

10 December 2020

Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
Arcadia, Pretoria

Attention: Ms Thulisile Nyalunga

THE PROPOSED BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT GUNSTFONTEIN WIND ENERGY FACILITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE (DEFF REF: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2236)

Notification of extension of the 2014 EIA Regulations prescribed timeframes

Dear Ms Nyalunga,

The Basic Assessment (BA) process currently being undertaken by Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System for the Gunstfontein Wind Farm, Northern Cape Province has reference. The BA is being undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, NEMA (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) and the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (as amended).

An application for Environmental Authorisation was submitted to the Department on 16 October 2020 together with the draft Basic Assessment Report. The draft BAR was made available for a 30-day review period from 16 October 2020 to 17 November 2020. All comments received by interested and affected parties (I&APs) during this review period have been recorded and will be included as part of the final Basic Assessment Report.

Following the submission of the application and draft BA Report to the DEFF, fine-scale walk-down surveys have been conducted by the environmental specialists and technical team allowing for more refined layout adjustments. Following the results of the walkthroughs, it was identified that minor layout updates were required for the proposed BESS in order to accommodate environmental sensitivities and technical considerations. In order to ensure the updated layout has been included into the Basic Assessment report and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), for approval together with the Environmental Authorisation (should one be issued), the draft Basic Assessment report and EMPr have been updated to reflect the revised layout. This updated draft Basic Assessment report and EMPr will also be submitted for a further 30 days public participation review period to I&APs and Stakeholders in order to provide I&APs an opportunity to comment on the refined layout.

Gideon Raath

From: Gideon Raath
Sent: Thursday, 10 December 2020 15:40
To: eiaapplications@environment.gov.za; EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za; TNyalunga@environment.gov.za
Cc: Stephnie Kot; Jo-Anne Thomas; Gideon Raath
Subject: SE2777| Notification for Extension of Timeframes DEFF: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2236
Attachments: SE2777 GunstfonteinBESS Notice of Timeframe extension 10.12.2020.pdf
Importance: High

Good day EIA Applications, EIA Admin and Thulisile,

Please find attached the notification letter for extension of the prescribed timeframes for the proposed Gunstfontein Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Basic Assessment application (DEFF Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2236), for your review, record and note. Kindly acknowledge receipt of the request in writing.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries on the above mentioned.

Thank you,



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Gideon Raath
Environmental & Permitting Consultant

e: gideon@savannahsa.com
c: [REDACTED]

SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant on Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015

Considering the changes to the layout and the further 30-day public review period being provided on the report, this letter serves to formally notify the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) that the final BA Report will be submitted within 140 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority for the proposed BESS project in accordance with Regulation 19(1)(b).

Please acknowledge receipt of the notification and advise should any further clarification be required.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raath". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Gideon Raath
Environmental Consultant
Gideon@savannahsa.com

From: Fiona Grimett <FGrimett@environment.gov.za>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 4:09 PM
To: Ethanne Soar <Ethanne@savannahsa.com>
Cc: Bongeka Mtyana <BMtyana@environment.gov.za>; Sindiswa Dlomo <SDlomo@environment.gov.za>
Subject: Approval of PP plan for the Gunstfontein BESS project, Great Karoo BESS project and Gunstfontein OHL Project, Northern Cape Province

Dear Ethanne,

The public participation plans for the Gunstfontein BESS project, Great Karoo BESS project and Gunstfontein OHL Project, Northern Cape Province, on page 83 - 110 of the attached document, have reference.

The Department has reviewed the attached Public Participation Plans, submitted in terms of the Directions Regarding Measures to Address, Prevent and Combat the Spread of COVID-19 Relating to National Environmental Management Permits and Licences. The proposed plans contain suitable public consultation measures, and are hereby **approved**, however please make provision for supplying (e.g. posting) hard copy executive summaries of the draft report to I&APs who request it, because they are unable to access the e-version, and where hard copies could not safely be made available at a suitable location (e.g. library). You may proceed with the implementation of the PP plan.

Further note that the attached directions apply for submitting draft documents to the Competent Authority for comment.

Regards,

Fiona Grimett
Department of Environmental Affairs
Chief Directorate: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Directorate: National Infrastructure Development: National Infrastructure Projects
Email: fgrimett@environment.gov.za

From: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@environment.gov.za>

Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 7:59 PM

To: Ethanhe Soar <Ethanhe@savannahsa.com>; EIAAdmin <EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za>

Cc: Gideon Raath <gideon@savannahsa.com>; Stephnie Kot <stephnie.kot@aced.co.za>; Bongeka Mtyana <BMtyana@environment.gov.za>; Fiona Grimett <FGrimett@environment.gov.za>

Subject: RE: Request for a Pre-Application meeting with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries for the Gunstfontein BESS project, Great Karoo BESS project and Gunstfontein OHL Project, located in the Northern Cape Province

Dear Ethanhe.

Your request was assigned to Bongeka.

She is copied in the email.

EIA Applications

Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries

Please note that this email is for the receipt and processing of online applications only, and is not monitored for responses. All queries must be directed to EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za.

Please note that this mailbox has a 5mb mail limit.

From: Bongeka Mtyana <BMtyana@environment.gov.za>

Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 3:45 PM

To: Ethanne Soar <Ethanne@savannahsa.com>

Cc: Fiona Grimett <FGrimett@environment.gov.za>; Sindiswa Dlomo <SDlomo@environment.gov.za>

Subject: RE: Request for a Pre-Application meeting with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries for the Gunstfontein BESS project, Great Karoo BESS project and Gunstfontein OHL Project, located in the Northern Cape Province

Good day Ethanne,

Kindly note that we will be available on 8 July 2020 between 11:00-13:00 pm kindly choose the slot that will suitable for you, thank you.

