

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

GUNSTFONTEIN WIND ENERGY FACILITY INFRASTRUCTURE

EMPr AMENDMENT TO COMPLY WITH CONDITION 18 & 19 AND PRESENTATION OF THE FINAL FACILITY LAYOUT TO COMPLY WITH CONDITION 16 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (DFFE Ref. No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/826)

JUNE 2021

The restrictions enforced in terms of Government Gazette 43096 which placed the country in a national state of disaster limiting the movement of people to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus has placed some limitations on the commencement and continuation of the public consultation as part of an EIA process. Considering these limitations, the following consultation process has been designed and will be implemented, on approval by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), to cater for the conducting of the public participation process which includes registered I&APs, the competent authority, directly impacted landowners/occupiers, adjacent landowners/occupiers, relevant Organs of State departments, Municipalities, ward councillors and other key stakeholders.

Projects Details

Proposed Activity: Gunstfontein Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd would like to amend the EMPr and Facility Layout for the authorised Gunstfontein Wind Energy Facility (14/12/16/3/3/2/826). The amendment is required to meet the EA requirements. The project entails the construction of the 200MW Gunstfontein Wind Energy Facility and the associated infrastructure on the Remainder of the Farm Gunstfontein 131 south of the town of Sutherland, within the Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province.

Location: The authorised Facility is located on the Remainder of the Farm Gunstfontein 131 south of the town of Sutherland, within the Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality which falls within Namakwa District Municipality, Northern Cape Province.

Public Participation Plan:

The public participation (PP) process will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Regulations 41 (5) of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, (GNR 326). The aim of the public participation process is primarily to ensure that:

- » information containing all relevant facts in respect of the proposed amendment is made available to potential stakeholders and I&APs;
- » participation by I&APs is facilitated in such a manner that all potential stakeholders and I&APs are provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments; and
- » comments received from potential stakeholders and I&APs are recorded and incorporated into the amendment process.

The traditional means and opportunities available for the undertaking of public participation is still covered and implemented as part of this plan considering the current limitations. Alternative means of undertaking consultation has been designed and will be implemented by Savannah Environmental to ensure that I&APs

are afforded sufficient opportunity to raise comments on the projects through an interactive web-based platform readily available and accessible to any person illustrating interest in the projects and enables the public participation process to be undertaken in line with Regulations 41 (5) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

The use of online tools enables stakeholders and I&APs to explore the project-specific content in their own time and allow them to participate in a meaningful way in the consultation process. The online platform allows for feedback and comments to be submitted by I&APs, in so doing saving time for the stakeholder and also giving the assurance that their comments have been submitted for inclusion in the project's reporting. The online stakeholder engagement platform considers the limitations applied by the Disaster Management Act Regulations prohibiting the gathering of people, as well as limitations which certain I&APs may have in terms of access to computers and internet as well as access to public spaces not open for operation or which have restricted access.

The benefits of the online stakeholder engagement platform include:

- Ability to create a dedicated project-specific online platform to enable easy access to project-related information.
- Allowing registered stakeholders and I&APs the opportunity to engage on a project without leaving their office or home.
- Enabling the PP team to maintain a complete database of I&APs through maintaining a record of persons accessing the online stakeholder consultation platform.
- Provides a resilient solution to a public consultation process.

Where registered I&APs do not have the applicable facilities (i.e. access to internet, mobile phones, or computers), provision has been made to include these I&APs in the consultation process by consulting with the Ward Councillor, the ward committee members, community representatives and local community forum members.

The schematic illustration below provides an overview of the tools that are available to I&APs and stakeholders to access project information and interact with the public participation team to obtain project information and resolve any queries that may arise, and to meet the requirements for public participation.

i. Register of I&APs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the registered I&AP database were required • Receive all project related information
ii. Notifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notifications regarding the EMPr amendment process and availability of the amendment of the EMPr for public review to be sent via email, post or SMS notifications
iii. Public Involvement and consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of comments or queries via email, post or the online platform to the PP team • Availability of project information via email, post and/or the online platform
iv. Comment on the EMPr and Final Layout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of comments via the online platform, email or post to the PP team • Comments recorded and responded to as part of the process
v. Recording of comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments and Responses Report, including all comments received to be included in the PP reporting.

The PP plan, as set out in the table below, has been drafted for the above-mentioned projects to ensure compliance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations and that reasonable opportunity is provided to I&APs and that all administrative actions are reasonable. Proof of all notifications will be included in the public participation report which will be submitted along with the Final EMPr and Final Layout.

The PP plan is submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), agreement before the PP process is undertaken for the proposed EMPr and Layout amendment.

