



## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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

**DEA Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/1115

**Enquiries:** Mr Vincent Chauke

**Telephone:** (012) -399-9399 **E-mail:** [vchauke@environment.gov.za](mailto:vchauke@environment.gov.za)

Dr Kilian Hagemann  
Rondekop Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd  
125 Buitengracht Street  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
**CAPE TOWN**  
8001

**Telephone:** (021) 300 0613  
**E-mail:** [rondekop@g7energies.com](mailto:rondekop@g7energies.com)

### **PER E-MAIL / MAIL**

Dear Dr Hagemann

### **APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: GN R982/983/984/985, AS AMENDED: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 325MW RONDEKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY BETWEEN MATJIESFONTEIN AND SUTHERLAND WITHIN THE KAROO HOOGLAND LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

With reference to the above application, please be advised that the Department has decided to grant authorisation. The Environmental Authorisation (EA) and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

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.

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.

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

M. S

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:** [appealsdirector@environment.gov.za](mailto:appealsdirector@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 [appealsdirector@environment.gov.za](mailto:appealsdirector@environment.gov.za).

Yours faithfully



**Mr Sabelo Malaza**  
**Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
**Department of Environmental Affairs**

**Date:** 13/06/2019

CC:	Mr. Thulani Mthombeni	Northern Cape: Department of Environment and Nature Conservation	Email: <a href="mailto:tmthombeni@ncpg.gov.za">tmthombeni@ncpg.gov.za</a>
	Ms. Andrea Gibb	SIVEST	Email: <a href="mailto:andreag@sivest.co.za">andreag@sivest.co.za</a>



## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# Environmental Authorisation

In terms of Regulation 25 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended.

The development of the 325MW Rondekop Wind Energy Facility between Matjiesfontein and Sutherland within the Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province.

### Namakwa District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/2/1115
Last amended:	First issue
Holder of authorisation:	Rondekop Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd
Location of activity:	Ashoek No. 224, Remainder of Bloem Fontein No. 192, Portion 1 of Bloem Fontein No. 192, Portion 1 of Lange Huis 174, Remainder of Hout Hoek No. 191, Remainder of Roodeheuveld No. 170, Portion 1 of Roodeheuveld No. 170, Portions 1 and 2 of Urias Gat No. 193, Remainder of Vinke Kuil 171; Remainder of Venters Kraal No. 166, Portions 1 and 3 of Venters Kraal No. 166, Remainder of Wind Heuveld No. 190, Portion 1 of Wind Heuveld No. 190, Remainder of Zeekoegat No. 169 and Remainder of Farm 220, Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality, Namakwa District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province.

This authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.

MS

## Decision

The Department is satisfied, on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activities specified below.

Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Details regarding the basis on which the Department reached this decision are set out in Annexure 1.

## Activities authorised

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, the Department hereby authorises –

### **RONDEKOP WIND FARM (PTY) LTD**

(Hereafter referred to as the **holder of the authorisation**)

with the following contact details –

Dr Kilian Hagemann  
125 Buitengracht Street  
5<sup>th</sup> floor  
**CAPE TOWN**  
8001

**Telephone:** (021) 300 0613  
**Fax:** (086) 514 1735  
**E-mail:** [rondekop@g7energies.com](mailto:rondekop@g7energies.com)

To undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as “the activity”) indicated in Listing Notice 1, Listing Notice 2 and Listing Notice 3, as amended (GN R983, R984 and R985, as amended):

