

**AMENDMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED GUNSTFONTEIN WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE,
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

DEA Ref. No: 14/12/16/3/3/2/826

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT

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The Amendment Motivation Report's availability was announced on Friday, 31 May 2019 and was made available for 30-day review and comment period from **Friday, 10 May 2019** to **Monday, 10 June 2019**. A subset of registered I&APs who were inadvertently excluded from the aforementioned notification were subsequently notified on Friday 31 May 2019 and provided with a full 30-day review and comment period from **Friday 31 May 2019 to Tuesday 2 July 2019**. The Comments and Responses Report includes all written comments received during the commenting periods and those written comments submitted on the Motivation Report, and responses thereto.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS

| | | | |
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| AMP | Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites | BGG | Burial Grounds and Graves |
| C&RR | Comments and Responses Report | DAFF | Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries |
| DEA | Department of Environmental Affairs | DWS | Department of Water and Sanitation |
| EA | Environmental Authorisation | EMPr | Environmental Management Programme |
| EWT | Endangered Wildlife Trust | I&APs | Interested and Affected Parties |
| MCSA | Mountain Club of South Africa | NHRA | National Heritage Resources Act |
| SACAA | South African Civil Aviation Authority | SAHRA | South African Heritage Resources Agency |
| SANRAL | South African National Roads Agency Limited | Snr | Senior |

1. COMMENTS RECEIVED: Organs of State

| NO. | COMMENT | RAISED BY | RESPONSE |
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| 1. | <p>The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objection to the overall proposed amendment to the authorised development.</p> <p>With regards to the proposed amendment to condition 123, SAHRA requests that the amendment read as follows: <i>"Pre-construction archaeological walkthrough is required of the final layout. A report detailing the results of the walk-down must be submitted to SAHRA for comment. The holder must keep a list documenting all features of archaeological significance, identified by the archaeologist, which may be impacted by the development and which must be demarcated as no-go areas."</i></p> <p>SAHRA does not accept the request that either a walk-down or a desktop study be undertaken. The final layout of the development must be physically inspected by a qualified archaeologist and a report must be submitted to SAHRA for comment.</p> <p>The following additional conditions must be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and completed should the Amended EA be granted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Final Amendment Report and EMPr must be uploaded to the SAHRIS application for record purposes; • If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils | <p>Natasha Higgitt Heritage Officer SAHRA (Case ID: 8383) Letter: 31-05-2019</p> | <p>The applicant notes SAHRA's requirements and accepts the revised wording for EA Condition 123, as proposed by SAHRA. The requested amendment to Condition 123 will be updated in the final amendment report and amendment application form, to reflect SAHRA's requirements. The applicant acknowledges that the final layout must be physically inspected by a qualified archaeologist via a pre-construction archaeological walkthrough, and a report submitted to SAHRA for comment.</p> <p>The final Amendment Motivation Report and EMPr will be uploaded to SAHRIS. This is stipulated in the EMPr</p> <p>The correct procedure will be followed should any evidence of archaeological sites be discovered. Should any unmarked human burials be uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves Unit will be alerted immediately.</p> |

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| | <p>or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. A professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The decision regarding the Amended EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application. | | <p>Appropriate management and monitoring measures to avoid or mitigate impacts to archaeological resources, as well as a chance-finds procedure, are stipulated in the EMPr.</p> <p>The comment is acknowledged, the final decision regarding the Amendment application will be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to SARHIS.</p> |
| 2. | <p><u>Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eskom's rights and services must be acknowledged and respected at all times. 2. Eskom shall at all times retain unobstructed access to and egress from its servitudes. 3. Eskom's consent does not relieve the developer from obtaining the necessary statutory, land owner or municipal approvals. 4. Any cost incurred by Eskom as a result of non-compliance to any relevant environmental legislation will be charged to the developer. | <p>John Geeringh Snr Consultant: Environmental Management Eskom Group Capital: Land Development</p> <p>Letter: 10-06-2019</p> | <p>The Applicant acknowledges Eskom's requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure and confirms that it will adhere to Eskom's requirements during the detailed design, construction and operation of the project. Eskom's right's and services are acknowledged and Eskom's requirements in relation thereto will be adhered to.</p> |

