



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/682/AM2

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PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Marais

AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 28 MAY 2015 AS AMENDED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE 140MW KORANA WIND ENERGY FACILITY ON PORTION 1 AND 2 OF FARM NAMIES SOUTH 212 AND PORTION 1 OF FARM POORTJIE 209 NEAR POFADDER WITHIN THE KHAI-MA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the abovementioned application by this Department on 28 May 2015, the amendment to the EA dated 06 June 2018, your application for amendment of the EA and the draft amendment report received by the Department on 30 August 2019 and 30 September 2019 respectively, the comments on the draft amendment report dated 29 October 2019 and the final amendment report received by the Department on 20 November 2019, 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 28 May 2015, as amended, as follows:

Amendment 1: Amendment to the project description of the EA:

The project description on page 05 of the EA:

From:

*"The site will accommodate up to a **maximum** of 70 wind turbines. The facility would operate as a single facility, each turbine will have a generating capacity ranging between 1.5 – 4MW. The capacity of the facility will be up to 140MW."*

To:

*"The site will accommodate up to a **maximum** of 42 wind turbines. The facility would operate as a single facility, with a capacity of up to 140MW."*

MS

From:

"Each wind turbine is expected to consist of a foundation (30m x 30m x 4m), a tower, a hub (up to 140m above ground level, depending on the turbine size decided upon) and three blades (with a rotor diameter of up to 150m)."

To:

"Each wind turbine is expected to consist of a foundation (30m x 30m x 4m), a tower, a hub (up to 200m above ground level) and three blades (with a rotor diameter of up to 200m)."

Condition 1 on page 06 of the EA:

From:

"The construction of a 140 MW Wind Energy Facility (with a maximum of 70 turbines) on Portion 1 and 2 of the farm Namies South 212 and portion 1 of farm Poortjie 209 located near Pofadder, within the Khai-Ma Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province using preferred Substation alternative 1 and preferred access route Alternative 1 located at Namies Suid North is authorised as per the geographic coordinates."

To:

"The construction of a 140MW Wind Energy Facility (with a maximum of 42 turbines) on Portion 1 and 2 of the farm Namies South 212 and Portion 1 of farm Poortjie 209 located near Pofadder, within the Khai-Ma Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province using preferred Substation alternative 1 and preferred access route Alternative 1 located at Namies Suid North is authorised as per the geographic coordinates."

The applicant is applying to increase the wind turbine specifications to allow them to consider a broader range of manufacturers and wind turbine models which can enhance the environmental, technical and financial feasibility/performance of the project and avoid potential implementation delays. The final turbine model and specifications will only be determined once the project is selected as a preferred bidder in the Department of Energy's (DoEs) future REIPPPP bidding rounds. The reduction in the number of turbines is to allow for the installation of the most efficient turbine technology on the site and result in the most efficient use of the site and technology which may result in reduced environmental impacts, savings to Government and the electricity consumer in the form of a reduced cost of energy from this facility.

As a result of the amendments, the following conditions are hereby added into the EA:

130A. *"The 1.5km turbine-free buffer zone around the Martial Eagle nest on Tower 147 of the Aries – Aggeneys 400kV 1 transmission line must be converted to a 4.5km turbine-free zone."*

130B. *"The number of turbines beyond the 4.5km turbine-free zone, up to a radius of 6km from the nest, must be restricted to no more than 13."*

130C. *"As an absolute minimum, post-construction monitoring must be undertaken for the first three years of operation, and then repeated again in year 5, and again every five years thereafter. The exact scope and nature of the post-construction monitoring must be informed on an ongoing basis by the result of the monitoring through a process of adaptive management."*

130D. "All turbines must be feathered below cut in speed and not allow for freewheeling during construction and from the start of operation."

This amendment letter must be read in conjunction with the EA dated 28 May 2015 as amended.

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 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 the 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 Environmental Affairs

Date: 02/03/2020

cc:	Gideon Raath	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd	Email: gideon@savannahsa.com
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