



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Mr Davin Chown
Genesis Zonnequa Wind (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 363
Newlands
CAPE TOWN
7725

Cell Phone Number: (083) 460 3898
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PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Mr Chown

AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 18 FEBRUARY 2019 FOR THE 140MW ZONNEQUA WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF) WITHIN THE NAMA KHOI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the above-mentioned application by this Department on 18 February 2019, your application for amendment of the EA received by this Department on 09 October 2019, the comments issued by this Department on 28 October 2019 and the final report received on 02 December 2019, refers.

Based on a review of the reason for requesting an amendment to the above-mentioned EA, this Department, in terms of Chapter 5 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended, has decided to amend the EA dated 18 February 2019, as follows:

1. Amendment to project description and technical details on page 5 and 13 of the EA

From:

➤ On page 5:

The facility will comprise the following:

- Up to 56 wind turbines with a maximum hub height of up to 130m;
- The tip height of the turbines will be up to 205m;
- Concrete turbine foundations and turbine hardstands;
- Temporary laydown areas which will accommodate the storage and assembly area;
- Cabling between the turbines, to be laid underground where practical;
- An on-site substation of 150m x 150m to facilitate the connection between the wind farm and electricity grid;
- Access roads to the site (with a width of up to 10m) and between project components (with a width of up to 8m);

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- A temporary concrete batching plant; and
- Operation and maintenance buildings including a gatehouse, security building, control centre, offices, warehouses, a workshop and visitors centre.

Technical details of the WEF:

Component	Description/ Dimensions
Location of the site	19km south-east of Kleinsee in the Northern Cape Province
Farm and SG Codes	C05300000000032800001 C05300000000032600000
Site access	Access to the site is currently possible via existing farm access from the public roads
Export capacity	140MW
Proposed technology	Wind turbines
Number of Turbines	Up to <u>56</u>
Hub height from ground level	Up to <u>130m</u>
Rotor diameter	Up to <u>205m</u>
Width and length of internal roads	Access roads to the site (with a width of up to 10m) and between project components (with a width of up to 8m)

- **On page 13 (condition 35):**
35. Up to 56 wind turbines are approved.

To:

- **On page 5:**

The facility will comprise the following:

- Up to 35 wind turbines with a maximum hub height of up to 150m;
- The tip height of the turbines will be up to 240m;
- Concrete turbine foundations and turbine hardstands;
- Temporary laydown areas which will accommodate the storage and assembly area;
- Cabling between the turbines, to be laid underground where practical;
- An on-site substation of 150m x 150m to facilitate the connection between the wind farm and electricity grid;
- Access roads to the site (with a width of up to 10m) and between project components (with a width of up to 8m);
- A temporary concrete batching plant; and
- Operation and maintenance buildings including a gatehouse, security building, control centre, offices, warehouses, a workshop and visitors centre.

Technical details of the WEF:

Component	Description/ Dimensions
Location of the site	19km south-east of Kleinsee in the Northern Cape Province
Farm and SG Codes	C05300000000032800001 C05300000000032600000

Site access	Access to the site is currently possible via existing farm access from the public roads
Export capacity	140MW
Proposed technology	Wind turbines
Number of Turbines	Up to <u>35</u>
Individual turbine capacity	7MW
Hub height from ground level	Up to <u>150m</u>
Tip height	Up to <u>240m</u>
Width and length of internal roads	Access roads to the site (with a width of up to 10m) and between project components (with a width of up to 8m)

- **On page 13 (condition 35):**
35. Up to 35 wind turbines are approved.

2. **Amendment to include the coordinates of the on-site substation on page 4 of the EA**

From:

Coordinates:

(WEF preferred site)	Latitude (s)	Longitude (e)
1	29° 45' 20.023"	17° 14' 22.691"
2	29° 45' 43.955"	17° 17' 25.502"
3	29° 48' 23.438"	17° 17' 59.643"
4	29° 48' 19.493"	17° 16' 20.281"
5	29° 48' 53.566"	17° 14' 50.604"
6	29° 49' 37.294"	17° 14' 50.728"
7	29° 50' 0.765"	17° 12' 54.287"
8	29° 48' 46.927"	17° 12' 43.368"