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| | 5. If Eskom has to incur any expenditure in order to comply with statutory clearances or other regulations as a result of the developer's activities or because of the presence of his equipment or installation within the servitude restriction area, the developer shall pay such costs to Eskom on demand. | | |
| | 6. The use of explosives of any type within 500 metres of Eskom's services shall only occur with Eskom's previous written permission. If such permission is granted the developer must give at least fourteen working days prior notice of the commencement of blasting. This allows time for arrangements to be made for supervision and/or precautionary instructions to be issued in terms of the blasting process. It is advisable to make application separately in this regard. | | |
| | 7. Changes in ground level may not infringe statutory ground to conductor clearances or statutory visibility clearances. After any changes in ground level, the surface shall be rehabilitated and stabilised so as to prevent erosion. The measures taken shall be to Eskom's satisfaction. | | |
| | 8. Eskom shall not be liable for the death of or injury to any person or for the loss of or damage to any property whether as a result of the encroachment or of the use of the servitude area by the developer, his/her agent, contractors, employees, successors in title, and assignees. The developer indemnifies Eskom against loss, claims or damages including claims pertaining to consequential damages by third parties and whether as a result of damage to or interruption | | |

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| | of or interference with Eskom's services or apparatus or otherwise. Eskom will not be held responsible for damage to the developer's equipment. | | |
| | 9. No mechanical equipment, including mechanical excavators or high lifting machinery, shall be used in the vicinity of Eskom's apparatus and/or services, without prior written permission having been granted by Eskom. If such permission is granted the developer must give at least seven working days' notice prior to the commencement of work. This allows time for arrangements to be made for supervision and/or precautionary instructions to be issued by the relevant Eskom Manager. Note: Where and electrical outage is required, at least fourteen work days are required to arrange it. | | |
| | 10. Eskom's rights and duties in the servitude shall be accepted as having prior right at all times and shall not be obstructed or interfered with. | | |
| | 11. Under no circumstances shall rubble, earth or other material be dumped within the servitude restriction area. The developer shall maintain the area concerned to Eskom's satisfaction. The developer shall be liable to Eskom for the cost of any remedial action which has to be carried out by Eskom. | | |
| | 12. The clearances between Eskom's live electrical equipment and the proposed construction work shall be observed as stipulated by Regulation 15 of the Electrical Machinery Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993). | | |

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| | <p>13. Equipment shall be regarded electrically live and therefore dangerous at all times.</p> <p>14. In spite of the restrictions stipulated by Regulation 15 of the Electrical Machinery Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993), as an additional safety precaution, Eskom will not approve the erection of houses, or structures occupied or frequented by human beings, under the power lines or within the servitude restriction area.</p> <p>15. Eskom may stipulate any additional requirements to highlight any possible exposure to Customers or Public to coming into contact or be exposed to any dangers of Eskom plant.</p> <p>16. It is required of the developer to familiarise himself with all safety hazards related to Electrical plant.</p> <p>17. Any third party servitudes encroaching on Eskom servitudes shall be registered against Eskom's title deed at the developer's own cost. If such a servitude is brought into being, its existence should be endorsed on the Eskom servitude deed concerned, while the third party's servitude deed must also include the rights of the affected Eskom servitude.</p> <p><u>Wayleave requirements and Renewable Energy Plant Setback to Eskom Infrastructure documents included in Appendix G6 of the final Motivation Report.</u></p> | | |
| 3. | <p>The Department has the following comments on the <u>abovementioned amendment application</u>:</p> <p><u>(a) Specific comments</u></p> <p>(i) A layout plan showing the 90m set back line of all turbines must be included in the final report.</p> | <p>Samkelisiwe Dlamini Case Officer DEA Letter: 11-06-2019</p> | <p>Please note that none of the specialists nor the EAP have identified the need for a "90m setback line". Each specialist has identified site-specific sensitivity areas or no-go buffer</p> |

