



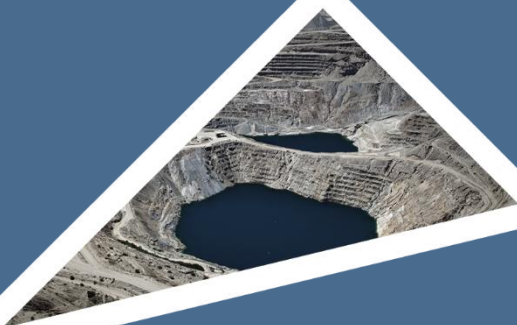
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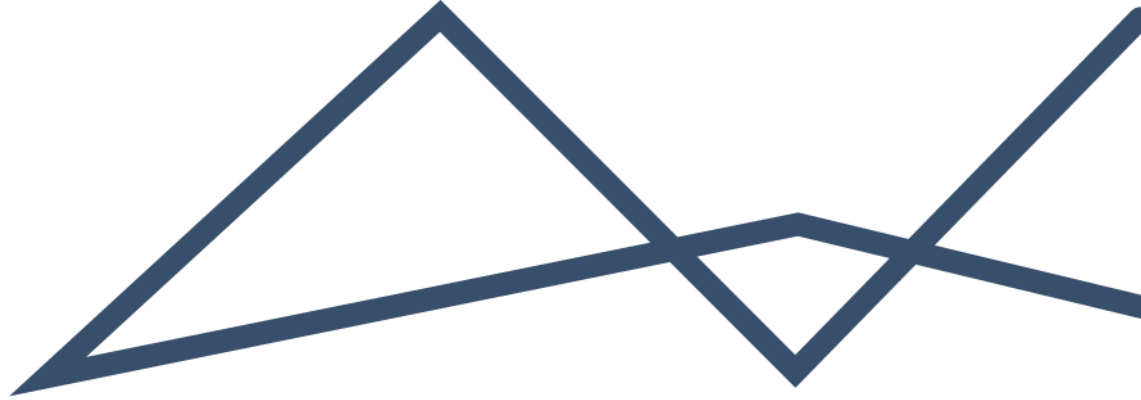
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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT

D3 ENERGY SOUTH AFRICA (PTY) LTF
PRODUCTION RIGHT 16 EA APPLICATION

SEPTEMBER 2026





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ABBREVIATION LIST:

CER:	Centre for Environmental Rights
CSA:	Conservation South Africa
CSIR:	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
DFFE:	Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment
DMPR:	Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources
DWS:	Department of Water and Sanitation
EA:	Environmental Authorisation
EAP:	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA:	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIMS:	Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd
EWT:	Endangered Wildlife Trust
FSE:	Federation for a Sustainable Environment
I&APs:	Interested and Affected Parties
MACUA:	Mining Affected Communities United in Action
MEJCON-SA:	Mining and Environmental Justice Community Network South Africa
NEMA:	National Environmental Management Act
NERSA:	National Energy Regulators of South Africa
PASA:	Petroleum Agency of South Africa
PPP:	Public Participation Process
PSSC:	Free State Provincial Shared Services Centre
SACAA:	South African Civil Aviation Authority
SAHRA:	South African Heritage Resources Agency
SANDF:	South African National Defence Force
SANRAL:	South African National Roads Agency
SAWEA:	South African Wind Energy Association
SR:	Scoping Report
VEJA:	Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance
WESSA:	Wetlands and Environmental Society South Africa



1 INTRODUCTION

D3 Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd (previously Motuoane Energy (Pty) Ltd¹ (hereafter referred to as D3 Energy or the Applicant) has appointed Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS) as the Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist with undertaking the required authorisation processes (including the statutory public participation), and to compile and submit the required documentation in support of application for:

- Environmental Authorisation (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amendment for the following listed activity - GNR 984 Activity 20.

The applicant wishes to convert a portion of their existing Exploration Right area (ER315) into a Production Right (PR). The proposed exploration and production will target helium and methane gas, and will consist of up to 48 exploration wells which up to 43 will be converted into production wells, gas gathering pipelines, a helium recovery and gas processing plant (CNG or LNG) and associated infrastructure. In addition, ongoing exploration activities will include drilling of exploration wells, seismic and/or audio magnetotelluric surveys.

The proposed project falls within the Masilonyana and Matjhabeng Local Municipalities, in the Lejweleputswa District Municipality, Free State Province. The application area covers approximately 14 440 hectares (ha), and the approximate centre point of the site is located at 28°14'38.37"S and 26°57'54.97"E. The site boundary is ~15km southeast of the town of Virginia, ~28km southeast of the town of Welkom, ~13km southwest of the town of Ventersburg and ~21km northeast of the town of Theunissen.

