

Rendani Rasivhetshele

From: Herman Alberts <HALberts@environment.gov.za>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 11:54 AM
To: Jo-Anne Thomas
Cc: Muhammad Essop; Coenrad Agenbach; Rendani Rasivhetshele; Mmakoena Mmola
Subject: RE: 2021-09-0001 APPROVAL OF THE PP PLAN FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A CLUSTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES (GREAT KAROO RENEWABLE ENERGY) NEAR RICHMOND, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Dear Ms Thomas

The Public Participation (PP) Plan for the proposed development of a cluster of renewable energy facilities (Great KAROO Renewable Energy) near Richmond, Northern Cape Province, received by this Department on 02 September 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.

Please 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 Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

From: Jo-Anne Thomas <joanne@savannahsa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 September 2021 11:16
To: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@environment.gov.za>; Herman Alberts <HALberts@environment.gov.za>
Cc: Muhammad Essop <MEssop@environment.gov.za>; Coenrad Agenbach <Cagenbach@environment.gov.za>; Rendani Rasivhetshele <rendani@savannahsa.com>; Mmakoena Mmola <Mmakoena@savannahsa.com>
Subject: RE: 2021-09-0001

Dear Herman,

Please can you revert on the below. As stated in the application form, we do not require a meeting but do need approval of the PP Plan. Please advise if you require a meeting and a suitable date.

Kind regards
Jo-Anne

Jo-Anne Thomas
Director | Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
Tel: +27 (0)11 656 3237 | Fax: +27 (0)86 684 0547 | Cell: +27 (0)82 775 5628
[SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant for Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015](#)

From: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@environment.gov.za>
Sent: Monday, 06 September 2021 13:14
To: Herman Alberts <HALberts@environment.gov.za>
Cc: Muhammad Essop <MEssop@environment.gov.za>; Coenrad Agenbach <Cagenbach@environment.gov.za>; Jo-Anne

Thomas <joanne@savannahsa.com>

Subject: 2021-09-0001

Importance: High

Dear Herman.

Please note that you have been allocated an application:

Type of Application: Pre-Application Meeting Request;

Reference Number: 2021-09-0001;

Date Received: 02/09/2021;

Action Required: Decide on meeting request.

Kindly let Ephron know which date the meeting is to be held, if it will be set.

*EAP/Applicant: please use this reference number when submitting the application for EA/amendment application (page 1 of the application form), as well as attach the approved PP Plan if the application requires a PP process.

EIA Applications

Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Please note that this email is for the receipt and processing of online applications only, and is not monitored for responses. All queries must be directed to EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za.

You are advised that this mailbox has a 48 hour response time.

Please note that this mailbox has a 5mb mail limit. No zip files are to be attached in any email.

From: Jo-Anne Thomas [<mailto:joanne@savannahsa.com>]

Sent: Thursday, September 2, 2021 7:23 PM

To: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@environment.gov.za>

Cc: Mmakoena Mmola <Mmakoena@savannahsa.com>; Rendani Rasivhetshela <rendani@savannahsa.com>

Subject: Great Karoo Renewable Energy Facilities - Request for Pre-Application Meeting

Importance: High

Good evening,

Please find attached pre-application meeting request for the proposed Great Karoo Renewable Energy Facilities. Please contact me with any queries in this regard.

Kind regards

Jo-Anne



Jo-Anne Thomas
Director

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forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2554

Enquiries: Herman Alberts

Telephone: (012) 399 9371 **E-mail:** HALberts@dfffe.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 EMAIL

Dear Ms Thomas

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED GREAT KAROO ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE, NORTHERN CAPE AND WESTERN CAPE PROVINCES

The draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated May 2022 and received by this Department on 20 May 2022, refers.

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

(a) Specific Comments

- (i) Please provide a concise, but complete, summary and bullet list of the project description and associated infrastructure (or project scope) to be included in the decision (or as it should appear in the decision), should a positive Environmental Authorisation be granted. This must include a list of all development components and associated infrastructure.
- (ii) The BAR must clearly provide a detailed section which addresses the site sensitivity verification requirements where a specialist assessment is required but no specific assessment protocol has been prescribed, as well as the site sensitivity verification and minimum report content requirements for all specialist assessments undertaken, which was included in the screening tool report.
- (iii) With regards to the generic Environmental Management Programmes (EMPr) for the substation and powerline, Part B Section 2 and Part C is incomplete in the draft BAR. Please sign the generic EMPrs. We request that you adequately complete all applicable sections in the generic EMPrs.

