



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2100/AM2

Enquiries: Ms Constance Musemburi

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Mr Matteo Giulio Luigi Maria Brambilla
URSA Energy (RF) (Pty) Ltd
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Pier Place
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Foreshore
CAPE TOWN
8001

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PER E-MAIL

Dear Mr Brambilla

AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 20 MAY 2022 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT ON THE FARM BLOMSKRAAL 216, VENTERSBURG RD, MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, LEJWELEPUTSWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE: (VIRGINIA 2 SOLAR PARK)

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the abovementioned application by this Department on 20 May 2022, the amendment to the EA (DFFE REF: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2100/AM1) issued by the Department on 13 June 2023, your application for amendment of the EA received by the Department on 03 August 2023 and the acknowledgement letter dated 08 August 2023, 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 20 May 2022, as follows:

Amendment 1: Removal of the 132kV substation and switching station from the EA

All references to "132kV step-up substation and switching station" is hereby removed from the EA.

Amendment 2: Removal of Listing Notice 1 Activity 11 (i) from the EA

The Listing Notice 1 Activity 11 (i) on page 3 of the EA typed as:

<u>GN R.983 Item 11 (i)</u> The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity -	The on-site substation of Virginia 2 Solar Park will be a 132 kV step-up substation and switching
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(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.	station located outside urban areas or industrial complexes.
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Is hereby removed from the EA.

Reason for Amendments:

The amendments being applied for are strictly of an administrative nature to meet the internal commercial, technical and contractual requirements for the Applicant to remove the 132kV step-up substation and switching station from the EA. The substation no longer forms part of the scope for the Virginia 2 Solar Park. The Virginia 2 Solar Park will connect to the Virginia 1 Solar Park substation via 33kV cables and then via the 132kV Powerline to the Eskom Theseus Substation. The area which the 132kV step-up substation and switching station occupied will be filled with solar panels. The additional panels will not increase the maximum generating capacity at the delivery point (Export Capacity) of 100MW as initially authorised. Consequently, the Listing Notice Activity (Listing Notice 1 Activity 11 (i)) falls away. The amendment will not increase or change the assessed impacts in the initial Environmental Authorisation.

This proposed amendment letter must be read in conjunction with the EA dated 20 May 2022, 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 fourteen (14) 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 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 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 twenty (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@dffe.gov.za



By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
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.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms#legal> authorisations or request a copy of the documents at appeals@dffe.gov.za.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment

Date: 24/02/2023

Ms Grace Mkhosana	Free State: DESDTEA	Email: mkhosana@detea.fs.gov.za
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