

# AMENDMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE LONGYUAN MULILO DE AAR WIND ENERGY FACILITY NEAR DE AAR, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

DEA REF NO.: 12/12/20/1651



JUNE 2014

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: AMENDMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

### Background

Longyuan Mulilo De Aar Wind Power (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as Longyuan Mulilo De Aar Wind Power) applied for environmental authorisation in 2010 to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and associated infrastructure on farms Smouspoort (remaining extent of Farm 130) and Zwartkoppies (remaining extent of portion 2 of Farm 131).

A positive decision was issued on 15 August 2011. 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 Wind Power (Pty) Ltd". This amendment was granted on 24 October 2011. Activities for which authorisation was granted includes:

- GN R 386: Items 7, 12 and 16(b)
- GN R 387: Items 1(a), 1(l), and 2

As part of the EIA process, the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) was submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for approval. In terms of Condition No. 3.1 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 Plan (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](http://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:

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**Table 1: EMP amendments requested in the EA**

<b>EA condition number</b>	<b>Condition</b>	<b>Information included in the EMP</b>
3.2.1	<i>Comprehensive rescue and storage in a suitable constructed nursery and storage area of plants deemed to be requiring either rescue for replanting and plans that will be useful during rehabilitation.</i>	The Plant Rescue Plan is included in Appendix 9 of the EMP.
3.2.2	<i>A detailed Revegetation and Rehabilitation Plan to be implemented during construction and operation.</i>	The Revegetation and Rehabilitation Plan is included in Appendix 10 of the EMP.
3.3.3	<i>A Rehabilitation Plan must be compiled to minimise adverse environmental impacts whilst maximising the future utilisation of the property.</i>	The Revegetation and Rehabilitation Plan (Appendix 10 of the EMP).
3.2.4	<i>An Open Space Management Plan (OSMP) must be incorporated in the EMP. The Open Space Management Plan must incorporate ecological process areas into the buffer as recommended by the wetland specialist.</i>	The OSMP is included in Appendix 13 of the EMP. The environmental sensitivity map, included as Figure 1 of the OSMP and in Appendix 14 of the EMP, shows the aquatic “no-go” areas and the surface water buffer.
8.2	<i>The applicant must compile an operational EMP for the operational phase of the activity.</i>	The Operational Phase EMP is included in Appendix 4 of the EMP.
9.1	<i>Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the applicant shall undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and competent authority at that time.</i>	The Decommissioning Phase EMP is included in Appendix 5 of the EMP.
10.2.5	<i>The applicant must ensure that the continuous monitoring and removal of alien plant species is undertaken. An alien removal program must be developed and implemented</i>	The Alien Invasive Plant Management Plan is included in Appendix 11 of the EMP.
10.11.1	<i>A comprehensive storm water management plan must be developed for the site to ensure compliance with applicable regulations and to prevent off-site migration of contaminated storm water or increased erosion. The comprehensive storm water management plan should form part of the EMP.</i>	The Stormwater and Erosion Management Plan is included in Appendix 12 of the EMP.

In accordance with condition 6.4 of the EA, a final layout plan (referred to as the environmental sensitivity layout which is included in Appendix 14 of the EMP) has been updated to include the following information as shown in Table 2:

**Table 2: Information requested in Condition 6.4 of the EA**

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Information provided</b>
Turbine positions	All turbine positions are shown in the environmental sensitivity layout.
Foundation footprint	A typical turbine hard stand area is shown on the environmental sensitivity layout.
Permanent laydown areas	Permanent laydown areas are indicated in the “typical turbine hard stand area” which is included on the environmental sensitivity layout.
Construction period laydown areas	Construction period laydown areas are indicated in the “typical turbine hard stand area” which is included on the environmental sensitivity layout.
Internal road widths	A “typical access track cross section” is included on the environmental sensitivity layout.
Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, streams and water crossings of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used	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 14 of the EMP). All watercourse crossings will be installed in accordance with the Department of Water Affairs guidelines.
Heritage sites that will be affected by the turbines and associated infrastructure	Heritage areas have been indicated as “no-go” areas on the environmental sensitivity layout. No heritage areas will be affected by the turbines and associated infrastructure.
Substation including their entire footprint	The entire footprint of the substation / control building is indicated on the environmental sensitivity layout.
Cable routes	The electrical reticulation routes are indicated on the environmental sensitivity layout.
Connection routes to the distribution / transmission network	The electrical reticulation routes are indicated on the environmental sensitivity layout.
Cut and fill areas at turbine sites along roads and at substation site indicating expected volume of each cut and fill	Cut and fill is discussed in the Preliminary Design Report (Appendix 14 of the EMP).
Borrow pits	There will be no borrow pits.
Spoil heaps	<p>Spoil sites have not yet been identified. However, spoil will be actively managed in accordance to the EMP during the construction phase. The following mitigation measures are included in the EMP to limit the impact of spoil:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The contractor shall submit a method statement to the ECO for approval for the undertaking of earthworks, including spoil management, erosion, dust and noise control.</li> <li>• In order to reduce the volume of spoil material, all excavated material will be used for road works and stormwater berms, where required.</li> <li>• Stockpiling of spoil material will not be allowed within the “no-go” areas.</li> <li>• In the event of material removed being excessive, the excess material must be removed from the construction site to a site agreed upon by the Engineer.</li> <li>• Stockpile areas must be approved by the Engineer before</li> </ul>

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Information provided</b>
	any stockpiling commences. Material stockpiles must be protected against wind and water erosion.
Buildings	Buildings are indicated on the environmental sensitivity layout
All “no-go”	All “no-go” areas are indicated on the environmental sensitivity layout.

The environmental sensitivity map (final site layout) is included in Appendix 14 of the EMP and is subject to approval from DEA.

Longyuan Mulilo De Aar Wind Power had appointed a bat and avifaunal specialist to undertake 12 months of pre- and post-construction bird and bat monitoring on the site. These reports dated April 2014, were submitted in terms of the EA dated 15 August 2011 to the DEA for review.

In a letter received from the DEA dated 26 May 2014, the Department stated that they supported the recommendations of the Bird and Bat Monitoring Reports and the recommendations must be incorporated in the EMP and the site layout needs to be amended. In accordance with the Department’s request, the final site layout plan (environmental sensitivity map) and the EMP have been amended to incorporate the recommendations of the Bird and Bat Monitoring Reports.

Condition 3.1 of the EA states that: “*the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) submitted as part of the application for environmental authorisation must be amended and submitted to the Department for written approval prior to the commencement of the activity*”. The Department’s letter dated 26 May 2014 states that: “*this Department awaits the amended EMPs and site layout plan for approval*”. In accordance with condition 3.1 and the Department’s letter dated 26 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 Wind Power 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 Wind Power to undertake the public participation process for this EMP amendment.

## **Proposed project**

Longyuan Mulilo De Aar Wind Power 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 11 767 ha in extent with the project footprint equating to less than 0.01 % (67 ha) of the total area. The WEF comprises of 67 turbines each with a generation capacity of 1.5 MW. The turbines will have a hub height of 80 m and a rotor blade diameter of up to 86 m. Associated infrastructure would include:

- Access roads and temporary turning circles.
- Hard standing adjacent to each turbine which will be utilised by the crane.
- Three temporary construction yards.
- Substation / control building.
- Overhead electrical reticulation lines which will follow the route of the proposed access roads where possible.

The recommendations of the 12 month pre-construction bird and bat monitoring have informed the final site layout plan and the new substation location has also been included. All specialists are in support of the new layout. Refer to Figure 1 below for the final site layout plan.