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>GN R. 983 Activity 12 (ii) (a) and (c):</u></p> <p><i>“The development of-</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;</i></p> <p><i>where such development occurs-</i></p> <p><i>a) within a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>c) If no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse...”</i></p>	<p>The proposed wind energy facility will entail the construction of buildings and other infrastructure exceeding 100 square metres in size. The wind energy facility infrastructure avoids the identified surface water features (drainage lines) where possible, although some structures occurring within a watercourse and/or 32 m of a watercourse.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Activity 19:</u></p> <p><i>“The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse....”</i></p>	<p>The proposed wind energy facility will involve the excavation, removal, infilling, depositing and moving of more than 10 m<sup>3</sup> of soil, sand, pebbles or rock from a water course. Although the layout of the proposed development will be designed to avoid the identified surface water features (drainage lines) as far as possible, some of the internal and access roads, will need to traverse the identified surface water features and during construction of these roads, soil will therefore need to be removed from the watercourses.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Activity 24 (ii):</u></p> <p><i>“The development of a road–</i></p> <p><i>(ii) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres;</i></p> <p><i>but <b>excluding</b> a road–</i></p> <p><i>a) which is identified and included in activity 27 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014; or</i></p>	<p>Internal access roads up to 12 m wide, including structures for storm water control would be required to access each turbine and the substation, with a total footprint of about 75 ha. Where possible, existing roads will be upgraded. Turns will have a radius of up to 50 m in order for</p>

*M.S*

<p><i>b) where the entire road falls within an urban area; or which is 1 km or shorter."</i></p>	<p>abnormal loads (especially turbine blades) to access the various turbine positions.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Activity 28 (ii):</u>  <i>"Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:</i>  <i>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare;</i></p> <p><b>Excluding</b> where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional purposes."</p>	<p>The proposed project site is currently used and zoned for agricultural purposes and the proposed wind energy facility will result in a special zoning being required as an area greater than 1 hectare will be transformed into an industrial / commercial use. The total clearance will be approximately 114 ha.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Activity 48 (i), (a) and (c):</u>  <i>"The expansion of</i>  <i>(i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more; where such expansion occurs—</i>  <i>(a) within a watercourse; or</i>  <i>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse."</i></p>	<p>The proposed wind energy facility will entail the expansion/ upgrading of roads and other infrastructure by 100 m<sup>2</sup> or more within a watercourse or within 32 m from the edge of a watercourse. Although the layout of the proposed development will be designed to avoid the identified surface water features (drainage lines) as far as possible, some of the internal and access roads, will need to traverse the identified surface water features and during construction of these roads, soil will therefore need to be removed from the watercourses.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Activity 56:</u>  <i>"The <b>widening</b> of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre-</i>  <i>(ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres;</i></p>	<p>Existing access roads will be upgraded in order to access the site. Internal access roads will be up to 12 m wide. Where possible, existing roads will be upgraded. Access roads to the site will be</p>

<p><i>Excluding where widening or lengthening occur inside urban areas. "</i></p>	<p>approximately 9 m wide while access roads to the substation will be approximately 6 m wide.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 984 Activity 1:</u>  <i>"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more,</i></p>	<p>The proposed development will entail the development of a wind energy facility with a maximum export capacity of up to 325MW and will be located outside an urban area.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 984 Activity 15:</u>  <i>"The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation."</i></p>	<p>The proposed development will transform more than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation. Clearance will also be required for the proposed on-site substation, internal access roads and other associated infrastructure. The total clearance of indigenous vegetation will be approximately 114 ha.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 985 Activity 4:</u>  <i>"The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13, 5 metres.</i>  <b>(g) Northern Cape</b>  <i>(ii) Outside urban areas:</i>  <i>(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;</i>  <i>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans."</i></p>	<p>Internal access roads will be up to 12 m wide, including structures for storm water control would be required to access each turbine and the substation, with a total footprint of approximately 75 ha. Where possible, existing roads will be upgraded. Turns will have a radius of up to 50 m in order for abnormal loads (especially turbine blades) to access the various turbine positions. These roads will occur within the Northern Cape Province, outside an urban area. Sections of the site are located within a critical biodiversity areas.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 985 Activity 12:</u>  <i>"The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i></p>	<p>The proposed development will transform more than 300 m<sup>2</sup> of indigenous vegetation. Clearance will also be required for the proposed on-site substation, internal access roads and other</p>