2 OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

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

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

During the Environmental Authorisation:

- Verify that their issues have been recorded;

¹ It must be noted that that D3 Energy South Africa has recently changed its name from Motuoane Energy (Pty) Ltd. The EA Application / Project have been **changed from Motuoane Production Right 16 EA Application**, Within Various Farms in Matjhabeng and Masilonyana Local Municipalities, Lejweleputswa District Municipalities, Free State Province, South Africa **to D3 Energy Production Right 16 EA Application**, Within Various Farms in Matjhabeng and Masilonyana Local Municipalities, Lejweleputswa District Municipalities, Free State Province, South Africa and will be reflected accordingly in the final submission of the EIA Report and EA Application Form.



- Comment on the findings of the environmental assessments; and
- Provide relevant local information and knowledge to the environmental assessment.

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

- Compliance with international best practice options;
- Compliance with national legislation;
- Establishment and management of relationships with key stakeholder groups; and
- Encouragement of involvement and participation in the environmental study and authorisation/approval process.

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

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

This Public Participation Report (PPR) lists all verbal and written issues raised by I&APs during the call to register period from the 17th of November 2025 to date. A breakdown of the PPP is given within the remaining sections of this PPR.

3 LEGAL COMPLIANCE

The PPP must comply with all environmental legislation that requires public participation as part of an application for authorisation or approval; namely, the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998).

Adherence to the requirements of the above-mentioned Act will allow for an Integrated PPP to be conducted, and in so doing, satisfy the requirements for public participation referenced in the Act. The details of the Integrated PPP are provided below.

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

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



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

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

4.1 LIST OF ORGANS OF STATE IDENTIFIED AND NOTIFIED

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) | • Free State Provincial Shared Services Centre (PSSC) |
| • Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) | • Lejweleputswa Development Agency |
| • Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources Free State Regional office | • Lejweleputswa District Municipality |
| • Department of Rural Development and Land Reform | • Masilonyana Local Municipality |
| • Eskom Soc Ltd | • Matjhabeng Local Municipality |
| • Lejweleputswa District Municipality | • Department of Agriculture |
| • Free State Department of Agriculture and Rural Development | • Department of Land Reform, And Rural Development (DLRRD) |
| • Free State Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs | • Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment |
| • Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs | • Department of Transport |
| • Free State Department of Police, Roads, and Transport | • Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) |
| • Free State Department of Public Works and Infrastructure | • National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) |
| • Free State Department of Water and Sanitation | • National House of Traditional Leaders |
| • Free State Development Corporation | • National Transmission Company South Africa (NTCSA) |
| • Free State Heritage Resources Authority | • Petroleum Agency of South Africa (PASA) |
| | • PetroSA |
| | • Presidential Climate Change Commission |
| | • SA PGM & Gold Operations |
| | • Sedibeng Water |
| | • Seriti Green |
| | • Sibanye Stillwater |



- Sola Group
- South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)
- South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)
- South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
- South African National Defence Force (SANDF)
- South African National Roads Agency Ltd (SANRAL)
- South African Radio Astronomy Observatory
- Subsolar Energy (Pty) Ltd
- Tetra4
- Transnet Freight Rail
- Transnet Pipelines
- Transnet Soc Ltd
- Vaal Central Water

4.2 LIST OF OTHER KEY I&APS IDENTIFIED AND NOTIFIED

- Pre-identified and registered landowners and surrounding landowners.
- African Carbon Energy (Pty) Ltd
- AgriSA
- African Conservation Trust
- AfriForum
- Birdlife South Africa
- Botanical Society of South Africa
- Centre for Environmental Rights (CER)
- Conservation South Africa (CSA)
- Corona Energy (Pty) Ltd
- Council for Geoscience
- Earth Life Africa
- Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)
- Federation for a Sustainable Environment (FSE)
- FrackFree South Africa
- Free State Wetland Forum
- Gersteen Trust
- Green Connection
- GroundWork South Africa
- GUBICO
- Hennenman Farmers Union
- Matjhabeng Ratepayers Association
- Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA)
- Mining and Environmental Justice Community Network South Africa (MEJCON-SA)
- Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty) Ltd
- Natural Justice
- Optavit Boerdery
- Pele Green Energy
- Red Rocket Energy (Pty) Ltd
- Richard Summers Inc
- South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA)
- Southern African Faith Communities Environment Institute
- Tara Wildlife South Africa
- The Green Connection
- Thebelele Energy Facility (RF)(Pty) Ltd
- Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance (VEJA)
- Warburtons Attorneys
- Wesboerdery
- Wildlife and Environmental Society South Africa (WESSA)



5 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

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

5.1 INITIAL NOTIFICATION OF KEY I&APS

The PPP commenced on the 17th of November 2025 with an initial call to register notification. Notification during this initial consultation was given in the manner described below.

