

Appendix C5:
Comments Received

Revised

Basic Assessment Report

(Friday, 11 December 2020 – Monday, 01 February 2021)

BREEDE-GOURITZ

BREDE-GOURITZ

Catchment Management Agency
Opvanggebied Bestuursagentskap
I-Arhente yoLawulo lomMandla nokungqongileyo

P.O Box 1205 / 101 York Street
George, 6530

✉: Mr.M Mthimkhulu
✉: mmthimkhulu@bgcma.co.za

☎: 023-346 8000
📁: 4/10/2/J11A/Gunsfontein farm

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
P.O. Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

Attention: Thalitha Botha

Dear Madam

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED GUNSTFONTEIN SWITCHING STATION, 132 KV OVERHEAD POWER LINE & ANCILLARY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE PORPOSED GUNSTFONTEIN WIND FARM NEAR SUTHERLAND, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The above mentioned report, dated 22 August 2016 has reference.

The Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA) has the following comments:

1. No operation is allowed within 100m of a water resource or 1:100 year floodline whichever is the greatest. If the proposed activity falls within these criteria, you need to apply for water use license to ensure that the riparian ecological status of the water resource will not be negatively impacted.
2. Refer to page 50 of your report. The crossing of watercourses constitutes a Water Use authorisation in terms of section 21 of the National Water Act (NWA) 1998(Act No. 36 of 1998). Please submit a Water Use License application to this Agency.
3. Please note that no water maybe abstracted from any surface water body and groundwater unless authorized by this Agency.
4. No surface, ground or storm water may be polluted as a result of any activities on the site.
5. The rehabilitation of the site must ensure that the final conditions of the site is environmentally acceptable and that there will be no adverse long term effects on the surrounding environment especially the water resources.

6. Please note that all requirements as stipulated in the National Water Act (NWA) 1998(Act No. 36 of 1998) must be adhered to.
7. Please note that this Agency reserves the right to amend and / or add to the comments made above in the light of subsequent information received.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the official at the above mentioned details.

Kind Regards

PHAKAMANI BUTHELEZI

P.P. 
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

DATE: 26 August 2016

DEFF



environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2236

Enquiries: Fiona Grimett

Telephone: (012) 399 9393 E-mail: fgrimett@environment.gov.za

Ms Jo-Anne Thomas
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
2191

Telephone Number: (011) 656 3237
Email Address: joanne@savannahsa.com

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Thomas

COMMENTS ON THE REVISED DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT GUNSTFONTEIN WIND ENERGY FACILITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The revised draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated December 2020 and received by this Department on 11 December 2020, refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the final BAR:

(a) Listed Activities

- i. Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. Only activities applicable to the development must be applied for and assessed.
- ii. Please ensure that the written consent of the landowner is attached to the final BAR. Please note that the written consent has not been included in Appendix 3 of the electronic copy of the application form submitted to the Department.

(b) Public Participation Process

- i. The following information must be submitted with the final BAR:
 - a) A list of registered interested and affected parties as per Regulation 42 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended;
 - b) Copies of all comments received during the revised draft BAR comment period; and
 - c) A comment and response report which contains all comments received and responses provided to all comments and issues raised during the public participation process for the revised draft BAR. Please note that comments received from this Department must also form part of the comment and response report.
- ii. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the revised draft BAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final BAR.

iii. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final BAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

(c) Environmental Management Programme

- i. Please ensure that the mitigation measures specified in the BAR and specialist reports are also incorporated into the EMPr. You are further required to ensure that the EMPr complies with the content of the EMPr in terms of Appendix 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- ii. Given that the applicability of listed activities 14 of Listing Notice 1 and 10(g)(ii)(ee) of Listing Notice 3 has been confirmed, please also ensure that the EMPr includes mitigation measures for the operational phase of these activities.

General

Should you fail to meet any of the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 19 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, your application will lapse.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries

Signed by: Ms Fiona Grimett

Designation: Deputy Director (Acting): National Infrastructure Projects

Date: 01/02/2021

cc:	Richard Gordon	Gunstfontein Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd	E-mail: stephnie.kot@aced.co.za
	Bryan Fisher	Department of Environment and Nature Conservation, Northern Cape	E-mail: Bfisher@ncpg.gov.za
	JJ Fortuin	Karoo Hoogland Municipality	E-mail: munman@karoohoogland.gov.za

ESKOM

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Eskom requirements for work in or near Eskom servitudes.