<p><b>(g) Northern Cape</b></p> <p><i>i. Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004;</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans.”</i></p>	<p>associated infrastructure within a critical biodiversity areas.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 985 Activity 14:</u></p> <p><i>“The development of:</i></p> <p><i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;</i></p> <p><i>where such development occurs-</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</i></p> <p><b>(g) Northern Cape</b></p> <p><i>(ii) Outside Urban Areas:</i></p> <p><i>(dd) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;</i></p> <p><i>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.”</i></p>	<p>The proposed wind energy facility will entail the development of roads and other infrastructure of 10 m<sup>2</sup> or more within a watercourse or within 32 m from the edge of a watercourse.</p> <p>Although the layout of the proposed development will be designed to avoid the identified surface water features (drainage lines) as far as possible, some of the internal and access roads, will need to traverse the identified surface water features.</p> <p>The development of the infrastructure will occur within a critical biodiversity areas and outside an urban area.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 985 Activity 18:</u></p> <p><i>“The widening of a road by more than 4 meters, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre.</i></p> <p><b>g) Northern Cape</b></p> <p><i>ii) Outside Urban Areas:</i></p>	<p>An internal gravel road will be widened by more than 4 m in some sections to provide access to the proposed project site. This road is proposed within 100 m of drainage lines. The majority of the footprint of the development is located within an Ecological Support Area.</p>



<p>(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;</p> <p>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p> <p>(ii) Areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 meters from the edge of a watercourse or wetland."</p>	
<p><b>GN R. 985 Activity 23:</b></p> <p>"The expansion of -</p> <p>(ii) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 10 square metres or more; where such expansion occurs –</p> <p>(a) within a watercourse;</p> <p>in front of a development setback adopted in the prescribed manner;</p> <p>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</p> <p><b>g. Northern Cape</b></p> <p>(ii) Outside urban areas:</p> <p>(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;</p> <p>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans."</p>	<p>The proposed wind energy facility will entail development and expansion of roads and other infrastructure by 10 m<sup>2</sup> or more within a watercourse or within 32 m from the edge of a watercourse.</p> <p>Although the layout of the proposed development will be designed to avoid the identified surface water features (drainage lines) as far as possible, some of the internal and access roads, may need to traverse the identified surface water features.</p> <p>The development of the infrastructure will occur within a critical biodiversity areas and outside an urban area.</p>

as described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAr) dated 09 May 2019 at:

**Farm Name:** Ashoek No. 224, Remainder of Bloem Fontein No. 192, Portion 1 of Bloem Fontein No. 192, Portion 1 of Lange Huis 174, Remainder of Hout Hoek No. 191, Remainder of Roodeheuveld No. 170, Portion 1 of Roodeheuveld No. 170, Portions 1 and 2 of Urias Gat No. 193, Remainder of Vinke Kuil 171; Remainder of Venters Kraal No. 166, Portions 1 and 3 of Venters Kraal No.

166, Remainder of Wind Heuvel No. 190, Portion 1 of Wind Heuvel No. 190, Remainder of Zeekoegat No. 169 and Remainder of Farm 220.

**21 Digit SG code:**

C	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	2	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	2	0	0	0	0	1
C	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	4	0	0	0	0	1
C	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	1	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	1
C	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	3	0	0	0	0	1
C	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	3	0	0	0	0	2
C	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	1	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	6	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	6	0	0	0	0	1
C	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	6	0	0	0	0	3
C	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	1
C	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	9	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

Road coordinates

Ridges		Latitude	Longitude
<b>North ridge access road alternative 1</b>	<b>Start</b>	32° 40' 56.24" S	20° 24' 9.67" E
	<b>Middle</b>	32° 38' 32.47" S	20° 21' 19.23" E
	<b>End</b>	32° 39' 49.13" S	20° 18' 39.55" E
<b>Centre ridge access road alternative 2</b>	<b>Start</b>	32° 46' 53.52" S	20° 17' 19.95" E
	<b>Middle</b>	32° 46' 22.26" S	20° 16' 42.70" E
	<b>End</b>	32° 45' 39.80" S	20° 16' 20.11" E
<b>South Ridge Access</b>	<b>Start</b>	32° 46' 53.52" S	20° 17' 19.95" E

<b>Road Alternative 2</b>	<b>Middle</b>	32° 47' 27.70" S	20° 17' 32.80" E
	<b>End</b>	32° 48' 7.36" S	20° 17' 28.23" E