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| | | | <p>areas within which no turbines may be located. The amended layout adheres to all mapped buffer / no-go areas, and adheres to the recommendations of the specialists.</p> <p>In subsequent correspondence with the Department it was confirmed that a 70m setback line would be sufficient for all avifaunal sensitivities. This is in line with the avifaunal specialist recommendation with regards to the sensitive areas. (The correspondence is included in Appendix G6 of the Final Motivation report.) The avifaunal specialist has stipulated that turbines should be positioned at least 70m away from the edge of the avifaunal exclusion zones, and the amended layout adheres to this requirement.</p> <p>The bat specialist has confirmed that all turbines are currently positioned outside of the site-specific bat buffer areas (buffer areas range from 200m – 500m depending on the feature being buffered), but has further recommended that once the final turbine has been selected, a bat specialist must assess the final layout during the walk-through and micro-siting process to confirm that all turbines and their blades remain outside of the buffer areas.</p> |
| | (ii) Confirmation that the specialist assessed and provided a motivation in terms of regulation 32 relating to all amendments applied for. | | <p>It can be confirmed that the Section 5, 6 and 7 of the Final Motivation report as well as the updated EMPr provides assessment and motivations in terms of regulation 32. The Final Motivation report reflects:</p> |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) an assessment of all impacts related to the proposed change (Section 5); (ii) advantages and disadvantages associated with the proposed change (Section 6); and (iii) measures to ensure avoidance, management and mitigation of impacts associated with such proposed change (Section 7); and (iv) any changes to the EMP (Appendix I) |
| | <p><u>(b) Public participation</u></p> <p>(i) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the final report. This includes but is not limited to the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, the Department of Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), the provincial Department of Agriculture, the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), the Department of Transport, the Laingsburg Local Municipality, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL), the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), BirdLife SA, the Department of Mineral Resources, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, and the Department of Environmental Affairs: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation.</p> | | <p>The relevant stakeholders were notified as per the comments from the Department. Comments received from all relevant stakeholders, have been included within this C&RR. Proof of correspondence to and from these stakeholders, including comments received, is included in Appendix G3 and Appendix G6 of the final Motivation Report.</p> <p>The proposed project is located within the Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality and the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation and these departments were notified of the proposed amendment.</p> |
| | <p>(ii) A Comments and Response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final report. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this application. The C&R report must be a separate document from</p> | | <p>As per Regulation 44, a C&RR has been drafted which includes all the written comments received on the Motivation Report that was made available for a 30-day</p> |

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| | the main report and the format must be in the table format. 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 I&APs' comments. | | review and comment and are included in Appendix G5 of the final Motivation Report. All written comments received from registered I&AP have been recorded <u>verbatim</u> and have not been summarised. |
| | (iii) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft report from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final report. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final report. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014 as amended. | | Responses to written comments / concerns / issues raised have been provided and addressed by the project team. Where applicable, revisions have been applied to the draft report and EMPr, in response to stakeholder comments. Proof of correspondence to and from these stakeholders is included in Appendices G2, G3 and G6 Savannah Environmental is cognisant of the need to comply with Regulations 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. » Regulation 39: It is confirmed that the registered landowner has been part of the consultation process for this Amendment process. » Regulation 40: The Motivation Report has been made available to all registered I&APs and State Departments as required. To provide potential I&APs an opportunity to comment on the Motivation Report, an advertisement was placed in a local community newspaper, Noordwester on Friday, 10 May 2019. Proof (tearsheet) of advertisement is included in Appendix G4 . |

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| | | | <p>» Regulation 41: A site notice was erected at the commencement of the Amendment Application process. Proof of site notice is included in Appendix G4.</p> <p>An advertisement was placed in a local community newspaper, Noordwester on Friday, 10 May 2019. Proof (tearsheet) of advertisement is included in Appendix G4.</p> <p>» Regulation 42: A database with the contact details of registered I&APs, as provided by I&APs, is included in Appendix G1.</p> <p>» Regulation 43: The Motivation Report was made available for a 30-day public review period from Friday, 31 May 2019 to Tuesday, 01 July 2019. The Motivation Report was distributed to relevant Organs of State and a copy was made available at the Sutherland Public Library, Sarel Cilliers Street, Sutherland. The Motivation Report was also available for download from Savannah Environmental's website (https://www.savannahsa.com/public-documents/energy-generation/) or on CD on request from Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd. A subset of registered I&APs who were inadvertently excluded from the aforementioned notification were subsequently notified on Friday 31 May 2019 and provided with a full 30-day review and comment period from Friday 31 May 2019 to Tuesday 2 July 2019.</p> <p>» Regulation 44:</p> |