1. Eskom's rights and services must be acknowledged and respected at all times.
2. Eskom shall at all times retain unobstructed access to and egress from its servitudes.
3. Eskom's consent does not relieve the developer from obtaining the necessary statutory, land owner or municipal approvals.
4. Any cost incurred by Eskom as a result of non-compliance to any relevant environmental legislation will be charged to the developer.
5. If Eskom has to incur any expenditure in order to comply with statutory clearances or other regulations as a result of the developer's activities or because of the presence of his equipment or installation within the servitude restriction area, the developer shall pay such costs to Eskom on demand.
6. The use of explosives of any type within 500 metres of Eskom's services shall only occur with Eskom's previous written permission. If such permission is granted the developer must give at least fourteen working days prior notice of the commencement of blasting. This allows time for arrangements to be made for supervision and/or precautionary instructions to be issued in terms of the blasting process. It is advisable to make application separately in this regard.
7. Changes in ground level may not infringe statutory ground to conductor clearances or statutory visibility clearances. After any changes in ground level, the surface shall be rehabilitated and stabilised so as to prevent erosion. The measures taken shall be to Eskom's satisfaction.
8. Eskom shall not be liable for the death of or injury to any person or for the loss of or damage to any property whether as a result of the encroachment or of the use of the servitude area by the developer, his/her agent, contractors, employees, successors in title, and assignees. The developer indemnifies Eskom against loss, claims or damages including claims pertaining to consequential damages by third parties and whether as a result of damage to or interruption of or interference with Eskom's services or apparatus or otherwise. Eskom will not be held responsible for damage to the developer's equipment.
9. No mechanical equipment, including mechanical excavators or high lifting machinery, shall be used in the vicinity of Eskom's apparatus and/or services, without prior written permission having been granted by Eskom. If such permission is granted the developer must give at least seven working days' notice prior to the commencement of work. This allows time for arrangements to be made for supervision and/or precautionary instructions to be issued by the relevant Eskom Manager

Note: Where an electrical outage is required, at least fourteen work days are required to arrange it.

10. Eskom's rights and duties in the servitude shall be accepted as having prior right at all times and shall not be obstructed or interfered with.
11. Under no circumstances shall rubble, earth or other material be dumped within the servitude restriction area. The developer shall maintain the area concerned to Eskom's satisfaction. The developer shall be liable to Eskom for the cost of any remedial action which has to be carried out by Eskom.
12. The clearances between Eskom's live electrical equipment and the proposed construction work shall be observed as stipulated by *Regulation 15 of the Electrical Machinery Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993)*.
13. Equipment shall be regarded electrically live and therefore dangerous at all times.
14. In spite of the restrictions stipulated by Regulation 15 of the Electrical Machinery Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993), as an additional safety precaution, Eskom will not approve the erection of houses, or structures occupied or frequented by human beings, under the power lines or within the servitude restriction area.
15. Eskom may stipulate any additional requirements to highlight any possible exposure to Customers or Public to coming into contact or be exposed to any dangers of Eskom plant.
16. It is required of the developer to familiarise himself with all safety hazards related to Electrical plant.
17. Any third party servitudes encroaching on Eskom servitudes shall be registered against Eskom's title deed at the developer's own cost. If such a servitude is brought into being, its existence should be endorsed on the Eskom servitude deed concerned, while the third party's servitude deed must also include the rights of the affected Eskom servitude.

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat)(EAPASA)
Senior Consultant Environmental Management
Eskom Transmission Division: Land & Rights
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SAHRA

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 15616

Date: Friday January 29, 2021
Page No: 1

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

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. Medium Voltage below ground or overhead cabling (33kV or less) will connect the BESS to the substation and an access road to the BESS will branch off the WEF roads.. An area of ~500m around the boundary of the facility substation is to be assessed, to allow for the optimization of the placement of the BESS. The BESS is envisaged to become an integral component of the authorised WEF. The full extent of the 500m assessment zone around the Gunstfontein WEF substation has been assessed in this report.

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Gunstfontein Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Amendment Application process for the authorised Gunstfontein Wind Farm, near Sutherland, Northern Cape Province (DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/826).