Centre point and corner co-ordinates for the development site

<b>Corner</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
Point A (North)	32° 35' 53.159" S	20° 20' 54.122" E
Point B (East)	32° 42' 51.846" S	20° 30' 58.001" E
Point C (South)	32° 49' 2.929" S	20° 18' 35.703" E
Point D (West)	32° 41' 8.691" S	20° 11' 30.209" E
Mid-Point	32° 42' 41.604" S	20° 19' 53.961" E
Substation Alternative 1 mid-point	32° 43' 59.0" S	20° 17' 28.6" E
Centre point coordinates	32° 44' 20.72" S	20° 17' 26.90" E

- for the development of the 325MW Rondekop Wind Energy Facility between Matjiesfontein and Sutherland within the Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

Technical details for the development of the 325MW Rondekop Wind Energy facility:

<b>Infrastructure</b>	<b>Footprint and dimensions</b>
Number of turbines	Up to 48 turbines.
Facility capacity	Up to 325 MW.
Hub Height	Up to 140 m.
Rotor Diameter	up to 180 m.
Blade length	Up to 90 m.
Area occupied by on-site substation	Up to 2.25 ha – <b>substation alternative 1.</b>
Height of substation	Single Storey.
Capacity of on-site substation	33kV / 132kV.
Area occupied by construction camp	Approximately 13 ha, includes an on-site concrete batching plant for use during the construction phase and for offices, administration, operations

	and maintenance buildings during the operational phase – <b>construction camp 3.</b>
Permanent area / Facility area occupied by the development footprint of the project	Approximately 37 543.13 hectares (cadastral units). The total footprint of the wind farm will however be approximately 114 ha (of which approximately 38 ha will be upgrading of existing roads).
Internal and public access roads	Internal access roads up to 12 m wide, including structures for storm water control, would be required to access each turbine and the substation, with a total footprint of about 73 ha. Where possible, existing roads will be upgraded, a total of up to 38.6 ha out of the above mentioned 73 ha. Turns will have a radius of up to 50 m in order for abnormal loads (especially turbine blades) to access the various turbine positions.
Site Access / Preferred Access Roads	The main access roads are located on R356: North Ridge Access Road Alternative 1; Centre Ridge Access Road Alternative 2; and South Ridge Access Road Alternative 2.
Area occupied by buildings	Approximately 1 ha (including inter alia offices, ablution facilities, reception area, storage room).
Turbines	Reinforced Concrete Foundation – 0.07 ha per turbine (foundation of 30m diameter and 5m in depth) Crane Platform/Pad – 90 m x 50 m (0.45 ha per turbine) Total areas for all 48 turbines will be approximately 25 ha
Electrical transformer	Electrical transformers (690V/33kV) will be located at each turbine with a typical footprint of 4m <sup>2</sup> (2m x 2m) but can be up to 100m <sup>2</sup> (10m x 10m) at certain locations to step up the voltage to 33kV. Underground 33kV cabling between turbines buried along access roads, where feasible, with overhead 33kV lines grouping turbines to crossing valleys and ridges outside of the road footprints to get to the onsite 33/132kV substation.
Wind Monitoring Masts	Up to 4 (the height will be the same as the final wind turbine hub height) wind measuring lattice masts strategically placed within the wind farm development footprint to collect data on wind conditions during the operational phase.

Fencing	Fencing will be required around the construction camp and on-site substation and will be a maximum of 6 m high.
Temporary Infrastructure	To obtain water from available local sources/ new or existing boreholes including a potential temporary above ground pipeline (approximately 35 cm diameter) to feed water to the on-site batching plant. Water will potentially be stored in temporary water storage tanks.

## Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

### Scope of authorisation

1. The development of the 325MW Rondekop Wind Energy Facility between Matjiesfontein and Sutherland within the Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province as described above is hereby approved.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this environmental authorisation, which form part of the environmental authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.
3. The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this environmental authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
4. The activities authorised must only be carried out at the property as described above.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this environmental authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further environmental authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. The holder of an environmental authorisation must apply for an amendment of the environmental authorisation with the competent authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.
7. This activity must commence within a period of five (05) years from the date of issue of this environmental authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses

and a new application for environmental authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.

