



**NALA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSULTING FIRM

14 December 2022

for Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)  
Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Road  
Arcadia  
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**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME REPORTS AND FINAL LAYOUT FOR THE 132KV POWERLINE AND 132KV SWITCHING STATION AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT THE SUTHERLAND AND RIETRUG WIND ENERGY FACILITIES (DFFE REF.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2457/AM1) NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS (AVAILABILITY OF LAYOUT AND EMPR FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT)- PRE-APPLICATION REFERENCE: 2022-10-0023**

Sutherland Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd received Environmental Authorisation (EA) (DFFE Ref: 12/12/20/1782/2) dated 10 November 2016 and further amendments to the EA dated, 25 November 2016, 25 August 2017, 10 March 2020, 08 June 2020, 20 July 2021 and the latest 06 December 2021 for the development of a 140MW Sutherland Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and associated infrastructure, in the Northern and Western Cape Provinces. The Sutherland Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd also received EAs for a new proposed onsite substation and associated electrical grid infrastructure to support issued on 14 March 2022 for the Sutherland WEF in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa. The EA for the onsite substation has been split into an Independent Power Producer (IPP) Portion EA Reference 14/12/16/3/3/1/2458, **Switching Station Portion and 132kV powerline EA Reference 14/12/16/3/3/1/2457**. Sutherland Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd has also been issued with an EA for Electrical Grid Infrastructure that supports the Sutherland, Sutherland 2 and Rietrug WEF, Northern & Western Cape Provinces (Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2077/AM2) authorised within a 500m grid corridor, this infrastructure consists of a 132kV overhead powerline, 400kV Main Transmission Substation (MTS) and 400kV powerline. A detailed description of the Eskom portion of the 132kV switching station and powerline project infrastructure is discussed below.

The infrastructure associated with the Switching Station Portion of the on-site substation and 132kV powerline is located on Remaining Extent of Nooitgedacht Farm 148 (DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2457/AM1) includes:

- Switching Station portion of the on-site substation:
- Fencing;
- 132kV distribution line from the proposed Sutherland WEF on-site substation to the Koring Main Transmission Substation (MTS) third party substation including tower/pylon infrastructure and foundations;



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- Connection to the Koring MTS third party substation; and
- Service road below the powerline.

The Generic EMPr's associated with the Eskom Portion of the on-site substation and 132kV powerline have not been approved as per the EA and will be made available for public review and comment as part of the public participation process.

It must be noted that the Eskom portion of the switching station and the 132kV powerline (0,25km) is located on Remainder of Farm Nooitgedact 148, which is the same property as the Sutherland Wind Energy Facility (DFFE Ref: 12/12/1782/2/AM6), therefore all management plans as developed by the specialists and EAP are applicable to the Eskom portion of the on-site switching station and powerline. As the switching station and powerline are located within the authorised Sutherland WEF site, the specialists undertaking the pre-construction walkthrough's as specified below have considered the IPP portion of the substation with the WEF.

The Sutherland WEF has been awarded preferred bidder status in round 5 of the Renewable Energy IPP Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) and in order to meet financial close requirements, all requirements in the EA's need to be adhered to, which specifies that the applicant must submit a Final Layout plan's and EMPr's to DFFE for written approval prior to commencement of the activities for the WEF and grid connection infrastructure. The recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the Environmental Impact Report dated September 2011 and Amendment dated August 2016, subsequent amendments for the WEF including the grid connection Basic Assessment reports dated December 2019 and January 2022 and final specialist walk-throughs must be incorporated as part of the Final EMPr's. Once approved, the EMPr's must be implemented and adhered to for WEF and all applicable grid connection infrastructure. As per the conditions of the EAs for the WEFs and grid connection infrastructure the applicant must submit a Final Layout plan's for the entire WEF and grid connection infrastructure for comment to Registered Interested and Affected Parties (IGAPs) prior to submission to the Department for approval.

In this regard, Sutherland Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd. is preparing prepared the Environmental Management Programme report's and Final Layout for review and comment. In accordance with Environmental Authorisation issued, the relevant EMPr's and Site Layout are available for a 30-day public comment and review period from **08 December 2022 to 30 January 2023 (both days inclusive)**. The relevant report can be downloaded from :

<https://nalaenvironmental.co.za/projects/final-environmental-management-programme-and-layout-for-the-authorised-140mw-sutherland-wind-energy-facility-and-associated-grid-connection-infrastructure-northern-and-western-cape-provinces/>

The Public Participation Process takes into consideration Regulation 37 published in Government Notice No.982 under Chapter 5, Part 4 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998 and subsequent amendments) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2014, as amended). Comments received from DFFE, public and organs of states will be incorporated, addressed and responded to in a Comments and Responses Report that will be submitted to DFFE with the Final EMPr's and Final Layout.

Nala Environmental was appointed as the independent environmental consultant to undertake the finalisation of the EMPr's and Final Layout for the grid connection infrastructure.



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As per the requirements of the EA's and specialist recommendations made during subsequent amendment process the following specialist pre-construction walk-through assessments were undertaken by suitably qualified and registered specialist to inform the Final Layout and EMPr's:

- Terrestrial Pre-construction Walk-through (Dr Wynand Vlok – David Hoare Consulting);
- Aquatic Pre-construction Walk-through (Brian Colloty - Envirosci);
- Avifauna Pre-construction Walk-through (Chris van Rooyen - Chris van Rooyen Consulting);
- Bat Pre-construction Walk-through (Werner Marais - Animalia);
- Heritage Pre-construction Walk-through (Jayson Orton - Asha Consulting); and
- Palaeontological Pre-construction Walk-through (Dr John Almond – Natura Viva).

**The following EMPr's are being submitted for public review and commenting:**

- 1) **The Generic EMPr associated with Eskom portion of the Acrux on-site substation(DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2457/AMI);**
- 2) **The Generic EMPr associated with the 132kV overhead powerline from the Eskom portion of the Acrux substation to the 132kV main grid line(DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2457/AMI).**

Kindly acknowledge receipt of the EMPrs and Walkthrough reports submitted for comment in writing. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries in this regard.

Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process. You are also welcome to share this information with others that you feel will have an interest in this process.

Kind regards,

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