

I&AP Correspondence

16 October 2020

Dear Interested & Affected Party,

BASIC ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR A BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT GUNSTFONTEIN WIND ENERGY FACILITY, NORTHERN CAPE ('Gunstfontein BESS')

NOTIFICATION OF BASIC ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Gunstfontein Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd would like to provide for the installation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at the authorised Gunstfontein Wind Energy Facility (WEF) (DEA Ref 14/12/16/3/3/2/826) in the Northern Cape Province. The BESS is proposed to be located near to the WEF substation and will be up to 4ha in total extent. MV cabling (33kV or less) will connect the BESS to the substation. An access road to the BESS of up 8m in width will be developed. The BESS is envisaged to become an integral component of the authorised Gunstfontein WEF which is located on the remainder of Farm Gunstfontein 131, near Sutherland.

The proposed BESS project will consist of:

- A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) inside containers or similar housing structures with a footprint of up to 4ha in extent.
- Access road to the BESS (which will branch off the WEF roads to the BESS).
- Medium Voltage cabling (above ground or overhead) between the BESS and substation.
- Fencing around the BESS.
- Possible firebreak (i.e. vegetation trimmed low) or 4m wide road around the BESS, inside the fencing.
- 4ha laydown area within the BESS footprint.

An area of ~500m around the boundary of the facility substation (assessment area) was assessed, to allow for the optimization of the placement of the BESS anywhere within this assessment area. This assessment area allows for the assessment of several location alternatives for the BESS and owing to the continuously advancing and emerging BESS technologies, there are several alternatives that can be considered for the BESS technology.

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The proposed developments are subject to the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014 published in terms of Section 24(5) of NEMA. In terms of the EIA Regulations of 2014, as amended, and promulgated under Sections 24 and 24D of the NEMA, various aspects of the project are listed as activities that may have an impact on the environment. Due to the triggering of GNR 327, Listing Notice 1, Activities 14 , 27(ii), 28 and GNR 327, Listing Notice 3, Activities 4(g)(ii)(ee), 10(g)(iii)(ee) and 12(g)(ii) amongst others, of the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended), a Basic Assessment process must be undertaken in order to obtain Environmental Authorisation for the construction and operation of the Gunstfontein BESS for the Gunstfontein Wind Farm.

Savannah Environmental was appointed as the independent environmental consultant to undertake the Basic Assessment and public participation process for the project to identify and assess all potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed upgrades and recommend appropriate mitigation measures in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

The public participation (PP) process will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Regulations 39 to 44 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, (GNR 326). The aim of the public participation process is primarily to ensure that:

- » information containing all relevant facts in respect of the proposed project is made available to potential stakeholders and I&APs
- » participation by I&APs is facilitated in such a manner that all potential stakeholders and I&APs are provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed project; and
- » comments received from potential stakeholders and I&APs are recorded and incorporated into the EIA process.

The restrictions enforced in terms of Government Gazette 43096 which placed the country in a national state of disaster limiting the movement and gathering of people to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus has placed some limitations on how public consultation can be conducted as part of a BA process. The consultation process for these projects has been designed considering these limitations, and the implementation is in line with our public participation plan (PP Plan), as approved by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). Our PP Plan is in compliance with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) Directions issued on the 5th of June 2020. One of our approved consultation methods is for you to visit our online stakeholder engagement platform, register your interest in the project/s, and view project documentation: visit <https://www.savannahsa.com/public-documents/energy-generation/gunstfontein-wind-energy-facility/>.

Alternative means of undertaking consultation have been designed to ensure that I&APs are afforded sufficient opportunity to raise comments on the project, predominately through an interactive web-based platform readily available and accessible to any person with interest in the project, enabling the public participation process to be undertaken in line with Regulations 41 to 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. This online stakeholder engagement platform allows the EAP to visually present details regarding the project and our consultation documentation, including project maps and plans, presentations and posters regarding the project, and reports available for review. The use of online tools enables stakeholders and I&APs to explore the project-specific content in their own time, and allows participation in the consultation process in a meaningful way.

The online platform allows for instant feedback and comments to be submitted, in so doing saving time for the stakeholder and also giving the assurance that their comments have been submitted for inclusion in the project reporting.

You and/or the organisation, which you represent, has been identified as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the proposed project as described above. Should you have an interest in the project, please register yourself as an I&AP by completing and returning the attached registration and comment form. By registering on the project database, you will be kept informed of the BA process being undertaken for the project and will be provided with an opportunity to provide comment and input.