8. Construction must be completed within 05 years of the commencement of the activity on site.
9. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this environmental authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

#### **Notification of authorisation and right to appeal**

10. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this environmental authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.
11. The notification referred to must –
  - 11.1. Specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
  - 11.2. Inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
  - 11.3. Advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
  - 11.4. Give the reasons of the competent authority for the decision.

#### **Commencement of the activity**

12. The authorised activity shall not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014, and no appeal has been lodged against the decision. In terms of Section 43(7), an appeal under Section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended 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 has been finalised.

#### **Management of the activity**

13. The Site Development Plan/ Layout Plan appended as part the EMPr, and submitted with the final EIAr dated 09 May 2019 is not approved. A copy of the final development layout map must be made available for comments by registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final development layout map (Size A3)

must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following:

- 13.1. Cable routes (where they are not along internal roads);
  - 13.2. Position of wind turbines and associated infrastructure;
  - 13.3. Internal roads indicating width;
  - 13.4. Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables;
  - 13.5. All sensitive features e.g. Important Bird Areas, Critical Biodiversity Areas, Ecological Support Areas, floral sensitive area, heritage sites, wetlands, pans and drainage channels that will be affected by the facility and associated infrastructure;
  - 13.6. Substation(s) inverters and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;
  - 13.7. Connection routes to the distribution/transmission network;
  - 13.8. All existing infrastructure on the site, such as roads;
  - 13.9. Soil heaps (temporary for topsoil and subsoil and permanently for excess material);
  - 13.10. Buildings, including accommodation; and,
  - 13.11. All "no-go" and buffer areas.
14. Furthermore, a shapefile of the approved development layout/footprint must be submitted to this Department within two months from the date of the decision. The shapefile must be created using the Hartebeesthoek 94 Datum and the data should be in Decimal Degree Format using the WGS 84 Spheroid. The shapefile must include at a minimum the following extensions i.e. .shp; .shx; .dbf; .prj; and, .xml (Metadata file). If specific symbology was assigned to the file, then the .avl and/or the .lyr file must also be included. Data must be mapped at a scale of 1:10 000 (please specify if an alternative scale was used). The metadata must include a description of the base data used for digitizing. The shapefile must be submitted in a zip file using the EIA application reference number as the title.

The shape file must be submitted to:

**Postal Address:** Department of Environmental Affairs  
Private Bag X447  
Pretoria  
0001

**Physical address:** Department of Environmental Affairs  
Environment House  
473 Steve Biko, Arcadia  
Pretoria

**For Attention:** Mr Muhammad Essop  
Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Strategic Infrastructure Developments

**Telephone Number:** (012) 399 9406

**E-mail Address:** [MEssop@environment.gov.za](mailto:MEssop@environment.gov.za)

15. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the final EIAr is not approved. The EMPr must be amended to include measures as dictated by the final site lay-out map and micro-siting; and the provisions of this environmental authorisation. The EMPr must be made available for comments by registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final EMPr must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. Once approved the EMPr must be implemented and adhered to.
16. The EMPr amendment must include but not limited to the following:
  - 16.1. The requirements and conditions of this authorisation.
  - 16.2. All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAr.
  - 16.3. All mitigation measures as listed in the specialist reports must be included in the EMPr and implemented.
  - 16.4. The final site layout map (A3 size).
  - 16.5. An alien invasive management plan to be implemented during construction and operation of the facility. The plan must include mitigation measures to reduce the invasion of alien species and ensure that the continuous monitoring and removal of alien species is undertaken.
  - 16.6. A plant rescue and protection plan which allows for the maximum transplant of conservation important species from areas to be transformed. This plan must be compiled by a vegetation specialist familiar with the site in consultation with the ECO and be implemented prior to commencement of the construction phase.
  - 16.7. A re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. Restoration must be undertaken as soon as possible after completion of construction activities to reduce the amount of habitat converted at any one time and to speed up the recovery to natural habitats.
  - 16.8. A traffic and transport management plans for the site access roads to ensure that no hazards would results from the increased truck traffic and that traffic flow would not be adversely impacted. These plans must include measures to minimize impacts on local commuters e.g. limiting construction



