promises” made? The amount of which to be determined by a local (SA) registered specialist and revised annually.</p>	<p>We would encourage you to direct this question directly to Tetra4 as it is not within the scope of the EIA. The required financial provision for the Cluster 2 project is provided in Appendix 6 of the EIA report.</p>
END	

**EMPR Section 4.3.1.1 – Updated Figure 2 diagram:**



## Mbali Tshabalala

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 07 October 2025 12:24  
**To:** elmar.roberg@africary.com  
**Subject:** Re: t4 1473 meeting 2Oct25  
**Attachments:** 1473\_Updated EIA Meetings Presentation.pdf; Cluster 2 boundary Study Area.kmz

Good day Elma,

Thank you for the reminder.

Please find attached a copy of the presentation and a KMZ of the application area.

Let us know if you have any additional requests.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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Randburg, 2194

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F +27 86 571 9047  
E [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
W

[www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

PO Box 2083, Pinegowrie, 2123,  
ZA

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**From:** Elmar Josef Roberg <elmar.roberg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 6, 2025 4:14 PM  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** t4 1473 meeting 2Oct25

Good afternoon, Brian, Mbali & team

Thank you for the time on Thursday.

Cab you provide a copy of the presentation that was made by Brian,  
please; plus

KMZ's of the maps that are included the ppt

Thank you

--

with kind regards,

Elmar Roberg  
Africary Holdings (Pty) Ltd  
Programme Director: Underground Gasification  
+27 82 651 5138  
elmar.roberg@africary.com  
[www.africary.com](http://www.africary.com)



## Mbali Tshabalala

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 October 2025 07:51  
**To:** elmar.roberg@africary.com  
**Subject:** RE: t4 1473 meeting 2Oct25  
**Attachments:** 2021\_Phase\_2\_Study\_Area.zip; Approved\_EIA\_Study\_Area\_(2011).zip;  
Approved\_Production\_Right\_Boundary.zip; Compressor Stations\_300m Buffer.kmz;  
Floodline Climate Change ShapeFiles.zip; Pipeline\_300m Buffer.kmz; Transmission Loop\_300m Buffer.kmz; Well transects and Extension Buffers.kmz

Good day Elmar,

Apologies for the delay.

Here with the requested shapefiles, please note that we do not have the shapefiles for slide 18 (hydrocensus) and have requested the Geohydrologist to share such and will then the KMZ/s with you as soon as we are able to.

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any more requests or comments.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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Randburg, 2194

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---

**From:** Elmar Josef Roberg <elmar.roberg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 08 October 2025 08:20  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** Re: t4 1473 meeting 20Oct25

Thank you for the presentation, but I was looking for the kmz 's of the outlines in different colours on slide 6.

Also the kmz's for slides 17 (water and corridors) and 18 (effect of activities and boreholes).

The reason is that Tetra4 is insisting that they are only interested in where the fissures are. They are objecting to our project.

We on the other DO NOT want to mine where there are fissures, since this interferes with out production process.

The information requested helps us to understand their issues better.

We also do not wish to go the legal way, if it can be avoided.

with kind regards,

Elmar Roberg  
Africary Holdings (Pty) Ltd  
Programme Director: Underground Gasification  
+27 82 651 5138  
[elmar.roberg@afriary.com](mailto:elmar.roberg@afriary.com)  
[www.afriary.com](http://www.afriary.com)

On 2025/10/07 12:24, 1473 Tetracluster2 wrote:

Good day Elma,

Thank you for the reminder.

Please find attached a copy of the presentation and a KMZ of the application area.

Let us know if you have any additional requests.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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---

**From:** Elmar Josef Roberg <[elmar.roberg@gmail.com](mailto:elmar.roberg@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 6, 2025 4:14 PM  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Subject:** t4 1473 meeting 20Oct25

Good afternoon, Brian, Mbali & team

Thank you for the time on Thursday.

Cab you provide a copy of the presentation that was made by Brian,  
please; plus

KMZ's of the maps that are included the ppt

Thank you

--

with kind regards,

Elmar Roberg  
Africary Holdings (Pty) Ltd  
Programme Director: Underground Gasification  
+27 82 651 5138  
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[www.afriquiry.com](http://www.afriquiry.com)

## Mbali Tshabalala

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 October 2025 09:33  
**To:** elmar.roberg@africary.com  
**Subject:** RE: t4 1473 meeting 2Oct25  
**Attachments:** Hydrocensus BHs\_2022.cpg; Hydrocensus BHs\_2022.dbf; Hydrocensus BHs\_2022.prj; Hydrocensus BHs\_2022.sbn; Hydrocensus BHs\_2022.sbx; Hydrocensus BHs\_2022.shp; Hydrocensus BHs\_2022.shx; Tetra4 Hydrocensus\_2024\_v2.cpg; Tetra4 Hydrocensus\_2024\_v2.dbf; Tetra4 Hydrocensus\_2024\_v2.prj; Tetra4 Hydrocensus\_2024\_v2.sbn; Tetra4 Hydrocensus\_2024\_v2.sbx; Tetra4 Hydrocensus\_2024\_v2.shp; Tetra4 Hydrocensus\_2024\_v2.shp.xml; Tetra4 Hydrocensus\_2024\_v2.shx

Good day Elmar,

Apologies for the delay, here with the shapefiles from the Geohydrologist.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for anything further.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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---

**From:** Elmar Josef Roberg <elmar.roberg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 October 2025 10:28  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** Re: t4 1473 meeting 2Oct25

thank you, much appreciated

with kind regards,

Elmar Roberg  
Africary Holdings (Pty) Ltd  
Programme Director: Underground Gasification

10 April, 2026

Our ref: 1473

**To whom it may concern**

Dear Elmar Roberg:

Kindly see below a response to your queries:

1. Are these all still within the original EA?

In the absence of providing specific drilling locations, in general, it is our understanding that Tetra4 are undertaking exploration drilling and associated production activities under the existing Production Right as well as the Cluster 1 EA.

2. Are you able to say what was permitted to be done under the Production Right?

The PR included similar activities (wells, pipelines, etc) to what is currently being undertaken in the Cluster 1 area. However since 2014 when such activities required an Environmental Authorisation under the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998 - NEMA), Tetra4 obtained an EA for Cluster 1 in 2017 to commence with such activities. It is understood that exploration drilling is permitted within the broader Production Right EMPr area (refer to the green area in your map below) however connecting such wells to the production activities (i.e. pipelines, etc) are limited to within the Cluster 1 approved area.

3. as well as under the EA for the green area below?

Refer to response to item 2 above.

4. Or Cluster 1?

Refer to response to item 2 above.

5. How can one tell under which EA the drilling is done?

With reference to the response to item 2 above, it is understood that exploration drilling is permitted within the broader Production Right EMPr area (refer to the green area in your map below).

6. Have any pipelines been laid down for the new boreholes?

In the absence of providing specific "borehole" locations, in general, it is our understanding that gas pipelines have been installed for the current Cluster 1 production wells which falls within the ambit of the Cluster 1 EA/EMPr.

7. If so, are all these covered by an existing EA?

Refer to the above response to Item 6.

8. Is there any requirement on the part of the company to report this?

It is understood that audit reports are made available on the Tetra4/Renergen website.

9. What was the EA project for the green area?

The green area was the original area covered by the Production Right EMPr. At the time of the application for production right, no environmental authorisation (EA) was required as NEMA only began to govern MPRDA activities in 2014.

10. Was it done by EIMS?

The Production Right and associated EMPR was undertaken by EIMS however as per the response to item 9 above, there was no requirement at that time for an Environmental Authorisation.

11. Did EIMS do the EA the production right?

Refer to response to item 10 above.

12. what are the project numbers for all of the Tetra4 projects?

Please see below as requested and kindly note that these projects date back to ~11 years ago.

1610	Tetra4 Virginia Production Right Extension BA
1595	Tetra4 Virginia Seismic EA Amendment
1581	Tetra4 Virginia Prospecting Basic Assessment
1526	Tetra4 33kv Powerline EA and WUL
1514	Tetra4 33kV Powerline Section 24G application
1499	Tetra4 MDR1 General Authorisation Risk Assessment
1473	Tetra4 Phase 2 EIA & WULA
1472	Tetra4 Phase 1C Pipelines GA Risk Assessment
1463	Tetra4 Virginia MRD1 Gas well interconnecting pipeline General Authorisation Risk Assessment
1445	Tetra4 Drill Waste Classification and Assessment
1417	VGI Tetra4 Virginia WTW General Authorisation
1392	Tetra4 Virginia Hydrocensus
1380	Tetra4 Surface Water Monitoring
1375	Tetra4 HDD Site and Pipeline General Authorisation
1373	Tetra4 Virginia Regional GA
1356	Tetra4 HDD Site Specific EMP
1355	Tetra4 Virginia HDD Site Risk Assessment
1312	Tetra4 PV Basic Assessment
1311	Tetra4 Cluster 1 Dust Fallout Monitoring
1302	Tetra4 Monthly ECO Audits
1285	Tetra4 Part 2 EA Amendment Application
1270	Tetra4 EMPR PAR
1135	Tetra4 Blasting Environmental Risk Assessment - Phase 1

13. Finally, has the Q&A from the most recent meetings been done yet?

Kindly see attachments in the email.







## Mbali Tshabalala

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 25 March 2026 09:15  
**To:** Elmar Josef Roberg  
**Cc:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Subject:** RE: status of projects

Good morning Elmar,

Apologies for this delay. We have forwarded this enquiry to the EAP to find out what is the hold up, you will receive a response as soon as we have it.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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**E** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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---

**From:** Elmar Josef Roberg <elmar.roberg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 25 March 2026 06:26  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** Re: status of projects

Good day,

I do not believe that I received a response to this query

with kind regards,

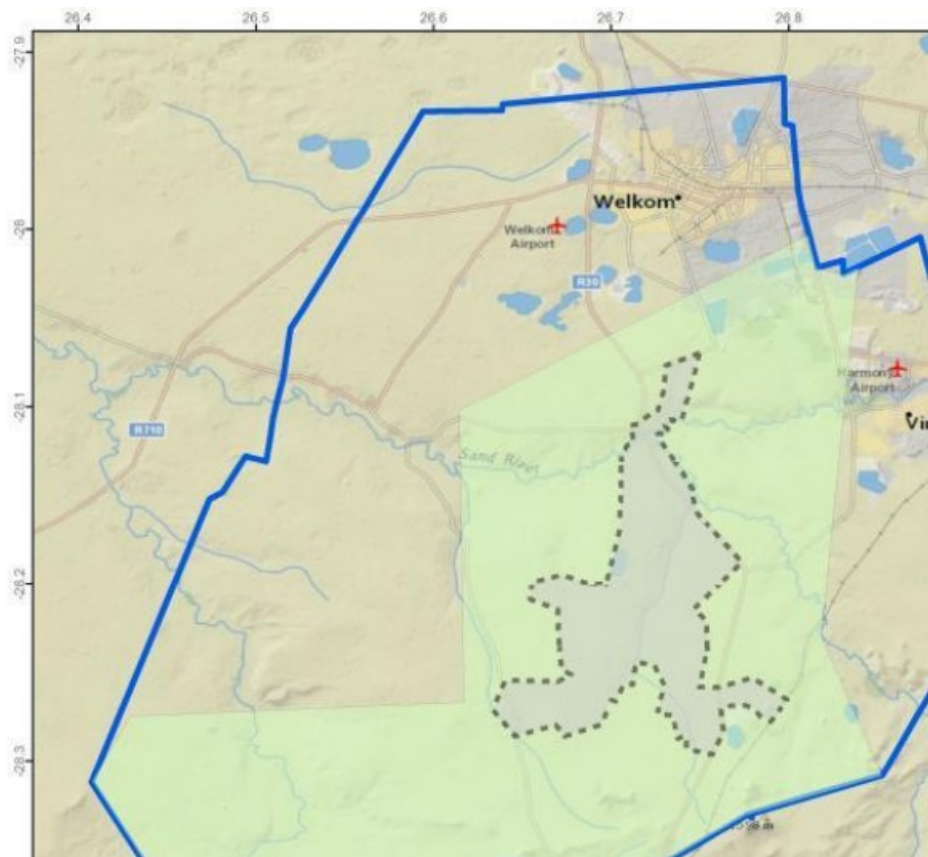
Elmar Roberg  
+27 82 651 5138  
[elmar.roberg@gmail.com](mailto:elmar.roberg@gmail.com)

On 2025/11/04 10:00, Elmar Josef Roberg wrote:

Thank you very much for the feedback.

When I was in the area recently, I noticed that there was quite a lot of drilling taking place by Tetra4.

1. Are these all still within the original EA?
2. Are you able to say what was permitted to be done under the Production Right
3. as well as under the EA for the green area below?
4. Or Cluster 1?
5. How can one tell under which EA the drilling is done?
6. Have any pipelines been laid down for the new boreholes?
7. If so, are all these covered by an existing EA?
8. Is there any requirement on the part of the company to report this?
9. What was the EA project for the green area?
10. Was it done by EIMS?
11. Did EIMS do the EA the production right?
12. What are the project numbers for all of the Tetra4 projects?
13. Finally, has the Q&A from the most recent meetings been done yet?



Thank you very much.

with kind regards,

Elmar Roberg  
+27 82 651 5138  
[elmar.roberg@gmail.com](mailto:elmar.roberg@gmail.com)

On 2025/11/04 08:13, 1473 Tetracluster2 wrote:

Good morning Elmar,

Apologies for the delay in response, I was out of office from Friday. As requested, here is the status for the projects you requested information on:

1. **1312 Proposed PV Plant** : Project placed on hold. No Environmental Authorisation obtained.
2. **1473 Cluster 2**: Environmental Authorisation Issued. Decision Appealed. DFFE Reverted decision back to applicant and DMRE for supplementation and reconsideration (including PPP). PPP Process recently ended. EIMS is preparing the final submission to the DMRE/PASA for decision making.
3. **1514 Rectification Application for 33kV Powerline**: Environmental Authorisation Issued.
4. **1526 Tetra4 Virginia Powerline BA**: Environmental Authorisation Issued.
5. **1610 PR extension**: Environmental Authorisation Issued. Decision Appealed. Currently waiting for DFFE decision on the appeal.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



8 Dalmeny Road, Pine Park,  
Randburg, 2194

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E [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
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PO Box 2083, Pinetown, 2123,  
ZA

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---

**From:** Elmar Josef Roberg <[elmar.roberg@gmail.com](mailto:elmar.roberg@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 30, 2025 6:42 AM  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Subject:** status of projects

Good morning

Can you advise what the status of these projects is:

eims 1312 Proposed PV Plant  
eims 1473 Cluster 2 eims  
eims 1514 Rectification Applicfor 33kV Powerline  
eims 1526 Tetra4 Virginia Powerline BA  
eims 1610 PR extension

Thank you

--

with kind regards,

Elmar Roberg  
+27 82 651 5138  
[elmar.roberg@gmail.com](mailto:elmar.roberg@gmail.com)

## Mbali Tshabalala

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 25 March 2026 09:21  
**To:** elmar.roberg@africary.com  
**Subject:** RE: status of projects  
**Attachments:** Re: status of projects

Good day Elmar,

We did respond to the email referenced on Tuesday the 4th of November at 08:14, please find attached email proof.

In regard to the questions asked at the public meeting, a response is still being gathered as we received a high influx of comments that needed insight from various stakeholders, please note that you will receive a response to your comments once they are finalised and verified.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team

T  
F  
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W  
+27 11 789 7170  
+27 86 571 9047  
tetracluster2@eims.co.za  
www.eims.co.za  
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Randburg, 2194

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-----Original Message-----

From: Elmar Josef Roberg <elmar.roberg@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, 25 March 2026 06:31  
To: 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
Subject: Re: status of projects

Hi, I do not believe I received a response to this either.

Further, there was a public meeting 20 October I do not recall receiving answers to the questions asked at the meeting.

with kind regards,

Elmar Roberg  
Africary Holdings (Pty) Ltd  
Programme Director: Underground Gasification  
+27 82 651 5138  
elmar.roberg@afriary.com  
www.afriary.com

On 2025/10/30 06:42, Elmar Josef Roberg wrote:

- > Good morning
- >
- > Can you advise what the status of these projects is:
- >
- > eims 1312 Proposed PV Plant
- > eims 1473 Cluster 2 eims
- > eims 1514 Rectification Applicfor 33kV Powerline eims 1526 Tetra4
- > Virginia Powerline BA eims 1610 PR extension
- >
- > Thank you
- >

## Mbali Tshabalala

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 April 2026 15:01  
**To:** elmar.roberg@africary.com  
**Subject:** RE: status of projects: Tetra4  
**Attachments:** Elmar\_Response.pdf; 1473 Adamsonsvley community Meeting Minutes.pdf; 1473 Landowner Meeting Minutes.pdf; 1473 Latterain Public Meeting Minutes.pdf; 1473 NG Kerk Public Meeting Minutes.pdf; 1473 Stilte Public Meeting Minutes.pdf; Re: status of projects

Good day Elmar,

Please find attached a response to all your queries.

We hope that is sufficient, should there be a problem further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

For convenience, we have reattached the email response containing answers to your questions about project statuses.

Kind regards,  
Mbali Tshabalala

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-----Original Message-----

From: Elmar Josef Roberg <elmar.roberg@gmail.com>  
Sent: Thursday, 09 April 2026 06:03  
To: 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
Subject: Re: status of projects: Tetra4  
Importance: High



Good morning,

On 25 March I wrote to you about the Tetra4 projects.

Can you please advise when I can expect a response?

Thank you.

--

with kind regards,

Elmar Roberg  
Africary Holdings (Pty) Ltd  
Programme Director: Underground Gasification  
+27 82 651 5138  
elmar.roberg@afriary.com  
www.afriary.com

## Lucien James

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 June 2023 09:36  
**To:** Cindy Oostuizen; 1473 Tetracluster2; Mikaella Bodeux; Melissa Strydom  
**Cc:** Gert Oosthuizen  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Tetra4 Gas Cluster 2 - Water Use Licence amendment - Preliminary Comments/Concerns

Dear I&AP,

Please see the included link to a downloadable file including responses to your comments. The link and associated file includes a table of responses to the comments noted as well as appendices and other relevant documentation. Should you have any queries, please let me know. Please also confirm receipt of this email and if you have been able to access the documents.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/b8ipzzc43jg1g0c/AADylieP5fkb2UTb1F80CvUna/Cindy?dl=0&lst=>

**KIND REGARDS**  
**LUCIEN JAMES**



**T** +27 11 789 7170  
**F** +27 86 571 9047  
**E** [lucien@eims.co.za](mailto:lucien@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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---

**From:** Cindy Oostuizen <cindy@pracpro.co.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 9, 2023 7:43 PM  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>; Mikaella Bodeux <Mikaella@warburtons.co.za>; Melissa Strydom <Melissa@warburtons.co.za>  
**Cc:** Gert Oosthuizen <ggj.oosthuizen@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Proposed Tetra4 Gas Cluster 2 - Water Use Licence amendment - Preliminary Comments/Concerns

Dear EIMS

1. We refer to the SMS notification we received as registered I&APs on **7 March 2023** indicating that the 'Water Use Licence technical report for the Cluster 2 Project is available for public review and comment' until today (attached for reference).

2. As you are aware, we are the registered landowners of several farms that will be directly impacted by Tetra4's Cluster 2 development, including Farms: Doornrivier 330 (Pt 1, 2, and 3), Palmietkuil 328 (Pt 4), and Digito 642 (Pt 0), where we reside and conduct farming operations.
3. We understand from the IWWMP that the uploaded documents form part of Tetra4's application to amend its Water Use Licence (**WUL Amendment**) which will impact on our properties and land use. The documents are extremely voluminous (more than 1000 pages, in 12 different categories/folders) - the IWWMP alone consists of 264 pages. As you would appreciate, these reports and documents are of a technical and specialist nature, and it is difficult to identify and understand the direct impacts on our properties, operations, and land use (from these documents).
4. Our preliminary comments/concerns/questions in respect of the WUL Amendment and its process are:
  - 4.1. **WUL Amendment Application Form:** We have not been able to locate the completed **WUL amendment application form** that precedes/ accompanies the documents uploaded. We can see the IWWMP and the 12 folders containing its Appendices and the EIA application form, but not the completed **WUL amendment application form**. Please could you provide it or indicate where we may find it.
  - 4.2. **WUL:** We don't have a copy of the WUL that is being amended through this process, please could you provide a copy.
  - 4.3. **WUL Amendment process specific consultation:** Public Participation documents appear to have been uploaded as part of the WUL Amendment documents on the EAP/your website. However, these seem to relate to the EIA process specifically and our comments and meetings regarding that process, which preceded the WUL amendment documents released on **7 March 2023**. Although the IWWMP refers to 'integrated' consultation, our recollection is that we've discussed/considered project impacts more broadly, and not necessarily focused on the WUL Amendment process/specific water uses contemplated (and have not had sight of the WUL). Based on the IWWMP (released on 7 March 2023) we are struggling to understand the specific water impacts.  
  
Is there an intention to conduct specific consultation on the WUL Amendment process covering water impacts specifically? As registered I&APs that will also be affected by this process, we request further consultation to understand the specific impacts emanating from this amendment.
  - 4.4. **Clarity request:** We've perused the IWWMP, but it is not particularly clear to us what specific water related impacts (contemplated as part of the WUL Amendment) will occur on our properties and how it will/may impact our land use, operations, and activities (which include agricultural/farming activities). For instance, on an initial review it appears that-
    - 4.4.1. There are underground aquifers that may be impacted, but it is not particularly clear where they are located in relation to water use activities/impacts and our land use/operations;
    - 4.4.2. Infrastructure such as pipelines/transmission lines will trigger 21 (c) & (i) uses but the locality still needs to be determined;
    - 4.4.3. It seems from the IWWMP that in addition to the 50 x 50m drill rig footprint, further impacted areas may be contemplated for infrastructure (e.g., sumps);
    - 4.4.4. Some of our affected farms have been listed in Table 6 as "Unknown Farm Name" but the names have been provided.

We note the listing of properties in Table 6, but it is unclear exactly how the impacts mentioned and discussed in the IWWMP relate to our land use and properties. We would be grateful if you could indicate and clarify the impacts on our properties and the locations and impacts on our properties and land uses contemplated by the IWWMP.

5. In addition to addressing our questions above, please could you to set up a call/online meeting to discuss the WUL Amendment so we may better understand the process and impacts on us so that we are able to adequately consider and comment.

6. Please ensure that our comments are also submitted to the licensing authority as part of the public participation/consultation process record/report.
7. We reserve our rights to submit any further comments or concerns.
8. Please acknowledge receipt.

Thank you and kind regards

Kind Regards,



Cindy Oosthuizen  
Phone: (057) 212 9876  
Mobile: 082 450 1442  
Email: cindy@pracpro.co.za  
Web: www.pracpro.co.za  
Co Reg: 2015/257327/07

## Qaphela Magaqa

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 August 2022 08:26  
**To:** Gabrielle Knott  
**Subject:** RE: Registration as an IAP

Greetings Mr Knott,

Apologies for the delayed response.

We hereby confirm receipt of your email containing your signed registration form. Please note that you have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production project. Please note that as a registered I&AP you will receive notifications regarding opportunities to participate in the Environmental Licensing process as and when they become available.

Should you have any comments and/or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Regards,

QAPHELA MAGAQA



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**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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---

**From:** Gabrielle Knott <gknott@cer.org.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 July 2022 10:32  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** Registration as an IAP

Dear Sirs

Please find attached my registration form for the Tetra4 Cluster 2 Project.

Kind regards

Gabrielle Knott

Attorney

Centre for Environmental Rights NPC

A non-profit company with registration number 2009/020736/08, PBO No. 930032226, NPO No. 075-863, VAT No. 4770260653 and a Law Clinic registered with the Law Society of the Cape of Good Hope

2nd Floor, Springtime Studios, 1 Scott Road, Observatory, 7925, Cape Town, South Africa

Tel: 021 447 1647

Cell: 071 597 5068

Skype: gabsknott

[gknott@cer.org.za](mailto:gknott@cer.org.za)

[www.cer.org.za](http://www.cer.org.za) [www.facebook.com/CentreEnvironmentalRights](https://www.facebook.com/CentreEnvironmentalRights)



Centre for  
Environmental

Report violations of environmental rights to the 24-hour Environmental Crimes & Incidents Hotline on **0800 205 005**. More reports of environmental violations assist in justifying more investment in more inspectors, and more enforcement of environmental laws. Numbers matter! Take the time to report violations, even if you have done so elsewhere. For more information about this CER campaign, visit <http://cer.org.za/news/numbers-matter-join-us-in-reporting-violations-of-environmental-rights>.

# INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES REGISTRATION FORM

<b>EIMS Ref #:</b>	1473	<b>PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:</b> Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS) Attention : Qaphela Magaqa Fax : 086 571 9047 Phone : (011) 789 7170 E-mail : <a href="mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za">tetracluster2@eims.co.za</a> Postal Address : P.O. Box 2083, Pinetown, 2123, South Africa
<b>Project Title:</b>	Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project	



This form serves to register Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) for the above-mentioned project and to solicit input and participation to be considered by the EAP during the application process. This form will be submitted to the Competent Authority for consideration in the decision-making process.

Title	Ms.	Full name and surname	Gabrielle Knott		
Contact details		Tel (w)		Tel (h)	
		Fax		Cell	0715975068
		E-mail	gknott@cer.org.za		
		Postal Address	n/a		
Organisation and/or <u>property description</u> (if landowner/ lawful occupier)			Centre for Environmental Rights		
Please state your interest in the proposed project (you are welcome to add additional pages if required):					
<p>Oil and gas projects have significant potential to cause environmental harm that includes but is not limited to contamination of groundwater and emissions that contribute to global warming. In a water scarce country and in a global climate emergency we request to be registered as an interested and affected party in our own interest, in the public interest and in the interest of protecting the environment, all of which have a direct and substantial interest in the expansion of oil and gas projects.</p>					
Please assist by completing the questions below. These responses will be utilised to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment Process. Please submit additional pages if more space is required. <span style="float: right;">N/A please just register me.</span>					
Are you a land owner or legal land occupier <u>within the application area</u> ?					
Are you aware of any communities which exist within the application area (or on your property) that should be consulted, provide detail and possible contact details?					
Are you aware of any tribal authorities within, or affected by the application area, provide detail and possible contact details?					
Are you aware of any other I&APs who need to be notified, please provide detail and possible contact details?					
Please can you provide us with a high level description of the					

receiving environment pertaining to your interest? (including land uses such as farming, grazing etc; vegetation; topographical features; Infrastructure; sensitive flora/fauna).	
Are you aware of any land developments (current or proposed) within the application area that may be relevant to the proposed project?	
Are you aware of any cultural or heritage features within the study area and surrounds, please provide detail?	
Please describe any bio-physical and/or socio-economic impacts that you believe should be considered during the study?	
Do you have any specific concerns, comments or objections to the proposed project, if so could you please provide us with additional information?	
General Comments:	
<p>.</p>	

EIMS respectfully requests that you please sign this document and return it to EIMS at the details provided on the top of the first page to ensure that your comments, concerns and inputs are recorded. Please note that only registered I&AP's will be included in future correspondence regarding this EIA process.

Signed..........Name.....Gabrielle Knott.....Date.....29 July 2022.....





Outlook

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**Re: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project - Registration as I&AP**

---

**From** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>**Date** Thu 9/18/2025 9:19 AM**To** GP Kriel <gkriel@slrconsulting.com>

Good day,

Please note that we have received your request, and you have been registered as an I&amp;AP for the project.

Please be advised that there is a public meeting taking place with the following details:

- Date: 2 October 2025
- Time: 12:00pm to 14:00pm
- Venue: NG Virginia Kerk
- Address: 69 Highlands Ave, Virginia, 9431

For any future comments or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

EIMS Public Participation Team



**T** +27 11 789 7170  
**F** +27 86 571 9047  
**E** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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---

**From:** GP Kriel <gkriel@slrconsulting.com>**Sent:** Wednesday, September 17, 2025 11:50 AM**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>**Subject:** 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project - Registration as I&AP

Good day,

Kindly register me as an interested and affected party for the above project.

