

# Johann Lanz

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## **Environmental Authorisation Amendment Application for the Paulputs Wind Energy Facility (WEF), Northern Cape**

**DFFE reference number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1160**

Paulputs WEF (RF) (Pty) Ltd, received environmental authorisation for the Paulputs Wind Energy Facility (WEF) on 11 December 2019, DFFE Reference No. 14/12/16/3/3/2/1160. Paulputs WEF is currently authorised for a maximum of 75 wind turbines with a total generation capacity of 300 MW, each with a maximum hub height of 140 m (maximum blade tip height 230 m), one on-site substation (location A) and OHPL Option C was also approved for the Paulputs WEF.

The following 3 amendments are proposed to the above project. These are the result of splitting the authorised WEF, which was located both north and south of the N14, into two separate WEFs, one located north of the N14, and the other south.

### **1 Paulputs Wind Energy Facility North (RF) (Pty) Ltd**

This WEF is the 40 authorised turbines located north of the N14. The amendment is also for an increased hub height (from up to 140 m to up to 180 m) and rotor diameter (from up to 180 m to up to 220 m), and the inclusion of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

There are no agricultural impacts related to this proposed amendment. There are no agricultural advantages or disadvantages related to it. The amendment does not require any changes or additions to the mitigation measures for agricultural impacts that were recommended for the authorised WEF, and there are therefore no required changes to the EMP. The agricultural impact of the amended project will therefore be identical to the impact for the authorised WEF, that was assessed in my original specialist assessment report. Therefore, from an agricultural impact point of view, the amendment should be authorised.

### **2 Paulputs Wind Energy Facility South (RF) (Pty) Ltd**

This WEF is the 35 authorised turbines located south of the N14. The amendment is also for an increased hub height (from up to 140 m to up to 180 m) and rotor diameter (from up to 180 m to up to 220 m), and the inclusion of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

There are no agricultural impacts related to this proposed amendment. There are no agricultural advantages or disadvantages related to it. The amendment does not require any changes or additions to the mitigation measures for agricultural impacts that were recommended for the authorised WEF, and there are therefore no required changes to the EMPr. The agricultural impact of the amended project will therefore be identical to the impact for the authorised WEF, that was assessed in my original specialist assessment report. Therefore, from an agricultural impact point of view, the amendment should be authorised.

### **3 Paulputs Grid Connection and Electrical Infrastructure associated with the authorised Paulputs WEF**

The amendment involves utilising the authorised grid connection, only for the North WEF.

There are no agricultural impacts related to this proposed amendment. There are no agricultural advantages or disadvantages related to it. The amendment does not require any changes or additions to the mitigation measures for agricultural impacts that were recommended for the authorised WEF, and there are therefore no required changes to the EMPr. The agricultural impact of the amended project will therefore be identical to the impact for the authorised WEF, that was assessed in my original specialist assessment report. Therefore, from an agricultural impact point of view, the amendment should be authorised.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Lanz', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Johann Lanz (Pri. Sci. Nat.)

21 August 2020

**Site sensitivity verification  
for the Paulputs Wind Energy Facilities  
and electrical grid connections**

The Protocol for the specialist assessment and minimum report content requirements of environmental impacts on agricultural resources, gazetted on 20 March 2020, states that:

*prior to commencing with a specialist assessment, the current use of the land and the environmental sensitivity of the site under consideration, identified by the screening tool, must be confirmed by undertaking a site sensitivity verification that confirms or disputes the current use of the land and the environmental sensitivity as identified by the screening tool.*

In terms of the gazetted agricultural protocol, a site sensitivity verification must be submitted that:

- 1. confirms or disputes the current use of the land and the environmental sensitivity as identified by the screening tool, such as new developments or infrastructure, the change in vegetation cover or status etc;*
- 2. contains a motivation and evidence (e.g. photographs) of either the verified or different use of the land and environmental sensitivity.*

Agricultural sensitivity, in terms of environmental impact, and as used in the national web-based environmental screening tool, is a direct function of the capability of the land for agricultural production. The screening tool classifies agricultural sensitivity according to two criteria - the cultivation status and the land capability.

The proposed site is identified on the national web based environmental screening tool as being of predominantly low sensitivity for agricultural resources, with some areas of medium. This is because the site's land capability evaluation values classify it predominantly within the low sensitivity class (values of 1 to 5), with some areas within the medium sensitivity class (values of 6 to 8). A map of the proposed site overlaid on the screening tool sensitivity is given in Figure 1.