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) was submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed amendment will include the installation of a battery energy storage system (BESS) and associated infrastructure such as fencing around the BESS, possible fire break around the BESS, MV cabling, laydown area and access road (not longer than 500 m) within the authorised footprint covering less than 4 ha.

In a Final Comment issued on the 12/11/2020, SAHRA noted no objections to the proposed development and provided conditions for the development (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/543863>).

Since the issuing of the Final Comment, a revised DBAR has been submitted for review noting that minor adjustments to the layout and location of the BESS had to be made based on technical considerations and environmental concerns.

Our Ref:



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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 15616

Date: Friday January 29, 2021
Page No: 2

Cedar Tower Services (Pty) Ltd was appointed to provide heritage specialist input for the revised BAR.

Lavin, J. 2020. Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure at Gunstfontein Wind Energy Facility, Northern Cape Province (DEFF Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2236)

The specialist confirmed that the layout adjustment has no material change on the original assessment's findings, impacts and recommendations. The recommendations and findings of the original report therefore will apply to the revised layout.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final BAR and EMP:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed amendment to the authorised development, including the revised layout as noted in the revised DBAR;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows:
- The Final Comment issued on the 18/03/2016 (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/359844>), 20/06/2016 (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/365018>) and 31/05/2019 (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/523991>) are still valid for this application and must be adhered to;
- 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:

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Date: Friday January 29, 2021
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- i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
- The Final BAR and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA Amendment Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/541733>

GUNSTFONTEIN BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Our Ref:



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Date: Friday January 29, 2021
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Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.

Basic Assessment Report

(Friday, 04 September 2020 – Monday, 05 October 2020)

Basic Assessment Report

(Friday, 04 September 2020 – Monday, 05 October 2020)

DEFF



environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

DEFF Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2236

Enquiries: Ms Thulisile Nyalunga

Telephone: (012) 399 9405 E-mail: tnyalunga@environment.gov.za

Ms Jo-Anne Thomas
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
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2191

Telephone Number: (011) 656 3237
Email Address: joanne@savannahsa.com

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Thomas

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT GUNSTFONTEIN WIND ENERGY FACILITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated October 2020 and application for environmental authorisation received by this Department on 16 October 2020, refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the final BAR:

Listed Activities

- (a) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. Only activities applicable to the development must be applied for and assessed. In this regard, please note installations, facilities or infrastructure related to the development (or expansion) of a battery energy storage system will not trigger any of the activities related to the development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, unless the battery is not fully assembled and the electrolyte (or substances making up such electrolyte) intended for such battery, may potentially be stored on site, in a container (e.g. tanks), prior to filling. In light of this, please clarify the applicability of the applied for activities 14 of Listing Notice 1 and 10(g)(ii)(ee) of Listing Notice 3.
- (b) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final BAR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.
- (c) Please ensure that the written consent of the landowner is attached to the application, where the proponent is not the owner or person in control of the land on which the activity is to be undertaken.
- (d) It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the basic assessment process as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of GN R. 985 Activities. Written comments, or proof of the attempt to obtain comments, from the relevant authorities must be submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.

Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- (e) Please ensure that the final BAR includes a layout map which indicates the following:
 - (i) The location of the battery storage system in relation to the authorised Great Karoo Wind Energy Facility, with associated infrastructure;
 - (ii) All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing/authorised and proposed);
 - (iii) The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the BESS; and
 - (iv) Buffer areas; and, all "no-go" areas.
- (f) The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments; and existing grid infrastructure.
- (g) Google maps will not be accepted.

Alternatives

- (h) Please note that you are required to provide a full description of the process followed to reach the proposed preferred technology alternative within the site, in terms of Appendix 1(3)(1)(h) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, including details of all the technology alternatives considered (particularly the Lithium-ion and Redox-flow, and the advantages and disadvantages associated with each)..
- (i) Please provide written proof of an investigation and motivation, if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 1.

Coordinates

- (j) Kindly ensure that coordinates of the BESS with associated infrastructure are provided in the format: degrees, minutes and seconds.

Specialist Assessments

- (k) Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for the authorisation.
- (l) The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.
- (m) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and were necessary, include further expertise advice.
- (n) Please ensure that declaration forms are attached for all specialist studies conducted.

