



NALA
ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSULTING FIRM

12 December 2022

for Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)
Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
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Pretoria
0001

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME REPORT AND FINAL LAYOUT FOR THE AUTHORISED 140MW RIETRUG WIND ENERGY FACILITY, ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE (DFFE REF: 12/12/20/1782/1/AM5) NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS (AVAILABILITY OF LAYOUT AND EMPR FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT)- PRE-APPLICATION REFERENCE: 2022-10-0024

Rietrug Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd received Environmental Authorisation (EA) (DFFE Ref: 12/12/20/1782/1) dated 10 November 2016 and further amendments to the EA dated, 25 November 2016, 25 August 2017, 10 March 2020, 27 July 2021, and the latest 06 December 2021 for the development of a 140MW Rietrug Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and associated infrastructure, in the Northern Cape Province. The Rietrug WEF is also associated with the EAs received for a new proposed onsite substation and associated electrical grid infrastructure issued on 14 March 2022 for the Sutherland WEF in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa. The Rietrug WEF and the adjacent (south of the Rietrug WEF) Sutherland WEF will share the on-site substation and electrical grid infrastructure to connect to the National Grid. 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. An EA was issued 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 WEF project infrastructure is discussed below.

The WEF will include (as authorised):

- Up to 37 wind turbines with a hub height of up to 200m and rotor diameter of up to 200m.
- The wind turbines will be connected to another by means of medium voltage cable.
- An internal gravel road network will be constructed to facilitate movement between turbines on site. These roads will include drainage and cabling.
- A hard standing laydown area of a maximum of 10 000 m² will be constructed; and



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- A temporary site office will be constructed on site for all contractors, this would be approximately 5000m² in size.
- A 10km portion of the existing access road will be upgraded and widened to a width of 7 metres to facilitate abnormal loads to the Rietrug WEF site.

The properties associated with the Rietrug WEF include:

- Portion 1 of Beeren Valley Farm 150;
- Remaining Extent of Beeren Valley Farm 150;
- Remaining Extent of Nootgedacht Farm 148;

It must be noted that the EMPr (CSIR, 2019), and Addendum to the EMPr (Nala, July 2021) has been approved and will be included within the Appendices and the Final Layout for completeness.

The Rietrug 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 wind energy facility and grid connection infrastructure for comment to Registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) prior to submission to the Department for approval.

In this regard, Rietrug 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 Rietrug Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure, 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-authorized-140mw-rietrug-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 and Final Layout for the Rietrug WEF and associated grid connection infrastructure.



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As per the requirements of the EA 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 EMPr for the 140MW Rietrug Wind Energy Facility and associated infrastructure (DFFE Ref. 12/12/20/1782/1/AM5):**

It is to be noted that the EMPr associated with the 132kV overhead powerline, 400kV Koring MTS and 400kV powerline (DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2077/AM2) has been approved, but has been included in the appendices for completeness, this infrastructure has also been included within the Final Layout submitted for review and comment.

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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