

AMENDMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY ON THE EASTERN PLATEAU (NORTH) NEAR DE AAR, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

DEA REF NO.: 12/12/20/2463/2



JUNE 2014

aurecon

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: AMENDMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Background

Longyuan Mulilo De Aar 2 North (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as Longyuan Mulilo De Aar 2 North) applied for environmental authorisation in 2012/2013 to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and associated infrastructure on the eastern plateau of De Aar (approximately 20 km to the east of the town).

A positive decision was issued on 1 March 2013. An amendment application was submitted to the Department to change the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) name from "Mulilo Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd" to "Longyuan Mulilo De Aar 2 North (Pty) Ltd". This amendment was granted on 10 June 2013. Activities for which authorisation was granted includes:

- GN R. 544: Items 10, 11 and 18
- GN R. 545: Item 1
- GN R. 546: Item 14

As part of the EIA process, the Environmental Management Programme (EMP) was submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for approval. In terms of Condition No. 15 of the Environmental Authorisation (EA), the EMP must be amended and submitted to the Department for written approval prior to the commencement of the activity.

For ease of reference, all amendments which were requested in the EA are listed in Table 1 together with an explanation as to how these requests were fulfilled in the amended EMP.

Purpose of this document

This document provides a summary of the amended Environmental Management Programme (EMP), as required in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2 August 2010, as amended). This document is to be submitted to the DEA and it further describes the public participation process undertaken to date.

Please review this Summary Document and, preferably, the full amended EMP, and submit your comments on the proposed project by **11 July 2014**. All documents will be available for review and comment at the De Aar Public Library, the Emthanjeni municipal offices and on the Aurecon website (www.aurecongroup.com change "Current Location" to "South Africa" and follow the "public participation" link where you will be asked to register with the above mentioned DEA Ref. no.). To comment, write a letter, call, fax or e-mail **Aurecon**:

Tamryn Johnson
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Table 1: EMP amendments requested in the EA

EA condition number	Condition	Information included in the EMP
16.1	The requirements and conditions of this authorisation.	All mitigation measures recorded in the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report and the EA are included in the EMP
16.2	A plant rescue and protection plan which allows for the maximum transplant of conservation important species	The Plant Rescue Plan is included in Appendix F of the EMP.
16.3	An open space management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility.	The Open Space Management Plan is included in Appendix K of the EMP.
16.4	A re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility including timeframes for restoration which must indicate rehabilitation within the shortest possible time after completion of construction activities to reduce the amount of habitat converted at any one time and to speed up the recovery to natural habitats.	The Vegetation Rehabilitation Plan is included in Appendix G of the EMP.
16.5	A storm water management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility.	The Stormwater and Erosion Management Plan is included in Appendix I of the EMP.
16.6	An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage.	The monitoring system is defined in Section 4.3.2 of the EMP.
16.7	An erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the facility.	The Stormwater and Erosion Management Plan is included in Appendix I of the EMP.
16.8	A transportation plan for the transport of turbine components, main assembly cranes and other large pieces of equipment.	An amendment application is being considered by the Department to allow for a delay in the submission of the Transportation Plan until closer to the time of construction. A letter from AECOM providing motivation for this delay is included in Appendix J of the EMP.
16.9	An avifauna and a bat monitoring programme to document the effect of the operation of the energy facility on avifauna and bats.	The Avifauna monitoring programme included in Appendix D of the EMP and the Bat monitoring programme is included in Appendix E of the EMP.
16.10	An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the EIA process.	The final site layout map (referred to as the Environmental Sensitivity Layout) is included in Appendix L. The Environmental Sensitivity Layout indicates the environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the EIA process.

EA condition number	Condition	Information included in the EMP
16.11	Measures to protect hydrological features, such as streams, rivers, pans, wetlands, dams and their catchments, and other environmental sensitive areas from construction impacts including the direct or indirect spillage of pollutants.	Measures to protect hydrological features from direct and indirect spillage of pollutants are included in section 4.3.2 of the EMP. Additional measures to protect hydrological features during the construction phase are included in the Stormwater and Erosion Management Plan (Appendix I of the EMP).

In compliance with condition 13 of the EA, a copy of the final site layout (referred to as the environmental sensitivity layout which is included in Appendix L of the EMP) has been updated to include the following information as shown in Table 2:

Table 2: Information requested in Condition 13 of the EA

Condition	Information provided
Turbine positions	All turbine positions are shown in the environmental sensitivity layout.
The preferred substation position	The location of the substation is indicated on the environmental sensitivity layout.
Foundation footprint	A typical turbine hard stand area, indicating the foundation footprint, is shown on the environmental sensitivity layout.
Internal roads indicating width	The internal road widths are discussed in the Preliminary Design Report (Appendix L of the EMP).
Surface water resources and water crossings	All surface water resources are indicated on the environmental sensitivity layout and water crossings are indicated. A description of the typical water crossings is included in the Preliminary Design Report (Appendix L of the EMP). All watercourse crossings will be installed in accordance with the Department of Water Affairs guidelines.
Location of heritage sites	Heritage areas have been indicated as “no-go” areas on the environmental sensitivity layout. Heritage buffer areas are also indicated on the environmental sensitivity layout.
Substation site including its entire footprint	The location of the substation, including its entire footprint, is indicated on the environmental sensitivity layout.
Connection routes to the distribution / transmission network	The electrical reticulation routes are indicated on the environmental sensitivity layout.
All existing infrastructure on site, especially roads	Existing infrastructure is indicated on the map.
Buildings	Buildings are indicated on the environmental sensitivity layout
All no-go areas	All “no-go” areas are indicated on the environmental sensitivity layout.

