

22 March 2013
DEA ref: 12/12/20/1717

Dear Stakeholder,

**APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL
AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED TERRA WIND ENERGY – GOLDEN VALLEY
WIND ENERGY FACILITY, EASTERN CAPE**

**NOTIFICATION OF REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
AUTHORISATION: DEA REFERENCE No. 12/12/20/1717**

Terra Wind Energy Golden Valley (Pty) Ltd received an environmental authorisation for the construction of the Terra Wind Energy Facility Golden Valley, Blue Crane Route Local Municipality, Cookhouse - Eastern Cape Province (DEA ref: 12/12/20/1717) in April 2011, with an amendment in February 2012.

Following subsequent developments in technology, and in finalising the site development plan, the project applicant is now proposing to increase the turbine rotor diameter from 100 m to 130 m, and increase the turbine size from 2.5 MW to 3MW. The increase in the rotor diameter will enable the developer to install a newer technology on the site which is better suited to the conditions on the site (and will increase the efficiency of the facility).

The activity as described in the authorisation is hereby requested to be amended as follows:

From:

To the installation of up to 214 wind turbines with a nominal power output of 2.5 MW (mounted on 80 – 100m masts and nacelle; 100m diameter rotor-consisting of 3x50m blades)

To:

The installation of up to 214 wind turbines with a nominal power output of 3 MW (mounted on 80 – 100m masts and nacelle; 130m diameter rotor - consisting of 3 blades)

In terms of Condition 1.5 of the Environmental Authorisation, an applicant can apply to the competent authority for a change or deviation from the project description. A request for amendment to the environmental authorisation has been prepared regarding the proposed amendment in the rotor diameter and turbine size. The applicant contact details have also been updated.

In this regard, Terra Wind Energy Golden Valley (Pty) Ltd wishes to request DEA's approval to amend the project description as above. Savannah Environmental has prepared a motivation in support of this request/application on behalf of Terra Wind Energy Golden Valley (Pty) Ltd which provides some detail pertaining to the significance and impacts of the proposed change to the project description in order for the competent authority to be able to reach a decision.

The supporting documentation of this motivation includes impact statements from the avifauna specialist (WildSkies Ecological Services), bat specialist (Animalia Zoological and ecological Consultation), the visual specialist (MapThis) and the noise specialist (SafeTech) regarding the proposed amendment in rotor diameter and turbine size.

From the investigations undertaken, it is concluded that:

- » an increase in the rotor diameter of the turbines and increase in turbine size will not change the impact significance ratings for impacts as assessed in the EIA;
- » there are no new impacts identified as a result of the proposed amendment;

This letter serves to bring the proposed amendment application to the attention of interested and affected parties, stakeholders and relevant Organs of State. In terms of Regulation 56 of the EIA Regulations (2010), an opportunity is being provided for registered interested and affected parties to submit written comment on the amendment application. The motivation for amendment and relevant information is available at www.savannahSA.com. The 30 day comment period is during **22 March 2013 – 22 April 2013**. Please submit your written comment by **22 April 2013**. Please let us know if you need more information.

Kind regards

Umeshree Naicker

March 2013