Kind regards,  
GP

**GP Kriel**

Associate Environmental Consultant - Environment & Social Impact Assessment

**O** +27 21 461 1118

**E** gkriel@slrconsulting.com

SLR Consulting (Africa)

5th Floor, Grove Exchange, Claremont

Cape Town, 7700



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## Alexander Msipa

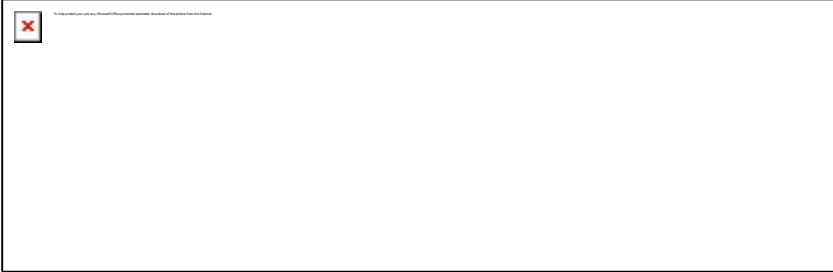
---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 August 2024 14:22  
**To:** Mosala Moses  
**Subject:** RE: I am looking for a job . Any job will be highly appreciated, as I have responsibilities now. I have a son, and I gave to attend his needs. I am a graduate but even a general worker post I would take it. Thank you in advance

Good day,

Thank you for your message. We appreciate your interest, but please note that this channel is strictly dedicated to notifications and engagement with Interested and Affected Parties for the Tetra4 Cluster 2 project. Unfortunately, there are no job opportunities available through this project.

**KIND REGARDS**  
**ALEX MSIPA**



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**From:** Mosala Moses <mosesmosala99@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 13, 2024 6:40 PM  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** I am looking for a job . Any job will be highly appreciated, as I have responsibilities now. I have a son, and I gave to attend his needs. I am a graduate but even a general worker post I would take it. Thank you in advance

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Mosala Moses** <[mosesmosala99@gmail.com](mailto:mosesmosala99@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Fri, Aug 9, 2024, 20:26  
**Subject:** 75 facilitators  
**To:** <[Info@dreamhub.co.za](mailto:Info@dreamhub.co.za)>

Dear Sir/ madam

Please kindly receive my attached CV and relevant documents as I am applying for the available position in your company. Please feel free to contact me as I meet the requirements.

Regards  
Mosala Moholo

## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** Brian Whitfield  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 May 2022 11:42  
**To:** slabberth@subsolar.co.za  
**Cc:** venter@subsolar.co.za; 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Subject:** RE: Renergen Phase 2 gas exploration wells on the farm Kalkoenkrans 225, Portion 2 near Virginia

Good morning Hermien.

Thank you for your email below and your interest in this project.

We will register yourself as well as Mr Venter on the I&AP database as requested. You will receive additional correspondence on this project/application process from the project dedicated email address (copied herewith).

**KIND REGARDS**  
**BRIAN WHITFIELD**



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---

**From:** slabberth@subsolar.co.za <slabberth@subsolar.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 May 2022 10:24  
**To:** Brian Whitfield <brian@eims.co.za>  
**Cc:** venter@subsolar.co.za  
**Subject:** Renergen Phase 2 gas exploration wells on the farm Kalkoenkrans 225, Portion 2 near Virginia

Good day Brain,

We are planning a Solar Power Plant on Portion 2 of the farm Kalkoenkrans 225 near Virginia, your client Renergen has existing exploration gas wells on this farm and is planning phase 2 wells (see attached kmz file for reference). We would like to register as I&APs for the EIA process for the phase 2 exploration wells on the farm in order to understand the planned wells and in order to accommodate it in our layout.

Will you please register myself and my colleague on CC as I&APs, see details below:

Hermien Slabbert

Project Manager  
Subsolar Energy  
Email: [slabberth@subsolar.co.za](mailto:slabberth@subsolar.co.za)  
Cell: 078 335 9550

Nico Venter  
Project Manager  
Subsolar Energy  
Email: [venter@subsolar.co.za](mailto:venter@subsolar.co.za)  
Cell: 083 608 0005

Kind regards  
Hermien Slabbert

*Project Manager*

**Subsolar Energy (Pty) Ltd**

C: +27 78 335 9550  
E: [slabberth@subsolar.co.za](mailto:slabberth@subsolar.co.za)  
W: [www.subsolar.co.za](http://www.subsolar.co.za)  
P: P.O. Box 785553, Sandton, 2146  
A: 2nd Floor, West Tower  
Maude Street  
Nelson Mandela Square  
Sandton, 2196  
South Africa



## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** Andrew Smith  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 05 April 2022 07:40  
**To:** Qaphela Magaqa  
**Subject:** FW: 1473

ANDREW SMITH



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**E** [andrews@eims.co.za](mailto:andrews@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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---

**From:** Chris Opperman <Chris.Opperman@sibanyestillwater.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, 04 April 2022 13:58  
**To:** mail <mail@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** 1473

Hi

Please Provide details on how I&APs can register their interest with and submit comments on the project

1473 ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT

REGARDS

CHRIS



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## **Qaphela Magaqa**

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**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 06 April 2022 07:12  
**To:** Chris.Opperman@sibanyestillwater.com  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 I&AP Registration

Greetings Mr. Chris Opperman,

Further to your email regarding registering as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the Tetra4 Cluster 2 Project, kindly note that you have been registered as an I&AP in the projects database. If you have any other contact information you would like us to add, please forward it to us via email to this project dedicated email address. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of opportunities to participate in the Environmental Authorisation Application Process as they become available.

Should you have any queries or comments, please feel free to contact EIMS.

**KIND REGARDS  
QAPHELA MAGAQA**



**T** +27 11 789 7170  
**M** +27 78 580 6692  
**F** +27 86 571 9047  
**E** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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## **Qaphela Magaqa**

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**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 20 June 2022 12:09  
**To:** Chris Opperman  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 - Reminder Notification Regarding Tetra4 Call to Register

Good day Chris,

Thanks for your email.

This serves to confirm that you have been registered as an I&AP on the proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Gathering and Production project. As an I&AP for the aforementioned project you will be notified of public participation opportunities as and when they become available.

Should you have any further comments and/or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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**E** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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---

**From:** Chris Opperman <Chris.Opperman@sibanyestillwater.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, 17 June 2022 12:01  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Cc:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 - Reminder Notification Regarding Tetra4 Call to Register

FYI

Regards

Chris



---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 15 June 2022 10:11  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Subject:** 1473 - Reminder Notification Regarding Tetra4 Call to Register

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This serves as a reminder should you wish to register and forward your completed registration form and questionnaire (attached herewith) for the Proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Gathering and Production Project as soon as possible. You may also register by simply indicating your desire for such via fax, email, letter or telephonically. Should you have any comments or queries please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Kind Regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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## INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES REGISTRATION FORM

<b>EIMS Ref #:</b>	1473	<b>PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:</b> Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS) Attention : Qaphela Magaqa Fax : 086 571 9047 Phone : (011) 789 7170 E-mail : <a href="mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za">tetracluster2@eims.co.za</a> Postal Address : P.O. Box 2083, Pinegowrie, 2123, South Africa	
<b>Project Title:</b>	Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project		



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This form serves to register Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) for the above-mentioned project and to solicit input and participation to be considered by the EAP during the application process. This form will be submitted to the Competent Authority for consideration in the decision-making process.

<b>Title</b>	Full name and surname		
<b>Contact details</b>	Tel (w)		Tel (h)
	Fax		Cell
	E-mail	079312 6634	
	Postal Address	L.A. Opperman 41 Bryce Drive Virginia 7430	
<b>Organisation and/or property description (if landowner/ lawful occupier)</b>		PVT	
Please state your interest in the proposed project (you are welcome to add additional pages if required):			
Please assist by completing the questions below. These responses will be utilised to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment Process. Please submit additional pages if more space is required.			
Are you a land owner or legal land occupier <u>within the application area</u> ?	NO.		
Are you aware of any communities which exist within the application area (or on your property) that should be consulted, provide detail and possible contact details?	NO.		
Are you aware of any tribal authorities within, or affected by the application area, provide detail and possible contact details?	NO.		
Are you aware of any other I&APs who need to be notified, please provide detail and possible contact details?	NO.		
Please can you provide us with a high level description of the			

receiving environment pertaining to your interest? (including land uses such as farming, grazing etc; vegetation; topographical features; infrastructure; sensitive flora/fauna).	NA
Are you aware of any land developments (current or proposed) within the application area that may be relevant to the proposed project?	NO.
Are you aware of any cultural or heritage features within the study area and surrounds, please provide detail?	NO.
Please describe any bio-physical and/or socio-economic impacts that you believe should be considered during the study?	NA
Do you have any specific concerns, comments or objections to the proposed project, if so could you please provide us with additional information?	I am staying in Virginia and are interested in the progress of this project and could offer my services if needed.
General Comments:	

EIMS respectfully requests that you please sign this document and return it to EIMS at the details provided on the top of the first page to ensure that your comments, concerns and inputs are recorded. Please note that only registered I&AP's will be included in future correspondence regarding this EIA process.

Signed:  Name: C. Hoffman Date: 17/6/2022



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**Re: Tetra4 4 Cluster 2**

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**From** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>

**Date** Fri 9/19/2025 8:46 AM

**To** Envir Onmental <oenvir678@gmail.com>; mmasilane@dffe.gov.za <mmasilane@dffe.gov.za>;  
Pieter.Alberts@dmre.gov.za <Pieter.Alberts@dmre.gov.za>

**Cc** Brian Whitfield <brian@eims.co.za>

Dear I&AP.

We confirm receipt of your submission below.

Kindly note that this application is not currently in the appeal phase but is in the EIA Phase comment period. We do, however, taken note of your concerns and will address these as part of the EIA Phase comment period and provide a suitable response in due course.

Kindly confirm if you would like to be formally registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) to ensure that you receive any future notifications (including the reconsideration of the decision). If so, please provide your name and surname for us to include in the I&AP database.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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**From:** Envir Onmental <oenvir678@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 10, 2025 8:28 PM

**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>; mmasilane@dffe.gov.za <mmasilane@dffe.gov.za>; Pieter.Alberts@dmre.gov.za <Pieter.Alberts@dmre.gov.za>

**Subject:** Tetra4 4 Cluster 2

Appeal to Tetra4 Cluster 2

<https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/renergen-finds-9-helium-surprise-in-p12-at-virginia-gas-project-2021-07-12/#:~:text=Natural%20gas%20and%20helium%20producer,this%20discovery%20cannot%20be%20overstated.>



7 April, 2026

Our ref: 1473

Envir Onmental ref: Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production

**RE: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED TETRA4 CLUTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT IN THE MASILONYANAAND MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA**

Dear Mr Peter James:

I refer to your e-mail dated 10 September 2025 and comments on the Environmental Impact Assessment for the above-mentioned project. Please refer to the attached table providing responses to the comments you raised (Table 1). Your comments will be captured as part of this project's Public Participation Process and in the subsequent Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report.

Thank you for your involvement in this process. Your comments and inputs are duly noted and appreciated. Your comments and inputs are noted and appreciated and will be included in the final EIA Report for the Competent Authorities consideration.

Kind regards

EIMS Public Participation Team

**EIMS Reference Number:** 1473

**Postal Address:** P.O. Box 2083; Pinegowrie; 2123

**Telephone:** (011) 789 7170

**Fax:** (086) 571 9047

**E-mail:** tetracluster2@eims.co.za

Table 1: Comments and Responses regarding comments provided by Environmental.

No.	Comment	Response
1.	Gas well impact groundwater can result in methane leaks, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.	<p>Thank you for your comment which we take note of. We refer you to the comprehensive Geohydrological (groundwater) specialist study was undertaken (refer to Appendix 4 of the EIAr for a copy of this report). Within this study the potential impact from methane leaks was assessed and suitable monitoring and mitigation measures were identified. The well construction methodology is included in Section 4.1.3.1 of the EIAr which includes steel casing and cement grouting from surface to below the deep groundwater aquifers. The casing is installed to prevent interplay between the gas resource and the groundwater resources and furthermore prevents methane from being freely liberated into the atmosphere. Based on the numerical groundwater flow and contaminant transport model contained in the Geohydrological specialist report, the potential impact of groundwater contamination and methane leaks was calculated to have a medium significance after mitigation.</p> <p>A comprehensive climate change impact assessment specialist study was also undertaken which considered the impact of stray methane leaks into the atmosphere (refer to Appendix 4 of the EIAr for a copy of this report). Based on the findings of the climate change specialist study, the potential impact of the projects contribution to climate change was calculated to have a medium significance after mitigation.</p> <p>As none of the above impacts were calculated to have a high significance post mitigation, the potential impacts are considered acceptably mitigated and will not pose a significant detrimental impact on the receiving environment.</p>
2.	Fluid impact groundwater in area. potentially releasing fluids into surrounding groundwater.	<p>This comment does not provide further detail to substantiate the basis of the concern and therefore it is our understanding that this comment relates to the potential migration of saline groundwater into the shallower freshwater aquifers and/or the potential for drilling fluids to contaminate the shallow groundwater (freshwater) aquifer. Further to our above response, kindly note that a detailed assessment was undertaken of the potential impact of “fluid” contamination of groundwater as a result of the Tetra4 Cluster 2 gas production activities. Based</p>

No.	Comment	Response
		<p>on the numerical groundwater flow and contaminant transport model contained in the Geohydrological specialist report, the potential impact of groundwater contamination was calculated to have a medium significance after mitigation and therefore the potential impacts are considered acceptably mitigated and will not pose a significant detrimental impact on the receiving environment.</p>
3.	<p>Impact on plant. Improper management of drilling wastes produced water, and other wastes can lead to soil and water contamination. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other chemicals released from fluids can contribute to air pollution and impact air quality.</p>	<p>Drilling waste and the impact of drilling on both flora and fauna was identified and assessed in the EIA Report (Section 4.1.10.2 and Section 10.2.1.6 respectively) with mitigation measures included in the EMPR (Section 5.3.2). Drilling waste will consist of wastewater and drilling mud which will not be stored more than 90 days on site. This waste will be stored in lined sumps adjacent to the drill rig and once drilling is completed, the waste will be removed from site and adequately disposed of at an appropriately licenced waste disposal facility (refer to Section 4.1.3.1 of the EIA Report and EMPR (section 4.3.2.9.2)</p> <p>Air quality impacts including VOC's were assessed to have a low negative impact with suitable mitigation measures applied (refer to Section 10.2.1.1 of the EIA Report. Overall, the impact of drilling operations is considered to have a low negative significance with the implementation of mitigation measures (Section 10.3 of the EIA Report).</p> <p>A detailed air quality impact assessment was undertaken and is included in Appendix 4 of the EIA Report. The impact of air quality on the receiving environment was identified as having a low negative significance post implementation of the identified mitigation measures.</p>
4.	<p>Noise pollution cause wildlife leave the place, Drilling and production activities can generate noise and light pollution, impacting nearby communities and wildlife</p>	<p>A detailed noise impact assessment was undertaken and is included in Appendix 4 of the EIA Report. The impact assessment of noise as a result of the project will have a low negative significance post implementation of the identified mitigation measures (refer to Section 10 of the EIA Report). The potential impact of light pollution was assessed as part of the Visual Impact Assessment included in Appendix 4 of the EIA Report. The impact assessment of light pollution on views from local homesteads as a result of the project will have a low negative significance</p>

No.	Comment	Response
		<p>post implementation of the identified mitigation measures (refer to Section 10 of the EIA Report).</p> <p>Light and noise impacts on wildlife in particular was not raised as a potential impact during the original scoping or EIA phase consultations. Noise and light impacts on wildlife would be limited to the site and directly adjacent areas with a short-term duration during the construction phase and a more long-term duration during the operational phase. The magnitude of the potential noise and light impacts on wildlife would be regarded as low (i.e. minor reactions by wildlife in terms of moving away), the impact could be reversible without any time and cost with a low probability of the impact materialising. Various mitigation measures are included in the EIA and EMPr to minimise the impacts caused by lighting and noise. Overall, the significance of the impact cause by light and noise on wildlife would be rated as low largely due to the fact that wildlife tends to move away from such areas and/or becomes habituated to such impacts.</p>
5.	<p>Methane worse greenhouse. These fluids, including water-based, oil-based, and synthetic-based, can contain various chemicals and heavy metals that pose risks to the environment if not properly managed. Runoff from well sites, spills, and leaks can pollute rivers, streams, and other surface water bodies, harming aquatic life and recreational areas.</p>	<p>A detailed discussion of methane as a greenhouse gas is included in the Climate Change Assessment report (refer to Appendix 4 of the EIA Report). Within the reports, it is acknowledged that methane is a potent GHG. As indicated in Section 4.1.3.1 of the EIA report, although uncommon, blowout or blowback of water and/or gas is prevented using a blowout diverter which is installed in the drill line (on surface) and the blowout diverter valves safely redirect any water and/or gas to a discharge line for safe disposal. All exploration boreholes must be drilled and cased in accordance with applicable international standards and best practice guidelines and will be sealed with a combination of casing and grouting to ensure vertical isolation of the gas and/or any deep saline water from both the surrounding geology and freshwater hydrological regime. In addition to the drill rig, lined sumps will be required to store and recirculate water for the drilling process.</p> <p>With respect to the potential for drilling fluids to pose a risk to the environment if not properly managed, kindly refer to Section 5.3.2 of the EMPr in which mitigation measures are detailed such as drilling fluids should be environmentally friendly to prevent any harm to the environment or groundwater regime</p>

No.	Comment	Response
		<p>and should be kept in a lined mud pit or surface container.</p> <p>The potential impacts of the projects Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions in terms of climate change were identified and assessed in Section 10 of the EIA Report.</p> <p>With respect to the concern raised that runoff from the site could cause pollution of the surrounding environment, kindly refer to the EMPr which contains a number of mitigation measures to be implemented to prevent such off-site pollution. A sample of such mitigation measures includes but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Runoff from the construction footprint should be controlled on site to prevent concentrated point releases of water into downslope watercourses. Care needs to be taken not to initiate or aggravate erosion in watercourses.</li> <li>• Ensure separation of clean and dirty water and provide for adequate dirty water containment.</li> <li>• Any water (Incl. condensate) generated from production wells need to be captured in some form of dirty water storage facility. This water must be collected and suitably disposed of as hazardous waste.</li> <li>• In order to contain non-biodegradable oil and fuel spills, drip pans or PVC lining should be provided for drill rigs and other equipment with a risk potential.</li> </ul>

## Mbali Tshabalala

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**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 25 September 2025 10:41  
**To:** Envir Onmental  
**Subject:** RE: Tetra4 4 Cluster 2

Hi Peter,

Your name has been noted and the I&AP database has been updated accordingly.

You will now receive all further regarding the progression of this proposed project.

For any queries and comments please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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**From:** Envir Onmental <oenvir678@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 September 2025 18:44  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Tetra4 4 Cluster 2

My name is

Peter James

## Mbali Tshabalala

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 September 2025 14:47  
**To:** Envir Onmental  
**Subject:** Re: Tetra4 4 Cluster 2

Good day Peter,

The proposed project is on the Environmental Impact Assessment Report public review and comment Phase. At this point, we can note your comments/objections and will include them in the final report that will be sent to the Competent Authority (CA) for their consideration. Detailed responses to your comments/objections will be provided in due course prior to submission to the CA. Once the CA has reached a decision (possibly around February 2026), all I&APs including yourself will be informed of the decision and notified of the opportunity to submit appeals.

Relevant civil organisations were included in the I&AP Database and were given notice in all phases of the project. If you are inquiring about a specific Civil Organisation/s, could you please provide the name/s and we will be able to better advise on your query.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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**From:** Envir Onmental <oenvir678@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 25, 2025 5:23 PM  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** Re: Tetra4 4 Cluster 2

Good day

When will person can appeal . Is any other civil organization ens know about this.

Sincerely

Peter James



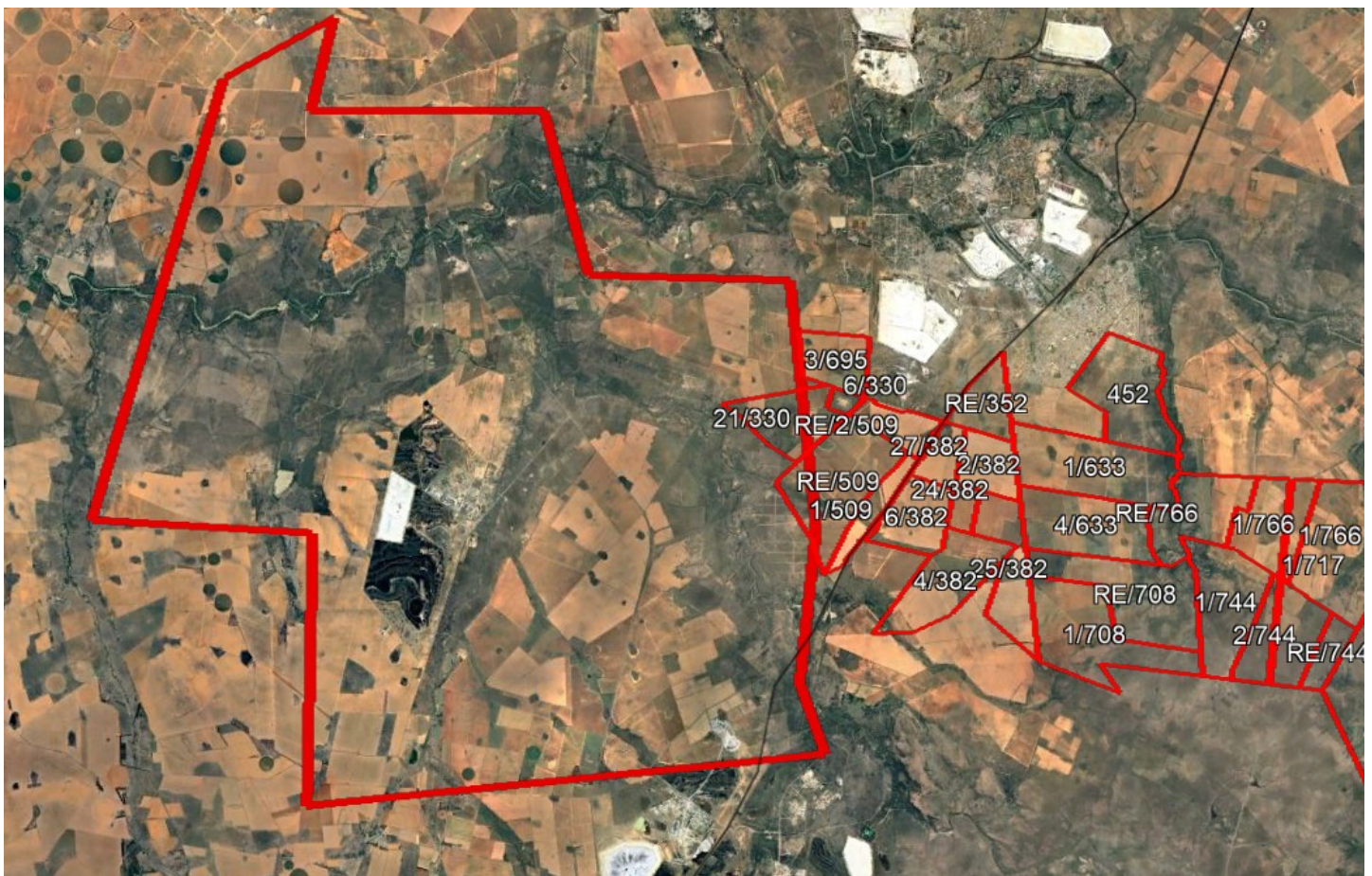
## Mbali Tshabalala

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 October 2025 13:29  
**To:** Celine Oates; 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Cc:** Richard Summers; Reception – Richard Summers Inc.; Clarice Arendse  
**Subject:** RE: RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Hi Celine.

Thank you for sharing the properties for Red Rocket. Can we assume that none of your other clients (other than Red Rocket) have projects or infrastructure falling within the Cluster 2 application area?

We take note that 2 of Red Rockets properties of interest extend within the eastern section of the Cluster 2 application area (below screenshot refers). Could you kindly clarify what infrastructure is planned on those two specific properties and more specifically what infrastructure is planned within the Cluster 2 application area of those 2 properties?



Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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---

**From:** Celine Oates <celine@summersinc.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 October 2025 13:04  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Cc:** Richard Summers <Richard@summersinc.co.za>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc. <Reception@summersinc.co.za>; Clarice Arendse <clarice@summersinc.co.za>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to the above matter and below correspondence.

Kindly see attached hereto the KMZ file as requested.

Kindly confirm whether these suffice for your determination.

Kind regards,

Celine Oates  
RICHARD SUMMERS INC.  
Candidate Attorney



**Office** +27 21 891 4402  
**Mobile** +27 71 868 8101

Unit 126, Victoria Junction, 57 Prestwich Street, De Waterkant, Cape Town

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Sent:** Friday, October 10, 2025 11:18 AM

**To:** Celine Oates <[celine@summersinc.co.za](mailto:celine@summersinc.co.za)>

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc. <[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>; Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Good day Celine,

Here with confirmation of receipt of email.

We can confirm that the listed I&APs have been added to our database and will receive all notifications regarding the project progression from now going forward.

Regarding the request for an extension, could we please get shapefiles or any indicator of the extent of your client's projects locations. This will assist us in providing a more concrete response to your request.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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**From:** Celine Oates <[celine@summersinc.co.za](mailto:celine@summersinc.co.za)>

**Sent:** Friday, 10 October 2025 08:25

**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc.

<[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>; Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to the above matter and below correspondence.

Kindly confirm receipt of the below correspondence and provide an indication as to when we should expect a response.

Many thanks.

Kind regards,

Celine Oates

RICHARD SUMMERS INC.

Candidate Attorney



**Office** +27 21 891 4402

**Mobile** +27 71 868 8101

Unit 126, Victoria Junction, 57 Prestwich Street, De Waterkant, Cape Town

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**From:** Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 9, 2025 9:08 AM

**To:** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc.  
<[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

**Importance:** High

Dear sir / madam

We refer to the above matter and confirm that we act on behalf of Red Rocket Energy (Pty) Ltd, Piscis Energy (Pty) Ltd, Lupus Energy (Pty) Ltd, URSA Energy (RF) (Pty) Ltd, Norma Energy (Pty) Ltd, Fornax Energy (Pty) Ltd, Volans Energy (Pty) Ltd, and K2022579146 (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd.

Please see attached hereto correspondence for your urgent attention.

We shall be most grateful if you will acknowledge receipt hereof.

Kind regards,

Clarice Arendse

RICHARD SUMMERS INC.

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

**Office** +27 21 891 4402

**Mobile** +27 79 485 9851



Unit 126, Victoria Junction, 57 Prestwich Street, De Waterkant, Cape Town,  
8000

## Mbali Tshabalala

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**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 October 2025 15:56  
**To:** Celine Oates; 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Cc:** Richard Summers; Reception – Richard Summers Inc.; Clarice Arendse  
**Subject:** RE: RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Hi Celine.

Further to our communications below relating to the granting of extension, we hereby grant a request for extension and please submit your comments by 25 October 2025 as it is understood from your letter that you have had sight of the EIA report since 25 September 2025 (i.e. 30 day comment period).

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



8 Dalmeny Road, Pine Park,  
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PO Box 2083, Pinegowrie, 2123, ZA

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**From:** Celine Oates <celine@summersinc.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 October 2025 14:46  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Cc:** Richard Summers <Richard@summersinc.co.za>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc. <Reception@summersinc.co.za>; Clarice Arendse <clarice@summersinc.co.za>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Dear Sir/Madam



With reference to the above matter and below correspondence.

We are unable to at this stage plot the full extent of the impact of the Cluster 2 project on our client, which is what we seek to do as part of the extra time requested in the below correspondence.

Kindly confirm whether you will grant us the extension at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards,

Celine Oates  
RICHARD SUMMERS INC.  
Candidate Attorney



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Mobile +27 71 868 8101

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**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Sent:** Friday, October 10, 2025 1:29 PM

**To:** Celine Oates <[celine@summersinc.co.za](mailto:celine@summersinc.co.za)>; 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc.

<[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>; Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Hi Celine.

Thank you for sharing the properties for Red Rocket. Can we assume that none of your other clients (other than Red Rocket) have projects or infrastructure falling within the Cluster 2 application area?

We take note that 2 of Red Rockets properties of interest extend within the eastern section of the Cluster 2 application area (below screenshot refers). Could you kindly clarify what infrastructure is planned on those two specific properties and more specifically what infrastructure is planned within the Cluster 2 application area of those 2 properties?