Regards

Bongeka Mtyana.

From: Ethanne Soar [Ethanne@savannahsa.com]

Sent: 30 June 2020 10:28 AM

To: Bongeka Mtyana

Cc: Fiona Grimett; Sindiswa Dlomo

Subject: RE: Request for a Pre-Application meeting with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries for the Gunstfontein BESS project, Great Karoo BESS project and Gunstfontein OHL Project, located in the Northern Cape Province

Dear Bongeka,

Thank you for your email.

May we please request to have the Pre-application meeting between 11-12 on the 8th of July next week Wednesday?

Thank you and look forward to your response.

Kind regards

Ethanne Soar

Environmental Consultant

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From: Bongeka Mtyana <BMtyana@environment.gov.za>

Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 11:46 AM

To: Ethanne Soar <Ethanne@savannahsa.com>

Cc: Fiona Grimett <FGrimett@environment.gov.za>; Sindiswa Dlomo <SDlomo@environment.gov.za>

Subject: RE: Request for a Pre-Application meeting with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries for the Gunstfontein BESS project, Great Karoo BESS project and Gunstfontein OHL Project, located in the Northern Cape Province

Good day Ethanne,

The proposed time is fine you can proceed with the meeting invitation.

Regards

Bongeka

From: Bongeka Mtyana <BMtyana@environment.gov.za>

Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 1:47 PM

To: Ethanne Soar <Ethanne@savannahsa.com>

Cc: Fiona Grimett <FGrimett@environment.gov.za>; Sindiswa Dlomo <SDlomo@environment.gov.za>

Subject: RE: Request for a Pre-Application meeting with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries for the Gunstfontein BESS project, Great Karoo BESS project and Gunstfontein OHL Project, located in the Northern Cape Province

Thanks kindly include three of us on the invitation.

From: Ethanne Soar [Ethanne@savannahsa.com]

Sent: 30 June 2020 01:28 PM

To: Bongeka Mtyana

Cc: Fiona Grimett; Sindiswa Dlomo

Subject: RE: Request for a Pre-Application meeting with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries for the Gunstfontein BESS project, Great Karoo BESS project and Gunstfontein OHL Project, located in the Northern Cape Province

Thank you will arrange that accordingly.

Kind regards

From: Bongeka Mtyana <BMtyana@environment.gov.za>

Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 3:21 PM

To: Ethanne Soar <Ethanne@savannahsa.com>

Cc: Fiona Grimett <FGrimett@environment.gov.za>; Sindiswa Dlomo <SDlomo@environment.gov.za>; Stephnie Kot <stephnie.kot@aced.co.za>;

Gideon Raath <gideon@savannahsa.com>

Subject: RE: Request for a Pre-Application meeting with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries for the Gunstfontein BESS project, Great Karoo BESS project and Gunstfontein OHL Project, located in the Northern Cape Province

Good day Ethanne,

Confirmed.

From: Ethanne Soar [Ethanne@savannahsa.com]

Sent: 07 July 2020 02:43 PM

To: Bongeka Mtyana

Cc: Fiona Grimett; Sindiswa Dlomo; Stephnie Kot; Gideon Raath

Subject: RE: Request for a Pre-Application meeting with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries for the Gunstfontein BESS project, Great Karoo BESS project and Gunstfontein OHL Project, located in the Northern Cape Province

Dear Bongeka,

I am just confirming our pre-app meeting scheduled for tomorrow from 11-12?

Kind regards

From: Ethanne Soar

Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 3:31 PM

To: EIApplications@environment.gov.za

Cc: Gideon Raath <gideon@savannahsa.com>

Subject: Request for a Pre-Application meeting with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries for the Gunstfontein BESS project, Great Karoo BESS project and Gunstfontein OHL Project, located in the Northern Cape Province

Importance: High

To whom it may concern,

Please find herewith attached the Pre-Application Meeting Request for the Gunstfontein BESS project, Great Karoo BESS project and Gunstfontein OHL Project, located in the Northern Cape Province.

The purpose of the meeting is to obtain confirmation of the listed activities applicable to the proposed application, as well the Department's requirements relating to the assessment of the proposed BESS and matters incidental thereto. The Applicant also wishes to confirm that the DEFF will be Competent Authority for this application. Please refer to attached agenda.

Please confirm receipt of the request.

Kindly advise should you require any further information.

Kind regards
Ethanne Soar

From: Ethanne Soar <Ethanne@savannahsa.com>

Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 11:01

To: EIAAdmin <EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za>; EIA Applications <EIAApplications@environment.gov.za>

Cc: Gideon Raath <gideon@savannahsa.com>; Stephnie Kot <stephnie.kot@aced.co.za>

Subject: Request for a Pre-Application meeting with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries for the Gunstfontein BESS project, Great Karoo BESS project and Gunstfontein OHL Project, located in the Northern Cape Province

To whom it may concern,

I am just following up with regards to the attached the Pre-Application Meeting Request for the Gunstfontein BESS project, Great Karoo BESS project and Gunstfontein OHL Project, located in the Northern Cape Province as we have not yet received any feedback yet from DEA or any email correspondence with regards to a possible meeting date.

The purpose of the meeting is to obtain confirmation of the listed activities applicable to the proposed application, as well the Department's requirements relating to the assessment of the proposed BESS and matters incidental thereto. The Applicant also wishes to confirm that the DEFF will be Competent Authority for this application. Please refer to attached agenda.

Please confirm receipt of the request as well as offer us a potential date for the meeting.

Kindly advise should you require any further information.

Kind regards
Ethanne Soar