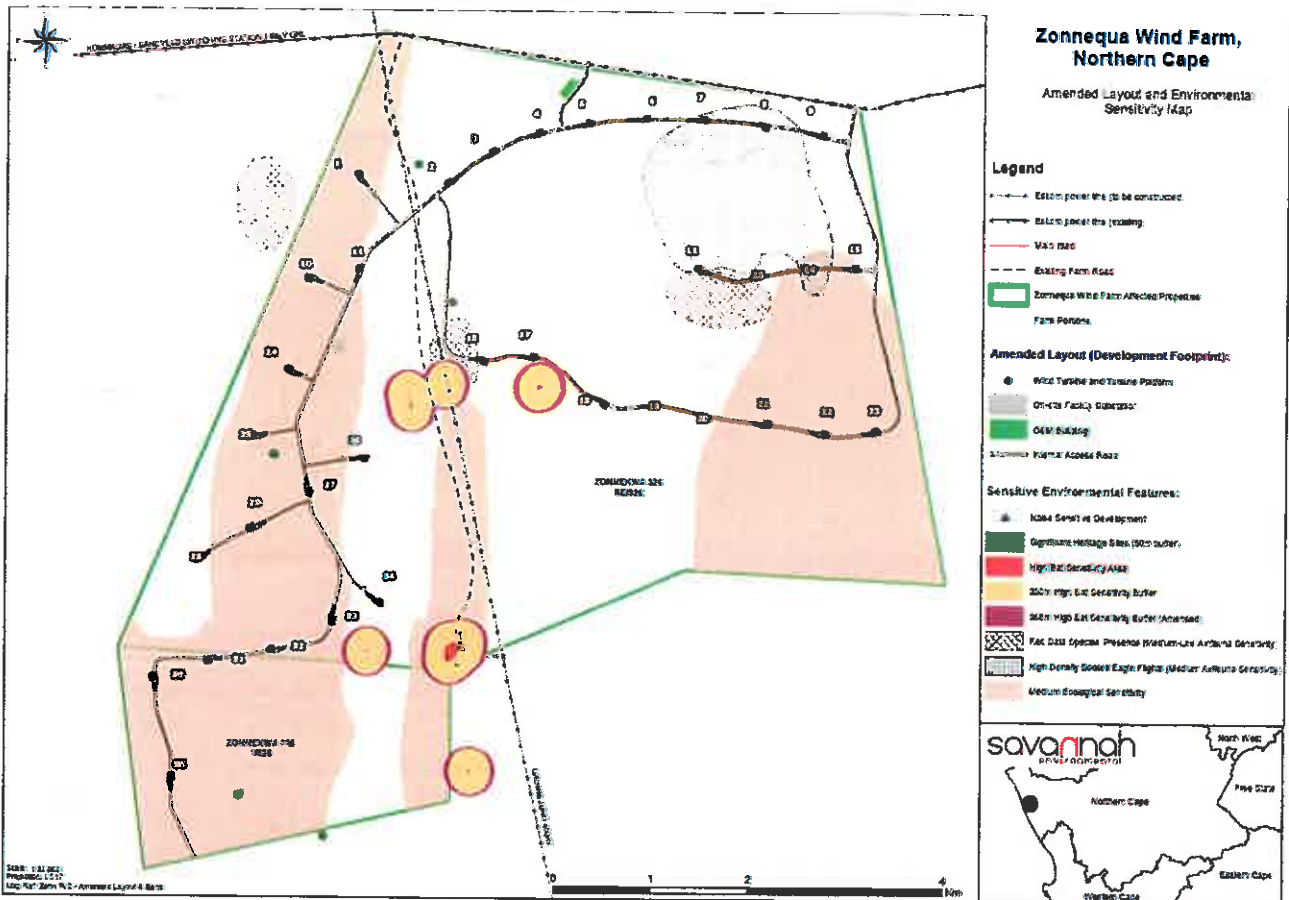
To:

Coordinates:

(WEF preferred site)	Latitude (s)	Longitude (e)
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7	29° 50' 0.765"	17° 12' 54.287"
8	29° 48' 46.927"	17° 12' 43.368"
Centre point of on-site facility substation	29° 47' 06.07"	17° 14' 06.12"

