

**APPENDIX H5:**  
**Public Participation Plan and Approval**

# Public Participation Plan

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**  
**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 DURING COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL 4**

**The 100MW Poortjies Wind Energy Facility, located in the Khai-Mai Local Municipality within the**  
**Northern Cape Province**

**DFFE REF: 14/12/16/3/3/2/681/1**

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The restrictions enforced in terms of Government Gazette 43096 which placed the country in a national state of disaster limiting the movement of people to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus has placed some limitations on the commencement and continuation of the public consultation as part of an amendment process. Considering these limitations, the following consultation process has been designed and will be implemented, on approval by the DFFE, to cater for the conducting of the public participation process which includes I&APs, the competent authority, directly impacted landowners/occupiers, adjacent landowners/occupiers, relevant Organs of State departments, Municipalities, ward councillors and other key stakeholders.

**Project Details:**

South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd is proposing a Part II, substantive amendment to the currently authorised Poortjies Wind Energy Facility (DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/681/1), located within the Khai-Mai Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province. The facility is approved on the following properties:

- » Portion 1 of the Farm Poortje 209.
- » Remainder of the Farm Poortje 209.

The project is currently authorised for the following infrastructures:

- » Up to 50 wind turbines
- » Foundations to support the turbine towers
- » Cabling between the project components, to be lain underground where practical
- » An on-site 132kV IPP substation (12.5ha) to facilitate the grid connection (Alternative 1 position)
- » Internal access roads (~33km)
- » Workshop area for maintenance and storage
- » Permanent wind monitoring masts
- » Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with a footprint of up to ~2.8ha, within the authorised footprint of the on-site substation.

**Technical details for the facility are as follows**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Description/Dimension</b>
Location of the site	~22km south-west of Pofadder
Extent of the proposed development footprint	~3197 Ha
SG Codes	C03600000000020900001 C03600000000020900000
Number of turbines	50

Component	Description/Dimension
Details of the turbine	Hub Height 140m Rotor diameter 140m
Access road and width	33km length and 8m width
Export capacity	100MW

The proponent is now applying for a substantive amendment (Part II) towards amending the EA with the inclusion of the following:

- i. Amendment of the turbine specifications, to be as follows:
  - o The increase of the hub height from 140m (authorised in 2015 and re-issued in 2021) to reflect as 'up to 200m'
  - o The increase of the rotor diameter from 140m (authorised in 2015 and re-issued in 2021) to reflect as 'up to 200m'.
  - o Inclusion of the Blade tip height of 'up to 300m'.

### **Public Participation Plan:**

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 amendment process.

The traditional means and opportunities available for the undertaking of public participation are still covered and implemented as part of this plan considering the current limitations. Alternative means of undertaking consultation has been designed and will be implemented by Savannah Environmental to ensure that I&APs are afforded sufficient opportunity to raise comments on the project through an interactive web-based platform readily available and accessible to any person illustrating interest in the project and enables 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 allow them to participate in a meaningful way in the consultation process. 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. Access to the project documentation via the Savannah Environmental website will be unrestricted to all I&APs. I&APs wanting to access the project information via this portal will be required to request a unique code to access the report of interest. This step and the online portal support the EAP in maintaining a complete and accurate record and database of all parties who have interest in the project (and who choose to access the report via our online portal), in line with the requirements of the Regulations.

The online stakeholder engagement platform considers the limitations applied by the Disaster Management Act Regulations prohibiting the gathering of people, as well as limitations which certain I&APs may have in terms of access to computers and internet as well as access to public spaces not open for operation or which have restricted access.

The benefits of the online stakeholder engagement platform include:

- Ability to create a dedicated project-specific online platform to enable easy access to project-related information.
- Ability to reach a wider audience, allowing more widespread consultation for major infrastructure projects.
- Allowing stakeholders and I&APs the opportunity to engage on a project without leaving their office or home.
- Enabling stakeholders and I&APs to register their interest in a project (for inclusion on the project database), and automatically gaining access to comprehensive project documentation.
- Enabling the EAP to maintain a complete database of I&APs through maintaining a record of persons accessing the online stakeholder consultation platform.
- Enabling the EAP and stakeholders/I&APs to meet virtually.
- Provides a resilient solution to a public consultation process.

Where I&APs do not have the applicable facilities i.e. access to internet, mobile phones, or computers, provision has been made to include these I&APs in the consultation process by consulting with the Ward Councillor, the ward committee members, community representatives and local community forum members. Hard copy documentation can be made available but will only be provided where appropriate sanitary conditions can be maintained.

