Holland & Associates
Environmental Consultants
Impact Assessments - Environmental Management Programs - Compliance Monitoring - Process Review

24 June 2020

Dear Interested and/or Affected Party

PROPOSED WIND ENERGY FACILITY SITUATED ON THE EASTERN PLATEAU (SOUTH) NEAR DE AAR, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE: NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS:
NOTIFICATION OF EXTENSION OF THE INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY (I&AP) REGISTRATION AND COMMENT PERIOD

(DEA REFERENCE NO.: 12/12/20/2463/1/AM7)

Our correspondence of 23 March 2020 refers.

As indicated in our correspondence of 23 March 2020, Mulilo De Aar 2 South (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as the Applicant) is applying for an amendment of the Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), as amended, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2014), as amended, for the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) situated on the eastern plateau (south) near De Aar in the Northern Cape Province.

The public participation process for the proposed Application for Amendment of the EA commenced in the week of 23 March 2020, before the national lockdown in terms of the National State of Disaster[1] relating to Covid-19, as declared by the President of the Republic of South Africa, came into effect on 27 March 2020. In this regard, the letter to I&APs dated 23 March 2020 (as well as the advertisements in the *Volksblad* and De Aar *Echo* newspapers, and site notices) invited I&APs to register as I&APs and to provide comment on the proposed Application for Amendment of the EA for a 30 day comment period, i.e. from 27 March 2020 – 4 May 2020. **The purpose of this correspondence is to inform you of the extension of the I&AP registration and comment period for the Application for Amendment of the EA**, in light of the timeframe extensions as contemplated in the General Notice issued by the Minister of the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) in response to the National State of Disaster as declared by the President of the Republic of South Africa. In this regard, the I&AP registration and comment period is being extended by 51 days from 6 June 2020 (in light of Government Notice No. 650 gazetted on Friday 5 June 2020), i.e. the comment period will now end on **28 July 2020**.

[1] in terms of the Disaster Management Act, 2002

P O Box 31108, Tokai, 7966, South Africa
Tel 083 4645246 ~ Fax 086 7626126 ~ e-mail: info@hollandandassociates.net
Web: www.hollandandassociates.net

The Application for Amendment of the EA is available for download on the Holland & Associates Environmental Consultants website (www.hollandandassociates.net) during the I&AP comment period. Furthermore, an electronic copy of the application could be sent to I&APs via a file transfer programme or Dropbox link, upon request. Refer to Sections 4 and 5 below for further details in this regard. Please note that whilst the initial notification to I&APs indicated that the Application for Amendment of the EA would also be available for review at the De Aar Public Library, the public library is currently closed due to the national lockdown. A copy of the report is therefore now available for review at 19 Van der Merwe Street, De Aar (by appointment (Tel: 083 793 9254)).

The information provided in our correspondence of 23 March 2020 is included below for your convenience, including a brief background to the proposed project as well as a summary of the Application for Amendment of the EA and associated amended public participation process.

1. Background

Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the Wind Energy Facility on the eastern plateau (south) near De Aar in the Northern Cape Province was granted by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) (now known as the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) on 1 March 2013. The authorised project, as amended, entails the construction of up to 61 wind turbines, with a maximum output capacity of the WEF of 140MW.

The proposed development site is approximately 12,832ha in extent and consists of 8 portions of 4 farms, i.e. Slingers Hoek (Farm No. 2 Remainder of Portion 2, and Remainder); Slingers Hoek (Farm No. 2 Portion 4); Knapdaar (Farm No. 8 Portion 1); Maatjes Fountain Farm (Farm No. 1 Portion 5); Vendussie Kuil (Farm No. 165 Remainder of Portion 2); Vendussie Kuil (Farm No. 165 Portion 11, and Remainder) within the Emthanjeni Local Municipality and Renosterberg Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province.

On 1 March 2013, DEA granted environmental authorisation for the proposed project for Items 10, 11 & 18 of GN R.544; Item 1 of GN R. 545; and Item 14 of GN R.546 in terms of the 2010 EIA Regulations. On 24 July 2014, a further environmental authorisation for the proposed project was granted in respect of Items 13 & 16 of GN 546 by the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (DENC)[2].

This Application for Amendment relates to the EA granted in respect of the proposed project by DEA on 1 March 2013, as amended.