AVAILABILITY OF BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

The Basic Assessment Report (BAR) is available for your review and comment from **Friday, 15 October 2020** until **Monday, 16 November 2020**. The report is available for download from our website / stakeholder engagement platform on the above-mentioned link.

The restrictions enforced in terms of Government Gazette 43096 which placed the country in a national state of disaster limiting the movement and gathering of people to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus has placed some limitations on making hard copies of the BARs available at public places such as libraries and municipal offices. As per our approved public participation plan submitted to the DMRE, you can also request that an electronic copy of the BARs be send to you via file transfer services such as WeTransfer or Dropbox or a compact disk (CD).

Please submit your written comments on the BARs to us by latest **Monday, 16 November 2020** via our website / stakeholder engagement platform (link provided above) or via:

- Telephone: 011 656 3237
- Mobile: 060 978 8396 (including messages and *please call me* notification)
- Fax: 086 684 0547
- Post: PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157
- E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

to Nicolene Venter or Ronald Baloyi.

All comments received during the 30-day review and comment period will be recorded and included in the Final BAR for submission to the DEA in line with Regulation 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended (GN R326).

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information and/or clarification regarding the project. Our team welcomes your participation and look forward to your involvement throughout this process.

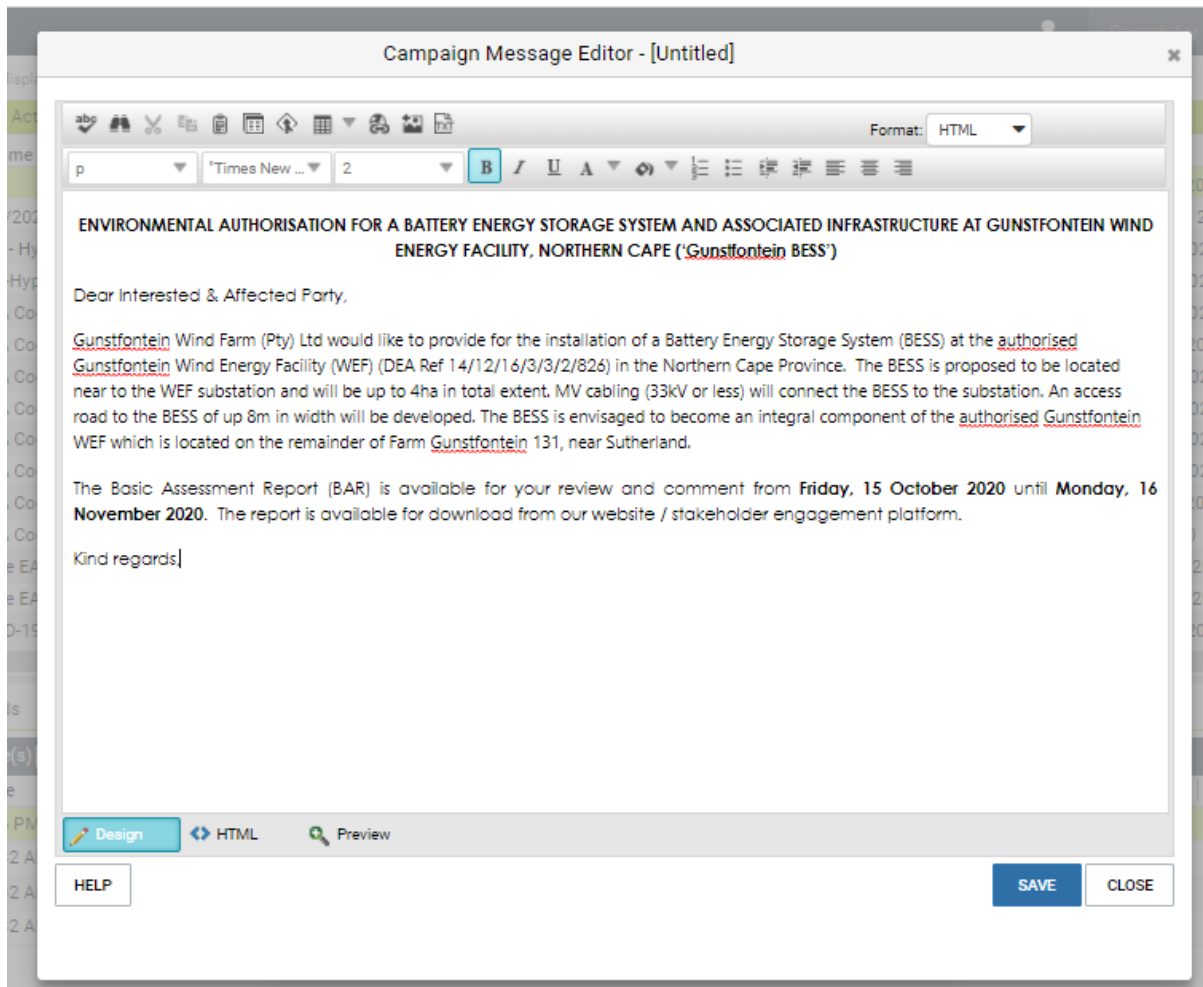
Kind regards



Nicolene Venter
Public Participation and Social Consultant
[E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

Documents: Registration and Comment Form

GUNSTFONTEIN BESS: Notification of Availability of Basic Assessment Report for review and comment



[Print](#)

GUNSTFONTEIN BESS: Notification of Availability of Basic Assessment Report for review and comment

Date: Friday,
October 16,
2020
Time: 7:37
PM

Company	Last Name	First Name	
	Babuseng	Enib	
	Coetzee	Johan	
	de Klerk	Johan	
	Du Plessis	Abraham (Andries)	
	Gerntholtz	Otto	
	Hamman	Johan	
	Henk	Marais	
	Herbst	Christiaan	
	Jordaan	Hilletje	
	Marais	Danie	
	Mahlwa	Sameul	
	Mothibi	Wonders	
	Muller	Andreas	
	Niehaus	Jake	
	Paulsen	Nicolaas	
	Roux	Francois	
	Schoeman	Hendrik	
	Symington	Cornelius	
	Trichardt	Shana	
	van der Merwe	Jan Hendrik	
	van Heerden	Mandie	
	Wootton	David	
4 Stone Buildings (Pty) Ltd	Boeddinghaus	Hermann	
ACED	Kot	Stephnie	
African Clean Energy Development (ACED)	Kot	Stephnie	
Agri Northern Cape	Jansen	Nicol	
Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS)	Masilela	Simphiwe	
BirdLife South Africa	Ralston Paton	Samantha	
Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency	Abrahams		
Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency	Curtis		
Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency	Mnisi		
Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency	Mthimkhulu	M	
Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency	Rossouw	Elkerine	
CellC	Otto	Marius	
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Buthelezi	Thoko	
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Mans	Jacoline	
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Marubini	Mashudu	
Department of Energy	Masipa	Pheladi	
Department of Environmental Affairs	Tshitwamolomoni	Stanley	
Department of Mineral Resources and Energy	Mutheiwana	Kevin	
Department of Rural Development and Land Reform	Makgalemele	Nozizwe	
Department of Rural Development and Land Reform	Oliver	Ryan	
Department of Science and Technology	Kgampe	Mere	
Department of Water and Sanitation	Cloete	Shaun	

Department of Water and Sanitation	Franks	Lindiwe	
Department of Water and Sanitation	Hlengani	Alexia	
Department of Water and Sanitation	Roberts	John	
Department of Water and Sanitation	Streuders	Kobus	
Dirk van Zyl Trust	Van Zyl	Erasmus	
Eldri van Zyl Trust	van Zyl	Eldri & Judith	
Endangered Wildlife Trust	Hoogstad	Constant	
ENEL Green Power	Ravisha	Ajodhapersadh	
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd	Geeringh	John	
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd	Khanye	Nondwe	
Gabrielsbaken 2	du Plessis	Babs	
Gabrielsbaken 2	Loubser	Nicky	
Gielie Hanekom Familietrust	Hanekom	Gielie	
Houdenbeck 222	van der Merwe	Pieter	
Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality	Dauids	Jeremia	
Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality	Fortuin	JJ	
Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality	Gibbons	Allistar	
Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality	Van Der Colff	Johan	
Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality	Von Mollendorf	Gustav	
Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality	Von Mollendorf	Gustav	
Komsberg Wilderness Nature Reserve	Scott	Ian	
Namakwa District Municipality	Fortuin	Chris	
Namakwa District Municipality	Smith	Immanuel	
Namakwa District Municipality	Theron	Hertzog	
Ngwao-Boswa Ya Kapa Bokone (N Cape Prov Heritage Resource Authority)	Ratha	Timothy	
Northern Cape DENC	Cloete	Peter	
Northern Cape Department of Roads & Public Works	Nogwili	Kholikile	
Northern Cape Dept of Agriculture, Env Affairs, Rural Dev & Land Reform	Fisher	Bryan	
Northern Cape Economic Development Agency	Mbobo	Babalwa	
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd	Raath	Gideon	
Sentech Ltd	Koegelenberg	Johan	
Sentech Ltd	Motlhake	Serame	
South African Astronomical Observatory	Sefako	Ramotholo	
South African Astronomical Observatory	Vaisanen	Petri	
South African Astronomical Observatory	Whitelock	Patricia	
South African Astronomical Observatory	Williams	Ted	
South African Civil Aviation Authority	Stroh	Lizell	
South African National Defense Force	Zondi	Kebasenosi	
South African National Roads Agency Limited	Abrahams	Nicole	
South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)	Monama	Tshegofatso	
South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)	Sithole	Busang	
South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)	Tiplady	Adrian	
Southern African Large Telescope	Strydom	Ockert	
Sutherland Farmers Association	Van Wyk	Abra	
Sutherland Farmers' Union	Vlok	Braam	
Sutherland Library	Cloete	Ronell	
Telkom SA SOC Ltd	Shaw	Leonard	
Wolwekop Trust	Conradie	Ockert	