(b) 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 all relevant listed activities and sub-activities are correctly numbered as per the relevant listing notices.

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- (iii) The EAP must clearly identify and provide a final list of all applicable listed activities. If any activities are to be removed, motivation for their removal must be included in the final BAR.
- (iv) The listed activities represented in the final BAR and the application form must be the same and correct.
- (v) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final BAR, an amended application form must be submitted.
- (vi) 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>.
- (vii) The final BAR must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.
- (viii) 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 numerous GN R. 985 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.

(c) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- (i) The final BAR must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.
- (ii) A copy of the final layout map must be submitted with the final BAR. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible, e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following:
 - a) The envisioned area for the infrastructure, i.e. placing of infrastructure and all associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale.
 - b) All supporting onsite infrastructure required such as laydown areas, roads etc.
 - c) All necessary details regarding all possible locations and sizes of the infrastructure.
 - d) All existing infrastructure on the site, especially internal road infrastructure.
- (iii) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:
 - a) The location of sensitive environmental features on site, e.g. CBAs, protected areas, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
 - b) Buffer areas; and
 - c) All "no-go" areas.
- (iv) The above layout map must be overlain with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows existing infrastructure.
- (v) Google maps will not be accepted.

(d) Alternatives

- (i) Please note that you are required to provide a full description of the process followed to reach the proposed amended preferred alternative within the site, in terms of Appendix 1(3)(1)(h) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, including the following content:
 - a) details of all the alternatives considered;
 - b) details of the public participation process undertaken in terms of regulation 41 of the Regulations, including copies of the supporting documents and inputs;
 - c) a summary of the issues raised by interested and affected parties, and an indication of the manner in which the issues were incorporated, or the reasons for not including them;
 - d) the environmental attributes associated with the alternatives focusing on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural aspects;

- e) the impacts and risks identified for each alternative, including the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of the impacts, including the degree to which these impacts -
 - (aa) can be reversed;
 - (bb) may cause irreplaceable loss of resources; and
 - (cc) can be avoided, managed or mitigated;
 - f) the methodology used in determining and ranking the nature, significance, consequences, extent, duration and probability of potential environmental impacts and risks associated with the alternatives;
 - g) positive and negative impacts that the proposed activity and alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected focusing on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural aspects;
 - h) the possible mitigation measures that could be applied and level of residual risk;
 - i) the outcome of the site selection matrix;
 - j) if no alternatives, including alternative locations for the activity were investigated, the motivation for not considering such; and
 - k) a concluding statement indicating the preferred alternatives, including preferred location of the activity.
- (ii) Written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 1.

(e) Specialist Declaration of Interest

- (i) Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must be attached to the final BAR. You are therefore requested to submit original signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms for each specialist study conducted. The forms are available on Department's website (please use the Department's template).

(f) Specialist Assessments

- (i) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:
 - a) A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.
 - b) Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.
 - c) Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.
 - d) Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Departments definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.
 - e) **All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.**
 - f) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
 - g) 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.
- (ii) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting in identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which

were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”) and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. **Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.**

- (iii) As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.

(g) Undertaking of an Oath

- (i) Please ensure that the final BAR includes an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP.
- (ii) Based on the above, you are therefore required to include 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:
“an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to:
a) *the correctness of the information provided in the reports;*
b) *the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs;*
c) *the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and*
d) *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”.*

(h) Details and Expertise of the EAP

- (i) You are required to include the details and expertise of the EAP in the BAR, including a curriculum vitae, in order to comply with the requirements of Appendix 1(3)(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

(i) Public Participation Process

- (i) Comments must be obtained from this Department’s Biodiversity Conservation Directorate at BCAdmin@environment.gov.za.
- (ii) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- (iii) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft BAR from registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and organs of state, as listed in your I&APs Database, and others that have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the final BAR.
- (iv) Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are submitted to the Department with the final BAR.
- (v) 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. In terms of Regulation 41(2)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, please provide proof of written notice for the availability of the BAR for comment.
- (vi) All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft BAR from I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final BAR, including comments from this Department, and must be incorporated into a Comments and Response Report (CRR).
- (vii) The CRR report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter.
- (viii) Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to an I&AP’s comments.