- vehicles travelling on public roadways during the morning and late afternoon commute time and avoid using roads through densely populated built-up areas so as not to disturb existing retail and commercial operations.
- 16.9. The post construction avifaunal monitoring plan that is in line with Birdlife's most recent guideline.
- 16.10. A storm water management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. The plan must ensure compliance with applicable regulations and prevent off-site migration of contaminated storm water or increased soil erosion. The plan must include the construction of appropriate design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off.
- 16.11. An erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the facility. Appropriate erosion mitigation must form part of this plan to prevent and reduce the risk of any potential erosion.
- 16.12. An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water systems.
- 16.13. A fire management plan to be implemented during the construction and operational phases.
- 16.14. Measures to protect hydrological features such as streams, rivers, pans, wetlands, dams and their catchments, and other environmental sensitive areas from construction impacts including the direct or indirect spillage of pollutants.
- 16.15. A Waste management plan to be implemented during construction and operation of the facility. The plan must include mitigation measures to reduce waste during construction and operation of the facility.
- 16.16. An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the EIA process.
- 16.17. A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map. This map must reflect the proposed location of the facility as stated in the EIAR and this authorisation.
17. The final EMPr (once approved) must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. It shall be seen as a dynamic document and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development when approved.
18. Changes to the EMPr must be submitted to this Department for approval before such changes could be effected.

19. The Department reserves the right to amend the EMPr (once approved) should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the EIAr be discovered.

### **Frequency and process of updating the EMPr**

20. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 28 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the environmental authorisation or EMPr.
21. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
22. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of GN R. 982. The updated EMPr must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.
23. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of GN R.982. Prior to approving an amended EMPr, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
24. The holder of the authorisation must request comments on the proposed amendments to the impact management outcomes of the EMPr or amendments to the closure objectives of the closure plan from potentially interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, by using any of the methods provided for in the Act for a period of at least 30 days.

### **Monitoring**

25. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced independent Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this environmental authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr.
  - 25.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
  - 25.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.

- 25.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
- 25.4. The ECO must remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.

### **Recording and reporting to the Department**

26. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this environmental authorisation, must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department at [Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za](mailto:Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za).
27. The holder of the environmental authorisation must, for the period during which the environmental authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department at [Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za](mailto:Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za).
28. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the approved EMPr, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of GN R. 982 of 04 December 2014, as amended.
29. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit an environmental audit reports to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e. within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
30. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, and must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the Environmental Authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr.
31. Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and Competent Authority in respect of this development.

### **Notification to authorities**

32. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity will commence, as well as a reference number.

### **Operation of the activity**

33. A written notification of operation must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity's operational phase.

### **Site closure and decommissioning**

34. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the holder of the authorisation must undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and competent authority at that time.

### **Specific conditions**

35. No activities will be allowed to encroach into a water resource without a water use authorisation being in place from the Department of Water and Sanitation.
36. Any spillage of any hazardous materials including diesel that may occur during construction and operation must be reported immediately to the Department of Water and Sanitation.
37. Watercourses outside the approved footprint/layout must be treated as "no-go" areas and demarcated as such. No vehicles, machinery, personnel, construction material, fuel, oil, bitumen or waste must be allowed into these areas without the express permission of and supervision by the ECO, except for rehabilitation work in these areas.
38. Before the clearing of the site, appropriate permits must be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) for the removal of plants listed in the National Forest Act and from the relevant provincial department for the destruction of species protected in terms of the specific provincial legislation. Copies of the permits must be kept onsite by the ECO.
39. Vegetation clearing must be limited to the required footprint for actual construction works and operational activities. Mitigation measures must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.
40. Reclamation activities in disturbed areas must be undertaken according to the rehabilitation plan indicated in the EMPr.
41. Disturbed areas must be rehabilitated as soon as possible after construction with local indigenous plants to enhance the conservation of existing natural vegetation on site.
42. Periodical inspection of turbines to remove and discourage avifaunal nesting must be undertaken. Any nest sites must be removed by a qualified avifaunal specialist.