Public Participation Process

- (o) The following information must be submitted with the final BAR:
 - (i) A list of registered interested and affected parties as per Regulation 42 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended;
 - (ii) Copies of all comments received during the draft BAR comment period; and
 - (iii) A comment and response report which contains all comments received and responses provided to all comments and issues raised during the public participation process for the draft BAR. Please note that comments received from this Department must also form part of the comment and response report.
- (p) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft BAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final BAR.
- (q) Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final BAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

Environmental Management Programme

- (r) Please ensure that the content of the EMPr complies with the requirements of the Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- (s) The EMPr must distinguish between impact management actions and impact management outcomes, per Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- (t) The EMPr must include:
 - (i) A map at an appropriate scale, which superimposes the proposed activity, its associated structures, and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred site, indicating any areas that should be avoided (no-go areas), including buffers.
 - (ii) All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the BAR and the specialist studies conducted.
 - (iii) 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.
- (u) Please ensure that the EMPr also includes:
 - (i) The method of monitoring the implementation of the impact management actions contemplated in paragraph (f) of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
 - (ii) The frequency of monitoring the implementation of the impact management actions contemplated in paragraph (f) of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
 - (iii) An indication of the persons who will be responsible for the implementation of the impact management actions.
 - (iv) The time periods within which the impact management actions contemplated in paragraph (f) of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, must be implemented.
 - (v) The mechanism for monitoring compliance with the impact management actions contemplated in paragraph (f) of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
 - (vi) A program for reporting on compliance, taking into account the requirements as prescribed by the Regulations.

General

- (v) Please ensure that the final BAR includes an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP (administered by a Commissioner of Oaths) as per Appendix 1(3)(r) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that the BAR must include:
 - (i) *"an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to:*
 - (ii) *the correctness of the information provided in the reports;*
 - (iii) *the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs;*
 - (iv) *the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and*
 - (v) *any information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested and affected parties"*.
- (w) Please also ensure that the final BAR includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required and the date on which the activity will be concluded as per Appendix 1(3)(1)(q) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- (x) You are reminded that the final BAR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of basic assessment reports and EMPr in accordance with Appendix 1, Appendix 4 and Regulation 19(1) (a) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2014), as amended.
- (y) Please ensure that the risks associated with the Battery Energy Storage System technologies are assessed and included in the final BAR.

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 19(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that: *"Where basic assessment must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 90 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority - (a) a basic assessment report, inclusive of specialist reports, an EMPr, and where applicable a closure plan, which have been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority."*

Should there be significant changes or new information that has been added to the BAR or EMPr which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process, you are required to comply with Regulation 19(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states: *"the applicant must, within 90 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority – (b) a notification in writing that the basic assessment report, inclusive of specialist reports an EMPr, and where applicable, a closure plan, will be submitted within 140 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the basic assessment report or EMPr or, where applicable, a closure plan, which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in subregulation (1)(a) and that the revised reports or, EMPr or, where applicable, a closure plan will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days"*.

Should you fail to meet any of the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 19 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, your application will lapse.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries

Signed by: Ms Sindiswa Dlomo

Designation: Deputy Director: National Infrastructure Projects

Date: 12/11/2020

cc:	Mr Richard Gordon	Gunstfontein Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd	E-mail: stephnie.kot@aced.co.za
	Bryan Fisher	Department of Environment and Nature Conservation, Northern Cape	E-mail: Bfisher@ncpg.gov.za
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DEFF

Biodiversity Conservation Unit



environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:
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Tel (+ 27 12) 399 9372

Reference: Gunstfontein BESS

Enquiries: Ms Aulicia Maifo / Ms Portia Makitla

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Ms Nicolene Venter
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PER E-MAIL

Dear Ms Venter

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE GUNSTFONTEIN WIND ENERGY FACILITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation received and evaluated the draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) for the above mentioned project and its specialist's studies. Based on the information provided in the specialist report, the study area is mostly open plains, underlain by the Roggeveld Shale Renosterveld. The project development site is located within the Komsberg Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ) and within the Central corridor of the Strategic Transmission Corridors. From a regional perspective, this area is considered favourable for the development of the proposed grid connection extension infrastructure. The proposed BESS will be constructed 500m within the authorised Gunstfontein Wind Energy Facility (WEF) substation footprint.