## Mbali Tshabalala

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**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 October 2025 14:30  
**To:** Celine Oates  
**Cc:** Richard Summers; Reception – Richard Summers Inc.; Clarice Arendse  
**Subject:** RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Good day Celine,

Please accept our apologies for overlooking the date. The 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2025 is an acceptable due date for us, and will work perfectly.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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**From:** Celine Oates <celine@summersinc.co.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 October 2025 10:26  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Cc:** Richard Summers <Richard@summersinc.co.za>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc. <Reception@summersinc.co.za>; Clarice Arendse <clarice@summersinc.co.za>



**Subject:** RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Dear Sir/Madam

We confirm receipt of the below correspondence.

We confirm further that 25 October 2025 falls on a Saturday, and so we will provide our comments to you by the next business day (i.e. 27 October 2025).

Kind regards,

Celine Oates

RICHARD SUMMERS INC.

Candidate Attorney



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**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Sent:** Friday, October 10, 2025 3:56 PM

**To:** Celine Oates <[celine@summersinc.co.za](mailto:celine@summersinc.co.za)>; 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc. <[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>; Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Hi Celine.

7 April, 2026

Our ref: 1473

Richard Summers Inc. Attorneys ref: RDR20-023

DMRE ref: 12/4/007

**RE: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT IN THE MASILONYANA AND MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA**

Dear Richard Summers:

We refer to your e-mail dated 07 November 2025 and comments on Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the above-mentioned project. Please refer to the attached table providing responses to the comments you raised (Table 1). Your comments will be captured as part of this project's Public Participation Process and in the subsequent Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

Thank you for your involvement in this process. Your comments and inputs are duly noted and appreciated.

Kind regards

**EIMS Public Participation Team**

**EIMS Reference Number:** 1473

**Postal Address:** P.O. Box 2083; Pinegowrie; 2123

**Telephone:** (011) 789 7170

**Fax:** (086) 571 9047

**E-mail:** tetracluster2@eims.co.za

Table 1: Comments and Responses regarding comments provided by Richard Summers Attorneys.

No.	Comment	Response
1.	<p><b>RE: OBJECTIONS AGAINST THE REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT, IN THE MASILONYANA AND MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, FREE STATE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA</b></p> <p><b>[DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY REFERENCE NUMBER: 12/4/007].</b></p> <p>We act on behalf of the following entities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Red Rocket Energy (Pty) Ltd;</li> <li>○ Piscis Energy (Pty) Ltd;</li> <li>○ Lupus Energy (Pty) Ltd;</li> <li>○ URSA Energy (RF) (Pty) Ltd;</li> <li>○ Norma Energy (Pty) Ltd;</li> <li>○ Fornax Energy (Pty) Ltd;</li> <li>○ Volans Energy (Pty) Ltd; and</li> <li>○ K2022579146 (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd.</li> </ul> <p>(referred to collectively as 'our Clients')</p>	<p>Your statement is noted.</p>
2.	<p>Our Clients are registered interested and affected parties ('I&amp;APs') in connection with the abovementioned application. Our Clients, in their separate and/or combined capacities, obtained environmental authorisation and/or registration in terms of NEMA for the following renewable energy developments and associated electrical grid infrastructure which fall directly within the Project site and/or within the immediate vicinity of the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Virginia 1 Solar PV Facility and Associated Grid Integration Infrastructure under Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment ('DFFE') reference number 14/12/16/3/3/2/2099 dated 19 May 2022 (attached as Appendices A.1 and A.2). We confirm that this project is currently under construction.</li> <li>○ Virginia 2 Solar PV Facility and Associated Grid Integration Infrastructure under DFFE reference number 14/12/16/3/3/2/21000 dated 20 May</li> </ul>	<p>We take note of the list you provide of your clients solar facilities, BESS facility and powerline connections to the Theseus substation. It is also appreciated that the property information for each of these facilities was provided which we were able to use to assess these locations in respect to the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area. Our responses are provided against each bullet below where necessary.</p> <p>Based on our assessment of the property on which the Virginia 1 Solar Facility is located, this property is &gt;13km outside of the nearest point of the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area.</p> <p>Based on our assessment of the property on which the Virginia 2 Solar Facility is located, this property is</p>

No.	Comment	Response
	<p>2022 (attached as Appendix B). We confirm that this project is currently under construction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Virginia 3 Solar PV Facility and Associated Grid Integration Infrastructure under DFFE reference number 14/12/16/3/3/2//2101 dated 23 May 2022 (attached as Appendix C). We confirm that this project is currently under construction.</li> <li>Three 132kV Powerlines for the connection of the Virginia 1, 2 and 3 Solar PV Facilities to the Eskom Theseus Substation under DFFE reference number 14/12/16/3/3/1/2444 dated 21 February 2022 (attached as Appendix D).</li> <li>210MW Virginia 4 Solar PV Facility and Associated Grid Integration Infrastructure under DFFE reference number 14/12/16/3/3/2/2283 dated 26 September 2023 (attached as Appendix E). We confirm that this project was awarded preferred bidder status under the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy ('DMRE') Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme ('REIPPPP') Bid Window 7, and is imminently reaching financial close to begin construction.</li> <li>200MW Florida Solar PV Facility and Associated Grid Integration Infrastructure under DFFE reference number 14/12/16/3/3/2/2322 dated 29 November 2023 (attached as Appendix F). We confirm that this project was awarded preferred bidder status under the DMRE's REIPPPP Bid Window 7, and is imminently reaching financial close to begin construction.</li> <li>Registration of the Acamas Battery Energy Storage System ('Acamas BESS') under DFFE registration reference number BESS/2024/FS/15 dated 4 October 2024 (attached as Appendix G). We confirm that the Acamas BESS is approved.</li> <li>In terms of the Project's geographical relation to the abovementioned solar facilities, Acamas BESS and associated grid integration</li> </ul>	<p>&gt;13km outside of the nearest point of the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area.</p> <p>Based on our assessment of the property on which the Virginia 3 Solar Facility is located, this property is &gt;13km outside of the nearest point of the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area.</p> <p>Based on the property information you provided, the Theseus Substation is located ~1km outside of the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area with your client's powerline extending further east from the Theseus substation and therefore neither the Theseus substation nor the powerline fall within the proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 development area.</p> <p>Based on our assessment of the property on which the Virginia 4 Solar Facility is located, this property is &gt;13km outside of the nearest point of the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area.</p> <p>Based on our assessment of the property on which the Florida Solar Facility is located, this property is ~8.5km outside of the nearest point of the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area.</p> <p>The Acamas BESS is located adjacent to the Theseus substation and is ~1km outside of the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area.</p> <p>Kindly note that the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area falls outside of your Clients' various project infrastructure locations.</p>

No.	Comment	Response
	<p>infrastructure, see below (<b>reference to figure on pg.3 of the original comment document</b>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The green shaded area in the above figure illustrates the Tetra Cluster 2 Gas Production application area. The red polygon on the left-hand side illustrates the Florida Solar PV Facility, most of which falls within the Project area; the red polygon on the right illustrates the 210MW Virginia Solar PV Facilities and the pink line running from within the green shaded area, through the Florida Solar PV Facility, and into the Virginia Solar PV Facility is the overhead line for the two solar projects that forms part of the grid integration infrastructure.</li> <li>○ Our clients' developments that will be most directly impacted by the Project include the overhead powerline ('OHPL'), the Florida PV Facility and the Acamas BESS. However, that is not to say that our clients' other developments are not directly impacted – which means that there will be impacts in a cumulative sense that were not catered for in the Project.</li> <li>○ The OHPLs running into the Theseus substation for the Virginia 1, 2, 3 and 4 Solar PV Facility as well as the Florida Solar PV Facility are on properties affected by the Project. Furthermore, the Acamas BESS is on an affected property.</li> </ul> <p>None of these projects have been acknowledged, evaluated or assessed as part of the revised Environmental Impact Assessment Report ('EIAR') and associated specialist assessments, which creates significant gaps in impact assessment in terms of specific and cumulative impacts of the Project.</p>	<p>Kindly note that you have incorrectly inferred that the green shaded area (in your map) forms the basis of the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area. The green shaded area in your map is in fact the Tetra4 Production Right area which was approved in 2010 and is therefore not currently under application whereas the Cluster 2 application area falls <u>within</u> the Production Right area as shown in Figure 1 included at the end of this document as well as shown in Figure 5 contained in the EIA Report. Please note that it is the Cluster 2 application which forms the basis of the current application and the Cluster 2 application area boundary does not overlap with any of your Clients' infrastructure (refer to Figure 2 and Figure 3 included at the end of this document).</p> <p>In terms of this comment, please refer to above responses. It is our understand that the proposed PV facilities do not overlap with the proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 area.</p> <p>In terms of this comment, please refer to above responses. It is our understand that the proposed PV facilities do not overlap with the proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 area.</p> <p>A comprehensive public participation process was undertaken to identify any interested and/or affected parties (refer to Section 8 of the EIA Report) and according to our records, neither of your clients contacted EIMS to be registered at any time during the application period. It is contended that your Clients' undertook applications for their Solar, BESS and Powerline projects within the existing Tetra4 Production Right area which was already approved in 2010 and therefore existed at the time of your clients application, however, it is unclear whether Tetra4 was identified as a directly affected right holder and consulted during this process as required.</p> <p>In summary it is the EAP's understanding that your clients facility's do not fall within the proposed</p>

No.	Comment	Response
		Cluster 2 area and are consequently not directly affected.
3.	At the outset we are instructed to record that our Clients do not object to the Project in principle, and are willing to ensure that the solar energy facilities, Acamas BESS and associated grid integration infrastructure co-exist with the Project infrastructure, provided that the Project's final infrastructure footprint does not overlap in anyway with either the PV Plant or the BESS Facility boundaries.	With reference to our clarifications provided to your comments above and specifically your apparent misunderstanding about the Cluster 2 application area, kindly note that none of the Cluster 2 infrastructure overlaps in any way with your Client's project infrastructure.
4.	<p>Given the potential for and significant risk of soiling and shading losses on the Florida Solar PV Facility, and in order to avoid significant impact on the renewable energy developments, new combined Liquid Natural Gas ('LNG') and Liquid Helium ('LHe') plant must not be located within a 2 km radius of the Florida Solar PV Facility boundary. This buffer is necessary to mitigate potential operational impacts and ensure optimal solar generation performance.</p> <p>This condition must be accommodated in the final layout planning for the Cluster 1 and Cluster 2 developments, but we nevertheless prepare these comments in connection with the EIAR and associated impacts assessments / specialist studies in relation to the Project.</p>	With reference to our clarifications provided to your comments above and specifically your apparent misunderstanding about the Cluster 2 application area, kindly note that the Florida Solar PV Facility is located ~8.5km east of the nearest boundary to the Cluster 2 application area.
<b>OUTDATED ASSESSMENTS</b>		
5.	<p>The EIAR and specialist reports that assess impacts of the Project are outdated and unable to support the competent authority in making a balanced and informed decision on the impacts of the Project. The outdated assessments include, inter alia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cluster 2 Economic Impact Assessment by Strategy4Good dated 26 September 2022;</li> <li>○ Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project Social Impact Assessment by Equispectives Research and Consulting Services dated September 2022;</li> <li>○ Terrestrial Ecology Assessment for the proposed Tetra 4 Cluster 2 Project by Environmental Impact Management Services dated May 2022; and</li> </ul>	<p>It is the EAP's opinion that these reports are still relevant and do not require amendment. More specifically in the context of your Clients' energy developments which, as clarified above, do not fall within the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area.</p> <p>Further in the DFFE's decision on appeal, the only specialist studies which were specified as requiring amendment included the Hydrology, Geohydrology and Climate Change studies.</p> <p>It is the view of the EAP, that the specialist baseline, assessments and conclusions of the other specialist studies remain relevant and do not require specific amendment or supplementation.</p>

No.	Comment	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project by PGS Heritage dated 29 June 2022.</li> </ul>	
6.	<p>There are a number of concerns in this regard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The effluxion of time between the impact assessments undertaken as part of application for environmental authorisation (granted on 18 May 2023, 'EA') and the publication of the EIAR currently under comment, means that the surrounding context in which the EA was granted has evolved and, consequently, so have the various impacts including social and economic impacts. This has resulted in various impact assessments published under the EIAR being rendered outdated, or lacking key information on which the decision maker may render a rational, balanced and informed decision.</li> <li>○ As Virginia, Free State, is a well-known hotspot for energy development, the developer (i.e. Tetra4 (Pty) Ltd, as a wholly owned subsidiary of Renergen Ltd) as part of their due diligence ought to have confirmed and catered for any changes in the surrounding context including but not limited to renewable energy developments, such as those belonging to our Clients, which have been approved and are approaching construction or currently under construction.</li> <li>○ These developments ought to have been identified and considered when the EIAR was required by the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment ('Minister') in the context of the appeal decision dated 1 August 2024. Notwithstanding this, a myopic focus on the changes required by the Minister in the appeal, combined with an effluxion of time in the context of a rapidly evolving context, has resulted in various gaps and omissions in the EIAR and associated assessments.</li> </ul>	<p>It is the EAP's opinion that these reports are still relevant and do not require amendment. More specifically in the context of your Clients' energy developments which, as clarified above, do not fall within the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area.</p>

No.	Comment	Response
7.	In light of the above, we confirm that the OHPLs running into the Theseus substation for the Virginia 1, 2, 3 and 4 Solar PV Facilities as well as the Florida Solar PV Facility are on properties affected by the Project. Furthermore, the Acamas BESS is on an affected property. None of these projects have been acknowledged, evaluated or assessed as part of the EIAR and associated specialist assessments, which creates significant gaps in impact assessment in terms of specific and cumulative impacts of the Project.	With reference to our clarifications provided to your comments above and specifically your apparent misunderstanding about the Cluster 2 application area, kindly note that none of the Cluster 2 infrastructure overlaps in any way with your Client's project infrastructure.
8.	Due to the failure to acknowledge the existence of these renewable energy developments and associated grid integration infrastructure, the full range of impacts (specific and cumulative) for the Project have not been considered, evaluated or assessed as part of the EIAR and associated impacts assessments for the Project, which creates a gap in information preventing the competent authority from being able to make a balanced and informed decision thereon. The EIAR and associated impact assessments must be updated to reflect the accurate cumulative impacts of the Project in light of the surrounding renewable energy developments and grid integration infrastructure, which stand to be directly and indirectly impacted by the Project. Until such a time that the EIAR and impact assessments are updated, and accordingly these significant gaps in information closed, the competent authority cannot render a legally defensible decision on the merits.	Please refer to our responses to Items 1 to 7 above. Even though your Clients' developments are outside of the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area, there may be cumulative socio-economic impacts such as the labour market, in migration etc. It is our understanding that this would not represent a substantive impact as there is already a significant labour market in Welkom, Virginia and the surrounding areas and the workforce required for Tetra4 is unlikely to create a significant cumulative impact.
<b>SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS</b>		
9.	<p>The Economic Impact Assessment undertaken by Strategy4Good dated 26 September 2022, read with the Social Impact Assessment by Equispectives dated September 2022, are deficient and do not sustain legally defensible decision-making by the competent authority in terms of NEMA and the EIA Regulations for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There is no substantive, quantitative social and economic impact assessment of the effects of the Project on approved renewable energy developments in the area.</li> <li>○ The full range of socio-economic consequences including the negative</li> </ul>	<p>Please refer to our responses to Items 1 to 7 above in which it is clarified that your Clients' developments do not fall within the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area.</p> <p>In the absence of having access to your Clients' individual EIA reports, it is unclear whether an assessment of the cumulative socio-economic impacts of your Clients' developments in conjunction with the existing and proposed Tetra4 gas production developments was undertaken and which may</p>



No.	Comment	Response
	<p>impacts on our client's projects have not been considered, evaluated, or assessed in the EIAR and associated specialist reports and assessments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consequently, the information in the EIAR regarding all potential project-related impacts is materially deficient. As such the current information and assessment reports tabled before the competent authority do not provide a scientifically credible, legally defensible or objective basis upon which a defensible administrative decision can be made by the competent authority in terms of NEMA and the EIA Regulations.</li> <li>○ The competent authority is not in a position to exercise its administrative discretion lawfully as the full range of potential environmental, social and economic impacts of the Project - a mandatory requirement in terms of the EIA Regulations published under the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 ('NEMA')– has not been factored into the impact assessment process or the impact mitigation hierarchy.</li> <li>○ Our Clients' renewable energy developments contribute to the social and economic upliftment of the area, and serve as direct contributors to the Just Energy Transition. Based on the incomplete assessments and materially deficient information tabled by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner ('EAP'), the competent authority is not positioned to make an informed and rational decision regarding the project-related impacts or the need and desirability of the of the Project, particularly in light of the fact that the impact on our Clients' renewable energy developments is unassessed and unresolved.</li> <li>○ The EAP has failed to discharge its obligations to satisfy the threshold of need and desirability in compliance with the EIA Regulations as a full cost benefit analysis of</li> </ul>	<p>indicate a greater benefit to the greater socio-economic environment.</p> <p>As per our responses above, this comment is presented on the misunderstanding that there is an overlap in your Clients' projects with the Tetra4 Cluster 2 project. Furthermore, this comment does not explicitly state what impact is of concern and therefore it is difficult to respond in more detail.</p> <p>It is the EAP's understanding that the assessments are neither incomplete nor materially deficient as suggested. As per the earlier responses, your Clients' facilities do not fall within the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area. The competent authority therefore has the information available to be able to make an informed and rational decision.</p> <p>The NEMA EIA Regulations and guidelines do not require a 'full cost benefit analysis'. The EIA process has been undertaken, and the EIA report compiled, in accordance with the EIA regulations. Further the</p>

No.	Comment	Response
	<p>the Project and its impacts is a critical prerequisite to the acceptance of the reports by the competent authority in terms of the EIA Regulations. As there is no credible, objective and comprehensive assessment of the social and economic impact of the expansion of the proposed Project on the surrounding renewable energy developments and associated grid integration infrastructure, an approval on this basis would be flawed and irresponsible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The lack of a substantive, methodical and credible socio-economic impact assessment is a material deficiency. The assessment should be rejected on the basis of being inadequate and not fit for purpose on this basis alone.</li> </ul>	<p>proposed developments need and desirability has been considered and presented in Section 6 of the EIA Report, in alignment with the DFFE Need and Desirability Guideline.</p> <p>It is the EAP's understanding that the social and economic assessments and resultant EIA provide a substantive, methodological and credible assessment.</p>
10.	<p>Despite renewable energy developments and/or BESS being (directly and indirectly) affected by the Project, the assessments do not quantify the direct and indirect effects of the Project on the current investment in renewable energy development in the Free State, as a direct contributor to the Just Energy Transition. The status of our Clients' projects is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Virginia 1 Solar PV Facility is currently under construction;</li> <li>○ The Virginia 2 Solar PV Facility is currently under construction;</li> <li>○ The Virginia 3 Solar PV Facility is currently under construction;</li> <li>○ The Virginia 4 Solar PV Facility was awarded preferred bidder status under the DMRE's REIPPPP Bid Window 7 and is imminently reaching financial close to begin construction;</li> <li>○ The Florida Solar PV Facility was awarded preferred bidder status under the DMRE's REIPPPP Bid Window 7 and is imminently reaching financial close to begin construction;</li> <li>○ The Virginia 1-3 OHPL is currently under construction; and</li> </ul>	<p>Please refer to our responses above in which it is clarified that your Clients' developments do not fall within the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area. Furthermore, kindly refer to the Social Impact Assessment report contained in Appendix 4 of the EIA Report as well as Section 10.2 of the EIA Report in which potential impacts on other land-use have been considered.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Acamas BESS is approved and under development.</li> </ul>	
11.	Beyond the economic effects, there is also no consideration in the EIAR and associated reports of the renewable energy development externalities that are created by such enterprises in the socio-economic climate in and near a town like Virginia. Due to the Project's threat on the feasibility and sustainability of the abovementioned renewable energy developments, members of the community are at risk of losing employment opportunities in the pursuit of (potentially) non-renewable gas extraction which irreparably damages the environment in which it is extracted from.	Please refer to our responses to Items 1 to 7 above in which it is clarified that your Clients' developments do not fall within the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area. It is not clear what 'renewable energy externalities' are being referred to; however the EIA Report does undertake a comprehensive social and economic impact assessment (refer to Sections 9 and 10 of the EIA Report as well as Appendix 4). As noted earlier the proposed renewable energy developments do not fall within the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area and therefore does not present a threat on the renewable energy developments feasibility or sustainability. Consequently, it is not expected that there will be a risk of community members losing employment opportunities in the pursuit of non-renewable gas extraction.
12.	If the renewable energy developments are negatively affected by the development of the Project, the sustainability of these enterprises will be undermined due to disinvestment from the land-use. This important externality is not considered in detail, especially in terms of the linkage to the economics of the specific land-use. This is also an important consideration of the impact of the Project, but one which is not dealt with at all.	<p>Please refer to our responses to Items 1 to 7 above in which it is clarified that your Clients' developments do not fall within the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area. It is not anticipated that the proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 activities will negatively affect the proposed renewable developments due to the fact that their footprints do not overlap. Consequently, the sustainability of the renewable enterprises is not expected to be undermined.</p> <p>The nature of the gas production activities is such that it is not inconceivable that they could come to a co-existence arrangement with renewable development where both activities can be accommodated (as you allude to in item 3 above).</p>
13.	Moreover, the dynamics of the employment opportunities created and lost has also not been substantively developed or assessed. The significance of this oversight is that, for example, the negative impacts of disinvestment and job losses in renewable energy development will fall on the more vulnerable members of society which would not naturally find alternative employment. This has not been assessed.	Please refer to our responses to Items 1 to 7 above in which it is clarified that your Clients' developments do not fall within the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area.
14.	The premise of any assessment is that a robust, justifiable and scientific methodology is essential to quantifying effects or impacts in an unbiased and methodical way. This is a critical prerequisite to the	Please refer to our responses to Items 1 to 7 above in which it is clarified that your Clients' developments

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	<p>credibility of any study as these comments point to serious shortcomings and reservations about the general approach used in the reports. At a high level these concerns include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The number of affected parties actually consulted during this process is likely to be a gross underrepresentation of the actual parties that will be affected, directly or indirectly by the project and its impacts. This is confirmed by the fact that our Clients, although first in time to obtain environmental authorisation for the above renewable energy developments and associated grid integration infrastructure, were not consulted as part of the EIA process for the Project. This is further confirmed by the fact that the EIAR states that “Not every individual in the community could be interviewed therefore only key people in the community were approached for discussion. These key people include all the directly affected landowners”. Only consulting landowners is a gross underrepresentation of the impacted community, particularly considering the fact that those that are most vulnerable to the impacts of the project are likely not owners of land, but rather those more impoverished and without resources.</li> <li>○ The weight and significance attributed to positive socio-economic impacts in the reports is a serious shortcoming noted in this process and would skew the assessment of relative socio economic impacts in favour of the proponent thus rendering the entire assessment process as discredited.</li> <li>○ Methodologically, the assessment undertaken avoids a substantive, methodical quantification of both positive and negative impacts to objectively demonstrate impact and desirability of the proposed project in light of the impact of the Project on the sustainability of surrounding renewable energy developments approaching construction and/or under construction.</li> </ul>	<p>do not fall within the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area.</p> <p>Kindly refer to Appendix 3 of the EIA Report in which the I&amp;AP database is included as well as signed attendance registers for various public and focus group meetings held. A comprehensive public consultation process was undertaken in line with the EIA Regulations with landowners and adjacent landowners notified through various means. It should be noted that your Clients’ project sites are not within the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area and are therefore not directly affected.</p> <p>The statement that only landowners were consulted is a misrepresentation of what was undertaken and presented in the EIA Report. The EIA process and public participation aligned with and exceeded the prescripts of the NEMA EIA Regulations. The participation did not exclude the impacted communities, the vulnerable, or the impoverished. Various opportunities were provided for participation including but not limited to public and focus group meetings. Kindly refer to Section 8 of the EIA Report as well as Appendix 3 which contains detail on the consultation process undertaken.</p> <p>The NEMA EIA Regulations require presentation of Need and Desirability, as well as presentation and assessment of positive and negative impacts. Kinly refer to Section 6 of the EIA Report (Need and Desirability) in which arguments for and against natural gas and helium are discussed. Furthermore, kindly refer to the Social and Economic impact assessment reports contained in Appendix 4 of the EIA Report where both positive and negative impacts are identified and assessed. While some impacts are considered to have a positive impact, others are assessed to have a negative impact with a balanced and impartial assessment undertaken.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Because the socio-economic report does not methodically quantify the negative impacts of the project, the fullest possible extent of the detrimental impact of the proposed project remains hidden from view and are not weighed against alleged benefits.</li> <li>A truly objective and independent impact assessment report should objectively determine both the negative and the positive impacts of a project to enable the competent authority to weigh the positive and negative impacts and then to arrive at a decision about the Project. It is inappropriate for an independent assessment to weigh and mediate impacts and their hypothetical mitigation and to motivate in favour of (or against) a development on their own accord.</li> </ul>	<p>Kindly refer to Section 1.5 of the EIA Report in which a summary of the impact assessment per discipline is provided. It should be noted that a total of 20 social impacts were identified (6 positive and 14 negative) while 40 economic impacts were identified (20 positive and 20 negative). It is therefore a misrepresentation to state that the negative impacts were not quantified for the project.</p> <p>As stated above, the positive and negative impacts were methodically assessed in line with the NEMA EIA Regulations.</p>
15.	<p>Further to the above, the EIAR fails to take into account the following relevant factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An accurate and credible socio-economic impact assessment is central to the evaluation and consideration of the merits of the application as required in terms of inter alia sections 2, 23 and 24 of NEMA.</li> <li>How the effect of the Project and its impacts implicate the principle of sustainable development (and impacts on the sustainability of our clients' rights and development projects), which remains unassessed and unresolved.</li> <li>The technical efficacy and competence of the social and economic impact assessments to the extent that the methodology employed in the assessments has simply failed to consider the impacts on the most directly impacted I&amp;APs in question.</li> <li>The quantification of the adverse socio-economic impact on our Clients' rights and development projects is unquantified yet will give rise to and/or cause a material adverse impact on our Clients' operations.</li> </ul>	<p>Please refer to our responses to Items 1 to 7 above in which it is clarified that your Clients' developments do not fall within the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The broader implications for the socio-economic impacts on our Clients' operations.</li> </ul>	
16.	The factors referred to above are interrelated in that, taken together, they demonstrate that a precautionary approach must be applied and an external independent peer review should have been required before the competent authority may purport to render a defensible decision.	
17.	The nature and severity of the Project impacts are neither assessed nor quantified, resulting in the competent authority being ill-placed to identify and quantify the significant adverse socio economic impact on the long-term sustainability of our Clients' operations.	Refer to Section 10 of the EIAR in which the nature and severity of the identified and relevant impacts are assessed and quantified. The impact assessment considers the nature, duration, extent, magnitude, reversibility and probability and a prioritisation factor is also applied where the impacts are deemed to be cumulative. The impact assessment was undertaken in line with the prescribed requirements within the NEMA EIA Regulations.
18.	The practical and legal effect of the EIAR is to disregard in its entirety the associated impacts on the sustainability of existing and approved developments in the receiving environment and immediate context. In so doing, the EAP misdirected itself by failing to take into account relevant impacts and considerations, and by failing to identify all potential significantly adverse impacts.	Please refer to our responses to Items 1 to 7 above in which it is clarified that your Clients' developments do not fall within the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area.
19.	In discharging its obligations in terms of section 24 of NEMA and the EIA Regulations, the EAP is required to have due regard to the significant detrimental socio-economic impacts on our Clients' approved developments. The EIAR contains substantially inaccurate information, as the assessment of impacts on the sustainability of existing operations simply did not occur.	Please refer to our responses to Items 1 to 7 above in which it is clarified that your Clients' developments do not fall within the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area. The existing operations being referred to appear to relate to your Clients' approved renewable energy development. As noted above these do not overlap with the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area and therefore are not expected to significantly affect the sustainability of these operations.
20.	The probability distributions for each of the variables used in the impact model are not expressly noted and it is assumed that these distributions are not known. In opining on probabilities in the impact it is important for the report to consider and substantiate the underlying probability distribution for each of the variables. In the absence of any consideration of the probability distribution, any opinion about general	Refer to section 10.1 of the EIAR in which the impact assessment methodology was described. The probability distribution is presented in Table 80 and Table 81 of the EIAR where the nature, duration, extent, magnitude, reversibility and probability scores are clearly defined. The determination of environmental risk is presented in Table 82 with a calculation provided as to how the environmental risk

