



# 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: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1086/AM2

Enquiries: Matlhodi Mogorosi

Telephone: (012) 399 9388 E-mail: MMogorosi@environment.gov.za

Mr Robert Wagener  
ABO Wind Hotazel PV (Pty) Ltd  
Unit B1 Mayfair Square, Century Way  
Century City  
**CAPE TOWN**  
7441

Telephone Number: (021) 276 3620  
Email Address: Robert.wagener@abo-wind.com

## PER MAIL / EMAIL

Dear Mr Wagener

### AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 30 MAY 2019 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF HOTAZEL SOLAR AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN JOE MOROLONG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the abovementioned application by this Department on 30 May 2019, the first amendment to the EA dated 14 August 2019, your application for amendment of the EA and draft Motivation Report received by the Department on 16 July 2020, the acknowledgement letter issued 29 July 2020, the comments on the draft Motivation Report dated 11 August 2020, and the final Motivation Report received by this Department on 07 September 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 30 May 2019 as amended, as follows:

#### Amendment 1: Change in description of activities under GN R983 Item 11 and GN R984 Item 15 on page 3 and 4 of the EA

#### From:

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><i>GN R983 Item 11 as amended (Listing Notice 1):</i></p> <p><i>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity-</i></p> <p><i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts;</i></p>	<p>The proposed Hotazel Solar facility will connect to the national Eskom grid via the Eskom Hotazel Substation. The proposed distribution infrastructure includes the construction of an on-site Substation and a 132kV OHL from the on-site</p>

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Listed activities	Activity/Project description
	substation.
<p><u>GN R984 Activity 15 as amended (Listing Notice 2):</u>  <i>The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for-</i>  <i>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or</i>  <i>(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i></p>	<p>The proposed Hotazel Solar facility will have a maximum footprint of 275ha and as such exceeds the threshold defined in this activity.</p>

**To:**

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><u>GN R983 Item 11 as amended (Listing Notice 1):</u>  <i>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity-</i>  <i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts;</i></p>	<p>The proposed Hotazel Solar facility is located outside an urban area and will connect to the national grid via the Eskom Hotazel substation. The proposed distribution infrastructure includes the construction of an on-site substation / collector switching station and a 132kV overhead power line.</p>
<p><u>GN R984 Activity 15 as amended (Listing Notice 2):</u>  <i>The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for-</i>  <i>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or</i>  <i>(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i></p>	<p>The proposed Hotazel Solar facility will have a maximum footprint of 270ha and as such exceeds the threshold defined in this activity.</p>

**Amendment 2: Change to the 21 Digit SG Code on page 4 of the EA**

**From:**

C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	0	0	0	0	0
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**To:**

C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	9	0	0	0	0
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**Amendment 3: Change to coordinates of the preferred site on page 4 of the EA**

**From:**

Layout Alternative 2 (Preferred)	Latitude	Longitude
North-West Corner	27°13'22.47"S	22°58'21.61"E
North-East Corner	27°12'26.34"S	22°59'43.30"E
South-West Corner	27°13'45.51"S	22°58'52.73"E
South-East Corner	27°13'11.50"S	22°59'55.00"E

**To:**

Site Layout Position	Latitude	Longitude
North-West Corner	27°13'25.60"S	22°58'5.04"E
North-East Corner	27°12'56.52"S	22°59'45.98"E
South-West Corner	27°13'55.23"S	22°58'6.79"E
South-East Corner	27°13'15.80"S	22°59'45.94"E

**Amendment 4: Change to coordinates for the grid connection (powerline) on page 5 of the EA**

**From:**

Powerline alternative D (Preferred LILO)	Latitude	Longitude
Start	27°13'27.36"S	22°59'20.92"E
Middle	27°13'29.57"S	22°59'22.48"E
End	27°13'30.32"S	22°59'23.06"E

**To:**

Preferred powerline alternative (LILO from SS)	Latitude	Longitude
Start (Substation A)	27°13'26.63"S	22°59'20.87"E
Middle (straight LILLO)	27°13'28.55"S	22°59'21.75"E
End	27°13'30.31"S	22°59'23.05"E

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**Amendment 5: Change to the technical details of the project on page 5 of the EA****From:**

