

27 October 2022

ENERTRAG SOUTH AFRICA (Pty) Ltd
Suite 104, 1st Floor, Albion Spring
RONDEBOSCH,
7700

ATTENTION: Gideon Raath

Dear Sir,

VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS FOR THE PROPOSED CAMDEN RENEWABLE ENERGY COMPLEX NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE: ADDENDUM LETTER

1. INTRODUCTION

ENERTRAG South Africa (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as “ENERTRAG” or “the Developer”) is proposing to develop the Camden Renewable Energy Complex near Ermelo in Mpumalanga Province. The proposed development comprises the following eight projects:

- Camden I Wind Energy Facility (up to 200MW);
- Camden I Wind Energy Facility Grid Connection (132kV);
- Camden I Solar Energy Facility (up to 100MW)
- Camden I Solar Energy Facility Grid Connection (132kV);
- Camden I Collector Substation, Main Transmission Substation and associated up to 400kV Power Lines;
- Camden I Green Hydrogen and Ammonia Facility
- Camden II Wind Energy Facility (up to 200MW);
- Camden II Wind Energy Facility Grid Connection (132kV).

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Basic Assessment (BA) processes as contemplated in terms of the EIA Regulations (2014, as amended) are currently underway in respect of these eight projects. Visual Impact Assessments (VIAs) for the projects were compiled earlier this year by SiVEST SA (Pty) Ltd and the findings were presented in five VIA reports, as follows:

- VIA for Camden I Solar Energy Facility (SEF) and associated grid connection infrastructure;
- VIA for Camden I Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and associated grid connection infrastructure;
- VIA for Camden II Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and associated grid connection infrastructure;
- VIA for Camden Green Hydrogen and Ammonia Facility (GHAF); and
- VIA for Camden Collector Substation, Main Transmission Substation and associated 400kV Power Lines.

It is understood that new information regarding renewable energy projects in the broader area has come to light and as this information was not included in the cumulative impact assessments in the VIAs, SLR Consulting has been requested to provide a visual specialist comment letter regarding this new information.

2. NEW INFORMATION

The additional renewable energy project identified is the proposed 666MW Umbila Emoyeni Renewable Energy Wind Facility (DFFE Reference No 4/12/16/3/3/2/2160) near Bethal in Mpumalanga Province. This project comprises wind and solar energy facilities as well as grid connection infrastructure. Environmental Authorisation for this project has not yet been granted.

3. SPECIALIST COMMENT

It has been noted that the proposed Umbila Emoyeni Renewable Energy Wind Facility is located 6km south-east of Bethal and 1km east of Mogenzon in Mpumalanga Province. Although the proposed project is approximately 28km from the Camden I WEF and associated grid connection infrastructure projects, the remaining six projects comprising the Camden Renewable Energy Complex are all more than 30kms away.

The respective VIA reports for the eight projects all concluded that the Camden Renewable Energy Complex as a whole will change the visual character of the area and alter the inherent sense of place, extending an increasingly industrial character into the broader area, and resulting in significant cumulative impacts. It is however anticipated that these impacts could be mitigated to acceptable levels with the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures. In addition, it is possible that these developments in close proximity to each other could be seen as one large Renewable Energy Facility (REF) rather than several separate developments. Although this will not necessarily reduce impacts on the visual character of the area, it could potentially reduce the cumulative impacts on the landscape.

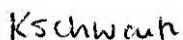
Accordingly, the significance of cumulative visual impacts were found to be potentially **High**, but could be reduced to **Moderate** with the implementation of mitigation measures.

Considering the distance of the proposed Umbila Emoyeni Renewable Energy Wind Facility from the Camden Renewable Energy Complex, and the undulating nature of the intervening terrain, it is not anticipated that this new project will exacerbate the cumulative impacts already identified.

4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, SLR acknowledges this additional project and confirms that there are no changes to the findings of the original VIA reports.

Yours faithfully



Kerry Schwartz
Visual Specialist



Liandra Scott-Shaw
Reviewer