Totals:

Savannah Environmental
Website Uploads

Gunstfontein Wind Energy Facility

NOTICE OF BASIC ASSESMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR FOR A BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT GUNSTFONTEIN WIND ENERGY FACILITY, NORTHERN CAPE (Gunstfontein BESS)

Project Name	Applicant
Battery Energy Storage System and Associated Infrastructure for the Gunstfontein Wind Energy Facility, Northern Cape Province	Gunstfontein Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd

Project details: Gunstfontein Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd would like to provide for the installation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at the authorised Gunstfontein WEF (DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/826) in the Northern Cape. The BESS is proposed to be located near to the facility substation and will be approximately 3-4ha in total extent. MV cabling (33kV or less) will connect the BESS to the substation.

An access road to the BESS will be developed. The BESS is envisaged to become an integral component of the authorised WEF which is located on Farm Gunstfontein 131, Sutherland.

The proposed BESS project will consist of:

- Access road to the BESS (will branch off the WEF roads to the BESS).
- Medium Voltage cabling (above ground or overhead) between the BESS and substation.
- Fencing around the BESS.
- Possible firebreak (i.e. vegetation trimmed low) or 4m wide road around the BESS, inside the fencing.
- 4ha Laydown Area.

Project Location: The proposed BESS and associated infrastructure is located on one (1) affected property, namely:

Farm Gunstfontein 131, Sutherland, Northern Cape

Basic Assessment Process: In terms of Sections 24 and 24D of NEMA, as read with the EIA Regulations 2014 of GNR 324 – R327, a Basic Assessment process is required to obtain Environmental Authorisation for the proposed project. An application for Environmental Authorisation for the project has been lodged with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), as the competent authority. Savannah Environmental is undertaking the required basic assessment and public participation process.

Basic Assessment Report available for Review: The Basic Assessment Report is available for review and comment. The 30-day review and comment period of the BA Report is from **Friday, 16 October 2020** until **Monday, 16 November 2020**. The report is also available for download on www.savannahsa.com/projects. The due date for written comment is **Monday, 16 November 2020**.

To obtain further information and register on the project database, please submit your name, contact information and interest in the project in writing to:

Nicolene Venter or Ronald Baloyi
at Savannah Environmental
P.O. Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157

Tel: 011 656 3237 / Fax: 086 684 0547

Email:
publicprocess@savannahsa.com

Website: www.savannahsa.com

Documents for public review are available for download.

[VIEW DOWNLOADS](#)



Downloads

Gunstfontein BESS

[Basic Assessment Report](#)

[Appendix A - EIA Project Consulting Team and Specialist CVs](#)

[Appendix B - Authority Consultation](#)

[Appendix C1 - I&AP Database](#)

[Appendix C2 - Site Notices and Newspaper Advertisements](#)

[Appendix C3 - Organs of State Correspondence](#)

[Appendix C4 - Stakeholder Correspondence](#)

[Appendix C5 - Comments Received](#)

[Appendix C6 - Comments and Reponses Report](#)

[Appendix C7 - Public Partipation Plan and Approval](#)

[Appendix D - Ecological Impact Assessment](#)

[Appendix E - Heritage Impact Assessment](#)

[Appendix F - Noise Impact Assessment](#)

[Appendix G - Agricultural Impact Assessment](#)