The environmental sensitivity map (final site layout) is included in Appendix L of the EMP and is subject to approval from DEA.

Longyuan Mulilo De Aar 2 North appointed a bat and avifaunal specialist to undertake 12 months of pre- and post-construction bird and bat monitoring on the site. These reports were submitted to the DEA in terms of the EA dated 1 March 2013 for review.

In a letter received from the DEA dated 19 May 2014 acknowledging receipt of the pre-construction bird monitoring reports, it states that: *“following a review of the Bird Monitoring Reports, this Department supports the recommendations of the Bird Monitoring Reports. It is noted that the EMPr and the site layout plan needs to be amended and submitted to this Department for approval. As such, the recommendations of the Bird Monitoring Reports, must be incorporated into the EMPr”*. In accordance with the DEA’s request, Chapter 5 of the EMP (Operational Phase EMP) and site layout plan have been amended to incorporate the recommendations of the Bird Monitoring Reports.

The final 12-month pre-construction Bat Monitoring Report was submitted to the DEA on 19 May 2014. Chapter 5 of the EMP (Operational Phase EMP) has been updated to incorporate the recommendations of the Bat Monitoring Reports. It is noted that this inclusion of the recommendations of the Bat Monitoring Reports is subject to DEA’s approval of the Bat Monitoring Report

Condition 15 of the EA states that: *“the Environmental Management Plan (EMPr) submitted as part of the application for environmental authorisation must be amended and submitted with the abovementioned layout to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity”*. The Department’s letter dated 19 May 2014 states that: *“this Department awaits the amended EMPs and site layout plan for approval”*. In accordance with condition 15 and the Department’s letter dated 19 May 2014, the EMP and the final site layout have been amended and are subject to approval.

The Department has requested that Longyuan Mulilo De Aar 2 North conduct Public Participation as per regulation no. 46(5)(a) of GN R.543 in order to bring the proposed amendment to the attention of potential interested and affected parties, including organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity.

Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Aurecon) has been appointed by Longyuan Mulilo De Aar 2 North to undertake the public participation process for this EMP amendment.

Proposed project

Longyuan Mulilo De Aar 2 North has recently received preferred bidder status from the Department of Energy (DoE) under the third round of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Programme (REIPPP) for the WEF near De Aar, Northern Cape.

The site is approximately 14 500 ha in extent and consists of 12 portions of six farms. The WEF comprises 96 wind turbines, each with a generation capacity of 1.5 MW. The potential generation capacity of the WEF has been limited to 140 MW in accordance to the Department of Energy’s cap on maximum number of megawatts.

Associated infrastructure would include:

- Hard standing adjacent to each turbine which will be utilised by the crane.
- Four temporary construction yards.
- Access roads between each turbine.
- Overhead electrical reticulation lines which will follow the route of the proposed access roads where possible.
- Substation / control building
- Transformer housed within each turbine or immediately outside the turbine
- Electricity distribution infrastructure comprising of three existing distribution lines

The recommendations of the 12 month pre-construction bird and bat monitoring have informed the final site layout plan. All specialists are in support of the new layout and their letters of agreement has been included in an Appendix in the EA Amendment Application that was also submitted to the DEA. Refer to Figure 1 below for the final site layout plan.