The infrastructure associated with the authorised WEF, as described and authorised in the Environmental Authorisation dated 1 March 2013, as amended, includes the following:

- *Turbine Specifications:*

Component	Description/ Dimensions
Hub height from ground level	120m
Rotor diameter	160m
Maximum number of turbines	25 - 61
Permanent affected area (foundation size)	The foundation size would be 18.4m in diameter that narrows up to 10.6m at the surface (the visible portion) with a depth of 3.5m once completed.
Generation capacity per turbine	2.3MW – 6.0 MW
Maximum output of the WEF	140MW

[2] for activities that had been missed in the original EIA for the project

- *A permanent hard standing made of compacted gravel and approximately 50 m x 40 m would be constructed adjacent to each turbine location for the crane.*
- *A total of three construction laydowns in the south would be required with each having a footprint of approximately 200 x400m.*
- *Gravel surface access roads of approximately 4m wide would also be required between each turbine.*
- *Cables connecting each turbine would interconnect with overhead transmission lines that will follow the route of the access roads. Each turbine would have a transformer that steps up the voltage from 690 Volt to 22kilovolt (kV). This transformer is housed within each turbine tower or immediately outside the turbine.*
- *The cabling between the turbines would traverse the site to the three substations, where the power from all the turbines would be metered.*
- *The proposed substations and associated control buildings would have a footprint of approximately 200 x 100m.*
- *The electricity distribution infrastructure comprises of three existing distribution lines (1 x 132kV, 2 x 400kV and 2 x 220kV) traversing the site. The transmission lines terminate at Eskom's Hydra Substation located 9.5km to the north east of De Aar.*

Six amendments to the DEA Environmental Authorisation have been applied for by the applicant, and granted by DEA, between 2013 and 2019, entailing predominantly administrative amendments (e.g. changes to the holder of the EA, updates to the contact details of the holder of the EA, extension of the validity period of the EA, and correction of editorial errors in the property description); as well as amendments to the project description (e.g. amendments to turbines specifications and increase in generation capacity of individual turbines).

The Applicant is now submitting an Application for Amendment of the EA to DEFF to amend the project description of the EA, i.e. to allow for a 5m increase in the rotor diameter of the turbines at the WEF. As indicated in the Application Form for the proposed amendment of the EA (which is being made available to I&AP for comment), ***the proposed amendment will not change the scope of the environmental authorisation, nor result in an increased level or change in the nature of impacts associated with the project***, as confirmed by the relevant specialists.

In line with Regulation 30 (1) (a), DEFF have requested that a public participation process be undertaken for the proposed amendment of the EA “in terms of Regulation 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, and 45”.

Holland & Associates Environmental Consultants has been appointed by the Applicant to undertake the public participation and the requisite Application for Amendment of the EA for the proposed project, in accordance with the NEMA EIA Regulations (2014), as amended.

2. Application for Amendment of the Environmental Authorisation

2.1 Proposed amendment to the project description

The Applicant proposes to amend the rotor diameter of the turbines at the De Aar 2 South Wind Energy Facility from the approved 160m to a rotor diameter of 165m. The proposed amendment would require an amendment to the project description included in the EA, as amended (EA amendment dated 6 September 2019) as noted in the table below.

	Approved	Proposed amendment (underlined)
Hub height from ground level	120m	120m
Rotor diameter	160m	<u>165</u>m
Maximum number of turbines	25 - 61	25 – 61
Permanent affected area (foundation size)	The foundation size would be 18.4m in diameter that narrows up to 10.6m at the surface (the visible portion) with a depth of 3.5m once completed.	The foundation size would be 18.4m in diameter that narrows up to 10.6m at the surface (the visible portion) with a depth of 3.5m once completed.
Generation capacity per turbine	2.3MW – 6.0 MW	2.3MW – 6.0 MW
Maximum output of the WEF	140MW	140MW

According to the Applicant, only the rotor diameter would increase by 5m (which is a 3% increase in the diameter, and would be a 6.35% increase in the swept area). The other dimensions of the turbines and generation capacity of the WEF would stay the same (i.e. as authorised). The 5m increase in rotor size will have no impact on the physical parameters and operation of the wind turbine. Furthermore, the layout of the WEF would remain as currently authorised.

2.2 Motivation for proposed amendment

The need for the proposed increase in rotor diameter is due to the wind turbine markets continuous development of larger wind turbines. These continuous developments and improvements allow wind turbines to be more efficient, resulting in cheaper electricity costs, fewer turbines per wind farm, and a reduced overall impact on the environment (Mulilo De Aar 2 South (Pty) Ltd).

3. Potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment

Given that the WEF layout and the internal reticulation lines would not change with the proposed amendment, the only actual change for the WEF would be a 5m increase in rotor diameter. As indicated previously, the other dimensions of the turbines and generation capacity of the WEF would stay the same (i.e. as authorised), and the 5m increase in rotor size will have no impact on the physical parameters and operation of the wind turbine. In light of the above, the proposed amendment to the project description will not result in additional negative impacts to those that have already been assessed in the approved EIA and subsequent Application for Amendment for the EA for the project in 2015, nor result in an increased level of impact or change in the nature of impacts (as confirmed by the relevant specialists).