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	<p>probabilities in an impact framework are at risk of being substantially flawed. Any conclusions or recommendations that are borne from these probabilities will suffer the same shortcomings, which issue is compounded by the fact that the Economic Impact Assessment for the Project was based solely on intent or, in other words, "Tetra4's intent to generate the output and employment as is discussed in the economic specialist report".</p> <p>Practically this arrangement is an inaccurate representation of the true structure of the impacts which, in turn, results in an unbalanced and misrepresentation of the impact that then leads to misinformed conclusions and recommendations about the socio-economic impacts.</p>	<p>is calculated. Lastly, the environmental risk score (significance) is described in Table 83.</p>
21.	<p>Considering these comments, it is argued that the impact assessment model should be reworked given the range of comments and concerns tabled herein, and then presented again in an improved format for further consideration by the public.</p>	<p>The impact assessment model (assuming this is referring to the Impact Assessment Methodology in the EIA Report) that we have used has been tried and tested through a significant number of EIA's submitted to various competent authorities and the methodology is based on the DFFE impact assessment guidelines. As such, it is our considered opinion that the assessment methodology is adequate for the purposes of the Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA.</p>
22.	<p>These comments form a high-level consideration of the comments submitted in relation the impact assessment reports and other documents submitted in the process demonstrate two important issues. Firstly, the inadequate consideration of the socio-economic impacts of the project in an attempt to improve the reports so that a robust and balanced assessment can be placed before decision-makers. Secondly, the competent authority cannot rationally depend on the current assessment reports to make an informed, rational and considered decision about the authorisation of the project or not because of the significant shortcomings and accompanying risks about the impact assessment that have been noted.</p>	<p>Please refer to our responses to Items 1 to 7 above in which it is clarified that your Clients' developments do not fall within the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area. With respect to the socio-economic impacts that were identified and assessed, as clarified above, it should be noted that a total of 20 social impacts were identified (6 positive and 14 negative) while 40 economic impacts were identified (20 positive and 20 negative). It is therefore a misrepresentation to state that there was "...an attempt to improve the reports...". An impartial and independent assessment was undertaken throughout the EIA process and presented in the Reports.</p>
23.	<p>In conclusion, the reports are seriously flawed as a result of a number of shortcomings in the process and in the content that have been specifically pointed out and which are unaddressed and/or disputed. As a consequence, we are of the view that:</p>	<p>Please refer to our responses to Items 1 to 21 above in which it is clarified that your Clients' developments do not fall within the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area and the impact assessment methodology and process is discussed. It is the EAPs opinion is that there are not</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The reports fail to provide a substantively adequate assessment of the impacts of the Project and fail to provide a basis from which the competent authority can assess the impacts in their totality in a balanced and even-handed way and upon which they could arrive at a rational decision.</li> <li>○ The conclusions and recommendations made in the various reports are derived from unconvincing processes and methods. Most importantly the assessment cannot escape methodical quantification of both positive and negative impacts at the appropriate level of resolution if it should substantively demonstrate impact. This quantitative assessment is absent in the current reports and in its stead is an untested opinion purely based on intent and not rationally grounded in reality. Consequently, a rational decision cannot be made because of the flaws of the current methodology.</li> <li>○ The EIAR, and specifically the social and economic reports cannot and should not be used for decision making in current its current form because of the gaps and associated risks associated with it.</li> </ul>	<p>significant shortcomings in the process or content. The EIA has been undertaken in line with the NEMA EIA Regulations and in many respects exceeded the minimum requirements.</p> <p>The assessment is not based on quantifiable parameters but is rather a qualitative assessment. Refer to the impact assessment in Section 10 of the EIA Report. It is not always possible or reasonable to undertake an assessment based on quantitative predicative models for all aspects. A largely quantitative model was undertaken for the groundwater and air quality assessments, but that even these remain predictive models that have underlying uncertainty. The basis on which the impacts were assessed are clearly articulated in the report and relevant specialist studies are, in the view of the EAP, aligned to the requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations, and do provide the Competent Authority with the information necessary to make an informed decision.</p>
<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS</b>		
24.	Our Clients were not consulted as part of the initial and present public participation process ('PPP') and instead found out about the Project and had to reach out to EIMS and the project proponent in order to obtain all relevant information and to be registered and interested and affected parties ('I&APs').	Please refer to our responses to Items 1 to 21 above in which it is clarified that your Clients' developments do not fall within the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area and are therefore not directly affected Interested and Affected Parties. It is therefore put forward that the public participation process was adequate for the purposes of the Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA application. The consultation process complied with the prescribed requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations and in many instances, went above and beyond the minimum prescribed requirements.
25.	Furthermore, and as a result of the process followed by EIMS, I&APs have effectively been faced with a fait accompli of the Project. Essentially, I&APs are only being provided with an opportunity to comment or interact with the environmental consultants at a stage that is effectively the end, or very close to the	In addition to our response provided above to Item 24, a rigorous public participation process was undertaken since May 2022 for the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application as presented in Section 8 and Appendix 3 of the EIAR.



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	end, of the process. In fact, the PPP requirements are the remaining box to tick to fulfil the BA process – but has been left right to the last task to be completed.	
26.	We submit that no meaningful PPP was undertaken prior to the preparation of the EIAR (initial and revised), and that this is confirmed by our Clients never having been identified as I&APs neither as part of the initial PPP prior to the appeal, nor as part of the current PPP for the EIAR. This means that any opportunity for I&AP issues to feed into the design and planning of the project is negated. In addition, the issues and concerns of I&APs have not informed the scope of the EIAR and specialist studies or been taken into account in the evaluation criteria used to assess the significance of impacts.	Please refer to our responses to Items 24 and 25 above.
27.	This amounts to the DAD approach (Decide-Announce-Defend) which is defined as “.....a top down, minimally participatory method of public management.” <sup>2</sup> This is counter to the core values that ought to guide public participation as developed by the International Association for Public Participation (‘IAP2’), an organisation from which the International Association of Impact Assessment (‘IAIA’) draws for guidance on PPP.	Please refer to our responses to Items 24 and 25 above.
28.	Given these shortcomings, please identify and describe in detail all measures employed to ensure the participation of all interested and affected parties in the application process and how the principles of PPP have been promoted, and all stakeholders empowered to have the opportunity to develop the understanding, skills and capacity necessary for achieving equitable and effective participation, including participation by vulnerable and disadvantaged persons.	Please refer to our responses to Items 24 and 25 above.
<b>UNNACCEPTABLE ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS</b>		
29.	The assumptions and limitations disclosed in the EIAR identify significant gaps on which the decision-maker cannot render a rational nor reasonable decision. These gaps include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Air quality and health risk: “Only routine emissions for the operational phase were</li> </ul>	

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	<p>estimated and simulated. Atmospheric releases occurring as a result of non-routine conditions were not accounted for”;</p> <p>○ Air quality and health risk: “Planning and design, decommissioning, closure and rehabilitation phase impacts were not quantified”;</p> <p>○ Climate change: “GHG emissions from the well drilling, well testing, and well servicing</p>	<p>Section 14 of the EIA Report contains the assumptions and limitations as per the prescribed requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations. It is standard EIA practice that when faced with uncertainty the assessment should be conservative in the assessment rating and additional management and mitigation applied. This selective quotation of this limitation with respect to the air quality and health risk assessment failed to acknowledge that this limitation went on to clarify that emergency flaring was assessed while other non-routine releases expected to be minimal. All reasonable and potentially significant routine and non-routine emissions have been identified and included in the assessment. The actual statement in the report is as follows: “Only routine emissions for the operational phase were estimated and simulated. Atmospheric releases occurring as a result of non-routine conditions were not accounted for limited to emergency flaring at the plant, with other non-routine releases expected to be minimal” (refer to the EIA Report section 14.3)</p> <p>Section 14 of the EIA Report contains the assumptions and limitations as per the prescribed requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations. This selective quotation of this limitation with respect to the air quality and health risk assessment failed to acknowledge that this limitation went on to clarify that impacts associated with these phases are highly variable and generally less significant than construction and operational phase impacts. Mitigation and management measures recommended for the construction and operational phases are however also applicable to the planning and design, decommissioning, closure and rehabilitation phases. The actual statement in the report is as follows: “Planning and design, decommissioning, closure and rehabilitation phase impacts were not quantified. Impacts associated with these phases are highly variable and generally less significant than construction and operational phase impacts. Mitigation and management measures recommended for the construction and operational phases are however also applicable to the planning and design, decommissioning, closure and rehabilitation phases” (refer to the EIA Report section 14.3)</p>

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	<p>were based on measurements provided by Tetra4 and not calculated using emission factors”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Economic: “...the Cluster 2 economic is based on intent, namely Tetra4’s intent to generate the output and employment as is discussed in the economic specialist report”;</li> <li>○ Economic: “Gas multipliers for a well-established gas driven economy will be different to that of SA and for this reason, where possible, multipliers were adjusted to assume a more mature gas industry in SA”;</li> <li>○ Economic: “The economic impacts are calculated on the supply side of the economy in an optimal year” (own emphasis);</li> <li>○ Geohydrology: “Groundwater divides have been assumed to align with surface water divides and it is assumed that groundwater cannot flow across this type of boundaries”;</li> <li>○ Geohydrology: “...influences from neighbouring mining developments were not taken into consideration as part of this investigation”;</li> </ul>	<p>The use of actual measurements provided by Tetra4 is considered more robust than using emission factors and therefore this is considered adequate, and in fact more accurate, for the purposes of the assessment.</p> <p>The full assumption and limitation to which you allude states the following: “Although Tetra4’s Cluster 1 production project is in progress (thus there is direct evidence that the enterprise is operational), the Cluster 2 economic impact is based on an intent, namely Tetra4’s intent to generate the output and employment as is discussed in the economic specialist report. The eventuation of these benefits is reliant on an economically viable Tetra4, an assumption that is made in the compilation of the economic specialist report.” This is considered adequate as it is the basis of an economic impact assessment for a project that has not yet commenced.</p> <p>The gas multipliers were adjusted as appropriate for this type of project within the confines of South Africa.</p> <p>It is understood that an optimal year represents a reasonable assumption for supply side economic assessments.</p> <p>This is a reasonable geohydrology assumption and in the absence of more detail on the specific concern with regards to this assumption, no further response can be provided.</p> <p>It is standard EIA practice that when faced with uncertainty that the assessment should be conservative in the assessment rating and additional management and mitigation applied. In this instance, the influences from the neighbouring mining developments would likely dilute the potential impacts as a result of the Tetra4 gas production activities. As such, excluding the mining related</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heritage and Palaeontology: "There was also restricted access to certain farm properties (BLAAUWDRIFT No.188 (Portion 3), BRUINTJE HOOGTE No.367 (Portion 2, 3), BRYAN No.561 (Portion 10, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 38), GLEN ROSS No.734 (Portion 4, 5, 6, 7, 18, 20), JONKERS RUST No.72, KALKOENKRANS No.225 (Portion 3), MOND VAN DOORNRIEVER No.38 (Portion 2), MOOIFONTEIN No.639, PALMIETJUIL No.548 (Portion 1), STILLE WONING no.703, VLAKPAN No.358) due to farm owners not giving permission to access their properties, flooded roads and dangerous game life on the properties";</li> <li>Noise: "The source power levels were calculated based on information provided by EIMS. The assumption is that this information is correct and reflects the routine construction and operational phase of the project";</li> <li>Noise: "The scope of work did not include a vibration assessment";</li> <li>Social: "Not every individual in the community could be interviewed therefore only key people in the community were approached for discussion. These key people include all the directly affected landowners" JUST LANDOWNERS- and yet "Social impacts are not site-specific but take place in the communities surrounding the proposed development";</li> </ul>	<p>influences results in a more conservative assessment of impacts</p> <p>A project of this nature inherently contains a significant number of properties and every effort is made to access as many properties as possible. Where access is restricted this is noted. Furthermore, suitable mitigation measures were identified and included in the EMPr which requires ongoing vigilance during the various phases of the development to mitigate against adverse impacts on sensitive heritage features. Kindly note that there are adaptive controls built into the mitigation measures to account for circumstances where unknown heritage features are present and to avoid uncontrolled impact on such.</p> <p>The data provided to the noise specialist by EIMS was sourced from Tetra4 and includes data acquired through real world scenarios of the Tetra4 Cluster 1 activities. This data is therefore considered adequate for the purposes of the noise assessment.</p> <p>A vibration assessment was not deemed relevant as the proposed Cluster 2 project does not include activities that would generate significant vibration.</p> <p>There are different groups with different interests in the community, and what one group may experience as a positive social impact, another group may experience as a negative impact. Based on our feedback during the various public participation interactions with landowners and other members of the community (occupiers, surrounding communities, etc), it is predominantly the landowners who perceive negative impacts while the other members of the community perceive the project in a positive way (i.e. anticipation of job creation). It is therefore put forward that the social specialist approached the most vocal and directly affected members of the</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Terrestrial biodiversity: “Access to certain portions within the study area was not possible due to the fact that the land owner did not give the go-ahead”; and</li> <li>○ Visual: “A site visit was undertaken over a two-day period (21st and 22nd February 2022)”</li> </ul>	<p>broader community (i.e. the landowners) which is considered appropriate. Further to our above responses regarding the public consultation process that was undertaken, the prescribed consultation process was followed in that all stakeholders were provided with opportunity to participate without fear or favour. It is unreasonable to interview every member of a community. Sample interviews were held to define broad perceptions and concerns, but at no time was any member of the community prevented from participating in the process.</p> <p>As stated above, a project of this nature inherently contains a significant number of properties and every effort is made to access as many properties as possible. Where access is restricted this is noted. The terrestrial biodiversity specialist obtained sufficient data from the site visits undertaken to infer species composition to a high degree of accuracy. Furthermore, suitable mitigation measures were identified and included in the EMPr to limit the negative impacts on the terrestrial landscape. Kindly note that there are adaptive controls built into the mitigation measures to account for circumstances where unknown heritage features are present and to avoid uncontrolled impact on such.</p> <p>The footnote to this comment states the following: “This site visit is outdated and could not have taken into account the cumulative visual impact of the Project in light of the surrounding renewable energy developments.”. While your Clients’ renewable energy projects fall outside of the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area (as addressed above), based on the EAPs recent travels to the area, the visual landscape has not improved but is considered to have been further altered by the ensuing renewable energy developments since this visual study was undertaken in 2022. As such, the 2022 visual study represents a worst-case baseline scenario (i.e. largely rural or more rural than current) and therefore a more recent study would likely present a baseline visual environment containing a more mixed use which would dilute the impact assessment findings.</p>
30.	Significantly, the EIAR fails to disclose the following key limitations and assumptions in section 14 of the	

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	<p>EIAR, which further misleads the competent authority into having an inflated sense of the perceived benefits of the Project, inter alia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It has not yet been conclusively determined if the Project's gas field is biogenic (renewable) or thermogenic (non-renewable). This limitation impacts the decision-makers understanding of the lifespan and sustainability of the project, and therefore the cumulative impacts of the Project.</li> <li>○ According to the Framework for a Just Transition in South Africa the "push for gas delays and diverts resources from renewable energy build and creates fiscal risk through stranded assets".</li> </ul>	<p>As indicated in Section 4.1.11 of the EIA Report, the operational (gas production) timeframe for the project is approximately 20 years. In Section 4.1.2 of the EIA Report, it is acknowledged that: "The gas is presumed to be a mix of both abiogenic gas from the mantle, and biogenic gas originating from ancient fissure waters, coal beds of the Ecca Group of the Karoo Supergroup as well as ancient algal mats within the shallow marine/lacustrine Witwatersrand Supergroup deposits.". Should this concern relate to a potential stranded asset, it should be noted that the requirements for financial provisioning were undertaken and the scheduled and unscheduled costs were calculated and included in Appendix 6 of the EIA Report.</p> <p>This reference which is quoted from the Framework for a Just Transition in South Africa is a single risk identified in Table A which details the action plan to give immediate effect to a just transition. It is understood that this is a generalised risk identified for non-specific sectors. On the contrary, the Integrated Resource Plan 2025 (IRP), makes provision to increase the national energy mix natural gas contribution 6 000MW by 2030 (with a projection of 16 000MW in the total energy mix by 2040) and as the Tetra4 Virginia gas resource has been proven through Cluster 1 gas production, there is a low likelihood of the proposed Cluster 2 becoming a stranded resource. It is acknowledged by the EAP that there is a need to move away from fossil and non-renewable resources however in line with government policy this needs to be undertaken in a controlled scale and pace. The transition is reflected in the climate change policy and associated energy policy. It is also important to note that this project is not only aiming to extract natural gas but also helium which is an important resource globally.</p>
31.	In light of the above gaps in information due to the various assumptions and limitations identified in the EIAR, those disclosed and those undisclosed, the decision-maker lacks the necessary informational	In summary to the responses provided above, while certain limitations have been identified in the EIA Report (Section 14), these limitations are not considered substantive and, in many cases, result in a

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	<p>basis on which to render a rational, balanced and informed decision. These gaps in information bring into question the assessment of cumulative impacts of the Project, and have the effect of inflating the perceived benefits of the projects without adequately catering for the negative impacts thereof. This approach to impact assessment is misleading and cannot serve to inform rational and reasonable decision making.</p>	<p>conservative assessment being undertaken. Adaptive management measures are also included in the EMP where limitations such as site access resulted in certain properties being inaccessible.</p>
<b>NEED AND DESIRABILITY IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS AND THE JUST ENERGY TRANSITION</b>		
32.	<p>The EAP motivates the Project on the basis that it is a “bridge” between non-renewable energy resources, such as coal, and renewable energy resources such as solar and wind. This motivation is misleading and creates a highly skewed portrayal by the EAP of the need and desirability in favour of the Project. The EAP does so by creating the false narrative that the Project is completely different in its impacts when compared to the impacts associated with non-renewable resource extraction and use such as coal mining. The EAP’s approach is disingenuous as the Project is in essence an activity which is destructive and extractive in nature, and thus not far different to coal. The need and desirability enquiry in the EIAR is unreasonably and unjustifiably pro-applicant in its bias in favour of the of the Project being authorised. This is tantamount to greenwashing and undermines the independence of the EAP and the credibility of the assessment process.</p>	<p>While the need and desirability contained in Section 6 of the EIA Report discusses methane as a bridging fuel, it should also be noted that the need and desirability discussion also addresses the global demand for helium (which this project is also targeting). Furthermore, the motivation for the project as a bridge is not based on the EAPs consideration but rather the EAP references existing policy and strategy for South Africa which recognised natural gas as a bridge. The National Development Plan (NDP) envisions that by 2030 South Africa will have an energy sector that promotes economic growth and development through adequate investment in energy infrastructure. At just 2.6% of the country’s total energy mix, South Africa’s natural gas market is small, but with all its inherent benefits, it has the potential to completely change the economy by stimulating economic growth and development, stability, and job creation. The meaningful addition of natural gas to the country’s energy mix will rejuvenate an overburdened, out-dated energy infrastructure and reduce cyclical energy shortfalls. Perhaps even more importantly, it will stimulate the economy by allowing business and industry to lower their energy and operational spend while also creating significant numbers of new jobs and skills development opportunities. Considering that nearly 90% of South Africa’s existing natural gas demand is supplied by a single entity, namely Sasol Gas, the associated economic and employment risks of limited supply options, development and sourcing of alternative natural gas resources are high. It is imperative to ensure economic and employment stability within the natural gas sector by introducing more suppliers. Southern Africa’s gas potential has been revealed by major discoveries that, when</p>



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		<p>developed, widen options for greater regional energy trade. South Africa's gas resource potential remains to be quantified but raises the prospect of possible domestic production in the longer term. Globally the natural gas industry has moved into a supply surplus, favouring a larger role for gas as a clean fossil fuel in many countries' energy policies. A challenge in developing the gas sector is to bring gas demand and supply on stream at the same time and spread geographically to stimulate broader localized demand through South Africa. Without such localized gas demand, it is difficult to develop distributed gas supply and without such distributed gas supply it is difficult to develop localized gas demand. One way of breaking this impasse is to create significant "anchor" gas demand through the development of a gas-to-power programme. In pursuit of adding generating capacity, lowering carbon emissions, enhancing energy security and supporting industrial development, South Africa has taken the first steps in a gas-to-power programme to be executed under the Integrated Resource Plan, aiming to increase the national energy mix natural gas contribution to 6 000MW of energy production from gas by 2030.</p> <p>With reference to Section 9.14.9.2 of the EIA Report, even though CH<sub>4</sub> emissions are 28 times more effective than CO<sub>2</sub> at trapping heat in the atmosphere over a 100-year timescale (US EPA, 2024a), studies show gas has a lower life cycle GHG impact than coal with a lifetime of roughly a decade (PACE, 2015). According to the UK Department for Environment Food &amp; Rural Affairs (DEFRA), natural gas releases 46% less CO<sub>2</sub>-eq lifecycle emissions compared to coal-fired facilities and 49% less than diesel-fired facilities for the same electricity generation rate. The IPCC reports, based on the median value, indicate natural gas to result in less than 51% direct- and 40% lifecycle CO<sub>2</sub>-eq emissions compared to CO<sub>2</sub>-eq emissions from coal (Schlömer S., 2014).</p> <p>Coal extraction generally has a larger overall environmental footprint than natural gas extraction, causing extensive land disturbance, habitat destruction, acid mine drainage, and long-term soil and water contamination. Natural gas extraction on the other hand typically has a smaller surface footprint with subsequent lower environmental impacts (albeit not no environmental impacts as</p>



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		<p>acknowledged, identified and assessed in Section 10 of the EIA Report).</p> <p>The assertion that the need and desirability is “tantamount to greenwashing” is unwarranted and misplaced. With reference to Section 6 of the EIA Report, in the need and desirability, the EAP acknowledges both positive and negative aspects of gas production and use. It is specifically acknowledged in Section 6.3.1 that there is more consensus than ever that GHG’s cause global warming, that burning of natural gas still emits CO<sub>2</sub> and that methane is a potent GHG. A detailed Climate Change Assessment was undertaken (refer to Appendix 4 of the EIA Report) which considered both Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions. At no point did the EAP attempt to misrepresent the negative aspects of gas production and subsequent use.</p> <p>The EAP does not motivate for the project beyond what is required to be included in the NEMA EIA Regulations and the Need and Desirability Guideline. The “need and desirability” section of the EIA Report is intended to contextualise the project within the broader policy goals. It is not the purpose of the “need and desirability” section to reconsider, reassess, and represent the merits of existing government policies nor to extend the assessment of impacts beyond those of the activity for which authorisation is being sought.</p>
33.	<p>The EIAR for the Project supports the destructive and extractive nature of under-ground resource extraction, and cannot be construed as some halfway point to South Africa’s commitments to renewable energy development and the Just Energy Transition. In fact, the 2022 Presidential Climate Commission Report points out that the “push for gas delays and diverts resources from renewable energy build and creates fiscal risk through stranded assets”.</p>	<p>The latest government-approved IRP (2025) projects a meaningful share of gas in the electricity mix, aiming for gas to contribute around 11 % of electricity generation by 2039, up from almost zero today. In the IRP, gas is often justified as a flexible, dispatchable source that can help maintain grid stability as more renewables come online. The plan anticipates gas-to-power builds in the 2020s and 2030s, and with potential conversion of existing diesel generators to gas. This reflects a common transitional strategy worldwide, where gas serves as a bridge fuel while renewable and storage capacities scale up.</p> <p>The IRP2025 is government policy that was informed by many stakeholders including the Presidential Climate Commission. As stated above, the EAP does not motivate for the project beyond what is required to be included in the NEMA EIA Regulations and the Need and Desirability Guideline. The “need and</p>

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		<p>desirability” section of the EIA Report is intended to contextualise the project within the broader policy goals. It is not the purpose of the “need and desirability” section to reconsider, reassess, and represent the merits of existing government policies nor to extend the assessment of impacts beyond those of the activity for which authorisation is being sought.</p>
34.	<p>The EIAR itself concedes that it remains unclear as to whether the Project is biogenic (renewable) or thermogenic (non-renewable), and so it is inappropriate for the EAP to purport to motivate the project in such a way that it overcompensates the alleged positive net effect of the Project on the basis of hidden costs and environmental, social and economic impacts which are downplayed. In that sense it is entirely inappropriate and inaccurate for the EAP to draw a distinction between the Project and other destructive and extractive industries such as the mining of non-renewable resources (i.e. coal). Gas exploration and production is a fossil-fuel intensive product and which faces a great deal of investment uncertainty due to the rate of the climate transition and the local and international push towards a Just Energy Transition.</p>	<p>Refer to responses to comments 30 and 33 above.</p>
35.	<p>The Project is therefore far from a bridge to renewable energy development, particularly in the present circumstance where the Project actually threatens the sustainability of renewable energy development within and surrounding the Project area.</p>	<p>As discussed in Points 1 to 7 above, your Clients’ renewable energy projects do not fall within the boundaries of the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area and as such, there will be no negative impacts or “threats” to your Clients’ projects. In addition please refer to responses to comments 30 and 33 above.</p>
36.	<p>The EIAR fails to demonstrate that the Project achieves a reduced dirty resource dependency, as promoted by the Presidential Climate Commission and the Paris Agreement to which South Africa is a party.</p>	<p>With reference to Section 9.14 of the EIAR, a concern with natural gas is around the leaking methane emissions, occurring mainly during the extraction, processing, and transportation of natural gas. The estimated Scope 1 and 2 methane emissions from the operational phase at Cluster 2 accounts for 78% of the total CO<sub>2</sub>-eq emissions. Even though methane emissions are 28 times more effective than CO<sub>2</sub> at trapping heat in the atmosphere over a 100-year timescale (US EPA, 2024a), studies show gas has a lower life cycle GHG impact than coal with a lifetime of roughly a decade (PACE, 2015). According to the UK Department for Environment Food &amp; Rural Affairs (DEFRA), natural gas releases 46% less CO<sub>2</sub>-eq</p>

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		<p>lifecycle emissions compared to coal-fired facilities and 49% less than diesel-fired facilities for the same electricity generation rate. The IPCC reports, based on the median value, indicate natural gas to result in less than 51% direct- and 40% lifecycle CO<sub>2</sub>-eq emissions compared to CO<sub>2</sub>-eq emissions from coal (Schl��mer S., 2014).</p>
37.	<p>The Project undermines, rather than promotes, South Africa’s position as a signatory to the Paris Agreement, with Nationally Determined Contributions and a National Adaptation Plan, all of which are in direct conflict with the Project. The project proponent persistently promotes the idea that the Project, because it does not involve the extraction and use of coal, is an insurmountable improvement on South Africa’s current approach to climate change, and will safeguard the country from being sanctioned by the international community. We submit that this stark distinction between gas and the extraction of other mineral resources is misleading and cannot inform a rational decision by the decision-maker.</p>	<p>Refer to responses provided to comments 32, 33 and 36 above. This comment is a misrepresentation of what is stated in the EIA Report. As stated above, the EAP does not motivate for the project beyond what is required to be included in the NEMA EIA Regulations and the Need and Desirability Guideline. The “need and desirability” section of the EIA Report is intended to contextualise the project within the broader policy goals. It is not the purpose of the “need and desirability” section to reconsider, reassess, and represent the merits of existing government policies nor to extend the assessment of impacts beyond those of the activity for which authorisation is being sought.</p>
38.	<p>The statement that “even though SA had been blessed with significant mineral resources, the lack of oil and gas had been the country’s Achilles heel” is entirely at odds with the ethos of the Just Energy Transition and the confirmed understanding of the destructive extractivism inherent in oil and gas extraction, and instead serves as a self-serving narrative persistently put forward by the project proponent to mislead the decision-maker into thinking that the Project is not only needed, but is desirable. We submit that this is not the case. The project proponent themselves admit that “natural gas still emits CO<sub>2</sub>, and hence the problem of mostly eradicating greenhouse gas emissions globally remains unresolved if natural gas continues to be a source of electricity” and “in addition to this, natural gas is composed of 70-90% methane, a potent greenhouse gas and major contributor to global warming... 2-3% of methane escapes during processing, transmission and reticulation. These fugitive emissions add to global warming”</p>	<p>This comment is prefaced with a selective quotation out of the EIAR which is misleading. The full context in which this statement was made in the EIAR is as follows: <i>“It can be argued that even though SA had been blessed with significant mineral resources, the lack of oil and gas had been the country’s Achilles heel. The historic increase in the cost of gas and oil and weakening of the SA Rand had brought about a persistent “imported” inflation to the SA economy for many decades, and unless SA creates its own less expensive and clean energy, the country will remain less economically competitive than it could be”</i>.</p> <p>In addressing your comment wholistically, we wish to draw your attention to Section 9.14.9.2 of the EIAR where the following is put forward: <i>“Whereas a framework for future power generation in South Africa is set out in the NDC, energy policies for South Africa are provided in the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) as developed by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy’s (DMRE). These energy policies are based on the demand in electricity and what energy generation types should be procured to meet that demand, along with the generation capacity,</i></p>