43. Any fauna directly threatened by the construction activities must be relocated to a safe location by a qualified person.
44. Trees with active bird nests must not be removed or disturbed without a valid fauna permit from the Department of Environment and Nature Conservation under the Northern Cape Conservation Act, Act 9 of 2009.
45. Should any archaeological sites, artefacts, paleontological fossils or graves be exposed during construction, work in the immediate vicinity of the find must be stopped, South African Heritage Resources Agency Archaeological, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit (SAHRA APM) and SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be informed and the services of an accredited heritage professional obtained for an assessment of the heritage resources to be made.
46. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal where appropriate.
47. Any solid waste, which will not be recycled, must be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008). No waste material may be left on site after construction.
48. The recommendations of the EAP in the final EIAr dated 09 May 2019 and the specialist studies attached must be adhered to. In the event of any conflicting mitigation measures and conditions of the Environmental Authorisation, the specific condition of this Environmental Authorisation will take preference.

#### **General**

49. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
  - 49.1. At the site of the authorised activity;
  - 49.2. To anyone on request; and
  - 49.3. Where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.

50. National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder of the authorisation or his/her successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the holder of the authorisation with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.

Date of environmental authorisation: 13/06/2019



Mr Sabelo Malaza

**Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
**Department of Environmental Affairs**

## Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

### 1. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration -

- a) The listed activities as applied for in the application form received on 20 March 2019.
- b) The information contained in the draft EIAr received on 20 March 2019.
- c) The information contained in the final EIAr received on 09 May 2019.
- d) The comments received from the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO), South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO), South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA); Department of Environmental Affairs: Biodiversity Conservation; Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), AGRI Northern Cape, SENTECH SOC Ltd, Eskom, Birdlife South Africa as included in the final EIAr dated 09 May 2019.
- e) The comments received from various interested and affected parties as included in the final EIAr dated 09 May 2019.
- f) Mitigation measures as proposed in the draft EMPr and the final EIAr dated 09 May 2019.
- g) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the final EIAr dated 09 May 2019 and as appears below:
  - Bat specialist as amended, prepared by Bioinsight South Africa;
  - Terrestrial Ecological Specialist prepared by David Hoare Consulting (Pty) Ltd;
  - Heritage and Palaeontological impact assessment prepared by PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd;
  - Noise specialist prepared by Dr Brett Williams of Safetech;
  - Socio-Economic specialist prepared by Dr. Neville Bews & Associates;
  - Agricultural and soil specialist as amended, prepared by Johan Lanz;
  - Transport specialist prepared by JG Africa (Pty) Ltd;
  - Visual specialist prepared by SiVEST; and independently reviewed by SRK Consulting;
  - Aquatic impact assessment specialist prepared by EnviroSci (Pty) Ltd, and
  - Avifaunal impact assessment as amended, prepared by Bioinsight South Africa;
- h) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including Section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No.107 of 1998, as amended.

## 2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- a) Compliance with the requirements of GN R 982 and Regulation 23 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- a) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- b) The motivation for the need and desirability of the development which aims to:
  - To generate electricity to feed into the National Grid;
  - Reducing poverty through social development and achieving a sustainable economic growth in the Province; and
  - Create significant jobs during the construction phase and limited jobs opportunities during the operational phase of the facility.
- c) The findings of the site visit held by the Department of Environmental Affairs: Biodiversity Conservation Unit and the Chief Directorate: Integrated Environmental Authorisations; SiVEST and the applicant, Rondekop Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd on 30 May 2019.
- d) The final EIAR dated 09 May 2019 identified all legislations and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the final EIAR.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the final EIAR dated 09 May 2019 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- f) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, for public involvement.

## 3. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings -

- a) This application fully complies with the requirements of GN R 982 and Regulation 23 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- b) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the final EIAR dated 09 May 2019 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- c) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.



- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- e) The information contained in the final EIAr dated 09 May 2019 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- f) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the final EIAr dated 09 May 2019 and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the Environmental Authorisation, the authorised activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the authorised activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The Environmental Authorisation is accordingly granted.