



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

DEFF Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1092/AM2

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Mr Robert Wagener
ABO Wind Lichtenburg 2 PV (Pty) Ltd
Unit B1 Mayfair Square
Century Way
CENTURY CITY
7441

Telephone number: 021 276 3620
Email address: Capetown@abo-wind.com

PER MAIL / EMAIL

Dear Mr Wagener

AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 02 JULY 2019 FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 100MW LICHTENBURG 2 PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR LICHTENBURG, WITHIN THE DITSOBOTLA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the abovementioned application by this Department on 02 July 2019, the amendment to the EA dated 05 August 2019, your application for amendment of the EA and the draft motivation report received by the Department on 16 October 2020, the acknowledgement letter dated 26 October 2020, the Department's comments on the draft motivation report dated 13 November 2020, and the final motivation report received on 20 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 (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, has decided to amend the EA dated, 02 July 2019, as amended, as follows:

Amendment 1: Change to the details of the contact person of the EA holder on page 2 of the EA

From:

Mr Robert Wagener
PO Box 51060
WATERFRONT
Cape Town
8002

Telephone Number: 021 418 2596
Cell phone Number: (064) 030 3633
Email Address: Robert.wagener@abo-wind.com

M.S

To:

Mr Robert Wagener
Unit B1 Mayfair Square
Century Way
CENTURY CITY
7441

Telephone number: 021 276 3620
Cell phone number: 073 265 8575
Email address: Capetown@abo-wind.com

Reasons for Amendment 1:

The postal address and contact details of the EA holder have changed. Therefore, the amendment was required to ensure that the EA reflects the correct contact details and postal address of the EA holder.

Amendment 2: Update to the project description on page 5-6 of the EA to include the construction of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

➤ **From:**

The Lichtenburg 2 PV SEF will comprise the following:

- Photovoltaic modules with a net generation (contracted) capacity of 100MW;
- On-site 88/132kV substation;
- Mounting structures (fixed tilt/static, single axis or double axis tracking systems) for the PV arrays and related foundations;
- DC/AC Inverters, LV/MV power transformers and internal electrical reticulation (underground cabling);
- Access and internal road network;
- A new 88/132kV overhead power line from the on-site substation to the Mmabatho/ Watershed DS 2 88kV Powerline;
- Temporary laydown area;
- Auxiliary buildings (gate-house and security, control centre, office, two warehouses, canteen & visitors centre, rainwater tanks etc.); and
- Perimeter fencing.

To:

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- Access and internal road network;
- A new 88/132kV overhead power line from the on-site substation to the Mmabatho/ Watershed DS 2 88kV Powerline;
- Temporary laydown area;
- Auxiliary buildings (gate-house and security, control centre, office, two warehouses, canteen & visitors centre, rainwater tanks etc.);

- *Perimeter fencing; and*
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), with a capacity of up to 500MW/500MWh, an extent of no more than 5ha, and a maximum height of 3.5m.

and

➤ **From:**

Technical details of the Solar Energy Facility

Component	Description/ Dimensions
Location of the site	Portion 23 of the Farm Houthaalboomen No. 31
Location of the 88/132kV powerline	Remaining Extent of Portion 02 of the Farm Zamenkomst No. 04
Development footprint	280 hectares
Preferred Site access	Access to the project site is obtained via the R505 regional road, which traverses the eastern half of the project site in a north-west and south-east direction
Export capacity	Up to 100MW
Proposed technology	Fixed-tilt, single-axis, or double-axis tracking system
Structure height	Approximately 3.5m
On-site substation	88/132kV

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Structure height	Approximately 3.5m
On-site substation	88/132kV
<u>BESS</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Electrochemical battery energy storage systems (including either Lead Acid and Advanced Lead Acid, NiCd, NiMh-based batteries; Temperature (NaS, Na-NiCl₂, Mg/Pb-Sb) batteries or Flow batteries (VRFB, Zn-Fe, Zn-Br) with a maximum height of 3.5m; and</u> • <u>Multi-core, 33kV underground cables, to follow internal access roads of the PV facility, to connect the battery storage system to the on-site facility substation.</u>

M/S

Approval of the amended environmental management programme (EMPr)

The amended EMPr for Lichtenburg 2, North West Province: Revision 1, dated November 2020, prepared by Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd, is hereby **approved**.

Reasons for Amendment 2:

The BESS, with a capacity of up to 500MW/500MWh, an extent of no more than 5ha, and a maximum height of 3.5m, will be developed within the authorised laydown area of the solar energy facility. The addition of the BESS will therefore not increase the already authorised development footprint. The BESS will connect to the authorised on-site facility substation of Lichtenburg 2 via multi-core 33kV underground cables (to follow the internal access roads of the authorised PV facility). 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. In addition, the BESS will also provide grid strengthening and quality improvement, frequency control and voltage stabilisation. The BESS will therefore provide flexibility in the efficient operation of the electricity grid through decoupling of the energy supply and demand. 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 100MW solar energy facility.

The specialists confirmed that the impacts assessed and the recommended mitigation included in the original EIA undertaken for the facility would remain unchanged and applicable for the amendments (addition of a BESS), with the exception of two additional mitigation measures recommended by the avifaunal specialist, in the view of the occurrence of vultures and other bird species that utilise the area. The amended EMPr includes these additional mitigation measures, as well as measures to mitigate any potential health and safety risks associated with the construction and operation of the BESS from a technical perspective. The amended EMPr also includes an updated layout plan, depicting the location of the BESS within the authorised laydown area of the solar energy facility (Figure 2.2. and 2.3 in the EMPr). Furthermore, the amendments do not constitute a listed activity and the mitigation measures in the amended EMPr are deemed adequate to manage the expected impacts as a result of the amendment.

General

This EA amendment letter must be read in conjunction with the EA dated 02 July 2019, 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 stipulates 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 decision, of the Department's decision, as well as of 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 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: 25/03/2021

cc:	Ms Jo-Anne Thomas	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd	E-mail: joanne@savannahsa.com
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