Specialist comment has been obtained from the visual, avifaunal and bat specialists, which confirm that **the proposed amendment to the rotor diameter would not result in an increased level of impact or change in the nature of impacts in terms of visual impacts or impacts on birds or bats.** The specialist comments are included in Appendix 6 of the Application for Amendment of the EA. No other specialist comments/ confirmations were deemed necessary for the proposed amendment.

4. Public Participation Process

A public participation process is being undertaken in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations (2014), as amended, to ensure that potential and registered I&APs are given an opportunity to comment on the

proposed amendment of the EA for the wind energy facility. The public participation process includes the following:

- Notification of all previously registered I&APs for the proposed project of the Application for Amendment of the EA:
    - A letter of notification has been distributed to all affected landowners, to notify them of the Application for Amendment of the EA.
    - A letter of notification (dated 23 March 2020) was distributed to all registered[3] I&APs, notifying registered I&APs of the Application for Amendment of the EA and opportunity to comment (30 day comment period) on the Application for Amendment of the EA (i.e. the Application Form for Amendment of the Environmental Authorisation).
    - A letter (this letter) has been distributed to I&APs (via post and email) to notify I&APs of the extension of the I&AP registration and comment period in light of the timeframe extensions as contemplated in Government Notice No. 650 gazetted on Friday 5 June 2020 issued by the Minister of the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) in response to the national state of disaster as declared by the President of the Republic of South Africa. An additional 51 days has been provided from 6 June 2020, therefore the I&AP registration and comment period now ends on **28 July 2020**.
- Notification of all potential I&APs
    - Placement of a site notice, notifying potential (and registered) I&APs of the Application for Amendment of the EA. The notice provides a brief description of the proposed amendment of the EA, and invites members of the public to register as I&APs and submit any comments on the proposed EA Amendment Application.
    - Placement of advertisements in the regional *Volksblad* and local *Echo* newspapers on 26 March 2020 and 27 March 2020 respectively, providing notification of the proposed amendment of the EA, and inviting members of the public to register as I&APs and raise any issues or concerns, as part of the I&AP comment period.
- All potential and registered I&AP's (including relevant State Departments and Organs of State) will be given an opportunity to review and comment on the Application for Amendment of the EA from **27 March 2020 – 28 July 2020**. A copy of the EA amendment application is available for download on the Holland & Associates Environmental Consultants website (www.hollandandassociates.net) during the I&AP comment period. Furthermore, an electronic copy of the application could be sent to I&APs via a file transfer programme or Dropbox link, upon request. Note: Whilst the initial notification to I&APs (in the week of 23 March 2020) indicated that the application would be available for review at the De Aar Public Library, please note that the public library is currently closed due to the national lockdown. A hard copy of the application is now available for review at 19 Van der Merwe Street, De Aar (by appointment (tel: 083 793 9254)).
- All comments submitted by I&APs will be collated, summarised and responded to in a Comments and Response Report (CRR), which will be submitted to DEFF for decision making, together with the final Application for Amendment of the EA.
- Registered I&APs will be notified, in writing, of DEFF's decision.

5. Way Forward

Whilst the initial notification to I&APs indicated that the I&AP registration and comment period for the proposed Application for Amendment of the EA would be 30 days, i.e. from 27 March – 4 May 2020, **the I&AP registration and comment period has been extended until 28 July 2020**.

[3] Previously registered I&APs for the original EIA and amendment of the EA application processes.

Copies of the Application for Amendment of the EA are available for viewing on the Holland & Associates Environmental Consultants website (www.hollandandassociates.net). Furthermore, an electronic copy of the application could be sent to I&APs via a file transfer programme or Dropbox link, upon request. A hard copy of the application is also available for review at 19 Van der Merwe Street, De Aar (by appointment (tel: 083 793 9254)). You are invited to review and comment on the abovementioned document during the I&AP registration and comment period.

Should you wish to register as an I&AP, or have any comments, issues or concerns regarding the proposed Application for Amendment of the Environmental Authorisation, please submit your comments and/or contact details to Holland & Associates Environmental Consultants **by 28 July 2020**. Comments are to be submitted in writing via post, e-mail or fax to Ms Nicole Holland of Holland & Associates Environmental Consultants (email: nicole@hollandandassociates.net, post: P.O. Box 31108, Tokai, 7966, or fax: 0867626126). Please note that I&APs must provide their comments together with their name, contact details (including their preferred method of notification, e.g. e-mail, post or fax number) and an indication of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which they have in the application. The DEA (now DEFF) reference number (12/12/20/2463/1/AM7) must be referred to in all correspondence submitted by I&APs.