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| | | | Comments from I&APs received throughout the Application process and those submitted during the Motivation Report 30-day review and comment periods are included in this C&RR which is attached as Appendix G5 to the final Motivation Report. |
| | (iv) The final report must also indicate that this draft report has been subjected to a public participation process. | | Proof of distribution of the Motivation Report is included in Appendix G2 and Appendix G3 including the reminder e-mail for submission of written comments. |
| | <u>(c) Layout & Sensitivity Maps</u> | | Appendix H of the Final Motivation Report includes an environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process. |
| | (i) The final report must include an environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process. | | |
| | (ii) The final report must include a map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map. | | The layout map superimposed on the environmental sensitivity map will be included in Appendix H of the Final Motivation report. |
| | <u>(d) Specialist assessments</u> | | The terms of reference will for all the identified specialist studies will be provided in Appendix A-F of the Final Motivation Report. This will include a detailed description of the study's methodology indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that has been assessed. |
| | (i) The EAP must provide confirmation that all specialists were provided with the same request of proposed amendments as well as ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following: | | |
| | ➤ 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. | | |

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| | ➤ 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. | | Descriptions of any limitations (if applicable) to the studies are stated in each specialist report, submitted in Appendix A-F of the Final Motivation Report. |
| | ➤ 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. | | It is acknowledged that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed. In any instance where the specialist's definition of 'no-go' area is different from the Department's definition, this will be specified in the report. |
| | ➤ Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Department's definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable. | | Please note that the avifaunal no-go buffer areas and the bat no-go buffer areas are no-go's for turbines only, and associated infrastructure (e.g. roads and cables) are permissible, with mitigation. This is clarified in the respective specialist reports. In terms of ecological sensitivities, please note that according to the specialist's classification system, only those areas classified as "Very high sensitivity" are no-go areas. This is stated in the ecological report (Appendix C, refer to Table 1) |
| | ➤ All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA. | | The specialist studies are final and include detailed/practical mitigation measures and recommendations which will also be reflected in the motivation report. These reports are included as Appendix A-F of the Final Motivation report. |
| | ➤ Clearly defined cumulative impacts and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land. | | All specialists have assessed cumulative impacts in the reports, these will be submitted with the Final Motivation report. These reports are included as Appendix A-F . |

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| | ➤ A detailed process flow to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project. | | |
| | ➤ Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development must be rated with the significance rating methodology used in the process. | | |
| | ➤ The significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development. | | The significance rating does include the need and desirability of the proposed amendment. |
| | ➤ A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed. | | A cumulative impact environmental statement will be provided in Section 9 of the Final Motivation report. |
| | (ii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice. | | Should any contradicting statements arise from the specialist reports it will be addressed by the EAP in the Final Motivation report. |
| | (e) General Please ensure that all mitigation recommendations are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines. | | All mitigation measures provided by specialists are in line with the most recent guidelines. The Avifaunal report (Appendix A) made use of the most recent guidelines, including the Verreux Eagle (VE) Guidelines published in 2017 and recommended an increased VE buffer as a result. The Bats Report (Appendix B) also made use of updated |

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| | <p>Please note that in terms of Regulation 32 of EIA regulation 2014 as amended, the applicant is required within a specified timeframe to submit a report to this Department in light of the proposed amendments.</p> <p>Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).</p> <p>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.</p> | | <p>guidelines and current datasets to inform new buffer areas and buffer distances imposed on the layout.</p> <p>This comment is acknowledged regarding the timeframe of this application.</p> <p>This comment is acknowledged, the applicant intends to stay within the regulated timeframe in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p> <p>This comment is acknowledged, no activity will commence prior to an environmental authorization.</p> |
| 4. | <p>The SARAO has the following comments on the abovementioned amendment application:</p> <p>SARAO has conducted a high level risk assessment of the proposed amendments to the above mentioned facility's Environmental Authorisation, in particular the increase in hub height from 120m to 150m.</p> <p>1. Based on this assessment, we do not foresee that this amendment will increase the risk of electromagnetic interference on the SKA Infrastructure Territory. We do however request that we are kept informed of the developments of the project and that control measures are put in place to ensure that the total radiated EMI from the facility does not exceed the</p> | <p>Mr Selaelo Matlhane Spectrum & Telecommunication Manager</p> <p>South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)</p> <p>Letter: 01-07-2019</p> | <p>This comment is acknowledged, the applicant takes note of the requirement to ensure that radiated EMI from the project will not exceed the stipulated threshold, and will cater for this during the final turbine selection and detailed design of the facility, in accordance with the SARAO's requirements and the Astronomy Geographic Advantage Areas (AGAA) Regulations in force at the time of construction. SARAO will be kept informed of developments relating to the Gunstfontein WEF.</p> |

