

11 December 2020

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**

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**REVISED DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT (DEFF REF: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2228)**

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached electronic copies of the Revised Draft Basic Assessment report, Environmental Management Programme and associated appendices for the environmental authorisation (EA) for the Gunstfontein grid 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 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 has been compiled and was 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 report and updated layout has been made available for further review and comment and is available for download on 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 is from **11 December 2020 to 01 February 2021**. Please submit any further written comments on the project to the contact person below on or before 01 February 2021. This copy is hereby submitted for departmental review and comment during this public review period.

Please also note that the period 15 December – 5 January has been excluded in the reckoning of days available for public review.

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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