Kindly note: Only registered I&APs will receive future correspondence regarding the project.

Comments received from I&APs will be responded to in a Comments and Response Report (CRR), and will be submitted to DEFF for consideration together with the final Application for Amendment of the EA at the end of the I&AP comment period. DEFF will then conclude their review and decision making process for the amendment application. Once DEFF issues their decision on the proposed amendment, all registered I&APs will be notified in writing of the outcome of DEFF's decision.

Should you require any further information or have any queries please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely

NICOLE HOLLAND (Pr. Sci. Nat.)
For: Holland & Associates - Environmental Consultants

24 Junie 2020

Geagte Belanghebbende en/of Geaffekteerde Party

VOORGESTELDE WINDENERGIE-AANLEG GELEë OP DIE OOSTELIKE PLATO (SUID) NABY DE AAR, NOORD-KAAPPROVINSIE: KENNISGEWING VAN DIE AANSOEK VIR DIE WYSIGING VAN DIE OMGEWINGSMAGTIGING

PROSES VAN OPENBARE DEELNAME:
KENNISGEWING VAN VERLENGING VAN DIE REGISTRASIE- EN OPMERKINGSPERIODE VIR DIE BELANGHEBBENDE EN/OF GEAFFEKTEERDE PARTYE (B&GPe)

(DOS VERWYSINGSNR: 12/12/20/2463/1/AM7)

Ons korrespondensie van 23 Maart 2020 verwys.

Soos aangedui in ons korrespondensie van 23 Maart 2020, doen Mulilo De Aar 2 South (Edms) Bpk (hierna die applikant aangedui) aansoek om 'n wysiging van die Omgewingsmagtiging (OM) ingevolge die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur (Nr. 107 van 1998) (NEMA), soos gewysig, Omgewings Invloedbepaling (OIB) Regulasies (2014), soos gewysig, vir die voorgestelde windenergie-aanleg (WEF) geleë op die oostelike plato (suid) naby De Aar in die Noord-Kaap Provinsie .

Die openbare deelnameproses vir die voorgestelde Aansoek om Wysiging van die OM is in die week van 23 Maart 2020 begin, voor die nasionale inperking ingevolge die Nasionale Rampstaat[1] met betrekking tot Covid-19, soos verklaar deur die President van die Republiek van Suid Afrika en wat op 27 Maart 2020 in werking gestel is. In dié verband, het die brief aan B&GPe gedateer 23 Maart 2020 (sowel as die advertensies in die koerante, *Volksblad* en *De Aar Echo*, en webwerf- kennisgewings) 'n beroep op B&GPe gedoen om as B&GPe te registreer en kommentaar te lewer op die voorgestelde aansoek om wysiging van die OM vir 'n kommentaar periode van 30 dae, dit wil sê, vanaf 27 Maart 2020 – 4 Mei 2020. **Die doel van hierdie korrespondensie is om u in te lig van die verlenging van die registrasie- en kommentaarperiode vir die B&GP vir die Aansoek om Wysiging van die OM**, in die lig van die verlenging van die tydraamwerk soos beoog in die Algemene Kennisgewing uitgereik deur die Minister van die Departement van Omgewing, Bosbou en Visserye (DOBV) in antwoord op die Nasionale Rampstaat soos verklaar deur die President van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika. In dié verband, word die B&GP-registrasie- en kommentaarperiode vanaf Maandag 6 Junie 2020 met 51 dae verleng (in die lig van die Regeringskennisgewing No. 650 wat op Vrydag 5 Junie 2020 ingestel is), d.w.s. die kommentaarperiode eindig nou op **28 Julie 2020**.

[1] In terme van die Rampbestuurswet, 2002

Die Aansoek om Wysiging van die OM kan gedurende die B&GP-kommentaarperiode afgelaai word van die Holland & Associates-omgewingskonsultant-webwerf (www.hollandandassociates.net). Verder kan 'n elektroniese kopie van die aansoek aan B&GPe gestuur word via 'n lêeroordragprogram of Dropbox-skakel, op versoek. Raadpleeg Afdelings 4 en 5 hieronder vir verdere besonderhede in hierdie verband. Let daarop dat hoewel die aanvanklike kennisgewing aan B&GPe aangedui het dat die Aansoek om Wysiging van die OM ook by die De Aar Openbare Biblioteek beskikbaar sal wees, is die openbare biblioteek tans gesluit vanweë die nasionale inperking. 'n Afskrif van die verslag is dus nou beskikbaar vir hersiening in Van der Merwestraat 19, De Aar (op afspraak (Tel: 083 793 9254)).