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		<p>timing, and cost. The IRP acts as the government's roadmap for expanding capacity in the electricity sector, setting targets for all technologies, including renewable energy. The 2023 update of the IRP (IRP-2023) includes two key timeframes. The first focuses on the period leading up to 2030, primarily aimed at addressing existing generation capacity constraints and bridging the electricity supply gap. The second horizon spans from 2031 to 2050, concentrating on the country's long-term electricity strategy to inform future policy decisions. The IRP 2030 projection for electricity demand is 1.3% per annum for the first 10 years, with a 0.3% per annum up to 2050. The production of thermal energy in SA is expected to decrease by 10.5 GW by 2030, with a decrease of 25% in the current energy generation potential due to the shutting down of coal-fired power stations. <u>Although the aim is to eventually replace fossil fuels completely, there is a strong case to use natural gas in the interim to replace coal for baseload capacity.</u> A concern with natural gas is around the leaking methane emissions, occurring mainly during the extraction, processing, and transportation of natural gas. The estimated Scope 1 and 2 CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from the operational phase at Cluster 2 accounts for 78% of the total CO<sub>2</sub>-eq emissions. Even though CH<sub>4</sub> emissions are 28 times more effective than CO<sub>2</sub> at trapping heat in the atmosphere over a 100-year timescale (US EPA, 2024a), studies show gas has a lower life cycle GHG impact than coal with a lifetime of roughly a decade (PACE, 2015). According to the UK Department for Environment Food &amp; Rural Affairs (DEFRA), natural gas releases 46% less CO<sub>2</sub>-eq lifecycle emissions compared to coal-fired facilities and 49% less than diesel-fired facilities for the same electricity generation rate. The IPCC reports, based on the median value, indicate natural gas to result in less than 51% direct- and 40% lifecycle CO<sub>2</sub>-eq emissions compared to CO<sub>2</sub>-eq emissions from coal (Schlömer S., 2014). The projects' contribution to the national CO<sub>2</sub>-eq is only 0.09%, and 0.12% to the national energy sector CO<sub>2</sub>-eq."</p>
39.	<p>The need and desirability section in the EIAR is myopic and biased as it is weighted heavily in favour of 'need', which refers to time (i.e. is this the right time to undertake the development?) through describing policies that relate to climate change, energy</p>	<p>The need and desirability analysis contained in Section 6.4 of the EIAR follows the DFFE guideline on need and desirability in terms of the EIA Regulations (Notice 819 of 2014). In the absence of specific evidence put forward in this comment, it is the EAPs</p>

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	<p>transition, the need for economic growth, a bridging towards a just transition and energy diversification, employment creation imperatives and the like. The information provided in section 6.4 of the EIAR “NEED AND DESIRABILITY ANALYSIS” mainly (and in a self-serving way) point towards the question of need whilst downplaying those factors that point to the question of desirability. The EAP’s motivation is therefore deficient.</p>	<p>assertion that the analysis addresses both the need and desirability adequately.</p>
40.	<p>As noted in the DFFE 2017 guideline “desirability” relates to place (i.e. is it the right place for locating the type of land-use / activity being proposed?). This question is not afforded the level of attention given to “need” – there is no equivalent discussion to Section 5.1 on ecological sustainability / natural environmental characteristics, features and sensitivities. These are the main criteria for informing the question: “is it the right place for locating the type of land-use / activity being proposed?”. Other questions which are important from a desirability point of view include those related to sense of place, compatibility of land use and possible sterilisation of other economically viable land uses (such as those relating to renewable energy developments, which serve as direct contributors to the Just Energy Transition).</p> <p>Instead, EIMS superficially deals with, and rather downplays, the issue of desirability thereby directing the attention away from the fundamental issue raised: that the proposed location of the Project in light of the surrounding land uses that will be directly and indirectly impacted by the Project is not desirable. To minimise the importance of desirability in the analysis of need and desirability in the EIAR is unacceptable, especially in the context of the independence and objectivity that ought to guide the EIA process.</p>	<p>The EIAR contains extensive place-based (“desirability”) analysis. The determination of impact on the specific location feeds into the desirability analysis and is one of the key outcomes of the EIA process. Furthermore, kindly refer to the EIA Report which addresses the environmental attributes and sensitivities (Section 9); alternatives and sensitivity-led site selection (Section 7); social, visual, agricultural and land-use compatibility (Sections 9.4, 9.7, 9.15, 9.16 respectively); and the final sensitivity synthesis and preferred location rationale (Sections 11 and 13.2).</p> <p>Table 14 contained in Section 6.4 of the EIAR follows the DFFE guideline on need and desirability in terms of the EIA Regulations (Notice 819 of 2014) and specifically presents the questions to be considered. Refer to items 1.1 to 1.13 which addresses securing ecological sustainable development and use of natural resources. As described in the answers to the relevant questions to be considered, the ecological sustainability / natural environmental characteristics, features and sensitivities are described and relevant mitigation actions presented to reduce impacts to an acceptable level.</p> <p>Furthermore, the compatibility of land use is considered in items 2.5.1 to 2.5.15 of Table 14 contained in Section 6.4 of the EIAR and again, mitigation measures are provided to ensure minimal disruption to existing land uses. As clarified above, your Clients’ renewable projects are not within the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area and therefore no adverse impacts will occur on your Clients’ infrastructure.</p>
41.	<p>There is no compelling reason for the Project to be regarded as desirable at the proposed location. Quite the contrary. The Project promotes destructive</p>	<p>This comment states that there are “no compelling reason for the Project to be regarded as desirable at the proposed location”, however we would draw</p>

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	extractivism (despite the EAP repeatedly trying to separate the “dirtiness” of gas from the “dirtiness” of coal, which we disagree with in its entirety).	your attention to the fact that there is a proven gas resource in this location as evidenced by the Tetra4 Cluster 1 operational gas production activities. The availability of the underlying gas resource is a primary consideration for why the project is located in this area. The impacts associated with the extraction and production of the gas have been identified and assessed in the EIA as is required by the legislation. It is our view that there is therefore a compelling reason for the project desirability in the proposed location.
42.	The need and desirability assessment in the EIAR is myopic for another reason – the assessments fail to recognise the international concern about the loss and degradation of biodiversity. This is particularly important given that biodiversity is central to climate change mitigation and adaptation – factors that the EAP has failed to recognise and/or integrate into the reports.	<p>Table 14 contained in Section 6.4 of the EIAR follows the DFFE guideline on need and desirability in terms of the EIA Regulations (Notice 819 of 2014) and specifically presents the questions to be considered. Refer to items 1.1 to 1.13 which addresses securing ecological sustainable development and use of natural resources. As described in the answers to the relevant questions to be considered, the ecological sustainability / natural environmental characteristics, features and sensitivities are described and relevant mitigation actions presented to reduce impacts to an acceptable level.</p> <p>A specialist terrestrial biodiversity assessment was undertaken to identify sensitivities and propose relevant mitigation measures to prevent adverse impacts on biodiversity. Refer to Appendix 4 of the EIAR for the terrestrial biodiversity assessment report as well as the EMPr contained in Appendix 5 of the EIAR. Section 9.18 of the EIA Report presents the description of the ecology in the area, which include descriptions of sensitivities, ecologically important areas, critical biodiversity areas, protected areas, etc. the impact of the proposed activity in the specified location are specifically assessed and where applicable management and mitigation is provided to avoid and minimise the loss and degradation of biodiversity.</p>
43.	Further to the above point, the disproportionate and heavy reliance on the Project as a bridge towards climate change mitigation and adaption by the EAP as a key motivation for the projects is misplaced. To place more weight on this argument as opposed to the factors that are important for climate change adaptation and resilience (such as biodiversity conservation), is to present a skewed argument that favours the Project. Such an approach is not	Refer to the response to Item 42 above which addresses the fact that biodiversity conservation has been considered as part of the assessment of need and desirability. The need and desirability section of the EIA report is informed by and linked to the outcomes of the EIA process. The EIA does identify and assess climate change impacts (including adaptation and vulnerability- refer to Section 9.14



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	defensible, particularly given that the Free State Biodiversity Spatial Plan (FSBSP) specifically incorporates climate change into spatial priorities. Notwithstanding, the question of how the Project may compromise climate change resilience and adaptation strategies / policies / plans is not addressed in the Need and Desirability section of the EIAR.	and 10.2) and the impact on biodiversity (refer to Section 9.11 and 10.2).
44.	In light of the above, the need and desirability analysis of the Project is misplaced, misleading and cannot support defensible decision-making on the merits.	Please refer you to the responses provided above. It is the EAPs opinion that the requirements of the EIA regulations and the supporting guideline on Needs and Desirability have been complied with. The Needs and Desirability analysis is not misplaced, misleading and does support defensible decision making.
<b>CONCLUSION</b>		
45.	<p>In conclusion, the EIAR and associated specialists cannot support rational, reasonable and defensible decision-making for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The assessments underpinning the EIAR are outdated and fail to take into account various changes in the surrounding environment since those assessments having been undertaken.</li> <li>○ The social and economic impact assessments fail to acknowledge our Clients' renewable energy developments and associated grid integration infrastructure which stand to be directly and/or indirectly impacted by the Project. This failure has created significant gaps in specific and cumulative impact assessment for the Project.</li> <li>○ The EIAR is based on unacceptable assumptions and limitations, all of which have created further gaps in information on which a reasonable decision cannot be rendered.</li> <li>○ The public participation process for the Project is flawed due to the failure to identify our Clients as I&amp;APs, and by presenting the Project as a fait accompli to interested and affected parties.</li> </ul>	<p>Refer to responses to comments 5 to 8 above.</p> <p>Refer to responses to comments 9 to 23 above. Your Clients' renewable energy developments do not overlap with the application area.</p> <p>Refer to responses to comments 29 to 31 above. Assumptions and limitations are clearly stated and have been taken into consideration when identifying, assessing and proposing mitigation measures for impacts.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The need and desirability assessment of the project is misleading as it creates the impression that the Project is an improvement on the destructive extractivism inherent in natural resource extraction and offers a bridge to the Just Energy Transition. This is a self-serving narrative, the negative impact of which is compounded by the need and desirability analysis failing to assess the need and desirability of the Project in light of the harmful impact on our Clients' renewable energy developments (which are direct contributors to the Just Energy Transition).</li> </ul>	<p>Refer to responses to comments 24 to 28 above. The Public participation has complied with and exceeded the requirements of the EIA Regulations.</p> <p>Refer to responses to comments 32 to 44 above. The needs and desirability section clearly contextualises the project within applicable national policy and strategy and, supported by the impact assessment, includes a robust analysis of the desirability of the project in the context of the specific location.</p>
46.	<p>Having regard to all relevant considerations, including the respective prejudice to our Clients, it is not unreasonable to argue that the balance of convenience and importance of this matter to our Clients is paramount as the impact on the sustainability of our Clients' operations for the duration of the Power Purchase Agreement entered into between our Clients and Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd. The broader implications for the accurate, credible and reliable assessment of impacts for the directly impacted renewables energy projects is of paramount importance and in the wider public interest. The prejudice and damages that will be suffered by our Clients as a direct consequence of the Project are significant and material.</p>	<p>Refer to responses to comments 2 to 4 above in which it is clarified that your Clients' developments do not fall within the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area. The EIA for the Cluster 2 application area is comprehensive, reliable, and accurately identifies and assesses the potential environmental impacts, including the potential impact on prevailing land-use within the application area.</p>
47.	<p>In the circumstances, the impact on our Clients' rights and interests as well as the sustainability of their operations is materially relevant information which must be assessed by the EAP and tabled before the Minister as this is consistent with the nature of a wide appeal, such that the Minister would in effect reconsider the authorisation on evidence that had not served before the competent authority when it took the decisions to grant environmental authorisation for the Project. In support of this, we rely on the classic formulation of the scope of a wide administrative or statutory appeal by Trollop J in <i>Tikly &amp; Others v Johannes NO &amp; Others</i> which recognises that a wide statutory appeal constitutes a complete re-hearing of, and fresh determination of the</p>	<p>As is clear from your submission, the perceived impact on your Clients' rights and interests and the sustainability of their operations is reliant in large part on the incorrect understanding that these activities overlap, which as is stated herein is incorrect. Please refer to responses to comments 2 to 4 above in which it is clarified that your Clients' developments do not fall within the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area.</p>



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	applications on the merits of the matter with or without additional evidence or information.	

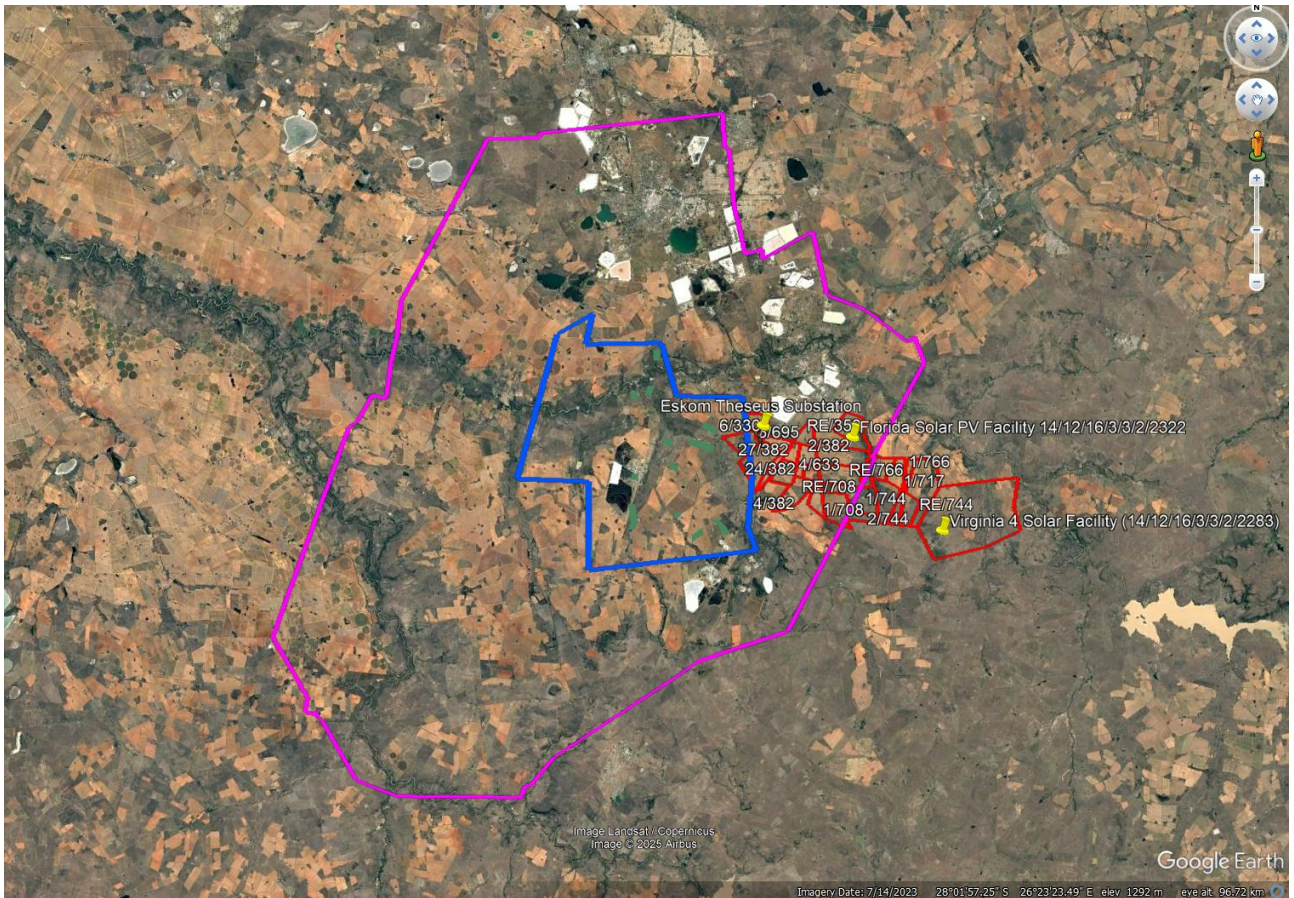


Figure 1: Spatial orientation of the Tetra4 Production Right area (purple outline), the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area (blue outline) and the properties comprising Richard Summers Inc. Clients' Solar facilities, BESS facility and associated powerline.



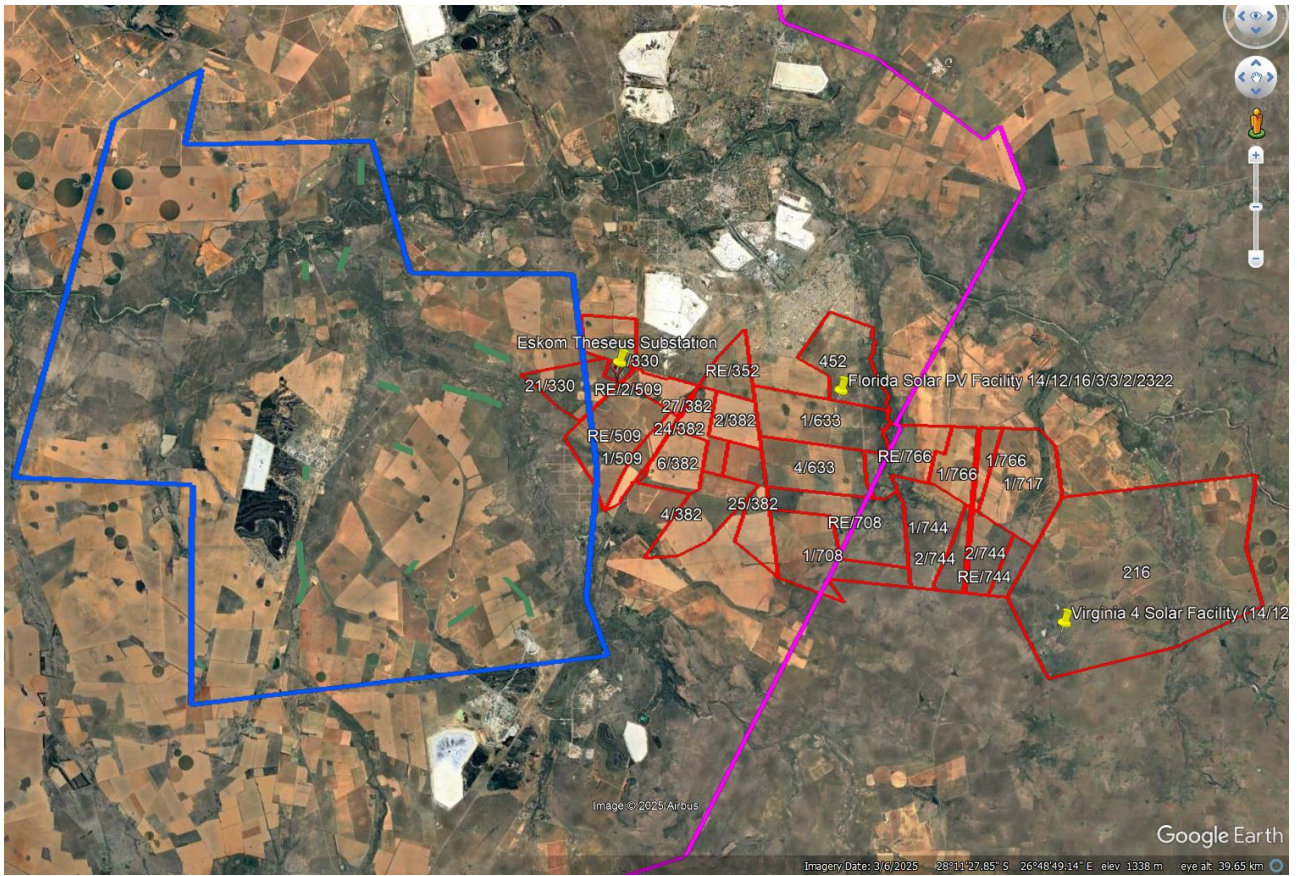


Figure 2: Spatial orientation of the Tetra4 Production Right area (purple outline), the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area (blue outline) and the properties comprising Richard Summers Inc. Clients' Solar facilities, BESS facility and associated powerline. Note that there is no infrastructure overlap between the proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 project and the Richard Summers Inc. Clients' Solar facilities, BESS facility and associated powerline.

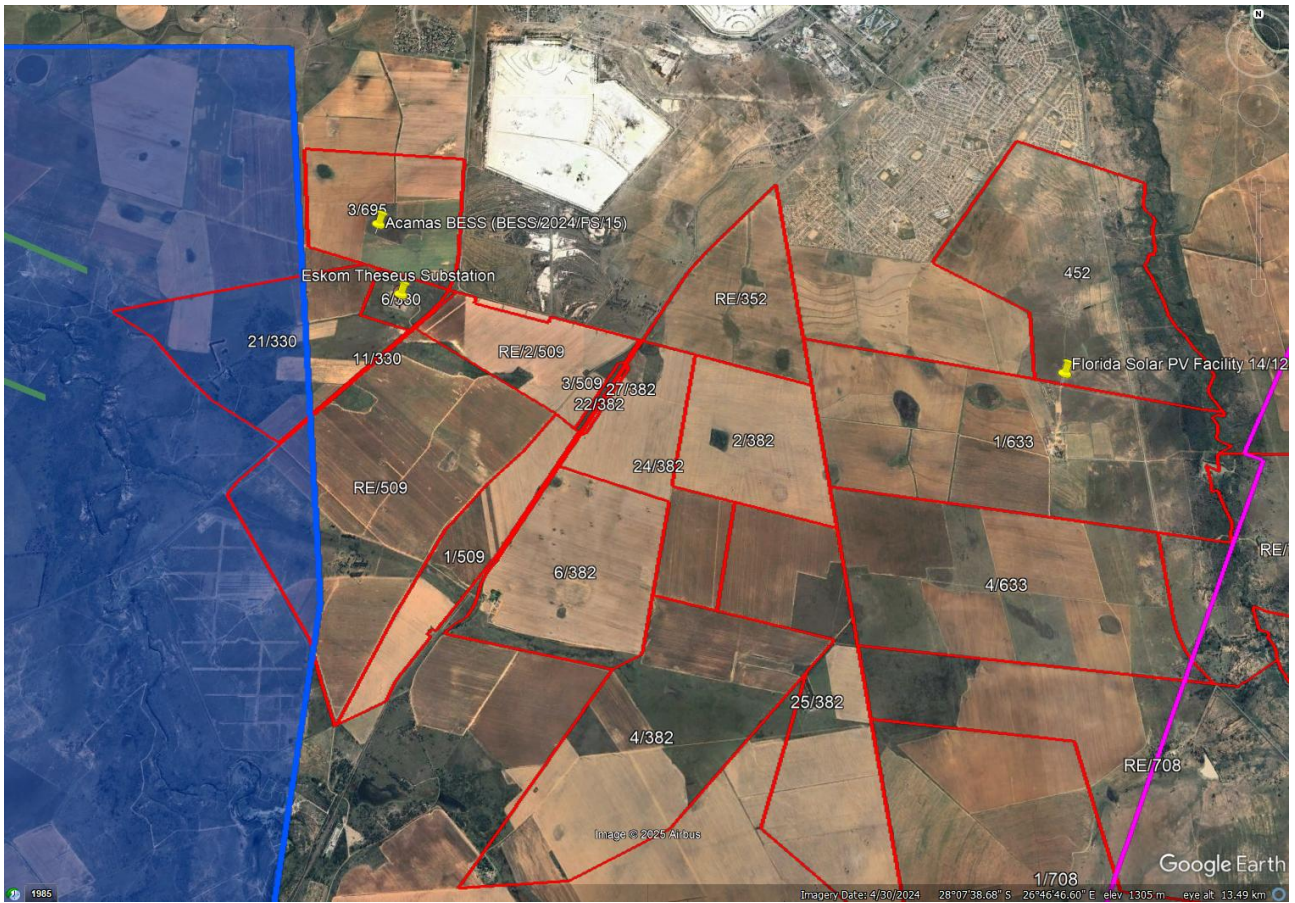


Figure 3: Spatial orientation of the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area boundary (blue outline and shaded area) and the properties comprising Richard Summers Inc. Clients' Solar facilities, BESS facility and associated powerline. Note that the Theseus substation and Acamas BESS are also located outside of the Tetra4 Cluster 2 application area.



## Mbali Tshabalala

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**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 November 2025 12:25  
**To:** Celine Oates; Will Fritz; Tinashe Maramba; Nick Mitchell; Brian Whitfield; Mirna de Hart; Liam Whitlow  
**Cc:** Richard Summers; Reception – Richard Summers Inc.; Clarice Arendse; Shreea Maharaj  
**Subject:** RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Good day Celine,

Thank you for your comments, they have been received and noted.

The EAP is currently drafting a response, and we will get back to you as soon as it is finalised.

We hope everything is in order for now. Should you require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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---

**From:** Celine Oates <celine@summersinc.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 07 November 2025 20:14  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>; Will Fritz <will@RENERGEN.CO.ZA>; Tinashe Maramba <Tinashe@renergen.co.za>; Nick Mitchell <nick@renergen.co.za>; Brian Whitfield <brian@eims.co.za>; Mirna de Hart <mirna@renergen.co.za>; Liam Whitlow <liam@eims.co.za>  
**Cc:** Richard Summers <Richard@summersinc.co.za>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc. <Reception@summersinc.co.za>; Clarice Arendse <clarice@summersinc.co.za>; Shreea Maharaj <Shreea@summersinc.co.za>  
**Subject:** RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Dear Sir/Madam

We refer to the above matter and confirm that we act on behalf of the following entities:

1. Red Rocket Energy (Pty) Ltd;
2. Piscis Energy (Pty) Ltd;
3. Lupus Energy (Pty) Ltd;
4. URSA Energy (RF) (Pty) Ltd;
5. Norma Energy (Pty) Ltd;
6. Fornax Energy (Pty) Ltd;
7. Volans Energy (Pty) Ltd; and
8. K2022579146 (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd.

Kindly see attached hereto objections to the Tetra4 Cluster 2 Virginia Gas Production Project, and find the appendices referred to therein by way of the following link: <https://we.tl/t-U7n7jlsr2R>.

Should you have any difficulty accessing the documentation by way of the above link, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Kindly confirm receipt hereof.

Kind regards,

Celine Oates  
 RICHARD SUMMERS INC.  
 Candidate Attorney



Office +27 21 891 4402

Mobile +27 71 868 8101

Unit 126, Victoria Junction, 57 Prestwich Street, De Waterkant, Cape Town

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 23, 2025 9:57 AM

**To:** Celine Oates <[celine@summersinc.co.za](mailto:celine@summersinc.co.za)>; Will Fritz <[will@RENERGEN.CO.ZA](mailto:will@RENERGEN.CO.ZA)>; Tinashe Maramba <[Tinashe@renergen.co.za](mailto:Tinashe@renergen.co.za)>; Nick Mitchell <[nick@renergen.co.za](mailto:nick@renergen.co.za)>; Brian Whitfield <[brian@eims.co.za](mailto:brian@eims.co.za)>; Mirna de Hart <[mirna@renergen.co.za](mailto:mirna@renergen.co.za)>; Liam Whitlow <[liam@eims.co.za](mailto:liam@eims.co.za)>

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc. <[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>; Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>; Shreea Maharaj <[Shreea@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Shreea@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Good day Celine.

