Dear Stakeholder

ENVIRONMENTAL BASIC ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS
KRUISVALLEI HYDROELECTRIC POWER GENERATION SCHEME, FREE STATE PROVINCE

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Zevobuzz (Pty) Ltd propose to develop a hydroelectric power generation scheme in the Ash River in the Free State Province. The scheme comprises the previously authorised Lower Kruisvallei (LK) scheme and the previously authorised Middle Kruisvallei (MK) scheme. The project is located on the farm Kruisvallei 190 and farm Middelvallei 130 (referred to as the project site) situated within the Dihlabeng Local Municipality and within the greater Thabo Mofutsanyane District Municipality approximately 13km north west of Clarens. The project will be known as the Kruisvallei Hydroelectric Power Generation Scheme.

Two separate Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes were previously undertaken for the LK and MK schemes. Environmental Authorisation (EA) for LK (DEA reference no. 12/12/20/1876) and MK (DEA reference no. 12/12/20/1875) were issued under the 2006 EIA Regulations in September 2011. Both projects were bid as one single project in the Department of Energy’s Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement (REIPPPP) Programme in Round 4 and the project was selected as a Preferred Bidder. Through the modelling and analyses undertaken in the final design for the scheme, a number of changes have been identified as being required for the project. These changes would result in changes to the currently authorised projects. After consultation with the competent authority, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), it was confirmed that a new Basic Assessment (BA) process will be undertaken for the scheme, which will consist of all infrastructure for LK and MK, on agreement that the DEA would not lapse the previous EAs until a positive decision has been issued on this current application. This new application will include all infrastructure associated with the Kruisvallei Hydroelectric Power Generation Scheme, including infrastructure previously authorised.
The proposed project will involve the construction of the Lower Kruisvallei (LK) Scheme which will have a development footprint of approximately 8.98ha and the Middle Kruisvallei (MK) which will have a development footprint of approximately 20.4ha, resulting in a total generating capacity of 4.7MW. Electricity generated by the project will feed into and supplement the national electricity grid. The proposed project will include the construction of a new 22kV overhead power line ~16km in length to connect the project to the existing Node Substation. The 22kV power line proposed will not trigger a listed activity within the EIA Regulations of 2014 as amended, and therefore the development of the power line for the Kruisvallei Hydroelectric Power Generation Scheme does not form part of this BA process and application for Environmental Authorisation.

**BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations published in terms of Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998), Zevobuzz (Pty) Ltd requires authorisation from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), as the Competent Authority (CA), in consultation with the Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA) for the undertaking of the proposed project. In terms of Sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No 107 of 1998), as read with the amended EIA Regulations of GN R 326, R327, GN R325 and GN R324, a Basic Assessment process is required to be undertaken for the proposed project.

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as the independent environmental consultant, to undertake the required Basic Assessment to identify and assess all the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project and propose appropriate mitigation and management measures in an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). The public participation process, which forms part of the overall Basic Assessment process, will also be undertaken by Savannah Environmental.

The department and/or the organisation which you represent has been identified as a commenting authority for the proposed project. In this regard, please can you provide us with the name and contact details of the relevant contact person at your department who we would liaise with regarding this project. By registering on the project database, you will receive all information relating to the project and will be provided with an opportunity to provide comment and input into the BA process.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information and/or clarification regarding the proposed project. Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process.

Kind regards

Ms Gabriele Stein
Public Participation and Social Consultant
Email: gabriele@savannahsa.com
ACCESS ROADS AND WATERCOURSE CROSSINGS WITHIN THE AUTHORISED IZIDULI EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE - NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Assigned to: Gabriele Stein  
Date Sent: 12/12/2017 13:57

Teams: Global  
Project: Iziduli Emyoieni WEF Substation, PL & Watercourses

From: Gabriele Stein <gabriele@savannahsa.com>
To: 
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Subject: ACCESS ROADS AND WATERCOURSE CROSSINGS WITHIN THE AUTHORISED IZIDULI EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE - NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Dear Stakeholder,

Windlab Developments South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Windlab) received an Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the proposed Iziduli Emyoieni Wind Energy Facility (previously known as Amakhala Emyoieni Phase 4) on 28 August 2012 from the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA Ref: 12/12/20/1754/4). The proposed Wind Energy Facility (WEF) was previously part of the greater project concept known as the Amakhala Emyoieni Wind Energy Facility. In order to align with the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme requirements restricting a project size to 140MW), the project was split into four phases.

A previous basic assessment application was submitted by Savannah Environmental Consultants in May 2015. The application was issued an environmental authorisation in July 2015 (Eastern Cape DEDEAT ref: EC02C/LN183/M/75-2014), however the construction did not commence within the 24 months from the date of issue and the EA subsequently lapsed. As such, Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Emyoieni Wind Farm Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd to undertake the required Basic Assessment to identify and assess all the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project and propose appropriate mitigation and management measures in an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) in terms of the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended in April 2017).
details of the relevant contact person at your department who we would liaise with regard to the
project. By registering on the project database, you will receive all information relating to
the project and will be provided with an opportunity to provide comment and input into the BA process.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further details in this regard.

Kind regards,

Gabriele Stein

Public Participation and Social Consultant

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

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Iziduli Reply Form.pdf