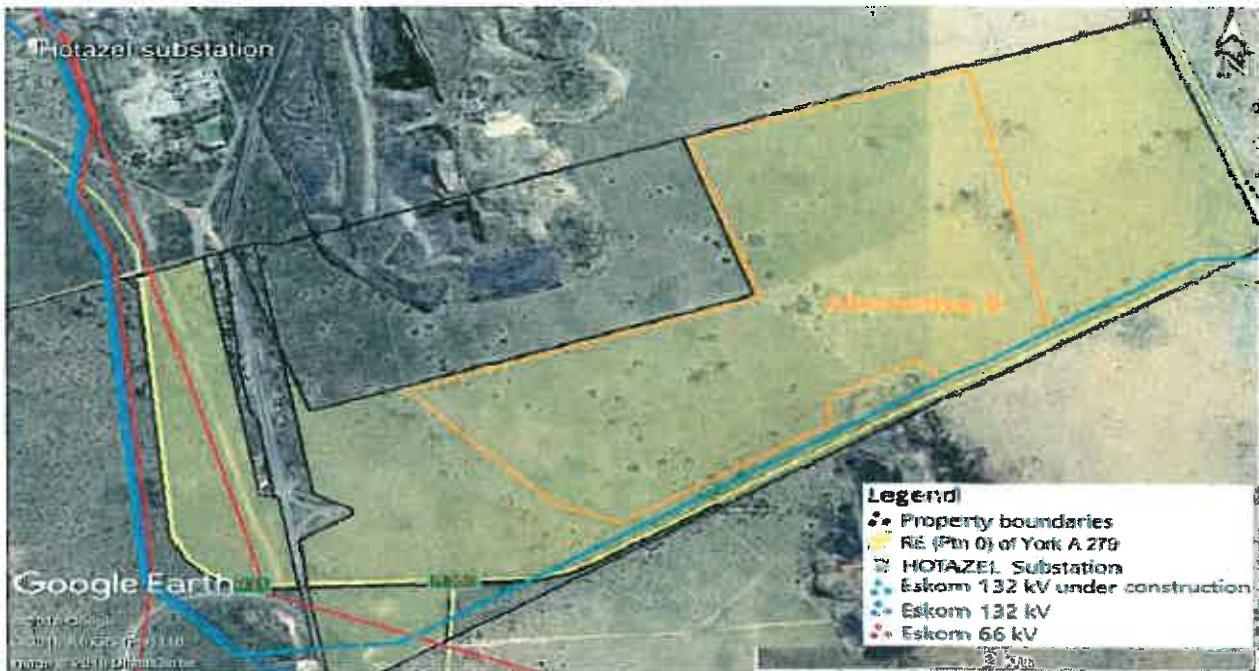
<b>Component</b>	<b>Description/ Dimensions</b>
Location of the site	Approximately 3km South East of Hotazel
PV Panel area	250 ha with a total project footprint of approximately 275 ha
Preferred Site access	Access to the site will be at one of the existing access points from the R31
Export capacity	100 MW
Proposed technology	PV with fixed, single or double axis tracking technology
Height of installed panels from ground level	PV Structures not more than 4m
Width and length of internal roads	Access Road - width: $\pm 8$ m, length: $\pm 1$ km Secondary internal roads – width: $\pm 5$ m, length: $\pm 15$ km.

**To:**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Description/ Dimensions</b>
Location of the site	Approximately 3km South East of Hotazel
PV Panel area	Maximum of 245ha with a total project footprint of approximately 270ha
Site access	Access to the site will be at one of the existing access points from the R31
Export capacity	100MW
Proposed technology	PV with fixed, single or double axis tracking technology
Height of installed panels from ground level	PV Structures not more than 4m
Width and length of internal roads	Main access road - width: $\pm 8$ m, length: $\pm 1$ km Internal access roads – width: $\pm 5$ m, length: $\pm 20$ km.

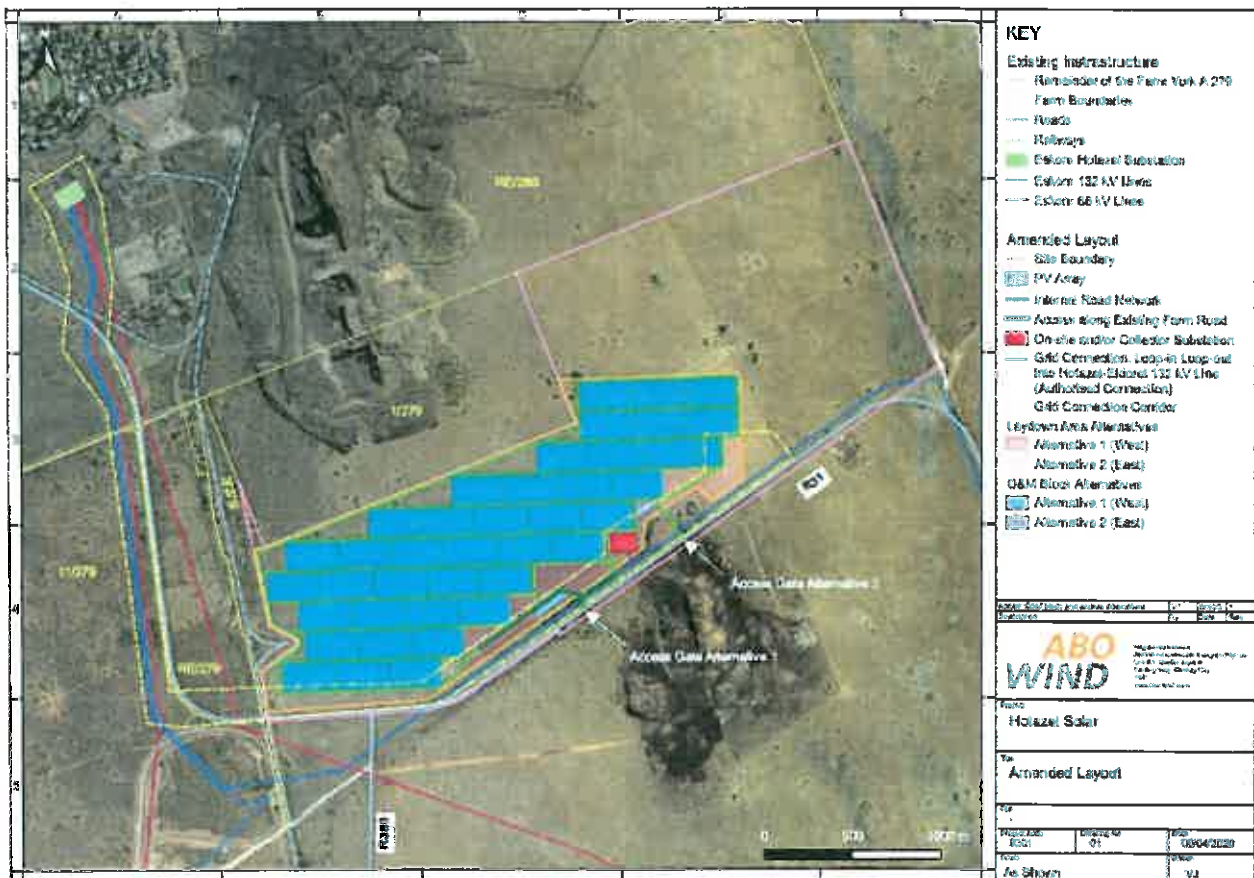
**Amendment 6: Change to facility layout plan in Annexure 2 on page 14 of the EA**