5.1.1 FAXES, REGISTERED MAIL AND EMAILS

Notification letters (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) were distributed to pre-identified I&APS through either faxes, SMSs, registered mail, and/or emails on the 19th of November 2025.

The notification documents included the following information:

- Authorisations required;
- Sufficient detail of the proposed development to enable I&APs to assess/surmise what impact the development will have on them or the use of their land;
- The purpose of the proposed project;
- Details of the application processes associated with proposed activities;
- Details of the affected properties;
- Details of the South African environmental legislation that must be adhered to;
- Contact details of the EAP.

Please refer to **APPENDIX 2** for initial notification and proofs.

5.1.2 NEWSPAPER AND GAZETTE ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) describing the proposed project EIA process were placed in the Vista Newspaper with circulation in the vicinity of the study area on the 20th of November 2025. The Gazette Notice was placed in the National Government Gazette on the 14th of November 2025. The newspaper and Gazette Notice adverts included the following information:

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

Please refer to **APPENDIX 3** for proof of the advert and gazette notice placed.

5.1.3 SITE NOTICE PLACEMENT

Fifty (50) A1 Correx site notices including Seven (7) Posters (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) were placed at 57 locations around the proposed project study area from the 17th to the 19th of November 2025. The on-site notices included the following information:

- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;



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

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

5.2 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES OF SCOPING REPORT AVAILABILITY

Notification (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) regarding the availability of the Scoping Report for public review and comment were provided to pre-identified and registered I&APs. The notifications were distributed through either email, registered mail, fax, and/or SMS, where contact details are available.

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

Hard Copies of the Scoping Reports were placed at the Welkom, Virginia, Meloding, Thabong, and Theunissen Public Libraries for a period of 30 days, from 23 January 2026 to 23 February 2026. An electronic copy of the Scoping Report was made available on the EIMS Public Participation Website from 23 January 2026.

Please refer to **APPENDIX 5** for proof of Scoping Report Availability notification.

5.3 SCOPING PHASE PUBLIC MEETING

Public meeting notifications were distributed to pre-identified and registered I&APs through email, SMS, and Faxes. The notification included details regarding when the public meeting will be held, the venue, and the time of the meeting. The notifications were distributed in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho. The Scoping Phase public meeting was held on the 18th of February 2026 between 15:00 to 17:30 at Harmonie Primary School. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the findings of the Scoping Report with Interested and Affected Parties.

Please refer to **APPENDIX 6** and **APPENDIX 7** for the public meeting record.

5.4 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES OF EIA REPORT AVAILABILITY

Notification (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) regarding the availability of the EIA Report for public review and comment will be provided to pre-identified and registered I&APs. The notifications will be distributed through either email, registered mail, fax, and/or SMS, where contact details are available.

Contact details will be provided to I&APs should they require assistance accessing the information or require copies of the reports.

A hard copy of the EIA Report will be placed at the Welkom Virginia, Meloding, Thabong, and Theunissen Public Libraries. An electronic copy of the EIA Report will be made available on the EIMS Public Participation Website.

6 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

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



Table 1: Summary of Public Participation Opportunities

Action	Description	Publication/Place	Date
Initial Call to Register	Notification of landowners, occupiers, and other key I&APs.	Affected landowners and key I&APs were notified via email, fax, SMSs and/or post.	19 November
	Placement of site notices.	Fifty A1 Correx site notices and Seven Posters (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) were placed at 57 locations in and around the proposed project study area.	17 to 19 November
	Newspaper advertisement and Gazette Notice.	Advertisements (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) describing the proposed project and EIA process were placed in the Vista Newspaper. The Gazette Notice was placed in the National Government Gazette	20 November 2025 (Newspaper) 14 November 2025 (Gazette Notice)



Action	Description	Publication/Place	Date
Availability of Scoping Report for public review	Placement of hard copy Scoping Report.	One hard copy of the report was placed at each public library, namely Welkom Public Library, Meloding Public Library, Thabong 1 Public Library, Theunissen Public Library, and Virginia Public Library where members of the public can access the reports.	23 January 2026
	Placement of Scoping Report electronic copy.	An electronic copy of the report was placed on the EIMS website. A data free service will be made available to anyone who has limitations with respect to data downloads.	23 January 2026
Public Meeting	Scoping Phase Public Meeting	A public meeting for the Scoping Phase was held with all members of the public invited to attend, at Harmonie Public School.	18 February 2026

7 RECORD OF ISSUES RAISED

Comments on the proposed project were solicited from pre-identified and registered I&APs and key stakeholders. To date, the following comments have been received:

- I&AP registration.
- I&APs requested for map files for the proposed project.
- I&APs requested for the proposed project description and related documentation.