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| | <p>electric field strength of 78 dBμV/m when measured 10m from the facility in the direction of the SKA.</p> <p>2. We wish you all the best with the project and our office remains open for further engagement on this matter.</p> <p>3. SRAO conducted an assessment to determine whether SKA Infrastructure territory will be influenced by the proposed amendments. It was determined that the increased in hub height does not significantly decrease the pathloss between the wind energy facility and the SKA Infrastructure Territory. The pathloss between the facility and SKA133 at 120m hub height is 174 dB while at the hub height of 150m, the pathloss is 171 dB. Therefore, the increase in hub height from 120m to 150m does not significantly increase the risk of interference at the SKA. At this pathloss, radiated emission from the facility should be below 78 dBμV/m to comply with the Regulations.</p> | | |

2. COMMENTS RECEIVED: Stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties

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| 1. | <p>LETTER OF OBJECTION REGARDING THE WIND TURBINES UPGRADE AT GUNSTFONTEIN FARM SUTHERLAND N CAPE</p> <p>1. References to the Impact of Wind Farms on Avian Species. Please see the following attached pdf files. The Internet has extensive Websites listing the</p> | <p>David C Wootton Landowner: Malieschoek / De Kruis Farm</p> <p>Letter: 25-06-2019</p> | <p>This comment (including the articles attached thereto) is acknowledged.</p> <p>Pre-construction bird and bat monitoring was undertaken for the Gunstfontein Wind Energy Facility, this included monitoring over the period of one year. As part of the current amendment, the Avifaunal and Bats specialists assessed the findings of the 12-months of monitoring as well</p> |

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| | <p>problems and threats posed by wind farms to bird and bat populations.</p> <p>2. I am conducting with the help of the MCSA (Mountain Club of South Africa), and other interested parties an ongoing survey of Malieschoek/De Kruis Farm. This is for "The Private Nature Reserve/Conservancy Malieschoek".</p> <p>3. This is expected to take between 5 and 10 years minimum. And this is due to the enormous cyclical variations in the climate of the region.</p> <p>4. As I have mentioned in previous letters to your selves. Your impact study has only been superficially done and is incomplete.</p> <p>5. If you plan to change the original conditions of your application. Then I feel that you have to do a full re-assessment of the impact of the new sizes (wind turbines) that you plan to use.</p> <p>6. These larger turbines are working with huge engineering forces. They do catch fire when the rotor brake fails. This also puts this very fragile environment at risk from being burnt out.</p> <p>7. I feel that, no matter what objections are put forward regarding this project. It is going to go ahead. All the effort that we have put into this wonderful place to preserve it for all future South Africans. Is now being put at serious risk? And this makes me sad.</p> | | <p>as the conclusions of the EIA phase Avifaunal and Bats Specialist studies to inform the assessment on the updated turbine specifications and layout of the Gunstfontein Wind Energy Facility.</p> <p>The avifaunal and bat specialists undertook comprehensive literature reviews as part of the current amendment application, to ensure that the latest research, findings and best practices (regarding the interactions between birds/ bats and wind farm developments) were considered in the current assessment. The results of these literature reviews are presented in the Avifaunal and Bats reports, included in Appendix A and B of the Final Motivation report.</p> <p>The avifaunal and bat specialists considered the results of the 12-month monitoring undertaken as part of the original EIA, together with recent and up to date research on bird and bat populations, current guidelines and updated datasets when making the current assessments. The buffers imposed on the updated layout were informed by recent research of operational Wind Energy Facilities and the most recent guidelines and available datasets. This was done to ensure a thorough assessment of the proposed amendments, and to ensure the facility has minimal impacts on bird and bat populations.</p> <p>Additional mitigation measures were provided as part of the Avifaunal and Bats report and this was included in the updated EMPr of the Gunstfontein Wind Energy facility.</p> |

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| | | | <p>In terms of fire risk: note that fire incidents associated with wind turbines have historically been very rare globally, and the risk of fire is greatly mitigated in modern turbines by the use of fire retardant materials and other design features. In addition, all operational turbines will be monitored 24 hours a day by an advanced SCADA monitoring system which allows for the early detection of any potential mechanical faults so that these can be tended to swiftly, before failure. In addition, the operations management staff will be properly trained in fire mitigation and fire response techniques.</p> |