



**MINISTRY OF ENERGY  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION 724.**

**Mr J F Smalle (DA) to ask the Minister of Energy:**

- 1) On what date does he estimate that the (a) feasibility study on the Solar Park in Upington will be completed and (b) grip upgrade will be completed to ensure that electricity generated at the Solar Park will be delivered to the national grid.
- 2) Whether there has been delay with this project, if not, how was this conclusion reached, if so, on what date does she estimate the first solar power from the Park will be available for the grid.

**Reply**

- 1) (a) The Department, in conjunction with the implementing Agency, CEF Pty Ltd, the Northern Cape Provincial Government and //Khara Hais Municipality, is in the process of finalizing the procurement process for the appointment of the feasibility study consultant. The bid evaluation process is complete and adjudication will take place by the end of March 2012, followed by contract negotiations. It is expected that the successful bidder will resume duty before the end of May 2012. The study period is planned to take place over 8 months.
- 2) Delays were encountered after the tender documents were released resulting in the delay in the finalization of the appointment of consultants. The Department of Energy is working closely with Eskom's integration project to make sure that the first solar power from the park is available by 2016/17, depending on the positive outcome of the feasibility study.