Die inligting in ons korrespondensie van 23 Maart 2020, is hieronder vir u gerief ingesluit, insluitend ‘n kort agtergrond van die projek, asook ‘n opsomming van die Aansoek vir die Wysiging van die OM en die gepaardgaande proses van gewysigde openbare deelnameproses.

1. Agtergrond

‘n Omgewingsmagtiging (OM) vir die Windenergie-aanleg (WEA) op die Oostelike Plato (Suid) naby De Aar in die Noord-Kaapprovinsie is op 1 Maart 2013 deur die Departement van Omgewingsake (DOS) (wat nou as die Departement van Omgewing, Bosbou en Visserye (DOBV) bekend staan) goedgekeur. Die gemagtigde projek, soos gewysig, behels die oprigting van tot 61 windturbines, met ‘n maksimum uitsetkapasiteit van 140MW.

Die voorgestelde terrein waarop die ontwikkeling sal plaasvind is ongeveer 12,832ha groot en bestaan uit 8 gedeeltes van 4 plase, naamlik Slingers Hoek (Plaas Nr 2 Restant van Gedeelte 2 en Restant); Slingers Hoek (Plaas Nr 2 Gedeelte 4); Knapdaar (Plaas Nr 8 Gedeelte 1); Maatjes Fountain Plaas (Plaas Nr 1 Gedeelte 5); Vendussie Kuil (Plaas Nr 165 Restant van Gedeelte 2); Vendussie Kuil (Plaas Nr 165 Gedeelte 11 en Restant) binne die Emthanjeni Plaaslike Munisipaliteit en Renosterberg Plaaslike Munisipaliteit in die Noord-Kaapprovinsie.

Op 1 Maart 2013 het die DOS in terme van die 2010 OIB-regulasies matiging verleen aan Items 10, 11 & 18 van GK R.544; Item 1 van GK R. 545; en Item 14 van GK R.546 wat op die voorgestelde projek van toepassing is. Die Noord-Kaapse Departement vir die Omgewing en Natuurbewaring (DENC)[2] het op 24 Julie 2014 ‘n verdere omgewingsmagtiging aan voorgestelde projek verleen, en wel vir Items 13 & 16 van GK 546.

Hierdie Wysigingsaansoek is van toepassing op die OM wat op 1 Maart 2013, soos gewysig, deur die DOS vir die voorgestelde projek uitgereik is.

Die infrastruktuur wat betrekking het op die gemagtigde WEA, soos omskryf en goedgekeur in die Omgewingsmagtiging gedateer 1 Maart 2013, soos gewysig, sluit die volgende in:

- *Turbine-spesifikasies:*

Komponent	Beskrywing/ Afmetings
Naafhoogte vanaf grondvlak	120m
Deursnee van draaivlerke	160m
Maksimum aantal turbines	25 - 61
Permanente geaffekteerde gebied (fondasie-afmetings)	Die grootte van die fondasie sal 18.4m in deursnee wees en vernou na 10.6m by die oppervlakte (die sigbare gedeelte); met ‘n dikte van 3.5m wanneer voltooi.
Opwekkingskapasiteit per turbine	2.3MW – 6.0MW
Maksimum uitset van die Windenergie-aanleg	140MW

[2] Vir bedrywighede wat in die oorspronklike OIB vir die projek oorgesien is

- *‘n Permanente harde oppervlakte van gekompakteerde gruis, ongeveer 50 m x 40 m, langs elke turbine vir gebruik deur hyskrane.*
- *Drie konstruksieterreine aan die suidekant, elk met ‘n voetspoor van ongeveer 200 x 400m.*
- *Begruisde toegangspaaie, ongeveer 4m wyd, tussen elke turbine.*
- *Die kragkabels wat die turbines met mekaar verbind sal by die oorhoofse transmissielyne aansluit, wat dieselfde roete as die toegangspaaie sal volg. Daar sal ‘n transformator by elke turbine wees wat die spanning van 690 Volt na 22 kilovolt (kV) sal opstoot. Hierdie transformator sal binne elke turbinetoring, of direk langsaan die turbine geplaas word.*
- *Die kragkabels tussen die turbines sal oor die terrein na drie substasies geneem word, waar die krag vanaf al die turbines d.m.v. meters gelees sal word.*
- *Die voetspoor van die voorgestelde substasie en verwante kontrolegebou sal ongeveer 200 x 100m wees.*
- *Die infrastruktuur vir die verspreiding van die elektrisiteit sal bestaan uit drie bestaande distribusielyne (1 x 132kV, 2 x 400kV en 2 x 220kV) wat oor die terrein sal loop. Die transmissielyne sal aansluit by Eskom se Hydra-substasie ongeveer 9.5km noord-oos van De Aar.*