- An I&AP asked for the project expected timeline.
- SANRAL indicated that they are not directly impacted by proposed project.
- Transnet pipelines have no objections to the proposed project.
- An NGO requested that more copies of the Scoping Report be distributed to local libraries around the project area.
- An I&AP enquired about the methods that were used to advertise the proposed project and accessibility for the reports.
- I&APs requested information on affected farms.
- I&APs raised an issue that needed to be fixed on the EIMS website.
- I&APs raised concerns regarding the project not meeting needs and desirability of the area.
- I&APs raised concerns regarding the impact of the project in the area.
- The Scoping Report carries unacceptable assumptions and expectations.
- Concerns regarding effects on the climate and the inadequacies in the statements made in the Scoping Report.
- Enquiries on how stakeholders were identified.
- Concerns that the Scoping Report has an inadequate representation of climate change impact.
- Concerns that the public participation process had limitations.
- An I&AP requested for the meeting presentation documents.
- I&APs raised concerns regarding the effects of the project on air quality and inadequate evidence of air quality assessments in the area.
- I&APs indicated that the Scoping Report makes it difficult to determine the effects of the proposed project on aquifers.
- Concerns that the area is already dry and the project might lead to further water loss.
- An I&AP mentioned that the Scoping report in some parts might not be following the social impact assessment guidelines.
- Concerns that the needs and desirability of the proposed project were inadequately assessed.
- Concerns that the proposed project might have a negative impact on heritage features.
- I&APs raised concerns about the specialist studies not being adequate.
- The DFFE Biodiversity and Conservation indicated that they have no objection to the proposed project, they additionally submitted the recommendations/concerns below:
 - The study overlaps with some critical Biodiversity areas.
 - Concerns that the proximity to nature reserves elevates ecological sensitivity.
 - Recommendation that DWS must be added as a key I&AP due to surrounding wetlands.
 - Concerns regarding cumulative impacts of prolonged drilling.
- PASA submitted the following comments and recommendations:
 - Needed clarity on further applications in regards to water use and air emissions.
 - Cautioning regarding wording used in regards to visual impacts.
 - Needed more clarity regarding the helium recovery facility.



- Needed clarity on how the dissolved substances from the evaporation pond will be managed.
- A suggestion that in the next phase of notifications, isiXhosa be added as a language in the notifications.

All comments and/or queries received to date are included in this report and presented in



APPENDIX 8. Please refer to **APPENDIX 9** for proof of correspondence.

8 CONCLUSION

The comments received during the initial call to register period to date were used to inform the compilation of this PPR. This report will be updated for submission to the administrative authority, the Petroleum Agency South Africa (PASA) following the 30-day public participation period.



9 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: I & AP DATABASE

Please note that in an effort to protect the personal information of the Registered I&AP's the contact information of the I&APs will not be made publicly available. Should you require access to this document for the purposes of fulfilling your obligations under the NEMA EIA Regulations or other lawful right, please feel free to contact the EIMS Information officer at 011 789 7170 or popia@eims.co.za



APPENDIX 2: INITIAL NOTIFICATION PROOF

Please note that in an effort to protect the personal information of the Registered I&AP's the contact information of the I&APs will not be made publicly available. Should you require access to this document for the purposes of fulfilling your obligations under the NEMA EIA Regulations or other lawful right, please feel free to contact the EIMS Information officer at 011 789 7170 or popia@eims.co.za



APPENDIX 3: NEWSPAPER AND GAZETTE NOTICE PROOF



APPENDIX 4: SITE NOTICE PROOF



APPENDIX 5: SCOPING REPORT AVAILABILITY NOTIFICATION

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APPENDIX 6: PUBLIC MEETING NOTIFICATION



APPENDIX 7: PUBLIC MEETING RECORD

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APPENDIX 8: TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCE



APPENDIX 9: CORRESPONDENCE DOCUMENT

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