- (ix) Minutes and attendance registers (where applicable) of any physical/virtual meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the final BAR.

(j) Environmental Impact Statement

- (i) You are reminded that an environmental impact statement must be included in the final BAR, therefore you are kindly requested to include an environmental impact statement which contains –
 - a) a summary of the key findings of the environmental impact assessment;
 - b) a map at an appropriate scale which superimposes the proposed activity and its associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred site indicating any areas that should be avoided, including buffers; and
 - c) a summary of the positive and negative impacts and risks of the proposed activity and identified alternatives.

(k) Environmental Management Programme

- (i) It is drawn to your attention that for substation and overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, when such facilities trigger activity 11 or 47 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended, and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, the generic Environmental Management Programme, contemplated in Regulations 19(4) must be used and submitted with the final report over and above the EMPr for the facility.
- (ii) There needs to be an EMPr for the facility, the onsite substation as well as the power line, for whichever alternative is chosen.
- (iii) Further to the above, you are required to comply with the content of the EMPr in terms of Appendix 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- (iv) Please be informed that the following content must be incorporated within the EMPr/s as indicated in Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended:
 - a) Details of the EAP who prepared the EMPr; and the expertise of that EAP to prepare an EMPr, including a curriculum vitae.
 - b) 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, including buffers.
 - c) A description of the impact management outcomes, including management statements, identifying the impacts and risks that need to be avoided, managed and mitigated as identified through the environmental impact assessment process for all phases of the development including –
 - (aa) Planning and design;
 - (bb) Pre-construction activities;
 - (cc) Construction activities;
 - (dd) Rehabilitation of the environment after construction and where applicable post closure; and
 - (ee) Where relevant, operation activities.
 - d) A description of proposed impact management actions, identifying the manner in which the impact management outcomes contemplated in paragraph (d) of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, will be achieved, and must, where applicable, include actions to –
 - e) Avoid, modify, remedy, control or stop any action, activity or process which causes pollution or environmental degradation;
 - f) Comply with any prescribed environmental management standards or practices;
 - g) Comply with any applicable provisions of the Act regarding closure, where applicable; and
 - h) Comply with any provisions of the Act regarding financial provision for rehabilitation, where applicable.

- 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.
- j) 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.
- k) An indication of the persons who will be responsible for the implementation of the impact management actions.
- l) 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.
- m) The mechanism for monitoring compliance with the impact management actions contemplated in paragraph (f) of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- n) A program for reporting on compliance, taking into account the requirements as prescribed by the Regulations.

(l) General

- (i) The EAP must provide details of the specific locations in the BAR, and not provide vague locations of the proposed developments. All associated infrastructure must be clearly indicated in the final BAR and its associated layout plans.
- (ii) When submitting the BAR and future documents kindly name each of the documents and attachments according to the information it contains. E.g., instead of only naming it Appendix A, it must be Appendix A: Maps, Appendix B: EAP Declaration etc.
- (iii) The EAP must provide an outline of where in the final BAR each of this Department's comments are addressed. This must be a separate document and must be submitted as an appendix to the final BAR.
- (iv) 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.

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 any specialist reports, an EMPr, a closure plan in the case of a closure activity and where the application is a mining application, the plans, report and calculations contemplated in the Financial Provisioning Regulations, 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(1)(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 documents contemplated in subregulation 1(a) 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 documents which changes or information was not contained in the original documents consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in subregulation (1)(a) and that the revised documents 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



Ms Milicent Solomons

Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Signed by: Mr Coenrad Agenbach

Designation: Deputy Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects

Date: 08 June 2022

cc:	Gerhard Gerber	WC DEADP	Email: Gerhard.Gerber@westerncape.gov.za
	Romaya Dorasamy	Great Karoo Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd	Email: romaya@greatkaroo.energy
	Tobias Hobbach	Great Karoo Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd	Email: tobias@greatkaroo.energy
	Bryan Fisher	NC DAEARD	Email: Bfisher@ncpg.gov.za
	Kosie Haarhoff	Beaufort West Local Municipality	Email: kosieh@beaufortwestmun.co.za

Annexure 1

Format for Comments and Response Trail Report:

Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
14/05/2021 Email Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Priority Infrastructure Projects (John Soap)	Please record C&R trail report in this format Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority	EAP: (Noted)The C&R trail report has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form