The schematic illustration overleaf provides an overview of the tools that are available to I&APs and stakeholders to access project information and interact with the public participation team to obtain project information and resolve any queries that may arise, and to meet the requirements for public participation.

i. Stakeholder identification and register of I&APs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Register as an I&amp;AP on the online platform, via completion of a form and provision of contact information, by responding to an advert, or sending a 'please call me' which will be responded to</li><li>• State interest in the project</li><li>• Receive all project related information via email or other appropriate means.</li></ul>
ii. Advertisements and notifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advertisements, site notices and notifications provide information and details on where to access project information.</li><li>• Notifications regarding the amendment process and availability of project reports for public review to be sent via email, post or SMS notifications.</li></ul>
iii. Public Involvement and consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Virtual presentation (in English) available via the online platform.</li><li>• Availability of project information via the online platform or other appropriate means.</li></ul>
iv. Comment on the amendment report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Availability of the project reports via the online platform for 30-day comment period. Hard copies can be made available but only where sanitary conditions can be assured.</li><li>• Submission of comments via email or post to the PP team.</li><li>• Comments recorded and responded to as part of the process.</li></ul>
v. Identification and recording of comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comments and Responses Report, including all comments received to be included in the reporting.</li><li>• Comments received during full process to be included within the final Report for decision-making.</li></ul>

The PP plan, as set out in the table below, has been drafted for the above-mentioned project/s to ensure compliance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations and that reasonable opportunity is provided to I&APs and that all administrative actions are reasonable. Proof of all notifications will be included in the public participation appendix included in the amendment reports.

The PP plan is submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) for discussion and agreement before the PP process is undertaken for the proposed project.

**Public Participation Plan: Discussion of approach and methodology to meet the requirements of the Regulations**

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
<p>Regulation 40(1), Regulation 40(3) &amp; Regulation 43 – provide all potential or registered interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, <b>access to project related information</b>, access to the amendment reports which will be made available for a period of at least 30 days to <b>submit comments on draft reports</b> prior to submission of final reports for decision-making.</p>	<p><u>Notification of amendment processes to be distributed using the following means:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E-mail</li> <li>• Dedicated project page on the Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform</li> <li>• Post (where email or other means are not possible)</li> <li>• Site notices placed on site</li> <li>• Advertisement in the media.</li> </ul> <p><u>Notification of availability of reports and period for review using the following means:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newspaper adverts, including details of where the report can be accessed and details of the Savannah Environmental website.</li> <li>• Notification letter (to be sent via email, fax or post) to registered I&amp;APs.</li> <li>• Notifications to communities via one of the following, where available: Ward Councillor, ward committee members, identified and confirmed community representatives, and local community forum members.</li> <li>• SMS and/ or WhatsApp notifications where no other means are available.</li> </ul> <p><u>Availability of reports for review:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports available on the Savannah Environmental website for download.</li> <li>• Electronic copies can be made available to parties via a secure Dropbox link (or other means) that will be emailed upon request for the documentation.</li> <li>• CDs to be posted, if requested.</li> <li>• Hard copy project documentation and reports to be available only where appropriate sanitary conditions can be maintained.</li> <li>• Report will be submitted to the DFFE using the DFFE online portal.</li> <li>• Report will be submitted to Organs of State and commenting authorities via an agreed electronic platform (such as on CD, or via a secure Dropbox link or WeTransfer, etc.).</li> </ul> <p><u>Submission of comments to PP team:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written comments can be submitted via email, post or fax.</li> <li>• Any comments provided telephonically or via instant message will be transcribed and recorded as formal comments.</li> </ul>

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	<p><u>Opportunity and means of consultation where applicable facilities are not available to I&amp;APs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Post (where email or other means are not possible)</li> <li>» Placement of site notices.</li> <li>» Advertisement in media (local newspaper).</li> <li>» Consultation and communication through one of the following, where available: the ward councillor, ward committee members and confirmed community representatives and local community forum members.</li> <li>» SMS or WhatsApp notification.</li> <li>» CDs to be posted, if requested (and where a computer is available).</li> <li>» Hard copy report where sanitary conditions can be maintained.</li> </ul>
<p>Regulation 40(2) - Provide access to all project information that has the potential to influence any decision regarding the application, unless protected by law, and must include <b>consultation</b> with Competent Authority, Organs of State &amp; registered I&amp;APs.</p> <p>Regulation 41(6) – Relevant <b>information available and accessible</b></p>	<p>Provision of project information and consultation via various means including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telephonic consultation.</li> <li>• Email correspondence.</li> <li>• Correspondence sent via post (where email or other means are not possible)</li> <li>• SMS and/or WhatsApp.</li> <li>• The Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform will ensure that I&amp;APs are afforded sufficient opportunity to participate in the project and raise comments on the project to any person with interest in the amendment process for the project. This online stakeholder engagement platform which will include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o A means to register on the project database and provide details of their interest in the project</li> <li>o Project maps (as applicable)</li> <li>o Presentation providing a summary of the project details and the findings of the amendment motivation report</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Telephonic consultation with I&amp;APs and stakeholders.</li> <li>• Communities will be consulted via one of the following, where available: the relevant Ward Councillor, ward committee members, community representative or local community forum members, as determined and confirmed during the consultation process.</li> </ul> <p><u>Opportunity and means of consultation where applicable facilities are not available to I&amp;APs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Telephonic consultation.</li> </ul>



Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Post (where email or other means are not possible)</li> <li>» SMS and/or WhatsApp.</li> <li>» Consultation and communication through one of the following, where available: the ward councillor, ward committee members and confirmed community representatives and local community forum members.</li> </ul>
Regulation 41(2)(a) – <b>Site notice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site notices will be placed at affected properties by the EAP, landowner or specialist, depending on specific travel restrictions applicable at the time.</li> <li>• Size and content will be in accordance with Regulation 41(3) &amp; 41(4).</li> </ul>
Regulation 41(2)(b) – <b>Written notification</b> to affected and neighbouring landowners and occupiers; municipality; ward councillors; Organs of State & other parties required by the CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notification letter to be sent via email, fax or post.</li> </ul> <p><u>Opportunity and means of consultation where applicable facilities are not available to I&amp;APs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Post (where email or other means are not possible)</li> <li>» SMS or WhatsApp notification.</li> </ul>
Regulation 41(2)(c) – (e) – <b>Advertisements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adverts to be placed in a local newspaper.</li> </ul>
Regulation 42 – <b>Project database</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project database from the EIA process undertaken from the project to be used and verified.</li> <li>• Additional I&amp;APs can register via a registration process involving the completion of a reply form or response to adverts.</li> <li>• In order to access the Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform for a specific project, I&amp;APs will be required to provide their details such that they are automatically registered on the project database and obtain a release code to access the documentation.</li> <li>• The register of I&amp;APs will contain the names of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o all persons already registered on the database as part of the EIA process.</li> <li>o all persons who requested to be registered on the database through the use of the Savannah Environmental website, or in writing and disclosed their interest in the project.</li> <li>o all Organs of State which hold jurisdiction in respect of the activity to which the application relates; and</li> <li>o all persons who submitted written comments and viewed documentation on the Savannah Environmental website during the public participation process.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The information captured on the project database will contain the names, organisation and contact details, as required. It must be noted that personal details will not be shared in public documentation in accordance with the requirements of the POPI Act.</li> </ul>
Regulation 44 – <b>Comments</b> to be recorded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments to be submitted directly to the PP team via email, fax or post.</li> </ul>

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any comments provided telephonically or via instant message will be transcribed and recorded as formal comments.</li> <li>• I&amp;APs without the applicable electronic facilities to access the Savannah Environmental website will be provided with the opportunity to submit their comments and communicate with the public participation team via SMS, WhatsApp or by sending a Please-call-me notification. These comments will be transcribed and recorded as formal comments.</li> <li>• All comments received throughout the amendment process will be acknowledged and captured in the comments and responses report (C&amp;RR) with a relevant response.</li> <li>• The C&amp;RR and all comments received will be included in the final report submitted to the CA.</li> </ul> <p><u>Opportunity and means of consultation where applicable facilities are not available to I&amp;APs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Written comments via post or fax (where email or other means are not possible).</li> <li>» Comment submission telephonically and instant messaging (SMS and/or WhatsApp).</li> <li>» Sending a Please-call-me notification to the Public Participation team so that contact can be made.</li> </ul>
<p>Regulation 4(2) – Notification of <b>decision</b> on application</p>	<p><u>Notification of Environmental Authorisation (EA) using the following means:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notification letter with details as outlined in EA issued will be sent via email, fax or post.</li> <li>• Notifications that the EA has been issued and where to download and/or obtain a copy to communities via one of the following, where available: Ward Councillor and his/her ward committee members and identified and confirmed community representatives.</li> <li>• SMS or WhatsApp notification.</li> </ul> <p><u>Opportunity and means of consultation where applicable facilities are not available to I&amp;APs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Post (where email or other means are not possible)</li> <li>» Communication via one of the following, where available: the ward councillor, ward committee members and confirmed community representatives and local community forum members.</li> <li>» SMS and/or WhatsApp.</li> </ul>

Approval

## Rendani Rasivhetshele

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**From:** Herman Alberts <HALberts@environment.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 August 2021 11:36  
**To:** Jo-Anne Thomas  
**Cc:** Muhammad Essop; Coenrad Agenbach; Rendani Rasivhetshele  
**Subject:** 2021-08-0001 Approval of Public Participation (PP) Plan for the proposed the construction of the 100MW Poortjies Wind Energy Facility on portion 1 of the farm Poortjie 209 and the remainder of the farm Poortjie 209

Dear Ms Thomas

The Public Participation (PP) Plan for the construction of the 100MW Poortjies Wind Energy Facility on portion 1 of the farm Poortjie 209 and the remainder of the farm Poortjie 209, received by this Department on 03 August 2021, refers.

Based on the information provided this Department decided to **approve** the PP Plan for the proposed project. You may proceed with the PP process in accordance with tasks contemplated in the PP plan. Should you wish to deviate from the submitted PP Plan, the amended PP Plan must be submitted to the Department for approval prior commencement of the PP Process.

A copy of the PP Plan and this approval must be submitted as part of the application form when the application is lodged.

*Also note that submission of a PP Plan and approval thereof do not negate your responsibility to comply with the requirements for public participation in terms of Regulations 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.*

**Kind Regards**

**Herman (Attie) Alberts**

**Environmental Officer Specialised Production - Priority Infrastructure Projects**

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