Further to your requests for information, kindly find herewith a link to download the following:

1. Cluster 1 (2017) EIA and authorisation.
2. Google Earth polygons relating to Cluster 1 and Cluster 2.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/rroz9dvuqlu4bryszfnhu/AERoQOnhHLMWzs3kENDd0I0?rlkey=fst84ws830kiock84j6ckabzk&st=p3atjhkr&dl=0>

With respect to your further request for extension to submit comments on Cluster 2 EIA, we hereby confirm and grant the further extension deadline as **7 November 2025**.

Kindly be reminded that the current public participation and comment period relates to the Cluster 2 EIA and not the Cluster 1 or Production Right areas as the latter decisions have already been made. As such, any comments or concerns should preferably be focussed on Cluster 2 EIA.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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---

**From:** Celine Oates <[celine@summersinc.co.za](mailto:celine@summersinc.co.za)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 21 October 2025 16:30

**To:** Will Fritz <[will@RENERGEN.CO.ZA](mailto:will@RENERGEN.CO.ZA)>; 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>; Tinashe Maramba <[Tinashe@renergen.co.za](mailto:Tinashe@renergen.co.za)>; Nick Mitchell <[nick@renergen.co.za](mailto:nick@renergen.co.za)>; Brian Whitfield <[brian@eims.co.za](mailto:brian@eims.co.za)>; Mirna de Hart <[mirna@renergen.co.za](mailto:mirna@renergen.co.za)>

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc. <[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>; Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>; Shreea Maharaj <[Shreea@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Shreea@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Dear All

We refer to the following:

1. Our email correspondence dated 16 October 2025 wherein we requested materially relevant information and supporting documentation relating to the Cluster 1 Virginia Gas Project: “information/authorisation and supporting documentation for the Cluster 1 Virginia Gas Project” and “the polygons of the Cluster 1 and 2 areas”, which request was acknowledged but no information received;
2. Our email correspondence dated 20 October 2025 following up on the abovementioned request, which request was acknowledged but no information received;
3. Our email correspondence dated 21 October 2025 wherein we followed up on the abovementioned request, which request was acknowledged but no information received;

4. The email correspondence dated 21 October 2025 received from Renergen which advised that the revised deadline for submission of comments on 27 October 2025 is **17 November 2025**; and
5. Renergen's correspondence dated 21 October 2025 recalling the above message and reverting the original deadline for submission to 27 October 2025 without any plausible explanation for this volte-face.

In light of the fact that a substantial portion of our client's proposed footprints for its renewable energy development fall within the Production Right Area held by Tetra4, key and material information sought in our various requests for information dated 16, 20 and 21 October 2025 is required as a prerequisite to any meaningful consultation, transparency and procedural fairness.

In the circumstances of the failure to provide us with key and material information, our client's ability to engage meaningfully with the substance of the Virginia Gas Project and the application for gas production which is out for public comment is compromised. The failure to provide us with the information first requested on 16 October 2025 is preventing meaningful consultation, particularly in light of the fact that the change in date for submission of comments on behalf of our client closes in approximately 4 business days.

Accordingly, in light of the fact that key and material information remains outstanding, we request that our client be afforded a reasonable opportunity to digest the information, after it is made available, so as to adequately determine the impact of the Cluster 2 Virginia Gas Production Project. The failure to make this information available timeously has undermined the public participation process.

We therefore request that:

1. The information requested be provided to us by no later than close of business on Friday, 24 October 2025; and
2. The deadline for submission of comments be extended to 7 November 2025.

We look forward to hearing back as a matter of urgency.

Kind regards,

Celine Oates  
RICHARD SUMMERS INC.  
Candidate Attorney



Office +27 21 891 4402

Mobile +27 71 868 8101

Unit 126, Victoria Junction, 57 Prestwich Street, De Waterkant, Cape Town

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:28 PM

**To:** Celine Oates <[celine@summersinc.co.za](mailto:celine@summersinc.co.za)>

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc.

<[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>; Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>; Shreea Maharaj

<[Shreea@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Shreea@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]



Good day Celine,

1. We believe that the original correspondence was recalled, and there was an email sent to you today (21/10/2025) at 14:03 correcting the error contained in the first email.
2. Yes, they were made aware of all your requests from the beginning of our correspondence to date.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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---

**From:** Celine Oates <[celine@summersinc.co.za](mailto:celine@summersinc.co.za)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 21 October 2025 13:53

**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc.

<[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>; Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>; Shreea Maharaj

<[Shreea@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Shreea@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to the attached correspondence.

Kindly confirm the following:

1. EIMS is aware of the revised submission deadline of 17 November 2025.
2. Renergen is aware of our below request for information.

Many thanks.

Kind regards,

Celine Oates  
RICHARD SUMMERS INC.  
Candidate Attorney



Office +27 21 891 4402

Mobile +27 71 868 8101

Unit 126, Victoria Junction, 57 Prestwich Street, De Waterkant, Cape Town

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 21, 2025 12:46 PM

**To:** Celine Oates <[celine@summersinc.co.za](mailto:celine@summersinc.co.za)>

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc. <[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>; Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>; Shreea Maharaj <[Shreea@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Shreea@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Afternoon Celine,

We have not received back any feedback but are actively pursuing it.

We understand the urgency of the situation, and our sincerest apologies for the delay. We will get back to you as soon as we are able to.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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**From:** Celine Oates <[celine@summersinc.co.za](mailto:celine@summersinc.co.za)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 21 October 2025 12:25

**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc. <[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>; Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>; Shreea Maharaj <[Shreea@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Shreea@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Dear Sir/Madam

Kindly indicate whether you have received the relevant information.

As you are aware, our submissions in response to the project are due next week Monday, 27 October 2025. Our client requires sufficient lead-time to evaluate the relevant information and provide us with feedback for the purpose of the submissions.

We look forward to hearing back at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards,

Celine Oates  
RICHARD SUMMERS INC.  
Candidate Attorney



Office +27 21 891 4402

Mobile +27 71 868 8101

Unit 126, Victoria Junction, 57 Prestwich Street, De Waterkant, Cape Town

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Sent:** Monday, October 20, 2025 10:36 AM

**To:** Celine Oates <[celine@summersinc.co.za](mailto:celine@summersinc.co.za)>

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc.

<[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>; Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>; Shreea Maharaj

<[Shreea@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Shreea@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Good day Celine,

Your request was forwarded, and we are still waiting on the relevant parties for information.

As soon as we receive information regarding your request it will be forwarded to you.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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W [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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---

**From:** Celine Oates <[celine@summersinc.co.za](mailto:celine@summersinc.co.za)>

**Sent:** Monday, 20 October 2025 09:11

**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc. <[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>; Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>; Shreea Maharaj <[Shreea@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Shreea@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to the below.

Kindly provide the relevant information at your earliest convenience, preferably today, so that our client has sufficient time in which to evaluate the information.

Many thanks.

Kind regards,

Celine Oates

RICHARD SUMMERS INC.

Candidate Attorney



**Office** +27 21 891 4402

**Mobile** +27 71 868 8101

Unit 126, Victoria Junction, 57 Prestwich Street, De Waterkant, Cape Town

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Sent:** Friday, October 17, 2025 1:42 PM

**To:** Celine Oates <[celine@summersinc.co.za](mailto:celine@summersinc.co.za)>

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc. <[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>; Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>; Shreea Maharaj <[Shreea@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Shreea@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Good day Celine,

Your message has been received and forwarded to the relevant project manager for their attention. As soon as a response is available it will be forwarded to you.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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W [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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---

**From:** Celine Oates <[celine@summersinc.co.za](mailto:celine@summersinc.co.za)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 16 October 2025 15:30

**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc. <[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>; Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>; Shreea Maharaj <[Shreea@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Shreea@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Dear Sir/Madam

Kindly provide the information/authorisation and supporting documentation for the Cluster 1 Virginia Gas Project in order for our client to fully assess the Cluster 1 and 2 extent of impacts on our client's projects.

Kindly provide further the polygons of the Cluster 1 and 2 areas.

We look forward to hearing back.

Many thanks.

Kind regards,

Celine Oates  
RICHARD SUMMERS INC.  
Candidate Attorney



Office +27 21 891 4402

Mobile +27 71 868 8101

Unit 126, Victoria Junction, 57 Prestwich Street, De Waterkant, Cape Town

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**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 14, 2025 2:30 PM

**To:** Celine Oates <[celine@summersinc.co.za](mailto:celine@summersinc.co.za)>

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc. <[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>; Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Good day Celine,

Please accept our apologies for overlooking the date. The 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2025 is an acceptable due date for us, and will work perfectly.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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Randburg, 2194

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**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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**From:** Celine Oates <[celine@summersinc.co.za](mailto:celine@summersinc.co.za)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 October 2025 10:26

**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc.

<[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>; Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Dear Sir/Madam

We confirm receipt of the below correspondence.

We confirm further that 25 October 2025 falls on a Saturday, and so we will provide our comments to you by the next business day (i.e. 27 October 2025).

Kind regards,

Celine Oates

RICHARD SUMMERS INC.

Candidate Attorney



Office +27 21 891 4402

Mobile +27 71 868 8101

Unit 126, Victoria Junction, 57 Prestwich Street, De Waterkant, Cape Town

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Sent:** Friday, October 10, 2025 3:56 PM

**To:** Celine Oates <[celine@summersinc.co.za](mailto:celine@summersinc.co.za)>; 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc. <[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>; Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Hi Celine.

Further to our communications below relating to the granting of extension, we hereby grant a request for extension and please submit your comments by 25 October 2025 as it is understood from your letter that you have had sight of the EIA report since 25 September 2025 (i.e. 30 day comment period).

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



8 Dalmeny Road, Pine Park,  
Randburg, 2194

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**F** +27 86 571 9047  
**E** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

PO Box 2083, Pinetown, 2123, ZA

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---

**From:** Celine Oates <[celine@summersinc.co.za](mailto:celine@summersinc.co.za)>

**Sent:** Friday, 10 October 2025 14:46

**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc.  
<[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>; Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to the above matter and below correspondence.

We are unable to at this stage plot the full extent of the impact of the Cluster 2 project on our client, which is what we seek to do as part of the extra time requested in the below correspondence.

Kindly confirm whether you will grant us the extension at your earliest convenience.



Kind regards,

Celine Oates

RICHARD SUMMERS INC.

Candidate Attorney



Office +27 21 891 4402

Mobile +27 71 868 8101

Unit 126, Victoria Junction, 57 Prestwich Street, De Waterkant, Cape Town

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Sent:** Friday, October 10, 2025 1:29 PM

**To:** Celine Oates <[celine@summersinc.co.za](mailto:celine@summersinc.co.za)>; 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc.

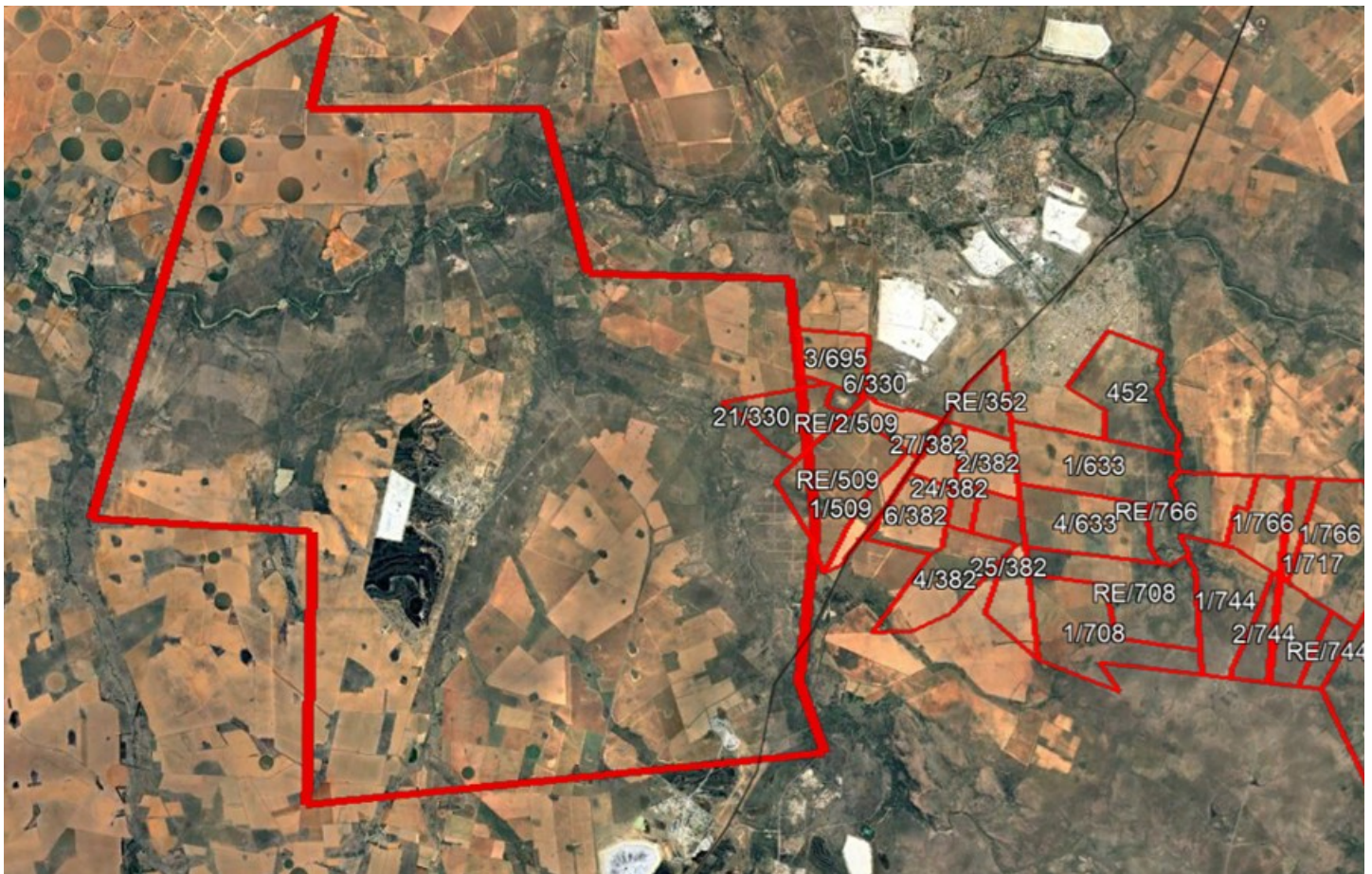
<[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>; Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Hi Celine.

Thank you for sharing the properties for Red Rocket. Can we assume that none of your other clients (other than Red Rocket) have projects or infrastructure falling within the Cluster 2 application area?

We take note that 2 of Red Rockets properties of interest extend within the eastern section of the Cluster 2 application area (below screenshot refers). Could you kindly clarify what infrastructure is planned on those two specific properties and more specifically what infrastructure is planned within the Cluster 2 application area of those 2 properties?



Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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---

**From:** Celine Oates <[celine@summersinc.co.za](mailto:celine@summersinc.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 October 2025 13:04  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc. <[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>; Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to the above matter and below correspondence.

Kindly see attached hereto the KMZ file as requested.

Kindly confirm whether these suffice for your determination.

Kind regards,

Celine Oates

RICHARD SUMMERS INC.

Candidate Attorney



**Office** +27 21 891 4402

**Mobile** +27 71 868 8101

Unit 126, Victoria Junction, 57 Prestwich Street, De Waterkant, Cape Town

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Sent:** Friday, October 10, 2025 11:18 AM

**To:** Celine Oates <[celine@summersinc.co.za](mailto:celine@summersinc.co.za)>

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc.

<[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>; Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Good day Celine,

Here with confirmation of receipt of email.

We can confirm that the listed I&APs have been added to our database and will receive all notifications regarding the project progression from now going forward.

Regarding the request for an extension, could we please get shapefiles or any indicator of the extent of your client's projects locations. This will assist us in providing a more concrete response to your request.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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---

**From:** Celine Oates <[celine@summersinc.co.za](mailto:celine@summersinc.co.za)>

**Sent:** Friday, 10 October 2025 08:25

**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc. <[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>; Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to the above matter and below correspondence.

Kindly confirm receipt of the below correspondence and provide an indication as to when we should expect a response.

Many thanks.

Kind regards,

Celine Oates

RICHARD SUMMERS INC.

Candidate Attorney



Office +27 21 891 4402

Mobile +27 71 868 8101

Unit 126, Victoria Junction, 57 Prestwich Street, De Waterkant, Cape Town

---

**From:** Clarice Arendse <[clarice@summersinc.co.za](mailto:clarice@summersinc.co.za)>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 9, 2025 9:08 AM

**To:** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)

**Cc:** Richard Summers <[Richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Richard@summersinc.co.za)>; Reception – Richard Summers Inc.  
<[Reception@summersinc.co.za](mailto:Reception@summersinc.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT [PROJECT REFERENCE: 1473]

**Importance:** High

Dear sir / madam

We refer to the above matter and confirm that we act on behalf of Red Rocket Energy (Pty) Ltd, Piscis Energy (Pty) Ltd, Lupus Energy (Pty) Ltd, URSA Energy (RF) (Pty) Ltd, Norma Energy (Pty) Ltd, Fornax Energy (Pty) Ltd, Volans Energy (Pty) Ltd, and K2022579146 (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd.

Please see attached hereto correspondence for your urgent attention.

We shall be most grateful if you will acknowledge receipt hereof.

Kind regards,

Clarice Arendse

RICHARD SUMMERS INC.

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

**Office** +27 21 891 4402

**Mobile** +27 79 485 9851



Unit 126, Victoria Junction, 57 Prestwich Street, De Waterkant, Cape Town,  
8000



**Lucien James**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 12:20  
**To:** Thandiwr Ntoi  
**Subject:** RE: Hiring

Good day Thandiwe,

Thanks for your email. Please note that EIMS has been appointed by Tetra4 as independent Environmental Assessment Practitioners to obtain the required environmental authorisations for the Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production. Kindly visit their website (<https://www.renergen.co.za/contact-renergen/>) for the relevant channels and/or contact details in relation to your email below.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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---

**From:** Thandiwr Ntoi <thandiwrntoi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 7, 2023 2:47 PM  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:**

When Are You Guys Hiring ?



Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha  
Tel: 0212028663  
Email: [sngcatsha@sahra.org.za](mailto:sngcatsha@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 19221

Date: Monday August 15, 2022  
Page No: 1

## Interim Comment

**In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

Attention: Tetra4 (Pty) Ltd

**The applicant wishes to expand the ir natural gas operations, to be located within the approved production right area. This planned expansion to the existing approved production activities will involve up to 300 new production wells, gas transmission pipelines and associated infrastructure, compressor stations and a new combined Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) and Liquid Helium (LHe) plant (“LNG/LHe Plant”) and associated infrastructure as part of the Cluster 2 expansion of the Project in order to meet the future production requirements. The proposed project falls within the Masilonyana and Matjhabeng Local Municipalities, in the Lejweleputswa District Municipality, Free State Province.**

Tetra4 (Pty) Ltd appointed Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Cluster 2 expansion of the natural gas operations, to be located within the approved production mining right area within the Matjhabeng Local Municipalities, Free State Province.

A Scoping Report was submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998 – NEMA) and 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) and the National Environmental Management Waste Act (Act 59 of 2008 – NEMWA). The project activities will include about 300 new production wells, gas transmission pipelines and associated infrastructure, compressor stations and a new combined Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) and Liquid Helium (LHe) plant and associated infrastructure.

It is noted that PGS Heritage has been appointed to provide heritage specialist input inclusive of palaeontological studies into the EA process.

## Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite (APM) Unit notes that an HIA will be undertaken for the proposed development. Further comments will be issued once the HIA along with the draft EIA documents inclusive of appendices has been submitted to the case on SAHRIS.

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha  
Tel: 0212028663  
Email: [sngcatsha@sahra.org.za](mailto:sngcatsha@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 19221

Date: Monday August 15, 2022  
Page No: 2

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

---

Sityhilelo Ngcatsha  
Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite Assistant  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

---

Phillip Hine  
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

---

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/602699>

## Mbali Tshabalala

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Sent:** Friday, 17 October 2025 09:35  
**To:** 'Phumela Madubela'  
**Subject:** RE: Registering as an I&AP (1473) - THE PROPOSED TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT, IN THE MASILONYANA AND MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, FREE STATE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA.

Good day Phumela,

Our sincerest apologies for the delay.

This email serves as notification that you have been a confirmation of your registration as an I&AP.

You will receive all notification updates on the proposed project from this point going forward.

For any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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---

**From:** Phumela Madubela <[phumela@mahlako.co.za](mailto:phumela@mahlako.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 October 2025 11:30  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Subject:** Registering as an I&AP (1473) - THE PROPOSED TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT, IN THE MASILONYANA AND MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, FREE STATE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA.

Dear Mbali

Please can you kindly add me as an I&AP for project 1473.

Kind regards  
Phumela Madubela

E&S Associate

Tel: +27 (0) 11 706 3902

Cell: +27 (0) 63 884 6439

Email: [phumela@mahlako.co.za](mailto:phumela@mahlako.co.za)

Address: 21 Fricker Road, Illovo, Sandton, 2196, Mahlako House



**MAHLAK**

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## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 03 May 2022 15:39  
**To:** 'sonja@wessmith.co.za'  
**Subject:** RE: Tetra4 Cluster 2 Project - information request  
**Attachments:** 1473\_IAP Registration English.pdf

Dear Sonja,

Please note, there has been a change in the Tetra4 Cluster 2 Project and the call to register process is to be redone. Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are to be notified regarding this in due course and the relevant documentation will be made available.

Please note, should you wish to register as an I&AP for the Tetra4 Cluster 2 Project, we have also attached an I&AP registration form for you to fill in and return. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of public participation opportunities as they become available.

Should you have any comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



**T** +27 11 789 7170  
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**F** +27 86 571 9047  
**E** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Sent:** Thursday, 28 April 2022 09:46  
**To:** sonja@wessmith.co.za  
**Subject:** RE: Tetra4 Cluster 2 Project - information request

Dear Sonja,

We have received your request regarding the Tetra4 Cluster 2 Project. Kindly note, the EAP is currently on leave and will be returning to office early next week. You will be provided with a formal response to your request once they are back.

Should you have any further queries or comments, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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## Qaphela Magaqa

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 04 May 2022 08:37  
**To:** Sonja  
**Subject:** RE: Tetra4 Cluster 2 Project - information request

Dear Sonja,

We kindly acknowledge receipt of your email. Please note, a formal response will be provided to you in due course.

Should you have any further queries or comments, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

QAPHELA MAGAQA



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---

**From:** Sonja <[sonja@wessmith.co.za](mailto:sonja@wessmith.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 03 May 2022 16:09  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Subject:** RE: Tetra4 Cluster 2 Project - information request  
**Importance:** High

Dear Sir

We acknowledge receipt of your e-mail below and confirm that we have noted the contents thereof.

We kindly request you to furnish our offices with the following documents, namely :

1. Polygon Diagram – Phase 1;
2. Provisional Polygon Diagram – Phase 2;



3. Notice to landowners in respect of Phase 2 with list of farms affected.

We trust you find the above in order and look forward to receiving the requested information at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards



**Sonja Schoombee**  
**Commercial and Conveyancing Secretary**

Wessels & Smith Inc.

Tel: 057 391 9800

Fax: 057 357 3773

Email: [sonja@wessmith.co.za](mailto:sonja@wessmith.co.za)

Address: 26-28 Heeren Street, Welkom, 9459

Docex 9, Welkom

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---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 28 April 2022 09:46

**To:** [sonja@wessmith.co.za](mailto:sonja@wessmith.co.za)

**Subject:** RE: Tetra4 Cluster 2 Project - information request

Dear Sonja,

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Should you have any further queries or comments, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT SERVICES

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## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 03 May 2022 15:39  
**To:** 'sonja@wessmith.co.za'  
**Subject:** RE: Tetra4 Cluster 2 Project - information request  
**Attachments:** 1473\_IAP Registration English.pdf

Dear Sonja,

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Should you have any comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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**M** +27 78 580 6692  
**F** +27 86 571 9047  
**E** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Sent:** Thursday, 28 April 2022 09:46  
**To:** sonja@wessmith.co.za  
**Subject:** RE: Tetra4 Cluster 2 Project - information request

Dear Sonja,

We have received your request regarding the Tetra4 Cluster 2 Project. Kindly note, the EAP is currently on leave and will be returning to office early next week. You will be provided with a formal response to your request once they are back.

Should you have any further queries or comments, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



**EIMS**

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**F** +27 86 571 9047

**E** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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## Mbali Tshabalala

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 October 2025 07:55  
**To:** Aluta Ntsuku  
**Subject:** RE: Request for registration as IAP

Good day Aluta,

This mail serves as acknowledgement of receipt and to inform you that you have been added onto our database as a representative of Mejcon SA.

For any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please note that the public review and comment period concluded on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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---

**From:** Aluta Ntsuku <ntsukualuta@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, 13 October 2025 15:08  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** Request for registration as IAP

Greetings

Mejcon SA (mining and environmental justice community network) is an NGO advocating rights of the communities.

We wish to register Mejcon SA as IAP for Tetra 4 cluster 2 Project.

Hope our request will receive your positive response and undivided attention.

Yours in Partnership

Velly Aluta Ntsuku

National Chairperson

Mejcon SA

Contact: 083 303 5646

Email : [ntsukualuta@gmail.com](mailto:ntsukualuta@gmail.com)

## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 May 2022 13:02  
**To:** Satim Virginia Express  
**Subject:** RE: APPOINTMENT WITH VUSI

Dear Willem,

Thank you for your correspondence and interest in the project. Please note that the project is still in authorisation phase and contractor opportunities are currently unknown. We have forwarded your correspondence to the applicant for their consideration and records.

Please confirm if you would like to be registered on the project's I&AP database.

Should you have any further comments or queries please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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---

**From:** Satim Virginia Express <virginia.express@satim.co.za>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 May 2022 14:04  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** APPOINTMENT WITH VUSI

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A PROPOSAL FOR TETRA REGARDING BUILDING MATERIAL.  
WHO CAN I SPEAK TO REGARDING THE BUILDING PROJECT?  
JACOB AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE TOLD ME THAT I SHOULD SPEAK TO VUSI.  
PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF WE CAN MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.

KIND REGARDS  
WILLEM SCHEEPERS  
S.A.TIMBER GROUP  
VIRGINIA EXPRESS  
TEL: 057 050 0928  
CELL: 072 233 4849



## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 23 May 2022 10:06  
**To:** Satim Virginia Express  
**Subject:** RE: APPOINTMENT WITH VUSI

Good morning Willem,

Further to our response regarding contractor opportunities for Tetra4, please visit their website (<https://www.renegen.co.za/contact-renegen/>) for the relevant channels and/or contact details.

Should you have any further comments or queries, feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 May 2022 14:57  
**To:** Satim Virginia Express <virginia.express@satim.co.za>  
**Subject:** RE: APPOINTMENT WITH VUSI

Dear Willem,

Kindly note, you have been registered as an I&AP for the Tetra4 Cluster 2 project. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of public participation opportunities as they become available.

Should you have any further comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 May 2022 14:57  
**To:** Satim Virginia Express  
**Subject:** RE: APPOINTMENT WITH VUSI

Dear Willem,

Kindly note, you have been registered as an I&AP for the Tetra4 Cluster 2 project. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of public participation opportunities as they become available.

Should you have any further comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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---

**From:** Satim Virginia Express <virginia.express@satim.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 May 2022 13:20  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** RE: APPOINTMENT WITH VUSI

DEAR QAPHELA

I WOULD LIKE TO BE REGISTERED ON THE PROJECT'S I&AP DATABASE.  
THANK YOU FOR THE RESPONSE ON MY EMAIL.

KIND REGARDS  
WILLEM SCHEEPERS

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 [<mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za>]  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 May 2022 13:02  
**To:** Satim Virginia Express <[virginia.express@satim.co.za](mailto:virginia.express@satim.co.za)>  
**Subject:** RE: APPOINTMENT WITH VUSI

Dear Willem,

Thank you for your correspondence and interest in the project. Please note that the project is still in authorisation phase and contractor opportunities are currently unknown. We have forwarded your correspondence to the applicant for their consideration and records.

Please confirm if you would like to be registered on the project's I&AP database.

