



Tuesday, 23 January 2024

***ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF SEROWE CBM PROJECT - A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE***

**Highlights:**

- **Environmental approval granted for development of the Serowe CBM gas project, Project Naledi.**
- **Critical component of Mining Licence - application in progress.**
- **Operations recommence at Botala's maiden commercial well pilot, Project Pitse.**
- **Important milestone in the 20MW solar/gas hybrid commercial pilot under development.**
- **Preparation for 3-hole exploration programme underway.**
- **Two further Environmental Impact Assessments in advanced appraisal process for development of the Serowe and Leupane Energy Hubs hybrid gas/solar plants.**

Botala Energy Ltd (ACN 626 751 620) ("**Botala**") is pleased to advise that it has received environmental approval to proceed with commercial development of its Serowe Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Project (called Project *Naledi*) near Serowe, complete with a ~100km pipeline from the wellfield to its proposed Leupane Energy Hub and Industrial Park near Palapye. The approval was granted on schedule and without public objections following appraisal of Botala's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which included comprehensive community consultations.

As operator of the Naledi CBM Project, Botala plans to develop the CBM well field. It is in advanced stages of requesting conversion of some of its prospecting licences to Mining Licences following successful CBM exploration.

Development will consist of:

- Well heads and gas gathering network of subsurface pipes connected to the Central Processing Facility within the wellfield for removal of water and impurities.
- Gas supply to the proposed 20MW gas/solar hybrid pilot in Serowe, currently under advanced planning.
- Gas being compressed into an export pipeline to the proposed Leupane Energy Hub and Industrial Park.
- Water disposal from evaporation ponds; a reverse osmosis plant to treat saline water is under consideration.
- Network of infield pipelines and service tracks.

This environmental approval is a significant milestone. Two other EIAs are in their final assessment processes, namely: developments of the Serowe Energy Hub and the Leupane Energy Hub and Industrial Park. The EIAs for these downstream projects are out for public assessment which is the final stage before awarding approval.

**Project Pitse - Update**

Operations have recommenced at project Pitse with a coring rig set to mobilise to site during the week commencing 22 January. Cores will be taken from the three intersected seams in the fifth and final well, Serowe-3.4, of this 5-well pilot cluster, for desorption testing in our field laboratory. Once the cores have been retrieved, the four wells will be completed.

Surface and downhole equipment from Brisbane has started to arrive in Botswana with the final containers due to land in Durban within the next 2 weeks.

## Exploration Programme

Ground magnetics and AMT lines have commenced for a 3 'slim-hole' exploration drilling campaign, with the aim of increasing our geological understanding and lithology in large step-outs from the Pitse area. The wells are not designed for production. Current operations are in:

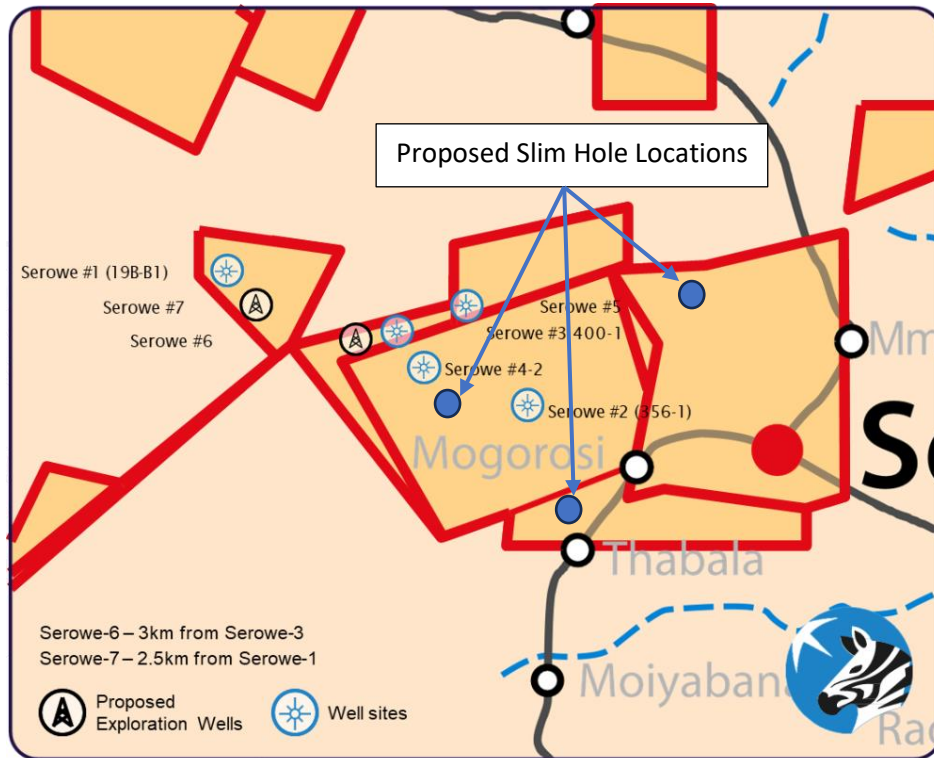


Figure 1 - Botala Licence Map & Proposed Exploration wells

## Mining Licence Application

Application for the conversion of Prospecting Licences 356, 400 and 19 to Mining Licences is in progress. The granted environmental approval is a key consideration in approving this conversion, as is our about to be completed Feasibility Study. Botala anticipates submitting its application for a Mining Licence in January 2024.

***Botala CEO Kris Martinick commented "Awarding of Environmental Approval is always a major milestone for any project. It reduces the number of remaining hurdles for development of this project. We are excited to have recommenced operations after a well-earned break across the Christmas period."***

This ASX announcement was approved and authorised for release by the CEO.

Yours faithfully  
**BOTALA ENERGY LTD**

Kris Martinick  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**For more information please contact:**

Kris Martinick.

This report is lodged on Botala's website, [www.botalaenergy.com](http://www.botalaenergy.com)

## **About Botala**

ASX-listed Botala is exploring and developing production of coal bed methane (**CBM**) from its 70% owned Serowe CBM Project which is located in a high-grade CBM region of Botswana. The remaining 30% are owned by ASX-listed Pure Hydrogen Corporation Ltd pursuant to a joint venture agreement with Botala. As Operator, Botala is focussed on developing the Serowe CBM Project and related early-stage renewable energy opportunities and believes that there are considerable opportunities for Botala to commercialise CBM because of the demand for reliable and affordable energy in Botswana and neighbouring countries.

## **Forward-looking Statements**

This document may contain certain statements that may be deemed forward-looking statements. Forward looking statements reflect Botala's views and assumptions with respect to future events as at the date of the Announcement and are subject to a variety of unpredictable risks, uncertainties, and other unknowns that could cause actual events or results to differ materially from those anticipated in the forward-looking statements. Actual and future results and trends could differ materially from those set forth due to various factors that could cause results to differ materially include but are not limited to: industry conditions, including fluctuations in commodity prices; governmental regulation of the gas industry, including environmental regulation; economic conditions in Botswana and globally; geological technical and drilling results; predicted production and reserves estimates; operational delays or an unanticipated operating event; physical, environmental and political risks; liabilities inherent in gas exploration, development and production operations; fiscal and regulatory developments; stock market volatility; industry competition; and availability of capital at favourable terms. Given these uncertainties, no one should place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements attributable to Botala, or any of its affiliates or persons acting on its behalf. Although every effort has been made to ensure this Announcement sets forth a fair and accurate view, we do not undertake any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether because of new information, future events or otherwise.