Die applikant het tussen 2013 en 2019 ses wysigingsaansoeke by die DOS ingedien; wat almal deur die DOS goedgekeur is. Dit het hoofsaaklik bestaan uit administratiewe wysigings (bv. verandering van die houer van die OM, die opdatering van die kontakbesonderhede van die houer van die OM, die uitstel van die geldigheidstydperk van die OM en die regstelling van outeursfoute aan eiendombeskrywings); asook wysigings aan die projekbeskrywing (bv. wysigings aan turbine-spesifikasies en ‘n verhoging in die opwekkingskapasiteit van individuele turbines).

Die Applikant dien nou weer ‘n Aansoek vir die Wysiging van die OM by die DOBV in, naamlik om die projekbeskrywing van die OM te wysig deur die deursnee van die draaivlerke van die WEA se turbines met 5m te verleng. Soos aangedui op die Aansoekvorm vir die voorgestelde wysiging van die OM (wat beskikbaar is vir kommentaar deur B&GPe), ***sal die voorgestelde wysiging nie die omvang van die omgewingsmagtiging verander nie, en ook geensins die aard van die projek se gepaardgaande impakte verander of verhoog nie***, soos bevestig deur die betrokke deskundiges.

Die DOBV het, in ooreenstemming met Regulasie 30 (1) (a), versoek dat ‘n proses van openbare deelname vir die voorgestelde wysiging van die OM “kragtens Regulasie 40, 41, 42, 43, 44 en 45” onderneem moet word.

Holland & Associates Omgewingskonsultante is deur die Applikant aangestel om die vereiste Aansoek vir die Wysiging van die OM vir die beoogde projek kragtens die NEMA se OIB-regulasies (2014), soos gewysig, te onderneem.

2. Aansoek vir Wysiging van die Omgewingsmagtiging

2.1 Voorgestelde wysiging aan die projekbeskrywing

Die Applikant is van voorneme om die deursnee van die draaivlerke vir die turbines by die De Aar 2 Suid Windenergie-aanleg vanaf die goedgekeurde 160m na ‘n deursnee van 165m te verleng. Hierdie voorgestelde wysiging beteken dat die projekbeskrywing in die OM, soos gewysig (OM wysiging gedateer 6 September 2019), as volg verander moet word.

	Goedgekeur	Voorgestelde wysiging (onderstreep)
Naafhoogte vanaf grondvlak	120m	120m
Deursnee van draaivlerke	160m	165m
Maksimum aantal turbines	25 - 61	25 – 61
Permanente geaffekteerde gebied (fondasie-afmetings)	Die grootte van die fondasie sal 18.4m in deursnee wees en vernou na 10.6m by die oppervlakte (die sigbare gedeelte); met 'n dikte van 3.5m wanneer voltooi.	Die grootte van die fondasie sal 18.4m in deursnee wees en vernou na 10.6m by die oppervlakte (die sigbare gedeelte); met 'n dikte van 3.5m wanneer voltooi.
Opwekkingskapasiteit per turbine	2.3MW – 6.0MW	2.3MW – 6.0 MW
Maksimum uitset van die Windenergie-aanleg	140MW	140MW

Volgens die Applikant sal slegs die deursnee van die draaivlerke met 5m verleng word (wat gelykstaande is aan 'n 3% toename in deursnee en 'n 6.35% groter draaioppervlakte). Die ander turbine-afmetings en opwekkingskapasiteit van die WEA bly dieselfde (d.w.s. soos gemagtig). Die 5m toename in draaivlerke sal geen impak hê op die fisiese parameters en bedryf van die windturbine nie. Die uitleg van die WEA sal ook dieselfde bly as tans gemagtig.

2.2 Motivering vir die voorgestelde wysiging

Die voorgestelde toename in die deursnee van die draaivlerke is die gevolg van die windturbine-mark se deurlopende ontwikkeling van groter windturbines. Hierdie voortgesette ontwikkeling en verbetering het meer doeltreffende windturbines tot gevolg; wat lei tot goedkoper elektrisiteitskostes, minder turbines per windenergie-aanleg en 'n verlaging in die algehele impak op die omgewing (Mulilo De Aar 2 South (Edms) Bpk).