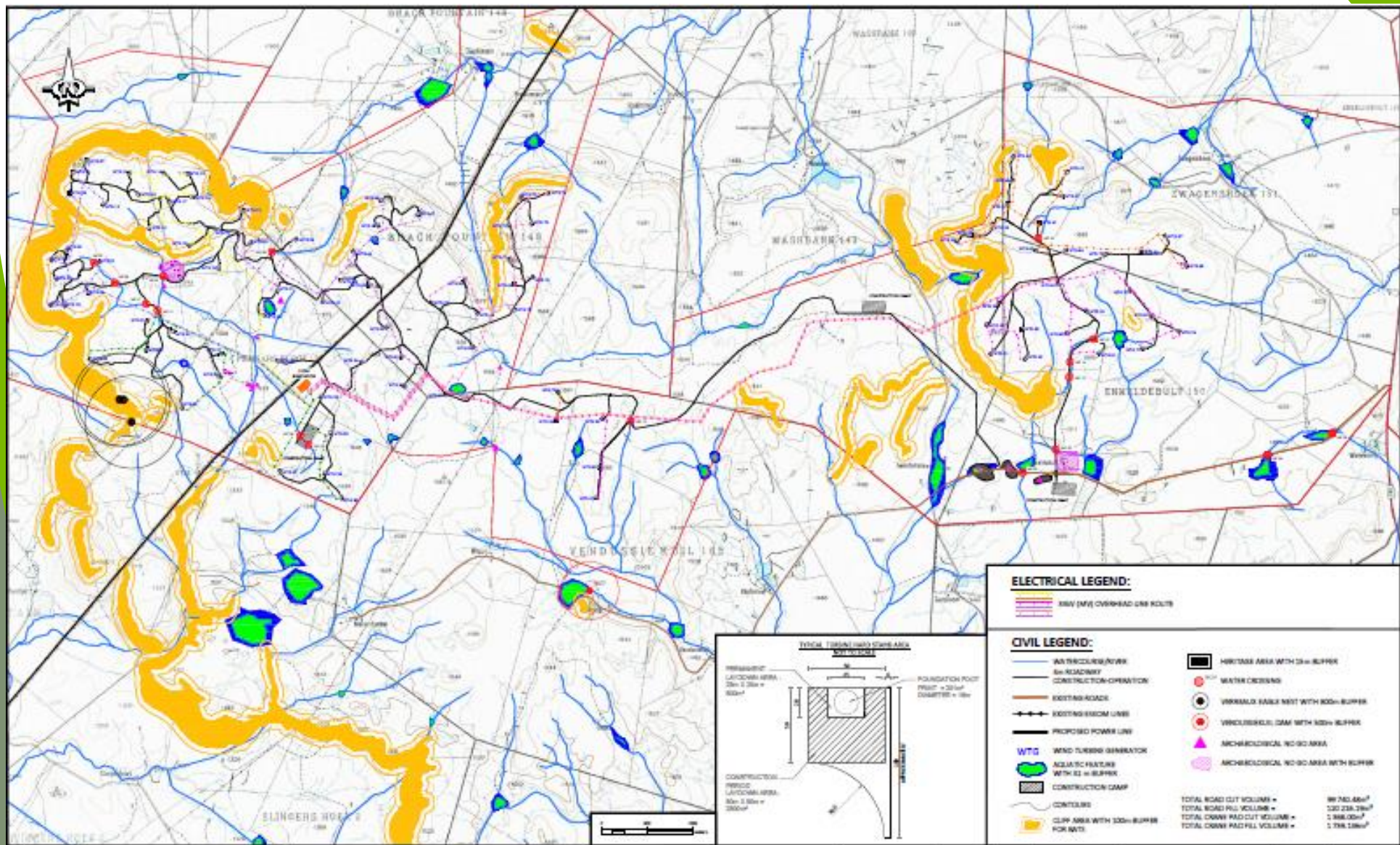


Figure 1: Final WEF layout including environmental sensitivity map (AECOM, 2014)

How you can get involved

Public participation enables Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) (e.g. directly affected landowners; national-, provincial- and local authorities; environmental groups; civic associations; and communities), to identify their issues and concerns, relating to the amendment of the EMP and site layout plan, which they feel should be addressed in the process. The public participation process to date has involved the following aspects:

- A site notice was placed at the De Aar Public Library and the Emthanjeni municipal offices, De Aar
- The EMP amendment was lodged for review and comment at the De Aar (Station Road) Public Library and the Emthanjeni municipal offices in Voortrekker Road, De Aar.
- All documentation was made available from the Aurecon website (www.aurecongroup.com – change “current location” to “South Africa” and click on the “public participation”- link where you will be asked to register with the above mentioned DEA Ref. No.).
- Registered I&APs were notified of the period available to submit their comments or concerns on the amended EMP by means of letters sent by post, fax or e-mail. I&APs have 30 days until **11 July 2014**, to submit their written comments on the amendment of the EMP and final layout.

Way forward

All written comments can be submitted to Aurecon (a Response Form is attached, for your convenience). All issues raised via written correspondence will be summarised into a Comments and Response Report (CRR) with responses from the project team and will be sent to DEA directly for their consideration.

Comments can be sent to Aurecon via telephone, fax, email or post to the following contact person:

Table 1: Details of the Public Participation contact person

EA Amendment Application for the De Aar 2 North WEF near De Aar, Northern Cape	
Tamryn Johnson	
Tel	(021) 526 5737
Fax	(021) 526 9500
Email	tamryn.johnson@aurecongroup.com
Postal address	PO Box 494, Cape Town, 8000

The amended EMP and final site layout plan will be submitted to DEA for their review regarding approval. The CRR will be submitted to the DEA upon completion of the 30 day public commenting period. The DEA will review the amended EMP, final site layout plan and CRR, and must either approve or request additional information where it may be amended and resubmitted.

Upon approval, all registered I&APs on the project database will be notified of the outcome of the decision, as well as the Appeal process.

List of Acronyms

DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DOE	Department of Energy
REIPPP	Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Programme
EA	Environmental Authorisation
ECO	Environmental Control Officer
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP / EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
FEIAR	Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report
GN	Government Notice
I&AP	Interested and Affected Party
kV	Kilovolt
MW	Megawatts
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
SPV	Special Purpose Vehicle
WEF	Wind Energy Facility