The following recommendations must be considered during the FBAR phase:

- High sensitive areas in close proximity to the development footprint must be demarcated as no-go area i.e. drainage lines;
- A Plant Rescue and Protection Plan for the identified Species of Conservation Concern which allows for the maximum transplant of conservation important species from areas to be transformed must be developed and submitted, and

- Erosion and Alien Plant Species Management Plan, and Rehabilitation Plan must be submitted as part of the final report to mitigate on habitat degradation due to erosion and alien plant invasion.

Yours faithfully



Mr Seoka Lekota
Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation
Department of Environmental, Forestry & Fisheries
Date: 16/11/2020

SAHRA

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 15616

Date: Thursday November 12, 2020
Page No: 1

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

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. Medium Voltage below ground or overhead cabling (33kV or less) will connect the BESS to the substation and an access road to the BESS will branch off the WEF roads.. An area of ~500m around the boundary of the facility substation is to be assessed, to allow for the optimization of the placement of the BESS. The BESS is envisaged to become an integral component of the authorised WEF. The full extent of the 500m assessment zone around the Gunstfontein WEF substation has been assessed in this report.

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Gunstfontein Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Amendment Application process for the authorised Gunstfontein Wind Farm, near Sutherland, Northern Cape Province (DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/826).

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed amendment will include the installation of a battery energy storage system (BESS) and associated infrastructure such as fencing around the BESS, possible fire break around the BESS, MV cabling, laydown area and access road (not longer than 500 m) within the authorised footprint covering less than 4 ha.

A previous SAHRIS Case ID 8383 has reference (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/gunstfontein-wef>). In a Comment issued on the 18/03/2016, SAHRA noted no objections to the original Environmental Authorisation, with the exception of two turbines (as discussed in the second Final Comment issued on the 20/06/2016) and provided several conditions.

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CaseID: 15616

Date: Thursday November 12, 2020
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CTS Heritage has been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA Amendment application report as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Lavin, J. 2020. Heritage Screening Assessment for Basic Assessment Process for the Great Karoo Battery Energy Storage System, Northern Cape Province.

No heritage resources were previously identified within the development footprint where the BESS is proposed to be situated.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- A buffer zone of 60 m must be maintained from all identified heritage and palaeontological resources. Micro adjustment of all relevant proposed infrastructure must occur in order to achieve this;
- The stone cairn/possible grave (Site ID 129288), should be demarcated and fenced off with a perimeter buffer zone of 60m;
- A Conservation Management Plan must be developed to ensure the on-going conservation of identified heritage resources during the life of the development. The report must include a map of all identified heritage and palaeontological resources with buffer zones of 60 m in relation to the proposed development. This can be the same as the CMP developed for the WEF. This report must be submitted to SAHRA if the EA has been approved and must form part of the final EMPr;
- Palaeontological Monitoring of the construction phase can be conducted by a suitable qualified Environmental Control Officer, punctuated by regular site visits by a qualified palaeontologist. Proof of training must be presented to SAHRA and regular monitoring reports must be submitted to SAHRA;
- If concentrations of archaeological heritage material and human remains are uncovered during construction, all work must cease immediately and be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) (021 642 4502) so that systematic and professional investigation/ excavation can be undertaken.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final BAR and EMPr:

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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za

Date: Thursday November 12, 2020

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- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed amendment to the authorised development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows:
- The Final Comments issued on the 18/03/2016 (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/359844>), 20/06/2016 (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/365018>) and 31/05/2019 (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/523991>) are still valid for this application and must be adhered to;
- 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
 - The Final BAR and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
 - The decision regarding the EA Amendment Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Our Ref:



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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 15616

Date: Thursday November 12, 2020
Page No: 4

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/541733>

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

7 9 OCT 2020

PROVINCIAL HEAD OFFICE, N.C.