Public Participation Plan: Discussion of approach and methodology to meet the requirements of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended)

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
<p>Regulation 41(5)(a)(b) - where public participation is conducted in terms of this regulation for an application or proposed application, subregulation (2)(a)), (b), (c) and (d) need not be complied with again during the additional public participation process contemplated in regulations 19(1)(b) or 23(1)(b) or the public participation process contemplated in regulation 21(2)(d), on condition that-</p> <p>(a) Such a process has been preceded by a public participation process which included compliance with subregulation (2)(a), (b), (c) and (d); and</p> <p>(b) Written notice is given to registered and affected parties regarding where the-</p> <p>(i) Revised basic assessment report or, EMPr or closure plan, as contemplated in regulation 19(1)(b);</p> <p>(ii) Revised environmental impact assessment report or EMPr as contemplated in regulation 23(1)(b); or</p> <p>(iii) Environmental impact assessment report and EMPr as contemplated in regulation 21(2)(d);</p> <p>May be obtained, the manner in which and the person to whom representations on these reports or plans may be made and the date on which such representations are due.</p>	<p><u>Notification of availability of report and period for review using the following means:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification letter (to be sent via email, fax or post) to registered I&APs. • SMS and/ or WhatsApp notifications where no other means are available. <p><u>Availability of the report for review, comments and consultation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report available on the Savannah Environmental website for download. • Electronic copies can be made available to parties via a secure Dropbox link (or other means) that will be emailed upon request for the documentation. • CDs to be posted, if requested. • Report will be submitted to the DFFE using the DFFE online portal. • Report will be submitted to Organs of State and commenting authorities via an agreed electronic platform (from the Savannah Environmental's website, CD, via a secure Dropbox link or WeTransfer, etc). <p><u>Submission of comments to PP team:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments can be submitted directly to the PP team using the Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform. • Written comments can also be submitted via email, post or fax. • Any comments provided telephonically or via instant message will be transcribed and recorded as formal comments.

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
Regulation 4(2) – Notification of decision on application	<u>Notification of the approval of the Final EMPr and Final Layout using the following means:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notification letter with details as outlined in the approved Final EMPr and Layout issued will be sent via email and fax.• Notifications that the approved Final EMPr and Layout has been issued and where to download and/or obtain a copy to communities via Ward Councillor and his/her ward committee members and identified and confirmed community representatives.• SMS or WhatsApp notification.

Tebogo Mapinga

From: Lerato Mokoena <LMokoena@environment.gov.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 07 July 2021 5:27 PM
To: Tebogo Mapinga
Cc: Constance Musemburi; Wayne Hector
Subject: PPP Plan Approval: 2021-06-0044
Attachments: SE2916 - Gunstfontein WEF EMPr PP Plan - Final.pdf

Dear Tebogo

Please note that your PPP Plan is acceptable to the Department and you may continue as proposed. Please ensure that this PPP Plan Approval forms part of your DFFE EIA online application.

Regards

Lerato Mokoena
DFFE (Pretoria)
Tel: [012-399 9418](tel:012-399 9418)

From: Tebogo Mapinga <tebogo@savannahsa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 7 July 2021, 15:51
To: Constance Musemburi
Cc: Lerato Mokoena; Wayne Hector; Ephron Maradwa; Nicolene Venter
Subject: RE: 2021-06-0044

Dear Constance

Thank you for your response below. Will it be possible for the Department to provide confirmation or input on the PP Plan by this coming Friday at the latest. We have been requested to release the EMPr by next week Monday at the latest. Your assistance in this regard will be highly appreciated.

Kind regards



t: +27 (0)11 656 3237
f: +27 (0) 86 684 0547

Tebogo Mapinga
Business Operations Manager & EAP

e: tebogo@savannahsa.com
c: +27 (0) 72 738 3836

SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant on Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015

From: Constance Musemburi <CMusemburi@environment.gov.za>
Sent: Monday, 05 July 2021 12:39 PM
To: Tebogo Mapinga <tebogo@savannahsa.com>
Cc: Lerato Mokoena <LMokoena@environment.gov.za>; Wayne Hector <WHector@environment.gov.za>; Ephron Maradwa <EMaradwa@environment.gov.za>
Subject: RE: 2021-06-0044

Dear Tebogo

The abovementioned pre-application meeting request and your email below refer

The Department notes and agree to your request that the a pre application meeting is not required. The Department will review and advise accordingly on the submitted PP Plan.

Regards

Constance Musemburi
Directorate: Priority Infrastructure Projects
Tel: 012 399 9416
Email: cmusemburi@environment.gov.za



**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**
Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

From: EIA Applications [<mailto:EIAApplications@environment.gov.za>]

Sent: 01 July 2021 04:26 PM

To: Constance Musemburi <CMusemburi@environment.gov.za>

Cc: Lerato Mokoena <LMokoena@environment.gov.za>; Wayne Hector <WHector@environment.gov.za>; Tebogo Mapinga <tebogo@savannahsa.com>

Subject: 2021-06-0044

Dear Constance.

Please note that you have been allocated an application:

Type of Application: Pre-Application Meeting Request;

Reference Number: 2021-06-0044;

Date Received: 29/06/2021;

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: Tebogo Mapinga <tebogo@savannahsa.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 16:31

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

Cc: Nicolene Venter <nicolene@savannahsa.com>

Subject: Gunstfontein WEF Final EMP and Layout Approval- Pre-application request and PP Plan for approval - DFFE
Ref. No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/826

Good afternoon

Please find the attached Gunstfontein WEF Final EMP and Layout Approval- Pre-application request and PP Plan for approval. Please note that the pre-application request was submitted as a formality however we do require the approval of the PP Plan as soon as possible. Your assistance in this regards will be highly appreciated. Please contact me should you have any queries in this regard.

Kind regard



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Tebogo Mapinga

Business Operations Manager & EAP

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