The agricultural sensitivity, as identified by the screening tool, is confirmed by this assessment. The motivation and evidence for confirming the sensitivity is that the low land capability of the area is predominantly a function of the arid climate. The aridity of the climate is entirely beyond dispute, and there is no particular evidence needed to show this. The differences between medium and low sensitivity on this site are largely insignificant and are more a result of the way the land capability data is generated per pixel, than any practical, on the ground differences in agricultural potential.



**Figure 1.** The proposed site (black outline) overlaid on agricultural sensitivity as identified by the screening tool (green = low; yellow = medium).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Lanz'.

J. Lanz (Pri. Sci.Nat.)  
21 August 2020



## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### DETAILS OF THE SPECIALIST, DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH

(For official use only)

File Reference Number:  
NEAS Reference Number:  
Date Received:

DEA/EIA/

Application for authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended (the Regulations)

#### PROJECT TITLE

Proposed Amendment of the Paulputs Wind Energy Facility, Northern Cape Province

#### Kindly note the following:

1. This form must always be used for applications that must be subjected to Basic Assessment or Scoping & Environmental Impact Reporting where this Department is the Competent Authority.
2. This form is current as of 01 September 2018. It is the responsibility of the Applicant / Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the form have been published or produced by the Competent Authority. The latest available Departmental templates are available at <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.
3. A copy of this form containing original signatures must be appended to all Draft and Final Reports submitted to the department for consideration.
4. All documentation delivered to the physical address contained in this form must be delivered during the official Departmental Officer Hours which is visible on the Departmental gate.
5. All EIA related documents (includes application forms, reports or any EIA related submissions) that are faxed; emailed; delivered to Security or placed in the Departmental Tender Box will not be accepted, only hardcopy submissions are accepted.

#### Departmental Details

##### Postal address:

Department of Environmental Affairs  
Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Private Bag X447  
Pretoria  
0001

##### Physical address:

Department of Environmental Affairs  
Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Road  
Arcadia

Queries must be directed to the Directorate: Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support at:  
Email: [EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za](mailto:EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za)

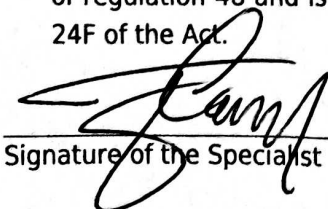
**1. SPECIALIST INFORMATION**

Specialist Company Name:	Johann Lanz – Soil Scientist		
B-BBEE	Contribution level (indicate 1 to 8 or non-compliant)	4	Percentage Procurement recognition
			100%
Specialist name:	Johann Lanz		
Specialist Qualifications:	M.Sc. (Environmental Geochemistry)		
Professional affiliation/registration:	Registered Professional Natural Scientist Member of the Soil Science Society of South Africa		
Physical address:	1a Wolfe Street, Wynberg, Cape Town, 7800		
Postal address:	1a Wolfe Street, Wynberg, Cape Town, 7800		
Postal code:	7800	Cell:	082 927 9018
Telephone:	082 927 9018	Fax:	Who still uses a fax? I don't
E-mail:	johann@johannlanz.co.za		

**2. DECLARATION BY THE SPECIALIST**

I, **Johann Lanz**, declare that -

- I act as the independent specialist in this application;
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting the specialist report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;
- all the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and
- I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the Act.

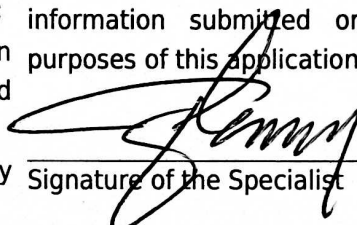
  
Signature of the Specialist

Johann Lanz - Soil Scientist (sole proprietor)

Name of Company:  
03/12/2020  
Date

**3. UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH/ AFFIRMATION**

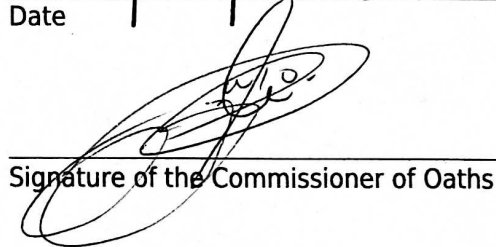
I, **Johann Lanz**, swear under oath / affirm that all the information submitted or to be submitted for the purposes of this application is true and correct.

  
Signature of the Specialist

Johann Lanz - Soil Scientist (sole proprietor)

Name of Company

03/12/2020  
Date

  
Signature of the Commissioner of Oaths

2020-12-02  
Date