[Appendix H - Environmental Management Programme](#)

[Appendix I - Maps \(A3\)](#)

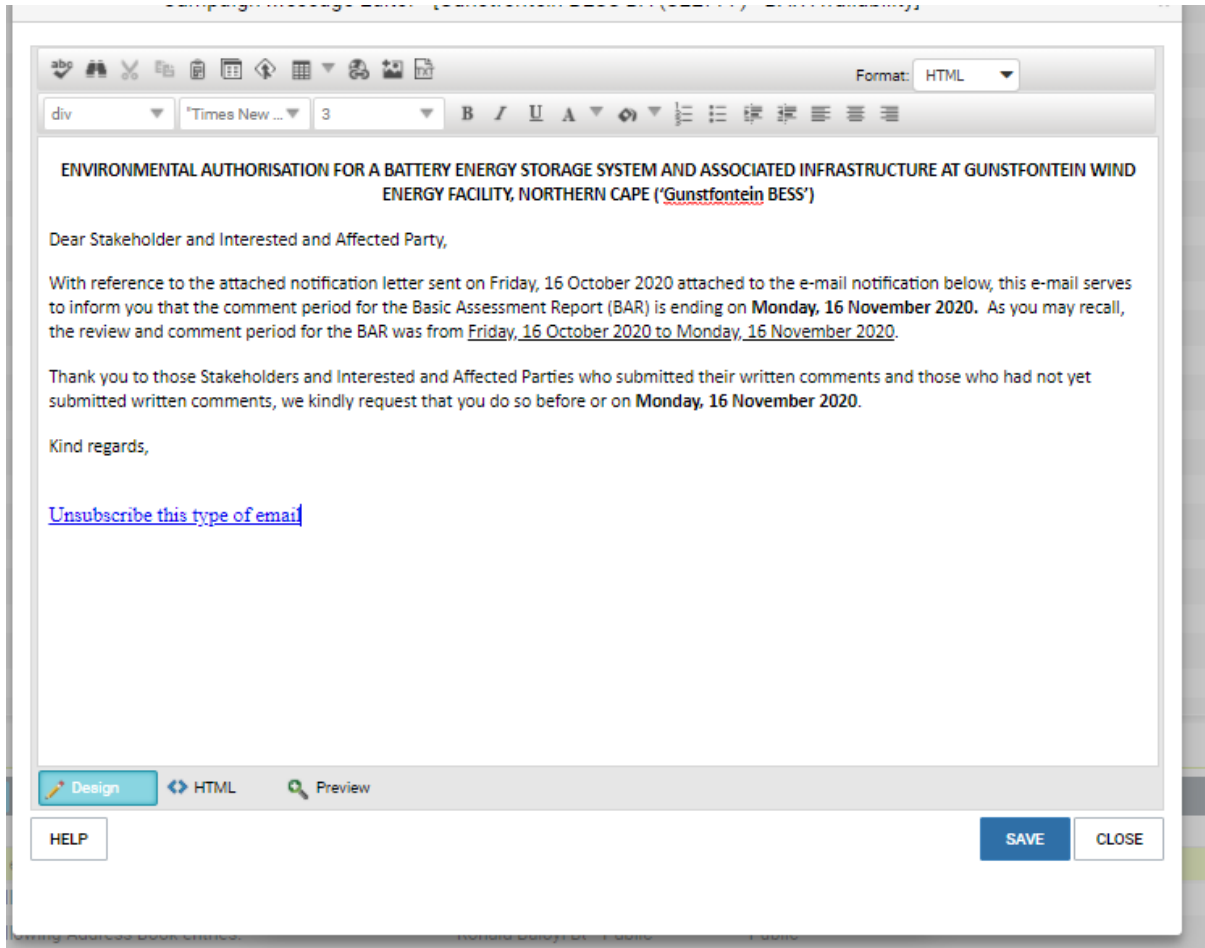
[Appendix J - Specialist Declarations](#)

[Appendix K - EAP Declaration of Independence and Affirmation](#)

[Appendix L - DEFF Online Screening Report](#)

Sent to all registered I&APs on project database
(Refer to Appendix C1)

**Proof of email - GUNSTFONTEIN BESS: Reminder Notification of availability of
Basic Assessment Report for review and Comment ending soon**



Notification of availability of Revised BAR for review and comment

Notification of availability of Revised BAR for review
and comment
(to be included in final BAR)

Savannah Environmental
Website Uploads

Proof of Revised BAR upload
(to be included in Final BAR)