Approval of the Final Site Layout Map

The final site layout map below (as attached in the Zonnequa Wind Farm Final Motivation Report for amendment of Environmental Authorisation dated November 2019), submitted in accordance with the requirements of condition 13 of the EA dated 18 February 2019, is **approved**. All sensitivity buffers as identified by the independent specialists have been mapped in the layout, and have been avoided by the development footprint based on the sensitivity of the features and associated buffers. Turbine placement is outside of the bat sensitivity buffers, and turbines located near Noise Sensitive Development (NSD) 01 have also been removed. The amended layout ensures no significant infringement on environmental sensitivities.



Final site layout map for the Zonnequa Wind Farm (overlain with environmental sensitivities, including updated bat sensitivity buffers).

Conditions of the EA amendment

The approved final site layout map and the updated bat sensitivity map contained in the Zonnequa Wind Farm Amendment Application Bat Impact Assessment report dated September 2019 prepared by Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Limited, which has been updated to increase the buffers around moderate and high bat sensitivity areas to cater for the increased turbine specifications, must be added to the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) to be submitted to the Department for approval per the requirements of condition 15 and 16 of the EA, once the final turbine specifications are confirmed following selection of the project as a Preferred Bidder project.

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Reasons for amendment

Amendment to project description and technical details on page 5 and 13 of the EA

The turbines authorised in the EA are no longer considered to be the most suitable in terms of production and economic considerations. In this regard, Genesis Zonnequa Wind (Pty) Ltd is updating the turbine model for the project and amending the EA to cater for larger turbine specifications, to enable the use of the latest, most efficient turbines available on the market. This in turn will increase the overall competitiveness of the Project in the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement (REIPPP) Programme, and will decrease the cost of energy produced by the Project, which would be for the benefit of all electricity consumers in South Africa. The increase in the hub height and overall tip height will result in the optimisation of the facility layout that was assessed within the Basic Assessment (BA) for the project. With the implementation of the larger and more efficient turbines, a reduced number of turbines is required in order for the wind farm to generate up to 140MW contracted capacity. This reduction of turbines has led to a change in the positions of the turbines and associated internal roads and other associated infrastructure within the assessed project site, requiring an amendment to the layout. The changes to the layout have been undertaken within the assessed project site and ensures no significant infringement on identified environmental sensitivities. The amended layout was submitted for approval as part of the application for the amendment of the EA, in accordance with condition 13 of the EA. The decrease in the number of turbines and the precautionary buffers placed around the most frequently used flight areas of the Secretary birds could result in a nett decrease in impacts to the priority (Red Data) avian community. The mitigation measures proposed within the original BA document would be sufficient to manage potential impacts of the amendments within acceptable levels. Only one additional mitigation measure has been identified by the bat specialist. This measure is the required adherence to the updated bat sensitivity map, which has been updated to increase the buffers around moderate and high bat sensitivity areas, to cater for the increased turbine specifications. The need for increased bat sensitivity buffers due to the increased turbine specifications is considered to be an insignificant change. The amended layout plan submitted for approval incorporates the updated bat sensitivity map. The amendment to the wind turbine specifications and the reduction of the number of turbines is not a listed activity and will not trigger any new listed activities, as the amendment will fall within the originally authorised footprint of the facility. The advantages of the amendments to the turbine specifications and layout map outweigh the disadvantages from an environmental and technical perspective.

Amendment to include the coordinates of the on-site substation on page 4 of the EA

The centre point co-ordinates of the on-site substation were not specified in the EA and have now been included for the avoidance of doubt. These co-ordinates are in-line with the amended layout.

General

This amendment letter must be read in conjunction with the EA dated on 18 February 2019.

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 decision, of the Department's decision, 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 prescribe 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 decision 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 Environmental Affairs

Date: 20/03/2020

CC:	Ms Jo-Anne Thomas	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd	E-mail: joanne@savannahsa.com
	Mr Brian Fischer	NC DENC	E-mail: BFisher@ncpg.gov.za
	Ms Samantha Titus	Nama-Khoi Local Municipality	E-mail: municipal.manager@namakhoi.gov.za