3. Moontlike omgewingimpakte van toepassing op die voorgestelde wysiging

Aangesien die uitleg van die WEA en die interne verspreidingsnetwerk nie deur die voorgestelde wysiging geraak word nie, is die enigste werklike verandering by die WEA die 5m toename in die deursnee van die draaivlerke. Soos voorheen aangedui sal alle ander afmetings en die opwekkingskapasiteit van die WEA dieselfde bly (d.w.s. soos gemagtig), en sal die 5m toename in die deursnee van die draaivlerke geen impak hê op die fisiese parameters en bedryf van die windturbine nie. Op grond hiervan sal die voorgestelde wysiging van die projekbeskrywing geen bykomende negatiewe impakte hê as dié wat reeds in die goedgekeurde OIB, sowel as in die daaropvolgende Aansoek vir die Wysiging van die OM vir die projek in 2015 beoordeel is nie. Soos deur die deskundiges bevestig, sal daar ook geen verhoging wees in die vlak van impak nie en sal dit ook nie die aard van die imapkte verander nie.

Deskundige kommentaar is van visuele, voël- en vlermuis-deskundiges bekom. Hulle kommentaar bevestig dat **die voorgestelde wysiging van die deursnee van die draaivlerke geensins die impaksvlak sal laat toeneem nie of die aard van die visuele impak of die impakte op voëls en vlermuise sal verander nie.** Die deskundiges se kommentaar is ingesluit as Bylae 6 van die Aansoek vir die Wysiging van die OM. Geen ander deskundige kommentaar/ bevestigings is geag nodig te wees vir hierdie voorgestelde wysiging nie.

4. Proses van Openbare Deelname

‘n Proses van openbare deelname is in terme van die NEMA se OIB-regulasies (2014), soos gewysig, van stapel gestuur om te verseker dat potensiële en geregistreerde B&GPe die geleentheid het om kommentaar te lewer op die voorgestelde wysiging van die OM vir die windenergie-aanleg. Die proses van openbare deelname sluit die volgende in:

- Kennisgewing van die Aansoek vir die Wysiging van die OM aan alle persone wat reeds as B&GPe vir die voorgestelde projek geregistreer het:
  - ‘n Kennisgewingsbrief is aan alle geaffekteerde grondeienaars gestuur waarin hulle in kennis gestel is van die Aansoek vir die Wysiging van die OM.
  - ‘n Kennisgewingsbrief (gedateer 23 Maart 2020) is gestuur aan alle geregistreerde[3] B&GPe waarin hulle in kennis gestel word van die Aansoek vir die Wysiging van die OM en die geleentheid het om binne 30 dae kommentaar te lewer op die Aansoek vir die Wysiging van die OM (d.w.s. die Aansoekvorm vir die Wysiging van die Omgewingsmagtiging).
  - 'n Brief (hierdie brief) is aan B&GPe (via pos en e-pos) gestuur om B&GPe in kennis te stel van die verlenging van die registrasie- en kommentaarperiode vir B&GP'e in die lig van die verlenging van die tydraamwerk, soos beoog in Regeringskennisgewing No. 650, wat op Vrydag 5 Junie 2020 gepubliseer is, uitgereik deur die Minister van die Departement van Omgewing, Bosbou en Visserye (DOBV) na aanleiding van die nasionale rampstaat soos deur die President van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika verklaar. 'n Addisionele 51 dae is vanaf 6 Junie 2020 voorsien, daarom eindig die registrasie- en kommentaarperiode vir B&GP’e op **28 Julie 2020**.
- Kennisgewing aan alle potensiële B&GP’e:
  - Die aanbring van ‘n terreinkennisgewing wat alle potensiële (en geregistreerde) B&GPe in kennis sal stel van die Aansoek vir die Wysiging van die OM. Die kennisgewing gee ‘n kort beskrywing van die voorgestelde wysiging van die OM, en nooi lede van die publiek uit om as B&GP’e te registreer en kommentaar op die OM Wysigingsaansoek te lewer.
  - Plasing van ‘n advertensie in die plaaslike koerant, *Echo,* en die streekskoerant, *Volksblad,* op onderskeidelik 26 Maart 2020 en 27 Maart 2020, waarin die voorgestelde wysiging van die OM aangekondig word en lede van die publiek uitgenooi word om as B&GP’e te registreer en enige kwessies en kwellinge oor die projek as deel van die kommentaartydperk vir B&GP’e aan te meld.
- Alle potensiële en geregistreerde B&GPe (wat toepaslike Staatsdepartemente en Staatsinstansies insluit) sal die geleentheid hê om die Aansoek vir die Wysiging van die OM deur te gaan en daarop kommentaar te lewer, d.w.s, van **27 Maart 2020 – 28 Julie 2020**. ‘n Afskrif van die OM-wysigingsaansoek is gedurende die B&GP-kommentaarperiode beskikbaar vir aflaai vanaf Holland & Associates Omgewingskonsultante se webblad (www.hollandandassociates.net). Verder, kan ‘n elektroniese kopie van die aansoek aan B&GPe gestuur word via 'n lêeroordragprogram of Dropbox-skakel, op versoek. Neem kennis: Alhoewel die aanvanklike kennisgewing aan B&GPe (in die week van 23 Maart 2020) aangedui het dat die aansoek by die De Aar Openbare Biblioteek beskikbaar sal wees, moet u daarop let dat die openbare biblioteek tans gesluit is weens die nasionale inperking. 'n Harde kopie van die aansoek is nou beskikbaar vir hersiening in Van der Merwestraat 19, De Aar (op afspraak (tel: 083 793 9254)).
- Alle kommentaar wat deur B&GPe ingedien word, sal saamgevoeg, opgesom en in ‘n Kommentaar- en Antwoordverslag (K&AV) beantwoord word wat, tesame met die finale Aansoek vir die Wysiging van die OM, by die DOBV vir besluitneming ingedien sal word.

