

05 December 2021

Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
Arcadia

**EXTENSION OF GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR
THE GUNSTFONTEIN WIND FARM, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

FINAL BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT (DEFF REF: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2228)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached electronic copies of the Final Basic Assessment report, Environmental Management Programme and associated appendices for the environmental authorisation (EA) for the Gunstfontein grid extension connection corridor and associated infrastructure, Karoo Hoogland Municipality Local Municipality, the Northern Cape Province.

Gunstfontein Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd proposes the construction and operation of a grid connection extension solution (DEFF refence: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2228) for the authorised Gunstfontein Wind Farm (DEFF Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/826), near Sutherland, Northern Cape Province. The grid connection extension solution will include the development of a single- or double-circuit 132kV overhead power line to connect the Gunstfontein Wind Farm to the national grid, via the Hidden Valley substation. The proposed 132kV Overhead line (OHL) extension will be an extension of the already authorised Gunstfontein Grid Connection (DEFF Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1619).

The 200MW Gunstfontein Wind Farm received an Environmental Authorisation in 2016, from the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) (DEFF ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/826). A second Environmental Authorisation for the Gunstfontein Grid Connection (14/12/16/3/3/1/1619), including switching station, 132kV overhead power line and ancillary infrastructure, was granted on 17 February 2017. The authorised grid connection infrastructure currently terminates at the Heuwels Substation (located on Soetwater Wind Farm), however upon further investigation it has been identified that the Heuwels substation will not have sufficient capacity to export the power from the Gunstfontein Wind Farm to the national grid. It is therefore necessary to by-pass Heuwels substation and extend the authorised grid connection to connect to the Hidden Valley substation (located on Karusa Wind Farm) located ~7.5km south of the Heuwels substation. This connection will operate together with the authorised power line from the Gunstfontein Wind Farm and will include the development of specific grid extension infrastructure in order to enable the Gunstfontein Wind Farm to connect to the national Eskom grid. The infrastructure includes:

- » A single- or double-circuit 132kV overhead power line on a single set of pylon structures (up to 32m in height); and
- » Associated infrastructure:
- » Laydown areas (temporary).
- » Access and service tracks.
- » A single 132kV incoming line bay at the Hidden Valley substation of up to 1ha, located within the HV yard of the substation (separately authorised).

A BA Report for the project was compiled and made available for public review from 04 September to 05 October 2020. Subsequently, an extension notice was submitted in terms of Regulation 19(1)(b) of the EIA regulations, 2014 (as amended), following further layout refinements. The revised report and updated layout was then made available for further review and comment and was available for download from the Savannah Environmental website: <https://www.savannahsa.com/public-documents/grid-infrastructure/gunstfontein-wind-farm/>. The 30-day review and comment period of the revised draft BA Report was from **11 December 2020 to 01 February 2021**.

All comments received during the public disclosure for the project has been responded to and incorporated (as applicable) in this final Basic Assessment report (and associated appendices), submitted for authority decision making.

Please note: this project has been bid under the DMRE's Risk mitigation IPP Procurement Programme (RMIPPPP), and is currently under review for Preferred Bidder Status under this programme.

Please acknowledge receipt of this revised draft basic assessment report, EMPr and associated appendices in writing. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely

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