**From:**



**Figure 1: Preferred Layout**

**To:**



**Figure 1: Preferred Layout**

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### **Reason for Amendments 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6:**

Amendment 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are all associated with a change in the authorised footprint of Hotazel Solar, which entails shifting the position of the authorised footprint further west (by up to 1km) within the Remaining Extent (Portion 0) of the farm York A, 279. The reason for moving the authorised footprint, is to accommodate a second PV facility (which is being proposed in a separate environmental impact assessment process) on the eastern side of the Remaining Extent of the farm York A 279 for the following reasons:

1. Excellent solar irradiation of approximately 2233kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/annum;
2. Sufficient capacity within the existing Eskom Hotazel Substation to evacuate generated power;
3. Sufficient low and medium sensitivity areas available on the property to accommodate a second project;
4. The land use surrounding the property is irreversibly transformed on three of the boundaries (Western, Northern and Southern boundaries) and as such ecological functioning in terms of pattern and process is already compromised;
5. Improve the competitiveness of Hotazel Solar in the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) by developing a second PV Facility in close proximity and thereby benefiting from economies of scale, construction learning rates, reduced mobilisation costs, and shared contractor services.

The total output and required components of the facility would remain approximately the same as those included in the original EIA. The loop-in-loop-out (LILLO) power line within the previously assessed position remains the preferred option. The power line coordinates were amended to move the start point of the powerline to the centre of the substation location. The location of the authorised substation (SS) remains the same and the conceptual routing of the power line remains unchanged. The change from an on-site substation to an on-site substation / collector switching station merely constitutes a change in wording in order to align with standardised industry descriptions, and does not change the equipment or infrastructure needed. Further, with the proposed change in the layout of the PV array shifting west, the shape of the total footprint and the conceptual design changes the positioning (and thus length) of the internal road network within the footprint. Based on the new layout, the internal roads will be up to a maximum of 20km. The exact length within the authorised footprint will be determined at the detailed design phase. While the amendment results in an increase in the length of internal roads, it should be noted that the total project footprint will be slightly reduced from 275ha (as authorised) to 270ha, while the PV panel area is reduced from 250ha to 245ha.

The specialists did not identify any changes to the nature of the impacts assessed in the initial environmental impact assessment, as a result of the amendment of the EA, nor are there any increases in the level of significance of the impacts associated with the amendment of the EA. Furthermore, none of the specialists identified any additional mitigations for the EA amendments, other than those already incorporated in the EA dated 30 MAY 2019 and the approved EMPr.

### **Reason for Amendment 2:**

Amendment 2 is to correct a typographical error in the 21 Digit SG Code.

### **General**

This EA amendment letter must be read in conjunction with the EA dated 30 May 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 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 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 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](mailto: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](https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations) or request a copy of the documents at [appeals@environment.gov.za](mailto:appeals@environment.gov.za).

Yours faithfully



**Mr Sabelo Malaza**  
**Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
**Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries**

Date: 14/12/2020

cc: Mr Dale Holder	Cape EAPrac	E-mail: <a href="mailto:dale@cape-eaprac.co.za">dale@cape-eaprac.co.za</a>
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