



environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA 0001· Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia· PRETORIA

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1939/AM1

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Mr Robert Wagener
Vryburg Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd.
Unit B1
Mayfair Square
Century City
CAPE TOWN
7441

Telephone Number: 021 276 3620
Cellphone Number: 076 104 1372
Email Address: capetown@abo-wind.com

PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Wagener

AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 06 DECEMBER 2018 FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 115MW VRYBURG SOLAR 1 AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN VRYBURG, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the above-mentioned application by this Department on 06 December 2018, your application for amendment of the EA received by the Department on 30 October 2020 and the acknowledgement letter dated 06 November 2020, refer.

Based on a review of the reason for requesting an amendment to the above EA, this Department, in terms of Chapter 5 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 as amended, has decided to amend the EA dated 06 December 2018 as amended, as follows:

Amendment 1: Contact details of the Holder of the Environmental Authorisation (EA Cover Page 1 and Page 2 of the EA):

Tel: 064 030 3633
Cell: (064) 030 3633
E-mail: Robert.wagener@abo-wind.com

Hereby amended to -

Tel: 021 276 3620
Cell: 076 104 1372
E-mail: capetown@abo-wind.com

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Amendment 2: An update to the project description of the EA to include the construction and operation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

The EA to include the construction and operation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with a capacity of up to 500MW/500Wh within the authorised development footprint of the solar energy facility. The BESS will be developed on Portion 2 of Frankfort Farm 672, within the authorised development footprint of Vryburg Solar 1. It is proposed that the BESS is located within the authorised construction compound/laydown area and with an extent of no more than 5ha. The BESS will connect to the authorised on-site facility substation of Vryburg Solar 1 via multi-core 22kV or 33kV underground cables (to follow the internal access roads of the authorised PV facility).

EA Page Reference	Proposed wording
Page 8, Associated Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery Energy Storage System (coordinates: 27°1'53.34"S ; 24°41'18.47"E);
Page 8, Electrical Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrochemical battery storage systems with a maximum height of 3.5 metres; and Multi-core 22kV or 33kV underground cables, to follow internal access roads of the PV facility, to connect the battery storage area to the onsite facility substation.

Amendment 3: A change in the description included in the Environmental Authorisation pertaining to the on-site substation

In addition, Vryburg Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd is proposing a change in the description included in the Environmental Authorisation pertaining to the on-site substation. The change relates to the addition of collector infrastructure as part of the authorised on-site substation and within the authorised footprint of the substation.

EA Page Reference	Proposed wording
Page 8, Associated Infrastructure	On-Site substation and collector infrastructure

Reasons for the amendments -

The contact details of the Environmental Authorisation Holder have changed. Therefore, the applicant is requesting to amend the details to ensure that the EA lists the contact details of the EA Holder correctly.

The general purpose and utilisation of the BESS will be to save and store excess electrical output from the solar energy facility as it is generated, allowing for a timed release to the national grid when the capacity is required. The BESS will therefore provide flexibility in the efficient operation of the electricity grid through decoupling of the energy supply and demand, and will allow for longer generating periods of the solar PV facility. Furthermore, the development of the BESS for the project is of importance as the system will ensure that electricity is fed into the national grid when required and excess amounts stored. This will allow for extended hours of generation from the 115MW solar energy facility.

Vryburg Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd requires the use of additional collector infrastructure to the already authorised on-site Substation. This will allow for the generated electricity of other projects to be collected at the on-site substation, enabling the electricity to be transported by a single overhead power line (instead of multiple overhead power line) to the grid connection point which is the Mookodi substation. The amendment of the on-site substation description will therefore allow for only one overhead power line to be developed within the area for multiple projects (where successful). This amendment will provide an opportunity for a reduced need to develop individual overhead power lines in the area for each successful project, which will in turn reduce the environmental impact associated with the development of power line infrastructure.

This proposed amendment letter must be read in conjunction with the EA dated 06 December 2018, as amended.

In terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000 (Act No 3 of 2000), you are entitled to the right to fair, lawful and reasonable administrative action; and to written reasons for administrative action that affects you negatively. Further your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act no. 4 of 2013) which stipulate that the Department should conduct itself in a responsible manner when collecting, processing, storing and sharing an individual or another entity's personal information by holding the Department accountable should the Department abuse or compromise your personal information in any way.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended (the EIA Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of the EA, of the Department's as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) National Appeal Regulations published under Government Notice R993 in Government Gazette No. 38303 dated 08 December 2014 (National Appeal Regulations, 2014), which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. Kindly include a copy of this document (National Appeal Regulations, 2014) with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties in this matter.

Should any person wish to lodge an appeal against this decision, he/she must submit the appeal to the appeal administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the applicant, any registered interested and affected party, and any organ of state with interest in the matter within 20 days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered interested and affected parties by the applicant; or the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the Department, whichever is applicable.

Appeals must be submitted in writing in the prescribed form to:

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review of this Department at the below mentioned addresses.

By email: appeals@environment.gov.za

By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko,
Arcadia,
Pretoria,
0083; or

By post: Private Bag X447,
Pretoria,
0001;

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, the lodging of an appeal will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal is finalised.

To obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, please visit the Department's website at https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations or request a copy of the documents at appeals@environment.gov.za.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
Date: 23/03/2021

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