

30 August 2019

Department of Environmental Affairs  
Environment House  
473 Steve Biko  
Arcadia,  
0083

Attention: Mr Herman Alberts

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**CASTLE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, NORTHERN CAPE  
PROVINCE**

**AMENDMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION  
(DEA Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/278)**

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**Notification of the implementation of Regulation 32(1)(b)**

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Dear Mr Alberts,

The application for the amendment to the Environmental Authorisation (EA) process for the Castle Wind Energy Facility, currently being undertaken by Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd, has reference. The amendment 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).

A Draft Motivation Report was made available for a 30-day review period from 3 July 2019 to 2 August 2019. During the 30-day review period Savannah Environmental received the following written comments from Birdlife SA:

*"The Avifauna Comparative Assessment relies on field data collected approximately 5 years ago (the avifaunal assessment was dated October 2014). There appears to have been no attempt to revisit the site to determine if the receiving environment has significantly changed. With an operational wind farm adjacent to the site, the receiving environment has almost certainly has changed. We recommend that, as an absolute minimum, that the location and occupancy of important sites (e.g. nests) be checked. It is also possible that the presence of turbines might have influenced how some species use the area. This need to be addressed in the assessment."*

In order to address these comments, a site visit is being undertaken by the Avifaunal specialist to determine whether the environment has changed and to determine the status of important sites (e.g. Verreaux Eagle nests). The avifaunal assessment will be updated following the site visit and as this will include new information which was not contained in the reports consulted on during the initial public participation process. An extension in time is therefore required to allow for the revised Draft Motivation Report to be made available for review and comment for a 30-day review period to all interested and affected parties, Organs of State and the competent authority.

Considering the comments from the Birdlife SA and the additional work required as detailed above, this letter serves to notify the Department of the implementation of Regulation 32(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended; *a notification in writing may be submitted to the competent authority that the report 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 report, which changes or information was not contained in the report consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated and that the revised report will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days.* The Final Motivation Report will therefore be submitted to the DEA for decision-making within 140 days (i.e. by 7 November), instead of 90 days of submission of the application.

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

Kind regards,



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## environmental affairs

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Environmental Affairs  
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### PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Sir/Madam

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NOTIFICATION IN TERMS OF REGULATION 32(1)(B) OF THE NEMA EIA REGULATIONS, 2014, AS AMENDED, PROPOSED CASTLE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, NORTHERN CAPE

The Department confirms having received the notification in terms of Regulation 32(1)(b) in terms of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amended, for the abovementioned project on 30 August 2019. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

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.

**Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any /future correspondence in respect of the application.**

Yours sincerely

Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs

Letter signed by: Mr Rhulani Kubayi

Designation: Control Environmental Officer: EIA Systems and Tools

Date: 05-09-2019