[3] Persone wat as B&GPe geregistreer het vir die oorspronklike OIB en die aansoekprosesse vir die wysigings van die OM.

- Geregistreerde B&GPe sal skriftelik van die DOBV se besluit in kennis gestel word.

5. Volgende stappe

Alhoewel die aanvanklike kennisgewing aan B&GPe aangedui het dat die registrasie- en kommentaarperiode vir B&GPe vir die voorgestelde aansoek om wysiging van die OM 30 dae sou wees, dit wil sê vanaf 27 Maart - 4 Mei 2020, **is die registrasie- en kommentaarperiode vir B&GPe verleng tot 28 Julie 2020.**

Afskrifte van die Aansoek vir die Wysiging van die OM sal op Holland & Associates Omgewingskonsultante se webblad (www.hollandandassociates.net) beskikbaar wees. Verder kan 'n elektroniese kopie van die aansoek aan B&GPe gestuur word via 'n lêeroordragprogram of Dropbox-skakel, op versoek. 'n Harde kopie van die aansoek is nou beskikbaar vir hersiening in Van der Merwestraat 19, De Aar (op afspraak (tel: 083 793 9254)). U word uitgenooi om die bogenoemde dokument te bestudeer en gedurende die B&GP-registrasie- en kommentaartydperk daarop kommentaar te lewer.

Indien u as 'n B&GP wil registreer, op die voorgestelde Aansoek vir die Wysiging van die Omgewingsmagtiging kommentaar wil lewer, of enige ander kwessies of bekommernisse onder ons aandag wil bring, word u versoek om die kommentaar en/of u kontakbesonderhede **teen 28 Julie 2020** deur te gee aan Holland & Associates Omgewingskonsultante. Alle kommentaar moet skriftelik per pos, e-pos of faks gestuur word aan Me Nicole Holland by Holland & Associates Omgewingskonsultante (e-pos: nicole@hollandandassociates.net, pos: Posbus 31108, Tokai, 7966, of faks: 086 762 6126). Neem asseblief kennis dat B&GPe hul naam, kontakbesonderhede (wat insluit die voorkeur kennisgewingmetode, d.w.s. e-pos, pos of faks) en 'n aanduiding van enige direkte sake-, finansiële, persoonlike of ander belang wat hulle by die aansoek het, saam met hulle kommentaar moet indien. Die DOS-verwysingsnommer (nou DOBV-verwysingsnommer) (12/12/20/2463/1/AM7) moet ook op alle korrespondensie vanaf B&GPe verskyn.

Neem asseblief kennis: Slegs geregistreerde B&GPe sal voortaan korrespondensie rakende hierdie projek ontvang.

Alle kommentaar vanaf B&GPe sal in 'n Kommentaar- en Antwoordverslag (K&AV) beantwoord word, en sal aan die einde van die B&GP-kommentaartydperk tesame met die finale Aansoek vir die Wysiging van die OM by die DOBV vir besluitneming ingedien word. Die DOBV sal dan hul oorsig van die projek finaliseer en 'n besluit oor die wysigingsaansoek neem. Sodra die DOBV hul besluit oor die voorgestelde wysiging uitgereik het, sal alle geregistreerde B&GPe skriftelik van die DOBV se besluit in kennis gestel word.

Indien u enige kommentaar of navrae het, word u vriendelik versoek om met die ondergetekende in verbinding te tree.

Die uwe

NICOLE HOLLAND (Pr. Sci. Nat.)
Vir: Holland & Associates - Omgewingskonsultante