

10 December 2012
DEA ref: 12/12/20/1778/2

Dear Stakeholder,

**APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL
AUTHORISATION: LOPERBERG WIND ENERGY FACILITY ON A SITE NEAR
MOLTENO, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**NOTIFICATION OF REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
AUTHORISATION: DEA REFERENCE No. 12/12/20/1778/2**

Loperberg Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd received an environmental authorisation for the construction of the Loperberg Wind Energy Facility on a site near Molteno, Eastern Cape Province (DEA ref: 12/12/20/1778/3) in November 2012. The authorisation for this Phase of the Dorper Wind Farm (known as Loperberg - Phase 2) was received following the application to amend the Dorper Wind Farm authorisation (i.e. splitting of the project into phases) received in May 2011 for the broader facility (EIA Ref No: 12/12/20/1778).

In terms of the environmental authorisation, the project description referred to the installation of 76 wind turbine units with a hub height of 90 meters and a rotor diameter of 100 meters. Following subsequent developments in technology, and in finalising the site development plan, Loperberg Wind Farm is now proposing to increase the hub height to 120 meters and the rotor diameter to 125 meters. This 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). This change does not lead to a change in extent of the facility footprint, as it is still based on the layout for the phase presented in the split report.

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

- Up to 76 wind turbine generators with a hub height of up to 120 m and a rotor diameter of up to 125 m.

In terms of Condition 6 of the Environmental Authorisation, it is possible for an applicant to apply, in writing, to the competent authority for a change or deviation from the project description to be approved. In this regard, Loperberg Wind Farm 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 Loperberg Wind Farm 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 (Bio3), the visual specialist (MetroGIS) and the noise specialist (M2 Environmental Connections) regarding the proposed amendment in turbine heights and rotor diameter.

From the investigations undertaken, it is concluded that:

- » an increase in the hub height and rotor diameter of the turbines for the Loperberg Phase 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. Please submit your written comment by **28 January 2013**. Please let us know if you need more information.

Kind regards

Karen Jodas

(letter not signed, sent via email)

December 2012