Should you have any further comments or queries please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** Satim Virginia Express <[virginia.express@satim.co.za](mailto:virginia.express@satim.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 May 2022 14:04  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Subject:** APPOINTMENT WITH VUSI

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A PROPOSAL FOR TETRA REGARDING BUILDING MATERIAL.  
WHO CAN I SPEAK TO REGARDING THE BUILDING PROJECT?  
JACOB AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE TOLD ME THAT I SHOULD SPEAK TO VUSI.  
PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF WE CAN MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.

KIND REGARDS  
WILLEM SCHEEPERS  
S.A.TIMBER GROUP

VIRGINIA EXPRESS  
TEL: 057 050 0928  
CELL: 072 233 4849

## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 April 2022 11:11  
**To:** Victor Mofokeng; Tsheliso Godfrey Mofokeng  
**Subject:** RE: EIMS Reference Number: 1473 (Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) Registration)  
**Attachments:** 1473\_IAP Registration English.pdf

Dear Tsheliso,

Thank you for your interest and correspondence in the proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 Project. Please find the attached Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) registration form for your attention as requested. Furthermore, kindly note that you have both been registered as an I&APs in the projects database. As a registered I&APs you will be notified of opportunities to participate in the Environmental Authorisation Application Process as they become available.

If you have any comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** Tsheliso Godfrey Mofokeng <godfrey@tbess.co.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 April 2022 12:26  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Cc:** Victor Mofokeng <victor@tbess.co.za>  
**Subject:** EIMS Reference Number: 1473 (Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) Registration)

Good day,

We would like to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) on this project.

We would therefore like to be kept informed regarding the project and be afforded an opportunity to participate in the process through the relevant communication processes and all relevant correspondences.

Please do send us the registration forms and questionnaires for us to fill in and attend to soonest possible.

**Regards,**

**Tsheliso Godfrey Mofokeng**

Infrastructure & Mining Projects

The BROTHERS ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS (Pty) Ltd

GP Tel: +27 11 958 5342

FS Tel: +27 57 212 0207

Cell: +27 83 536 8735

Fax: +27 86 205 7456

Email [godfrey@tbess.co.za](mailto:godfrey@tbess.co.za)



S26°10.952' E28°01.117'

Website: <https://www.tbess.co.za/>



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

[www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 April 2022 10:51  
**To:** Tsheliso\_G Mofokeng  
**Subject:** RE: EIMS Reference Number: 1473 (Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) Registration)

Dear Tsheliso,

Thank you for your correspondence and interest in the proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 project. Kindly note that you have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) in the projects database. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of opportunities to participate in the Environmental Authorisation Application Process as they become available.

If you have any comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** Tsheliso\_G Mofokeng <tmgmofokeng87@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 April 2022 12:09  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** EIMS Reference Number: 1473 (Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) Registration)

Good day,

I would like to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) on this project.

We would therefore like to be kept informed regarding the project and be afforded an opportunity to participate in the process through the relevant communication processes and all relevant correspondences.

Please do send us the registration forms and questionnaires for us to fill in and attend to soonest possible.

Regards,  
Tsheliso Mofokeng  
(083 536 8735)





---

**Re: Notification: Updated EIA Report Availability and Public Meeting - Tetra4 Cluster 2**

---

**From** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Date** Wed 9/17/2025 8:46 AM  
**To** Andrea Siebritz <andrea@solagroup.co.za>  
**Cc** Nazley Towfie <nazleytowfie@solagroup.co.za>

Good day Andrea,

Hope you are well.

Please refer to our website under Public participation. The project is labeled "1473 Environmental Authorisation Application process for the proposed Tetra4 cluster 2 gas production project". All maps related to the project were uploaded under "Appendix 2: Maps".

Attached is the link to make access easier: [1473 ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT – EIMS.](#)

If you still cannot access the KML you require, please do not hesitate to get back to us.

**Kind regards,**  
**EIMS Public Participation Team**



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**E** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
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---

**From:** Andrea Siebritz <andrea@solagroup.co.za>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 11, 2025 6:55 PM  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Cc:** Nazley Towfie <nazleytowfie@solagroup.co.za>  
**Subject:** Re: Notification: Updated EIA Report Availability and Public Meeting - Tetra4 Cluster 2

Dear EAP

Can I please request the KMZ for the cluster 2 application area.

Kind Regards

**Andrea Siebritz**

**Project Developer**

[+27 21 421 9764]+27 21 421 9764 | [andrea@solagroup.co.za]andrea@solagroup.co.za

On Tue, Sep 9, 2025 at 3:06 PM 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)> wrote:

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

Please find attached notification regarding the availability of the updated Environmental Impact Assessment Report for Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production project near Virginia. This notification serves to inform you of the opportunity to further participate in the Environmental Approval process.

Further, Please be advised about the **public meeting** scheduled as follows:

**Where:** NG Virginia Church | 69 Highlands Ave, Virginia, 9431

**When:** Tuesday, 2 October 2025, from 12pm to 2pm

Kind regards,

**EIMS Public Participation Team**



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E  
W**

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---

**Re: Notification: Updated EIA Report Availability and Public Meeting - Tetra4 Cluster 2**

---

**From** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Date** Fri 9/19/2025 9:56 AM  
**To** Andrea Siebritz <andrea@solagroup.co.za>  
**Cc** Nazley Towfie <nazleytowfie@solagroup.co.za>

 1 attachment (1 KB)  
Cluster 2 boundary Study Area.kmz;

Hi Andrea,

Please excuse the delay in response.

Apologies for the confusion. Please see attached the KML of the study area as requested.

For any further queries and comments please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Kind regards,**  
**EIMS Public Participation Team**



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**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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**From:** Andrea Siebritz <andrea@solagroup.co.za>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 17, 2025 9:00 AM  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Cc:** Nazley Towfie <nazleytowfie@solagroup.co.za>  
**Subject:** Re: Notification: Updated EIA Report Availability and Public Meeting - Tetra4 Cluster 2

Dear EIMS,

Thank you for your email. As the Appendix 2 are JPG files, kindly send us the KMZ as requested.

Kind Regards

## Andrea Siebritz

**Project Developer**

[+27 21 421 9764]+27 21 421 9764 | [andrea@solagroup.co.za]andrea@solagroup.co.za

On Wed, Sep 17, 2025 at 8:46 AM 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)> wrote:

Good day Andrea,

Hope you are well.

Please refer to our website under Public participation. The project is labeled "1473 Environmental Authorisation Application process for the proposed Tetra4 cluster 2 gas production project". All maps related to the project were uploaded under "Appendix 2: Maps".

Attached is the link to make access easier: [1473 ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT – EIMS](#).

If you still cannot access the KML you require, please do not hesitate to get back to us.

Kind regards,

**EIMS Public Participation Team**



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**F** +27 86 571 9047

**E**

**W** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)

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## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 August 2022 07:53  
**To:** Melato Boitumelo (BFN)  
**Cc:** Grobler Willem (BFN)  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project: Scoping Report Availability Notification

Hi Boitumelo,

Thank you for your email, a hard copy of the scoping report will be delivered to your offices.

Should you have any comments and/or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** Melato Boitumelo (BFN) <MelatoB@dws.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 July 2022 13:37  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Cc:** Grobler Willem (BFN) <GroblerW@dws.gov.za>  
**Subject:** FW: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project: Scoping Report Availability Notification

Good day,

Your e-mail below is noted. Kindly send a hard copy of the scoping report to this office for comments. The document must be addressed as follows:

Attention: Dr T Ntili  
Department of Water and Sanitation

Corner Charlotte Maxeke and East Burger  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor: Bloem Plaza Building  
Bloemfontein

Regards,  
Boitumelo Melato  
082 556 3497

---

**From:** Grobler Willem (BFN) <[GroblerW@dws.gov.za](mailto:GroblerW@dws.gov.za)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 July 2022 12:50  
**To:** Melato Boitumelo (BFN) <[MelatoB@dws.gov.za](mailto:MelatoB@dws.gov.za)>  
**Subject:** FW: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project: Scoping Report Availability Notification

Hi Tumi,

FYA

Regards

willem

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 July 2022 11:33  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Subject:** 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project: Scoping Report Availability Notification

Dear Registered Interested and Affected Party,

Kindly find attached the notification regarding opportunity to participate in Environmental Approval Processes for the Proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project near Virginia, in the Masilonyana and Matjhabeng Local Municipalities, Free State Province.

Should you have further comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**Mr Qaphela Magaqa**



**T** 011 789 7170  
**F** 086 571 9047  
**E** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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PO Box 2083, Pinetown, 2123,  
ZA





## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 01 September 2022 13:15  
**To:** Melato Boitumelo (BFN)  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project: Scoping Report Availability Notification

Good day Boitumelo,

We kindly note the comments attached in your previous email.

Please note, we have commenced with the necessary Water Use License Applications.

Regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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**M** +27 78 580 6692  
**F** +27 86 571 9047  
**E** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

8 Dalmeny Road, Pine Park,  
Randburg, 2194

PO Box 2083, Pinegowrie, 2123,  
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---

**From:** Melato Boitumelo (BFN) <MelatoB@dws.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 01 September 2022 09:46  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project: Scoping Report Availability Notification

Good day,

Kindly find attached comments for the Tetra4 Cluster 2.

Regards,  
Boitumelo Melato  
082 556 3497

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 August 2022 07:53  
**To:** Melato Boitumelo (BFN) <[MelatoB@dws.gov.za](mailto:MelatoB@dws.gov.za)>  
**Cc:** Grobler Willem (BFN) <[GroblerW@dws.gov.za](mailto:GroblerW@dws.gov.za)>  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project: Scoping Report Availability Notification

Hi Boitumelo,

Thank you for your email, a hard copy of the scoping report will be delivered to your offices.

Should you have any comments and/or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** Melato Boitumelo (BFN) <[MelatoB@dws.gov.za](mailto:MelatoB@dws.gov.za)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 July 2022 13:37  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Cc:** Grobler Willem (BFN) <[GroblerW@dws.gov.za](mailto:GroblerW@dws.gov.za)>  
**Subject:** FW: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project: Scoping Report Availability Notification

Good day,

Your e-mail below is noted. Kindly send a hard copy of the scoping report to this office for comments. The document must be addressed as follows:

Attention: Dr T Ntuli  
Department of Water and Sanitation  
Corner Charlotte Maxeke and East Burger  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor: Bloem Plaza Building  
Bloemfontein

Regards,

Boitumelo Melato  
082 556 3497

---

**From:** Grobler Willem (BFN) <[GroblerW@dws.gov.za](mailto:GroblerW@dws.gov.za)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 July 2022 12:50  
**To:** Melato Boitumelo (BFN) <[MelatoB@dws.gov.za](mailto:MelatoB@dws.gov.za)>  
**Subject:** FW: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project: Scoping Report Availability Notification

Hi Tumi,

FYA

Regards

willem

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 July 2022 11:33  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Subject:** 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project: Scoping Report Availability Notification

Dear Registered Interested and Affected Party,

Kindly find attached the notification regarding opportunity to participate in Environmental Approval Processes for the Proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project near Virginia, in the Masilonyana and Matjhabeng Local Municipalities, Free State Province.

Should you have further comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

Mr Qaphela Magaqa



**T** 011 789 7170  
**F** 086 571 9047  
**E** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: B Melato  
Telephone: 051 405 9000  
Reference: 16/2/7/C404/D2/3

Environmental Impact Management Services  
PO Box 2083  
**PINEGOWRIE**  
2123

Dear Sir/Madam

### **TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT: SCOPING REPORT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Reference is made to the above-mentioned document dated August 2022 with PASA Ref: 12/4/07 as submitted to this office by Environmental Impact Management Services.

Following the successful commencement of Cluster 1, Tetra 4 wishes to expand the natural gas operations, to be located within the approved production right area and around Cluster 1 project, to be designated as "Cluster 2" This Cluster 2 application area covers a total of ~27 500 hectares which overlaps with a large part of the Cluster 1 area.

- In 4.1.3.3 it is mentioned that there will be four 4 major river crossings. This activity constitutes a Section 21(c) "impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse" and (i) "altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse" of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998. The applicant must obtain the necessary authorisation prior commencement of the project
- In 4.1.3.4 it is indicated that the plant will include a sewage treatment works and that the effluent will be directed to the evaporation pond from where water will be pumped into a reverse osmosis plant and then stored in the fire water and service water tanks for reuse. Evaporation ponds might require to be authorised under Section 21(g) "disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource" of the National Water Act.
- It is noted that water for construction, drilling, plant operation, drinking and domestic purposes will be sourced from existing municipal supply as mentioned in 4.1.9.1
- Stormwater management must be implemented during the construction and operational phase of the project

All sections of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act 59 of 2008) pertaining to the disposal of waste must be adhered to through all the stages of the project

- All fuel and other lubricants must be stored in sealed containers at least 100 meters from the nearest watercourse and all reasonable precautions must be taken to prevent any possible pollution



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Our Future - make it work

- The applicant shall further note that in terms of section 19(1) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), it is stated that “ *An owner of land, a person in control of land or a person who occupies or uses the land on which- (a) any activity or process is or was performed or undertaken; or (b) any other situation exists, which causes, has caused or is likely to cause pollution of a water resource must take all reasonable measures to prevent any such pollution from occurring, continuing or recurring*”. Therefore, any pollution incident(s) originating from this activity shall be reported to the DWS Provincial Office within 24 hours.
- All applicable sections of the National Water Act as well as what was stipulated by the applicant in the above-mentioned report must be adhered to and any deviations must be communicated to this Department
- Further comments will be provided during the Environmental Impact Assessment process

You are welcome to contact Ms B Melato at telephone: 051 405 9000 or on e-mail: melatob@dws.gov.za should you have any enquiries.

Yours sincerely,

Dr T Mtshali

**PROVINCIAL HEAD: FREE STATE**

DATE:

28/8/22

## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Sent:** Thursday, 02 February 2023 12:51  
**To:** Melato Boitumelo (BFN)  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project: Environmental Impact Assessment Report Availability Notification

Good day Boitumelo,

Thank you for sharing the Departments comments on the application. Herewith our responses to the points raised in the letters:

- Most of the Departments points raised in the letter related to activities requiring a licence under the NWA. Kindly note that an application for amendment of the existing Tetra4 Water Use Licence (08/C42K/CI/8861) is currently being undertaken for the proposed Cluster 2 activities within the regulated area of a watercourse. The evaporation pond (21g) will be included in this application or as a separate General Authorisation. The case officer for this application is Mr Terrence Ngilande.
- The following two conditions have been included in the EMPr to cater for potential pollution of water resources:
  - All fuel and other lubricants must be stored in sealed containers at least 100m from the nearest watercourse and all reasonable precautions must be taken to prevent any possible pollution.
  - Sanitary conveniences which cause or are likely to cause pollution of a water resource may not be located within the 1:100-year floodline or 100m from any watercourse or boreholes that are used or may be used for abstraction purposes.

Thank you once again for your comments and feel free to contact us should you have any further queries.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** Melato Boitumelo (BFN) <MelatoB@dws.gov.za>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 25 January 2023 10:24

**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>

**Subject:** FW: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project: Environmental Impact Assessment Report Availability Notification

Good day,

Hope this mail finds you well.

Kindly find the attached comments for your further attention.

Regards,  
Boitumelo Melato  
082 556 3947

---

**From:** Melato Boitumelo (BFN)

**Sent:** Friday, 23 December 2022 08:11

**To:** '1473 Tetracluster2' <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Subject:** FW: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project: Environmental Impact Assessment Report Availability Notification

Good day,

Kindly send a hard copy of the EIA Report to this office for comments. The document must be addressed as follows:

Attention: Dr T Ntili  
Department of Water and Sanitation  
Corner Charlotte Maxeke and East Burger  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor: Bloem Plaza Building  
Bloemfontein

Regards,  
Boitumelo Melato  
082 556 3497

---

**From:** Melato Boitumelo (BFN)

**Sent:** Friday, 29 July 2022 13:37

**To:** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)

**Cc:** Grobler Willem (BFN) <[GroblerW@dws.gov.za](mailto:GroblerW@dws.gov.za)>

**Subject:** FW: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project: Scoping Report Availability Notification

Good day,

Your e-mail below is noted. Kindly send a hard copy of the scoping report to this office for comments. The document must be addressed as follows:

Attention: Dr T Ntili  
Department of Water and Sanitation  
Corner Charlotte Maxeke and East Burger



2<sup>nd</sup> Floor: Bloem Plaza Building  
Bloemfontein

Regards,  
Boitumelo Melato  
082 556 3497

---

**From:** Grobler Willem (BFN) <[GroblerW@dws.gov.za](mailto:GroblerW@dws.gov.za)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 July 2022 12:50  
**To:** Melato Boitumelo (BFN) <[MelatoB@dws.gov.za](mailto:MelatoB@dws.gov.za)>  
**Subject:** FW: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project: Scoping Report Availability Notification

Hi Tumi,

FYA

Regards

willem

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 July 2022 11:33  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Subject:** 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project: Scoping Report Availability Notification

Dear Registered Interested and Affected Party,

Kindly find attached the notification regarding opportunity to participate in Environmental Approval Processes for the Proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project near Virginia, in the Masilonyana and Matjhabeng Local Municipalities, Free State Province.

Should you have further comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**Mr Qaphela Magaqa**



**T** 011 789 7170  
**F** 086 571 9047  
**E** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

---

Enquiries: B Melato  
Telephone: 051 405 9000  
Reference: 16/2/7/C404/D2/3

Environmental Impact Management Services  
PO Box 2083  
**PINEGOWRIE**  
2123

Dear Sir/Madam

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR TETRA 4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT**

Reference is made to the above-mentioned document dated November 2022 with PASA Ref: 12/4/07 and EIMS reference number 1473 as submitted to this office by Environmental Impact Management Services.

- In page 1 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) it is mentioned that the relevant Water Use Licence application is/will be submitted for the licensing requirements under the National Water Act. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure the identification of all the water uses associated with the activity and obtain an authorisation prior the commencement of the water use
- The applicant must take note that any development within 500m from the boundary of any wetland requires to be authorised according to the Department's regulation. The authorisation must be obtained prior commencement of the project
- Any activity which is located within 100m of the water resource needs to be authorised by the Department. The authorisation must be obtained prior commencement of the project.
- In page 2 it is mentioned that chemical toilets will be utilised during drilling. Sanitary conveniences which causes or is likely to cause pollution of a water resource should not be located within the 1:50 year flood line or 100m of any watercourse or borehole
- It is noted that in page 39: Exploration Drilling it is indicated that a maximum of 6000 litres of water per day per well is required for drilling purposes and that the water will be sourced from the municipality and not from the surrounding environment
- All applicable sections of the National Water Act as well as what was stipulated by the applicant in the above-mentioned report must be adhered to and any deviations must be communicated to this Department



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*Our Future - make it work*

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR TETRA 4 CLUSTER 2 VIRGINIA GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT**

The above comments do not supersede comments that were submitted to Environmental Impact Management Services dated August 2022.

You are welcome to contact Ms B Melato at telephone: 051 405 9000 or on e-mail: melatob@dws.gov.za should you have any enquiries.

Yours sincerely,



MJ Manyama

**PROVINCIAL HEAD: FREE STATE (ACTING)**

**DATE:** 05/01/2023



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: B Melato  
Telephone: 051 405 9000  
Reference: 16/2/7/C404/D2/3

Environmental Impact Management Services  
PO Box 2083  
**PINEGOWRIE**  
2123

Dear Sir/Madam

### **TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT: SCOPING REPORT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Reference is made to the above-mentioned document dated August 2022 with PASA Ref: 12/4/07 as submitted to this office by Environmental Impact Management Services.

Following the successful commencement of Cluster 1, Tetra 4 wishes to expand the natural gas operations, to be located within the approved production right area and around Cluster 1 project, to be designated as "Cluster 2" This Cluster 2 application area covers a total of ~27 500 hectares which overlaps with a large part of the Cluster 1 area.

- In 4.1.3.3 it is mentioned that there will be four 4 major river crossings. This activity constitutes a Section 21(c) "impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse" and (i) "altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse" of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998. The applicant must obtain the necessary authorisation prior commencement of the project
- In 4.1.3.4 it is indicated that the plant will include a sewage treatment works and that the effluent will be directed to the evaporation pond from where water will be pumped into a reverse osmosis plant and then stored in the fire water and service water tanks for reuse. Evaporation ponds might require to be authorised under Section 21(g) "disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource" of the National Water Act.
- It is noted that water for construction, drilling, plant operation, drinking and domestic purposes will be sourced from existing municipal supply as mentioned in 4.1.9.1
- Stormwater management must be implemented during the construction and operational phase of the project

All sections of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act 59 of 2008) pertaining to the disposal of waste must be adhered to through all the stages of the project

- All fuel and other lubricants must be stored in sealed containers at least 100 meters from the nearest watercourse and all reasonable precautions must be taken to prevent any possible pollution



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- The applicant shall further note that in terms of section 19(1) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), it is stated that "An owner of land, a person in control of land or a person who occupies or uses the land on which- (a) any activity or process is or was performed or undertaken; or (b) any other situation exists, which causes, has caused or is likely to cause pollution of a water resource must take all reasonable measures to prevent any such pollution from occurring, continuing or recurring". Therefore, any pollution incident(s) originating from this activity shall be reported to the DWS Provincial Office within 24 hours.
- All applicable sections of the National Water Act as well as what was stipulated by the applicant in the above-mentioned report must be adhered to and any deviations must be communicated to this Department
- Further comments will be provided during the Environmental Impact Assessment process

You are welcome to contact Ms B Melato at telephone: 051 405 9000 or on e-mail: melatob@dws.gov.za should you have any enquiries.

Yours sincerely,

Dr T Mtshali  
PROVINCIAL HEAD: FREE STATE

DATE:

28/8/22





## Qaphela Magaqa

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Sent:** Friday, 03 February 2023 11:14  
**To:** Obie De Jongh  
**Subject:** RE: Blaauwdrift

Good day Mr Taljaard.

Further to your email below, we acknowledge receipt of the township proclamation and your subsequent objection to any drilling of wells.

Kindly note that we have included the following condition into the EMPr (Section 5.3.1 & 5.3.2) as well as included this condition as a recommended condition of decision by the competent authority in Section 13.4 of the EIA Report.

- Condition: *"A township is proclaimed over Portion 3 of the farm Blaauwdrift 188 (Portion 3), and the township proclamation is dated 12 October 1956. No exploration drilling of any Cluster 2 wells on this property may take place until such time as the legal status of the township and rights of the landowner are adequately addressed. Any new pipelines to be laid on this property must be discussed and agreed with the landowner prior to commencement."*

We trust that you find this in order and thank you for your participation in the EIA process.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** Obie De Jongh <obiedejongh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, 23 January 2023 09:23  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>; Ma Email <taljaardp1605@gmail.com>; johanwindhond@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Blaauwdrift

Good day

Hope all is well

Please find attached the card of Blaauwdift.

We are currently buzzing with selling the development. There for we are against the drilling as your company requested.

Kind regards  
Johan Taljaard



## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 20 June 2022 11:45  
**To:** Avena Jacklin  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA and WULA: Initial Call to Register

Good day Avena,

Thank you for your email.

Please note you have been added to the I&AP database for the proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Gathering and Production Project. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of public participation opportunities as and when they become available for the aforementioned project.

Should you have any further comments and/or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** Avena Jacklin <avena@groundwork.org.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 17 June 2022 08:53  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** Fwd: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA and WULA: Initial Call to Register

Dear Tetra Consultant

Please add me as an IAP, and keep me updated:

Avena Jacklin  
Senior Manager: Climate and Energy Campaign

groundWork, Friends of the Earth South Africa  
[avena@groundwork.org.za](mailto:avena@groundwork.org.za)

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2022 10:04:54 AM  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Subject:** 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA and WULA: Initial Call to Register

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

Kindly find attached notification regarding opportunity to participate in the integrated Environmental Authorisation Application and Water Use Licence Application process for the Proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 gas gathering and production project, in the Virginia Area, Free State Province, South Africa.

Should you have any comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS and please quote reference number 1473.

Kind regards,

QAPHELA MAGAQA



# EIMS

T +27 11 789 7170  
M +27 78 580 6692  
F +27 86 571 9047  
E [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
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## Qaphela Magaqa

---

**From:** Sinazo Mnyaka <MnyakaS@petroleumagencysa.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 August 2022 15:54  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Tetra4 Draft Scoping Report

Hi Qaphela

Thank you so much, it worked.

Regards,  
Sinazo

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 August 2022 15:03  
**To:** Sinazo Mnyaka <MnyakaS@petroleumagencysa.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Tetra4 Draft Scoping Report

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Petroleum Agency SA organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Sinazo,

I have just tried to access the report from the website using the link provided in the notification. It seems to be working from our side. You can access the report on this link (<https://www.eims.co.za/2022/03/29/1473ea-cluster2-tetra4/>). Alternatively, if clicking on the link does not open the files posted on our website you can right click and select "save link as".

Please let me know if this helps.

Regards,

QAPHELA MAGAQA



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**M** +27 78 580 6692  
**F** +27 86 571 9047  
**E** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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---

**From:** Sinazo Mnyaka <[MnyakaS@petroleumagencycsa.com](mailto:MnyakaS@petroleumagencycsa.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 August 2022 14:29

**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Subject:** Request for Tetra4 Draft Scoping Report

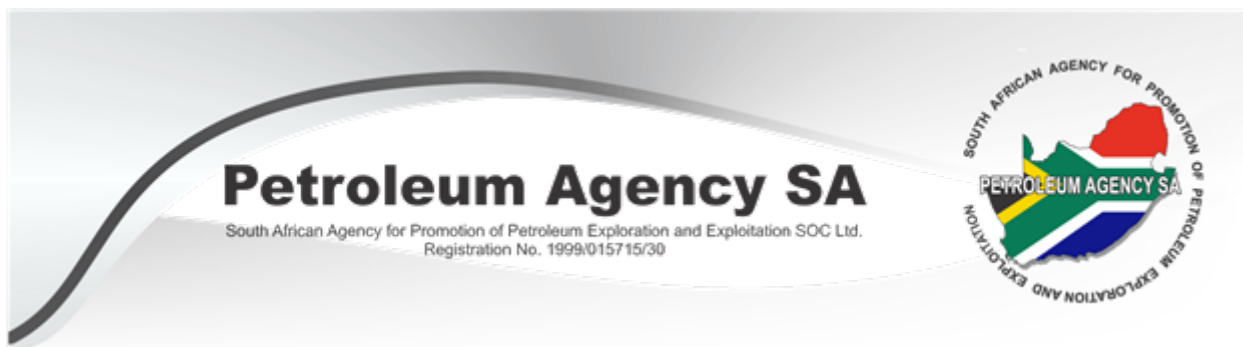
Good day Qaphela

I trust this email finds you well. I would like to request a copy of the draft scoping report, I am struggling to download the report from the link provided.

**Kind Regards**

**Sinazo Mnyaka | Environmental Compliance | Petroleum Agency SA**

**T: 021 938 3531 | E: [MnyakaS@petroleumagencycsa.com](mailto:MnyakaS@petroleumagencycsa.com)**



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## Qaphela Magaqa

---

**From:** Sinazo Mnyaka <MnyakaS@petroleumagencysa.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 August 2022 15:54  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Tetra4 Draft Scoping Report

Hi Qaphela

Thank you so much, it worked.

Regards,  
Sinazo

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 August 2022 15:03  
**To:** Sinazo Mnyaka <MnyakaS@petroleumagencysa.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Tetra4 Draft Scoping Report

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Hi Sinazo,

I have just tried to access the report from the website using the link provided in the notification. It seems to be working from our side. You can access the report on this link (<https://www.eims.co.za/2022/03/29/1473ea-cluster2-tetra4/>). Alternatively, if clicking on the link does not open the files posted on our website you can right click and select "save link as".

Please let me know if this helps.