Received:

PH

Tracking no

ROUTE FORM

BRANCH: NORTHERN CAPE REGION

Reference No: SP 82515913

CONFIRMATION OF WATER AVAILABILITY FOR THE 200MW GUNSTFONTEIN WIND ENERGY FACILITY ON FARM GUNSTFONTEIN NO. 131, FALLS WITHIN KAROO HOOGLAND LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NAMAKWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE

DRAFTING OFFICIAL		SUPERVISOR	
Name: A. Hlengani Extension: 5832 Office No.: 24		Name: Mr. K. Streuders Extension: 8851 Office No.: B81	
Rank: Acting DD	Date:	Rank: Acting Provincial Head	Date:

Rank	Date	Initials	Office No		Rank	Date	Initials	Office No	
ASD:				▼	ASD:				▲
DD:				▼	DD:				▲
D:	29 OCT 2020	[Signature]	A20	▼	D:				▲
PH:				▼	PH:	5/11/2020	[Signature]	B81	▲

ACTING DD

ACTING DIRECTOR

PROVINCIAL HEAD

Ms Smuts INSTRUCTIONS/REMARKS TO AUTHOR BY PROVINCIAL HEAD
 Please scan to Ms Hlengani, Cloete
 File to Ms Thebe to send back to Upn.



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Northern Cape Region
Lower Orange Water Management Area
Private Bag X5912, Upington, 8800
Tel: (054) 338-5800, Fax: (054) 334-0205, www.dwa.gov.za

F 054 334 0205

E hlengania@dws.gov.za

Hlengani Alexia

054 338 5800

By Registered Mail

Gunstfontein Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 23101
Claremont
7735
Email: Stephnie.Kot@aced.co.za

Attention: Mr. Stephnie Kot

Dear Sir

CONFIRMATION OF WATER AVAILABILITY FOR THE 200MW GUNSTFONTEIN WIND ENERGY FACILITY ON FARM GUNSTFONTEIN NO. 131, FALLS WITHIN KAROO HOOGLAND LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NAMAKWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, SUTHERLAND, NORTHERN CAPE REGION

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) hereby acknowledges the receipt of your correspondence detailing the intent of Gunstfontein Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd to submit a proposal to the Department of Energy. It is our understanding that as part of such application it is required of the project proponent to provide confirmation that water is available for the proposed project as well as proof of submission of a water use license application as required under qualification criteria.

The Department hereby wishes to confirm that it has engaged with the proponent regarding the water use requirements of the proposed 200MW photovoltaic solar energy facility to be located on Farm Gunstfontein no.131, Sutherland.

After due consideration of the water resource availability in the relevant catchment area, it was found that sufficient water is available to meet the water requirements for the proposed project. The water will be sourced from boreholes on the property. The water consumption is estimated to be 40,000 m³/annum during the construction phase and 2,800 m³/annum during operation phase of the proposed wind energy facility.



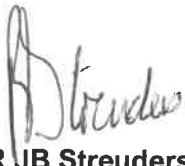
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Our Future - make it work

CONFIRMATION OF WATER AVAILABILITY FOR THE 200MW GUNSTFONTEIN WIND ENERGY FACILITY ON FARM GUNSTFONTEIN NO. 131, FALLS WITHIN KAROO HOOGHLAND LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NAMAKWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, SUTHERLAND, NORTHERN CAPE REGION

The Department further wishes to confirm that a full assessment of the application for water use authorization by Gunstfontein Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd: Gunstfontein Wind Energy Project will only be undertaken in the event that the project proponent has been appointed as a preferred bidder by the Department of Energy.

This letter of confirmation is non-binding and should not be construed as authorization to engage in any water use as defined in Section 21 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act no.36 of 1998) or that a water use license will necessarily be granted nor does it grant exemption from the requirements of any other applicable act, ordinance, regulation or by law.

Yours faithfully



MR JB Streuders
ACTING PROVINCIAL HEAD: NORTHERN CAPE
DATE: 5/11/2020



water & sanitation

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F ☎ 054 334 0205

E ☎ cloetes@dwa.gov.za

✉ Shaun Cloete

☎ 054 338 5800

✉ **By Registered Mail**

The Project Analyst: ACWA Power Energy Africa (Pty) Ltd

7th Floor, 90 Grayston
90 Grayston Drive
Sandton
21963
South Africa

Email: LRathanya@acwapower.com

Attention: Ms. Lusani Madali

Dear Madam,

CONFIRMATION OF WATER AVAILABILITY AND APPLICATION FORM FOR THE 10 (200MW) PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANTS ON THE REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM BOKPOORT NO.390, 20 KM NORTH-WEST OF THE TOWN OF GROBLERSHOOP WITHIN THE! KHEIS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE ZF MGCAWU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE REGION.

The Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) hereby acknowledges receipt of your correspondence dated 14 September 2020 wherein you detailed your request for the confirmation of water availability for both the construction and operational phase of the proposed 10 (200MW) Photovoltaic power plants to be located in the Farm Bokpoort No.390 in Northern Cape. After due consideration on the water resource availability in the relevant catchment area, it was found that sufficient water is available to meet the water requirements which is estimated at 22 000 m³/a for the construction phase of the 10 PV plants and 4 500m³/a for the operational and commissioning phase for each individual PV plant.



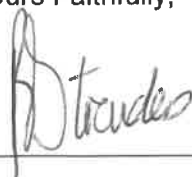
CONFIRMATION OF WATER AVAILABILITY AND APPLICATION FORM FOR 10 (200MW) PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANTS ON THE REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM BOKPOORT NO.390, 20 KM NORTHWEST OF THE TOWN OF GROBLERSHOOP WITHIN THE! KHEIS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE ZF MGCAWU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE REGION.

The DWS also acknowledges receipt of the DW 755 form (Application for Water Use Licence) submitted on the 14 September 2020. The DWS further wish to confirm that a full assessment of the application for water use authorization by ACWA Power Energy Africa (Pty) Ltd will only be undertaken in the event that the project proponent has been appointed as a preferred bidder under the Department of Mineral Resource and Energy's Risk Mitigation IPP Procurement Program.

As a part of the assessment of the Application for Water Use Licence, and notwithstanding our confirmation above, further and more detailed confirmation of water availability for the above mentioned project will be undertaken during the assessment of the WULA, this will include for example existing users in the catchment, comments from national Water resource planning and whether the application is classified as a strategic water use in terms of National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998 to mention a few.

This letter of confirmation is non-binding and should not be construed as authorization to engage in any water use as defined in Section 21 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) or that a water use license will necessarily be granted nor does it grant exemption from the requirements of any other applicable act, ordinance, regulation by-law.

Yours Faithfully;



MR. JB STREUDERS

(ACTING) PROVINCIAL HEAD: NORTHERN CAPE REGION

DATE: 5/11/2020



water & sanitation

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F 054 334 0205

E cloetes@dwa.gov.za

Shaun Cloete

054 338 5800

By Registered Mail

The Project Analyst: ACWA Power Energy Africa (Pty) Ltd

7th Floor, 90 Grayston
90 Grayston Drive
Sandton
21963
South Africa

Email: LRathanya@acwapower.com

Attention: Ms. Lusani Madali

Dear Madam,

CONFIRMATION OF WATER AVAILABILITY FOR THE 10 (200MW) PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANTS ON THE REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM BOKPOORT NO.390, 20 KM NORTHWEST OF THE TOWN OF GROBLERSHOOP WITHIN THE! KHEIS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE ZF MGCAWU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE REGION.

The Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) hereby acknowledges receipt of your correspondence dated 14 September 2020 wherein you detailed your request for the confirmation of water availability for both the construction and operational phase of the proposed 10 (200MW) Photovoltaic power plants to be located in the Farm Bokpoort No.390 in Northern Cape.

The confirmation of water availability for the above mentioned project will be assessed during the assessment of the WULA. There are a few aspects taken into consideration when water will be allocated e.g. existing users in the catchment, comments from national Water resource planning and whether the application is classified as a strategic water use in terms of National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998 to mention a few.



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
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CONFIRMATION OF WATER AVAILABILITY FOR 10 (200MW) PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANTS ON THE REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM BOKPOORT NO.390, 20 KM NORTHWEST OF THE TOWN OF GROBLERSHOOP WITHIN THE! KHEIS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE ZF MGCAWU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE REGION.

The DWS further wish to confirm that a full assessment of the application for water use authorization by ACWA Power Energy Africa (Pty) Ltd will only be undertaken in the event that the project proponent has been appointed as a preferred bidder under the Department of Energy's Expanded and Accelerated Renewable Independent Power Producer Procurement Program.

This letter of confirmation is non-binding and should not be construed as authorization to engage in any water use as defined in Section 21 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) or that a water use license will necessarily be granted nor does it grant exemption from the requirements of any other applicable act, ordinance, regulation by-law.

Yours Faithfully



Mr JB Streuders

(ACTING) PROVINCIAL HEAD: NORTHERN CAPE REGION

DATE: 29/10/2020