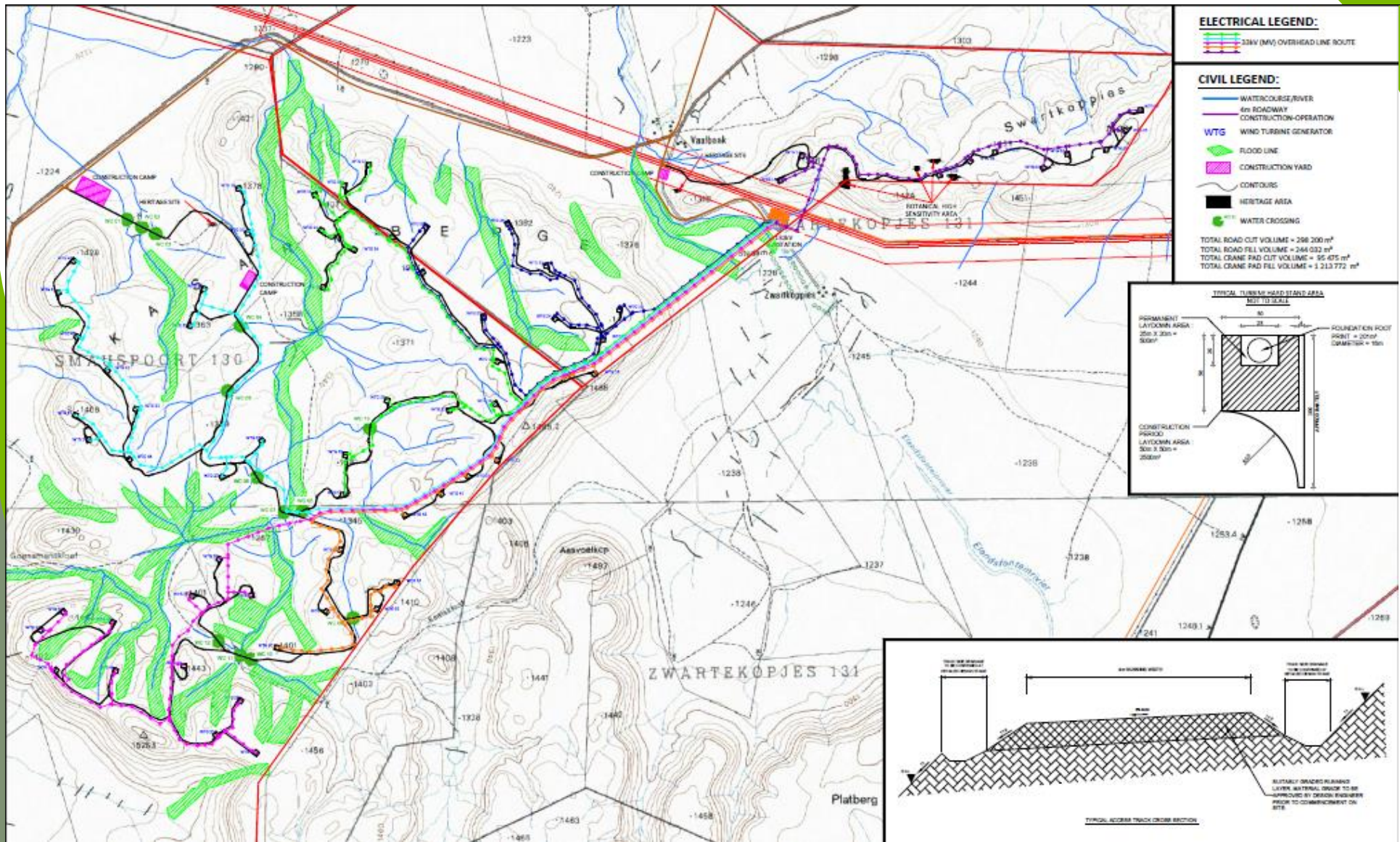


Figure 1: Final WEF layout including environmental sensitivity map (AECOM, 2014)

## 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 amended EMP 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](http://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**

<b>EMP Amendment Application for the De Aar WEF near De Aar, Northern Cape</b>	
<b>Tamryn Johnson</b>	
<i>Tel</i>	(021) 526 5737
<i>Fax</i>	(021) 526 9500
<i>Email</i>	<a href="mailto:tamryn.johnson@aurecongroup.com">tamryn.johnson@aurecongroup.com</a>
<i>Postal address</i>	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	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