Regards,

QAPHELA MAGAQA



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**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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---

**From:** Sinazo Mnyaka <[MnyakaS@petroleumagencycsa.com](mailto:MnyakaS@petroleumagencycsa.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 August 2022 14:29

**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Subject:** Request for Tetra4 Draft Scoping Report

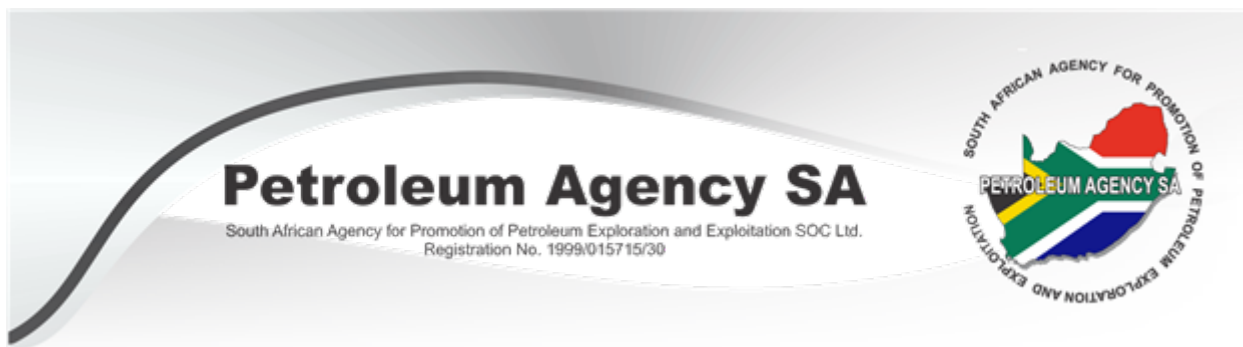
Good day Qaphela

I trust this email finds you well. I would like to request a copy of the draft scoping report, I am struggling to download the report from the link provided.

**Kind Regards**

**Sinazo Mnyaka | Environmental Compliance | Petroleum Agency SA**

**T: 021 938 3531 | E: [MnyakaS@petroleumagencycsa.com](mailto:MnyakaS@petroleumagencycsa.com)**



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## Lucien James

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 21 June 2023 07:57  
**To:** Mikaella Bodeux  
**Cc:** Melissa Strydom; 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Subject:** RE: APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT  
**Attachments:** 1473 PPR\_Final EIA.pdf; Landowner Focus Group Meeting Minutes.pdf; Appendix B9 - Comments and Response\_updated.pdf

Dear Mikaella,

As requested, herewith a link to the maps: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/a9fdvjul1pumyp0/App2.%20Maps.zip?dl=0>  
Please note that the Cluster 2 application documentation was removed from our website as the consultation periods for the EIA and WULA have been concluded.

Attached the final PPR, landowner focus group meeting minutes and the comments and response report.

Kind regards,

QAPHELA MAGAQA



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---

**From:** Mikaella Bodeux <Mikaella@warburtons.co.za>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2023 4:01 PM  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>; Qaphela Magaqa <Qaphela@eims.co.za>  
**Cc:** Melissa Strydom <Melissa@warburtons.co.za>  
**Subject:** APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT

Dear Qaphela

The above matter refers.

Please provide us with a copy of (or a link to) the final maps which were attached the FEIA. We previously tried to access the link which was included on the EIMS website, but it did not work when it was available and it now no longer appears on the website.

Please also provide us with the final Public Participation Report, specifically including the comments received by EIMS on the draft EIA and the minutes from the landowners meeting held on 11 January 2023 at Gold Fields Game Farm. We previously accessed this document through the EIMS website but the version which had been uploaded was incomplete/outdated and now also no longer appears on the website.

We await your response.

Kind regards

Mikaella Bodeux BSc LLB LLM

**Warburton Attorneys Inc**

Associate

53 Dudley Road

Corner Bolton Avenue

Parkwood, Johannesburg

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Tel: +27 11 447 6848

Email: [mikaella@warburtons.co.za](mailto:mikaella@warburtons.co.za)

Website: [www.warburtons.co.za](http://www.warburtons.co.za)



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**Lucien James**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 June 2023 10:40  
**To:** Mikaella Bodeux; 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Cc:** Melissa Strydom  
**Subject:** RE: APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT

Dear Mikaella,

Thank you for your email. Please see the included link to the file as requested.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/nz8mld6fmf3m5d9d0bxby/T4-landowners-FGM.mp3?dl=0&rlkey=yzsmytlw3bhk6ildhaa9z2k6>

KIND REGARDS  
LUCIEN JAMES



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**E** [lucien@eims.co.za](mailto:lucien@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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---

**From:** Mikaella Bodeux <Mikaella@warburtons.co.za>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 28, 2023 9:25 AM  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Cc:** Melissa Strydom <Melissa@warburtons.co.za>  
**Subject:** RE: APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT

Dear Qaphela

Thank you for your email and the documents/links provided.

Please could you also provide the recording taken during the Landowners' Meeting of 11 January 2023 at Goldfields Game Ranch.

We await your response.

Kind regards

Mikaella Bodeux BSc LLB LLM  
**Warburton Attorneys Inc**  
Associate  
53 Dudley Road  
Corner Bolton Avenue  
Parkwood, Johannesburg  
2193  
Tel: +27 11 447 6848  
Email: [mikaella@warburtons.co.za](mailto:mikaella@warburtons.co.za)  
Website: [www.warburtons.co.za](http://www.warburtons.co.za)



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---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 7:57 AM  
**To:** Mikaella Bodeux <[Mikaella@warburtons.co.za](mailto:Mikaella@warburtons.co.za)>  
**Cc:** Melissa Strydom <[Melissa@warburtons.co.za](mailto:Melissa@warburtons.co.za)>; 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Subject:** RE: APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT

Dear Mikaella,

As requested, herewith a link to the maps: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/a9fdvjul1pumyp0/App2.%20Maps.zip?dl=0>  
Please note that the Cluster 2 application documentation was removed from our website as the consultation periods for the EIA and WULA have been concluded.

Attached the final PPR, landowner focus group meeting minutes and the comments and response report.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** Mikaella Bodeux <[Mikaella@warburtons.co.za](mailto:Mikaella@warburtons.co.za)>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2023 4:01 PM

**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>; Qaphela Magaqa <[Qaphela@eims.co.za](mailto:Qaphela@eims.co.za)>

**Cc:** Melissa Strydom <[Melissa@warburtons.co.za](mailto:Melissa@warburtons.co.za)>

**Subject:** APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION FOR THE TETRA4 CLUSTER 2 GAS PRODUCTION PROJECT

Dear Qaphela

The above matter refers.

Please provide us with a copy of (or a link to) the final maps which were attached the FEIA. We previously tried to access the link which was included on the EIMS website, but it did not work when it was available and it now no longer appears on the website.

Please also provide us with the final Public Participation Report, specifically including the comments received by EIMS on the draft EIA and the minutes from the landowners meeting held on 11 January 2023 at Gold Fields Game Farm. We previously accessed this document through the EIMS website but the version which had been uploaded was incomplete/outdated and now also no longer appears on the website.

We await your response.

Kind regards

Mikaella Bodeux BSc LLB LLM

**Warburton Attorneys Inc**

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Parkwood, Johannesburg

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Tel: +27 11 447 6848

Email: [mikaella@warburtons.co.za](mailto:mikaella@warburtons.co.za)

Website: [www.warburtons.co.za](http://www.warburtons.co.za)



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## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** lisa@environamics.co.za  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 April 2022 09:24  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Cc:** 'marelie'  
**Subject:** RE: Request to be registered as an I&AP - Tetra4 Cluster 2

Hi Qaphela,

Thank you for the feedback.

I acknowledge receipt of the BID and locality maps.

Kind regards



---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 07 April 2022 14:45  
**To:** lisa@environamics.co.za  
**Cc:** 'marelie' <marelie@environamics.co.za>  
**Subject:** RE: Request to be registered as an I&AP - Tetra4 Cluster 2

Hi Lisa.

Thank you for your clarification and preliminary shapefiles. We will treat these as confidential for now as requested.

The Tetra4 Cluster 2 application is also in the initial stages and the future opportunities to comment on reports will be notified in due course.

As requested, please find attached the BID and locality maps as requested.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** [lisa@environamics.co.za](mailto:lisa@environamics.co.za) <[lisa@environamics.co.za](mailto:lisa@environamics.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 07 April 2022 09:29  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Cc:** 'marelie' <[marelie@environamics.co.za](mailto:marelie@environamics.co.za)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request to be registered as an I&AP - Tetra4 Cluster 2

Hi Qaphela,

Thank you, I received the email from Brian this morning. We will do the registration as per his request and send through a confirmation once completed on our side.

Please take note that we have been in contact with the Applicant of the Tetra4 Cluster 2 regarding the PV facility. There also has been correspondence/communication between the two respective Applicants.

Regarding the infrastructure of the project, the detailed layout is not available as yet. The EIA process only commenced now with the distribution of the notification for the EIA process. The project is still in its planning phase. Furthermore, the specialist fieldwork results will be considered by the developer/applicant to ensure that areas of high environmental sensitivity are avoided by the planned layout. Due to the early stage of the process, we only have information available pertaining to the EIA area under assessment and the development footprint area (within which the infrastructure is proposed to be placed). We have subsequently distributed a KMZ file to the Tetra4 Cluster 2 Applicant (as attached) so that the technical aspects and challenges can be discussed between both parties.

Please see the KMZ file attached which shows the details available at this stage with some locations of proposed infrastructure – this is subject to change depending on the results of the specialist surveys (i.e. consideration of no-go areas where applicable). I kindly request that the KMZ file be treated as confidential as the information has not yet been released formally to the public – it will only become available once the Scoping Report is released for the 30-day review and comment period.

Please can you also send through any project information that would have been distributed to the database for the Cluster 2? Do you have a BID available and locality / layout map that we can consider?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Lisa Opperman  
Senior Environmental Assessment Practitioner  
EAPASA Registration: 2020/2150

Cell: +27 (84) 920-3111  
E-mail: [lisa@environamics.co.za](mailto:lisa@environamics.co.za)



[www.environamics.co.za](http://www.environamics.co.za)

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 06 April 2022 15:11  
**To:** [lisa@environamics.co.za](mailto:lisa@environamics.co.za)  
**Subject:** RE: Request to be registered as an I&AP - Tetra4 Cluster 2

Good day Lisa,

Thank you for the information supplied. With regard to I&AP registration for the Oryx PV project, a separate email with contact details will be sent shortly.

May you please supply us with the shapefiles of the proposed infrastructure and powerlines for the Oryx Solar Power Plant.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** [lisa@environamics.co.za](mailto:lisa@environamics.co.za) <[lisa@environamics.co.za](mailto:lisa@environamics.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 06 April 2022 13:44  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>



**Cc:** 'marelie' <[marelie@environamics.co.za](mailto:marelie@environamics.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: Request to be registered as an I&AP - Tetra4 Cluster 2

Good Day Qaphela,

Thank you for the confirmation.

Please find attached the locality map of the project location and BID, as requested.

Kindly advise should you want to also register on the project database for the solar power plant, known as the Oryx Solar Power Plant.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards



---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 06 April 2022 13:21

**To:** [lisa@environamics.co.za](mailto:lisa@environamics.co.za); 'marelie' <[marelie@environamics.co.za](mailto:marelie@environamics.co.za)>

**Subject:** RE: Request to be registered as an I&AP - Tetra4 Cluster 2

Good day,

Thank you for your correspondence and interest in the proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 project. Kindly note that you have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) in the projects database. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of opportunities to participate in the Environmental Authorisation Application Process as they become available.

Furthermore, may you please provide us with locality details for your solar power plant project.

Should you have any queries or comments regarding this project, please feel free to contact EIMS on this project dedicated email address.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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---

**From:** [lisa@environamics.co.za](mailto:lisa@environamics.co.za) <[lisa@environamics.co.za](mailto:lisa@environamics.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 06 April 2022 09:44  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Cc:** 'marelie' <[marelie@environamics.co.za](mailto:marelie@environamics.co.za)>  
**Subject:** Request to be registered as an I&AP - Tetra4 Cluster 2

Good Day,

I trust you are doing well.

We are currently undertaking an EIA process on Kalkoenkrans for the development of a solar power plant. Therefore, please can you register myself and Marelle Botha (copied) as part of the I&AP database.

Kindly confirm once registration is completed.

Also, please let me know should you have any queries on the EIA process being undertaken on our side for the solar power plant.

Kind regards

Lisa Opperman  
Senior Environmental Assessment Practitioner  
EAPASA Registration: 2020/2150

Cell: +27 (84) 920-3111  
E-mail: [lisa@environamics.co.za](mailto:lisa@environamics.co.za)



# Legend

## Existing Eskom Infrastructure

Substations

- ORYX 132/33/6.6kV SUBSTATION

Overhead Power Lines

- 168 BEATRIX - THESEUS 1 132kV
- 170 ORYX 2 - THESEUS 1 132kV
- 171 ORYX 1 - THESEUS 1 132kV

## Grid Connection Infrastructure

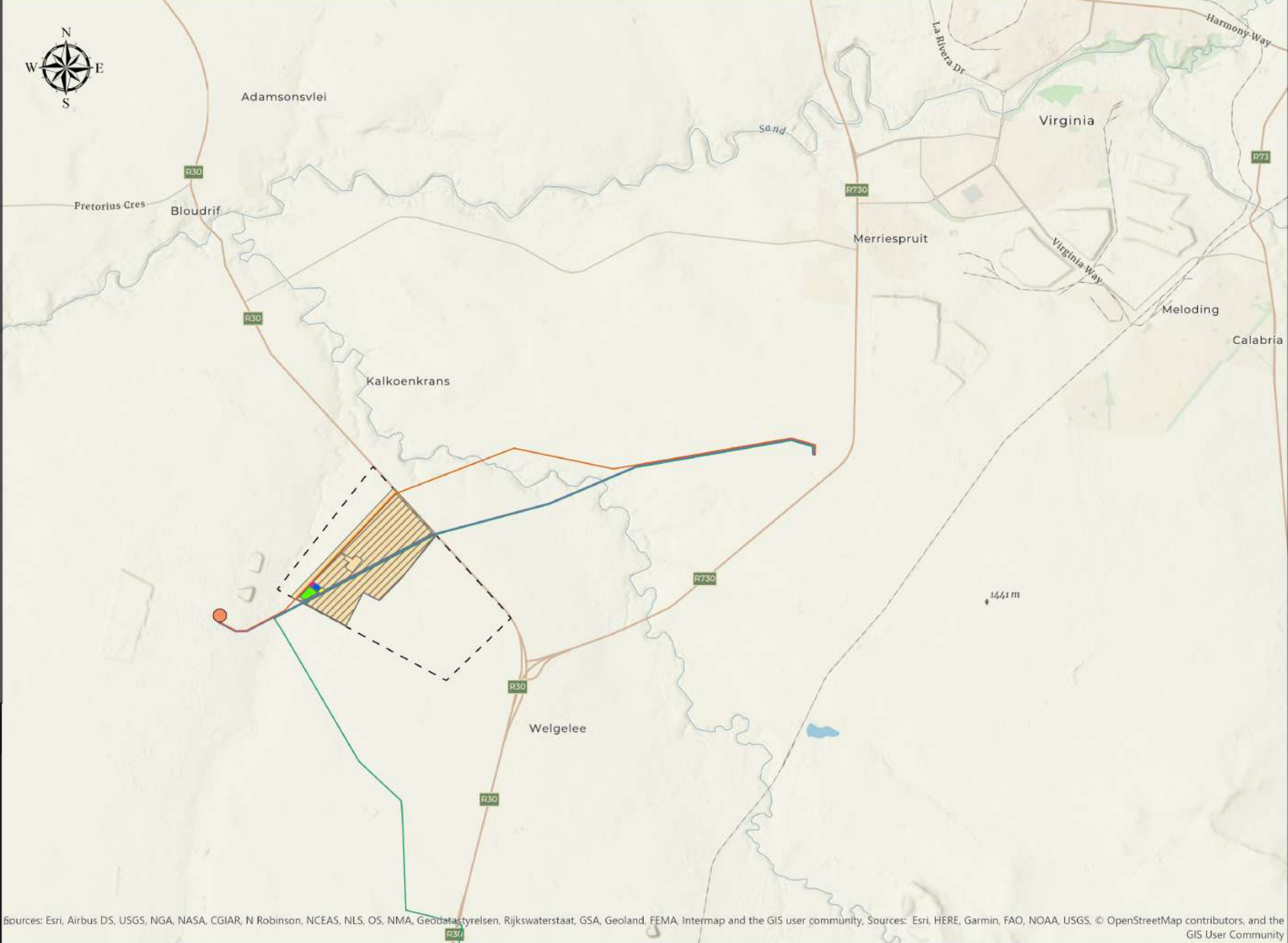
- BESS
- Substation

Power Line Corridors

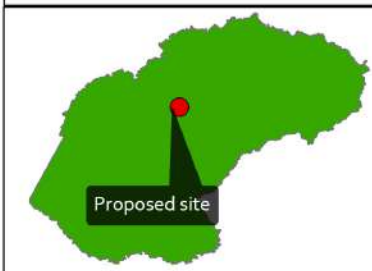
- Option 1
- Option 2 and 3

### Oryx SPP

- DevelopmentFootprintV4
- EIA Footprint
- Farm Portion



FREE STATE PROVINCE LOCALITY MAP



Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community. Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

## LOCALITY MAP: ORYX SOLAR POWER PLANT NEAR VIRGINIA, FREE STATE PROVINCE

0237

Kilometers

GPS(DDM):

28° 10,6523078' S

26° 44,6543837' E

Project No:

2022-08

Date Exported:

2022/04/04 10:44



# ENVIRONAMICS

Environmental Consultants

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed Oryx Solar Power Plant near Virginia, Free State Province

### 1. Introduction

The activities entail the development of photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure on Portion 2 of the Farm Kalkoenkrans 225, Registration Division Theunissen, situated within the Matjhabeng Local Municipality area of jurisdiction. The town of Virginia is located approximately 10km north east of the proposed development (refer to the attached locality maps).

The project entails the generation of up to 150MW electrical power through photovoltaic (PV) panels. The total footprint of the project will approximately be 252 hectares (including supporting infrastructure on site) that is located within the larger 311 hectares to be assessed. The property on which the facility is to be constructed will be leased by Oryx Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd from the property owner, for the lifespan of the project (minimum of 20 years).

Oryx Solar Power Plant will be required to apply for a generation license from the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA). Depending on the economic conditions following the lapse of this period, the facility may either be decommissioned or the power purchase agreement may be renegotiated and extended. The purpose of this background information document (BID) is to provide interested and affected parties (I&APs) with:

- Information on the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA);
- An overview of the proposed solar power plant;
- An overview of the EIA process and specialist studies being conducted to explain the potential impacts associated with the proposed facilities; and

- Details of how I&APs may become involved in the process, receive information, or raise issues, which may concern and/or interest them.

### 2. The need for an EIA

The EIA Regulations, 2014 (GN. R.326 as amended in 2017) published in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) determine that an environmental authorisation is required for certain listed activities, which might have detrimental impacts on the environment. The following activities have been identified with special reference to the proposed development and are listed in the EIA Regulations:

- Activity 11(i) (GN.R. 327): “The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.”
- Activity 24 (ii) (GN.R. 327): “The development of a road (ii) with reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 meters.”
- Activity 28 (ii) (GN.R. 327): “Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture or afforestation on or after 1998 and where such development (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare.”
- Activity 1 (GN.R. 325): “The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more...”

- Activity 15 (GN.R. 325): *"The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation."*

Being listed under Listing Notice 1 and 2 (GN.R. 327 & 325) implies that the development is considered as potentially having a significant impact on the environment. Based on the activities triggered, the Application for Environmental Authorisation is subject to the completion of full Scoping and EIA (S&EIA) process as described in Regulations 21-23. The Scoping and EIA process involves the identification and assessment of environmental impacts through specialist studies, the recommendation of appropriate mitigation measures as well as public participation.

### 3. Project description

The activities entail the development of a PV solar power plant and associated infrastructure on Portion 2 of the Farm Kalkoenkrans 225, Registration Division Theunissen, situated within the Matjhabeng Local Municipality area of jurisdiction, Free State Province. The key components of the individual proposed projects are described below:

- PV Panel Array - To produce up to 150MW, the proposed facilities will require numerous linked cells placed behind a protective glass sheet to form a panel. Multiple panels will be required to form the solar PV arrays which will comprise the PV facility. The PV panels will be tilted at a northern angle in order to capture the most sun.
- Wiring to Inverters - Sections of the PV array will be wired to inverters. The inverter is a pulse width mode inverter that converts direct current (DC) electricity to alternating current (AC) electricity at grid frequency.
- Connection to the grid - Connecting the array to the electrical grid requires transformation of the voltage from 480V to 33kV to 132kV. The normal components and dimensions of a distribution rated electrical substation will be required. Output voltage from the inverter is 480V and this is fed into step up transformers to 132kV. An onsite substation will be required on the site to step the voltage up to 132kV, after which the power will be evacuated into the national grid via the proposed power line. It is expected that generation from the facility will connect to the national grid via a loop-in loop-out connection into the Oryx 2 - Theseus 132kV Overhead Line

or the Oryx 1 - Theseus 132kV Overhead Line or the Beatrix - Theseus 132kV Overhead Line. All three connection points are located within Portion 2 of the Farm Kalkoenkrans 225. The Project will inject up to 100MW into the National Grid. The installed capacity will be approximately 150MW.

- Supporting Infrastructure – The following auxiliary buildings with basic services including water and electricity will be required on the sites:
  - Office (~200m<sup>2</sup>);
  - Switch gear and relay room (~400m<sup>2</sup>);
  - Staff lockers and changing room (~200m<sup>2</sup>); and
  - Security control (~60m<sup>2</sup>)
- Battery storage – Battery Storage Facilities with a maximum height of 8m and a maximum volume of 1,740 m<sup>3</sup> of batteries and associated operational, safety and control infrastructure will be required.
- Roads – Access will be obtained via the R30 regional road to the north of the site. An internal site road network will also be required to provide access to the solar field and associated infrastructure. The access and internal roads will be constructed within a 25-meter corridor.
- Fencing - For health, safety and security reasons, the facility will be required to be fenced off from the surrounding farm. Fencing with a height of 2.5 meters will be used.

### 4. Specialist studies to be conducted

There are a number of environmental impacts, both positive and negative that are associated with photovoltaic solar energy facilities. Specialist studies will be conducted to identify and assess these potential impacts. Specialist studies will be guided by existing information, field observations and input from the public participation process. For these projects, the following specialist studies have been identified as relevant:

- Heritage Impact Assessment
- Ecological Fauna and Flora Habitat Survey
- Visual Impact Assessment



- Soil, Land Capability and Agricultural Potential Study
- Geotechnical study
- Social Impact Assessment
- Avifaunal Study
- Palaeontological Impact Assessment
- Traffic Impact Assessment

## 5. The EIA process and timeline for the projects

Public participation is an integral part of the EIA process and aims to involve Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in the process by notifying them of the proposed project and encouraging them to voice their issues and concerns.

The process undertaken will be transparent and allow I&APs to comment on the project or raise concerns, which will be included and considered in the respective Scoping and EIA Reports. Table 1 indicates the key steps of the EIA process and the timelines for the project.

**Table 1:** Key steps of the EIA process

Activity	Prescribed timeframe	Timeframe
Public participation (BID)	30 Days	04 Apr. - 10 May. 2022
Conduct specialist studies	2 Months	Feb. – Apr. 2022
Submit application form and Draft Scoping Report	-	May. 2022
Public participation (Draft Scoping Report)	30 Days	May. 2022 – June 2022
Submit Final Scoping Report	44 Days	June 2022
Approval of Final Scoping Report	43 Days	July 2022
Submit Draft EIA Report	106 Days	July / Aug. 2022
Public Participation	30 Days	Aug. – Sept. 2022
Submit Final EIA Report	-	Oct. 2022
Decision	107 Days	Feb. 2023
Public participation (decision) & submission of appeals	20 Days	Mar. 2023

## 6. Your involvement

I&APs include individuals, communities or groups whose interest may be positively or negatively affected by the proposed development. You may get involved in the public participation process by:

- Registering as an I&AP.
- Submitting your issues, concerns and questions in writing on the attached comments and response form or sending an email to [chrsitia@environamics.co.za](mailto:chrsitia@environamics.co.za).
- Attending any public meetings which may be held during the course of the EIA process. As a registered I&AP you will automatically be invited to attend these meetings.
- Reviewing and commenting on the reports within the stipulated public review periods.

## 7. Comments and queries

All comments and queries may be directed to the following contact person:

Contact person: Lisa Opperman / Christia van Dyk  
Telephone: 084 920 311 / 078 470 5252 (Cell)  
Electronic mail: [participation@environamics.co.za](mailto:participation@environamics.co.za)

## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Sent:** Monday, 23 May 2022 10:12  
**To:** lisa@environamics.co.za  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA and WULA: Initial Call to Register

Dear Lisa,

Thank you for your correspondence, please note that you have been registered as an I&AP for the Tetra4 Cluster 2 project. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of public participation opportunities as and when they become available.

Should you have any queries or comments, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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**From:** lisa@environamics.co.za <lisa@environamics.co.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 23 May 2022 08:55  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA and WULA: Initial Call to Register

Good Day,

Kindly register myself on the I&AP database, and provide confirmation once completed.

Thanks in advance.

Kind regards



---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 May 2022 10:02  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Subject:** 1473 Tetra4 Cluster 2 EIA and WULA: Initial Call to Register

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

Kindly find attached notification regarding opportunity to participate in the integrated Environmental Authorisation Application and Water Use Licence Application process for the Proposed Tetra4 Cluster 2 gas gathering and production project, in the Virginia Area, Free State Province, South Africa.

Should you have any comments or queries, please feel free to contact EIMS and please quote reference number 1473.

Kind regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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**F** +27 86 571 9047  
**E** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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## **Qaphela Magaqa**

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 06 December 2022 08:12  
**To:** Ria Barkhuizen (NR)  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 - Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project - EIA Phase Landowner Focus Group Meeting Invite

Good morning Ria,

Thanks for your correspondence.

Please note that [erstatutory@nra.co.za](mailto:erstatutory@nra.co.za) is included in our I&AP database and have been notified of this application.

Should you have any further comment and/or query, please feel free to contact EIMS.

Regards,

**QAPHELA MAGAQA**



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**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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**From:** Ria Barkhuizen (NR) <Barkhuizenr@nra.co.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 05 December 2022 15:51  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** RE: 1473 - Tetra4 Cluster 2 Gas Production Project - EIA Phase Landowner Focus Group Meeting Invite

Good day

Please forward your application to SANRAL Eastern Region [erstatutory@nra.co.za](mailto:erstatutory@nra.co.za), as this falls under their jurisdiction.

Kind regards

Ria



## Mbali Tshabalala

---

**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 06 October 2025 13:01  
**To:** Ria Barkhuizen (GP)  
**Subject:** RE: Notification: Invitation to landowner focus group

Good day Ria,

Please note that the scheduled meeting has since passed. We can forward the notes of the meeting to the relevant I&AP once they are available if they are requested.

Any comments from the I&AP can still be forwarded to this mailbox until end of day on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 2025.

The I&AP indicated will be added to our database for any further communication.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



8 Dalmeny Road, Pine Park,  
Randburg, 2194

**T** +27 11 789 7170  
**F** +27 86 571 9047  
**E** [tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)  
**W** [www.eims.co.za](http://www.eims.co.za)

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**From:** Ria Barkhuizen (GP) <Barkhuizenr@nra.co.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, 06 October 2025 11:58  
**To:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <tetracluster2@eims.co.za>  
**Subject:** Re: Notification: Invitation to landowner focus group

Good day

Please forward your application to SANRAL Eastern Region [erstatutory@nra.co.za](mailto:erstatutory@nra.co.za) as this falls under their jurisdiction.

Kind regards

Ria

**Ria Barkhuizen**

Team Secretary

Gauteng Province (GP)

38 Ida Street, Menlo Park, Pretoria, 0081, ZA

012 426 6201

T:

[Barkhuizenr@nra.co.za](mailto:Barkhuizenr@nra.co.za) [www.sanral.co.za](http://www.sanral.co.za)



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**From:** 1473 Tetracluster2 <[tetracluster2@eims.co.za](mailto:tetracluster2@eims.co.za)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 18, 2025 9:42 AM  
**Subject:** Notification: Invitation to landowner focus group

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Good day,

Further to correspondence received on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2025 regarding the availability of the revised Environmental Impact Assessment Report for public review and comment.

As a landowner in the project area, you are invited to a focus group with the following details:

- Date: 2 October 2025
- Time: 17H00 to 19H00
- Venue: Goldfields Game Ranch
- 8 Kilometers outside Virginia on the R730 Virginia (28°12'38.64"S; 26°49'8.07"E)

For further details please refer to the attached document.

Kind regards,  
EIMS Public Participation Team



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Ria Barkhuizen (GP)  
ENGINEERING

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