



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia · PRETORIA
Tel (+ 27 12) 399 9372

DEA Reference: 12/12/20/2370/3/AM1

Enquiries: Mr Muhammad Essop

Telephone: (012) 399 9406 **E-mail:** MEssop@environment.gov.za

Mr Richard Gordon
Great Karoo Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 23101
Claremont
CAPE TOWN
7735

Telephone Number: (021) 670 1401
E-mail Address: James.cumming@aced.co.za

PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Gordon

AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 12 AUGUST 2014 FOR THE 140MW GREAT KAROO WIND FARM (PHASE 3) AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE FARM KENTUCKY 206 AND PORTION 1 (WELGEMOED) OF THE FARM WOLVENKOP 207 WITHIN THE KAROO HOOGLAND LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the abovementioned application by this Department on 12 August 2014, your application for amendment of the EA received by this Department on 11 April 2016, the draft report received on 11 April 2016, the comments issued by this Department on 25 April 2016 and the additional information received on 19 May 2016 refer.

Based on a review of the reason for requesting an amendment to the above EA, this Department, in terms of Chapter 5 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, has decided to amend the EA dated 12 August 2014 as follows:

Amendment 1: Amendment to the project description of the EA:

Page 08 of the EA:

From:

"The infrastructure associated with this facility includes:

- *Wind turbines (between 2MW and 3.5MW in capacity and with a 120m rotor diameter and a hub height of up to 120m) and associated foundations;*
- *Medium voltage cabling between the turbines, to be laid underground where practical;*
- *Internal access roads to each turbine the substation complex and the ancillary infrastructure;*
- *One on-site substation complex to facilitate stepping up the voltage from medium to high voltage (up to 132kV) to enable the connection of the wind energy facility and the Eskom grid at Eskom's Komsberg Substation*

- A high voltage power line for connection to a double circuit high voltage power line from the Karusa Wind Farm Substation to the Eskom Komsberg Substation;
- Operations and services workshop area / office building for control, maintenance and storage; and
- Temporary infrastructure including a site camp, laydown areas and a batching plant.”

To:

“The infrastructure associated with this facility includes:

- Up to 52 wind turbines (with up to 3.6MW in capacity and with up to 140m rotor diameter and a hub height of up to 120m) and associated foundations;
- Medium voltage cabling between the turbines, to be laid underground where practical;
- Internal access roads to each turbine the substation complex and the ancillary infrastructure;
- One on-site substation complex to facilitate stepping up the voltage from medium to high voltage (up to 132kV) to enable the connection of the wind energy facility and the Eskom grid at Eskom’s Komsberg Substation
- A high voltage power line for connection to a double circuit high voltage power line from the Karusa Wind Farm Substation to the Eskom Komsberg Substation;
- Operations and services workshop area / office building for control, maintenance and storage; and
- Temporary infrastructure including a site camp, laydown areas and a batching plant.

The table on page 08 of the EA:

From:

Component	Description/Dimensions
Location of the site	~ 50 km south of Sutherland in the Northern Cape
Extent of the proposed development footprint	~ 91.8 km ²
SG Codes	» C0720000000020600000 » C0720000000020700001
Substation complex	One (1) 132 kV substation, workshop, control, administration and security facilities.
Power line (number and voltage)	One (1) high voltage overhead power line for connection of the Great Karoo Wind Farm Substation to a (1) double circuit high voltage power line from the Karusa Wind Farm Substation to the Eskom Komsberg Substation.
Access road and width	8 m wide
Export capacity	140 MW
Number of Turbines	57

To:

Component	Description/Dimensions
Location of the site	~ 50 km south of Sutherland in the Northern Cape
Extent of the proposed development footprint	~ 91.8 km ²
SG Codes	» C0720000000020600000 » C0720000000020700001
Substation complex	One (1) 132 kV substation, workshop, control, administration and security facilities.
Power line (number and voltage)	One (1) high voltage overhead power line for connection of the Great Karoo Wind Farm

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	Substation to a (1) double circuit high voltage power line from the Karusa Wind Farm Substation to the Eskom Komsberg Substation.
Access road and width	8 m wide
Hub Height	Up to 120m
Rotor Diameter	Up to 140m
Export capacity	140 MW
Number of Turbines	52

The applicant applied to amend the turbine specifications as there was developments in technology since the EA was issued based on the wind monitoring results as well as economic considerations. The applicant applied to increase the rotor diameter as well as reduce the number of turbines.

This proposed amendment letter must be read in conjunction with the EA dated 12 August 2014.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (the Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of the Department's decision in respect of the amendment made as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of Government Notice No. R.993, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. Kindly include a copy of this document with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties.

An appellant must submit an appeal to the appeal administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the applicant, any registered interested and affected party and any organ of state with interest in the matter within 20 days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the competent authority.

By post: Private Bag X447,
Pretoria,
0001; or

By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road,
Arcadia,
Pretoria.

Appeals must be submitted in writing to:

Mr Z Hassam, Director: Appeals and Legal Review, of this Department at the above mentioned addresses. Mr Hassam can also be contacted at:

Tel: (012) 399 9356

Email: Appealsdirector@environment.gov.za

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, an appeal under Section 43 of that Act will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal is finalised.

For guidance on appeals submitted to the Minister in terms of NEMA and the SEMAs, please find a copy of the guideline on the administration of appeals on the Department's website: (https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations).

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs

Date: 25/07/2016

cc:	Ms Jo-Anne Thomas	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd	Email: joanne@savannahsa.com
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Tel (+ 27 12) 399 9372

DEA Reference: 12/12/20/2370/3/AM2

Enquiries: Mr Vincent Chauke

Telephone: (012) 399 9399 **E-mail:** vchauke@environment.gov.za

Mr Richard Gordon
Great Karoo Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 23101
Claremont
CAPE TOWN
7735

Telephone Number: (021) 670 1401
E-mail Address: james.cumming@aced.co.za

PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Gordon

AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 12 AUGUST 2014 FOR THE 140MW GREAT KAROO WIND FARM (PHASE 3) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE FARM KENTUCKY 206 WITHIN THE KAROO HOOGLAND LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the abovementioned application by this Department on 12 August 2014, the amendment to the EA dated 25 August 2016 and your application for amendment of the EA received by the Department on 11 April 2017 refer.

Based on a review of the reason for requesting an amendment to the above EA, this Department, in terms of Chapter 5 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 as amended, on 07 April 2017, has decided to amend the EA dated 12 August 2014 as follows:

Amendment 1: Amendment to extend the validity period of the EA:

The activity must commence within a period of two (02) years from the date of expiry of the EA issued on 12 August 2014 (i.e. the EA lapses on 12 August 2019). If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for environmental authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.

The applicant applied to extend the validity period of the EA as the development was not awarded preferred bidder status in the DoE REIPPPP. The applicant intends to bid this project in the DoE REIPPPP future rounds.

This amendment letter must be read in conjunction with the EA dated 12 August 2014, as amended.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (the Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of the EA, of the Department's decision in respect of your application as well as the fact that

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an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeals Regulations, and the provisions regarding the submission of appeals as contained in the Regulations.

Should any person wish to lodge an appeal against this decision, he/she must submit the appeal to the appeal administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the applicant, any registered interested and affected party, and any organ of state with interest in the matter within 20 days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered interested and affected parties by the applicant; or the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the Department, whichever is applicable

Appeals must be submitted in writing in the prescribed form to:

Mr Z Hassam, Director: Appeals and Legal Review of this Department at the below mentioned addresses.

By Email: appealsdirector@environment.gov.za;

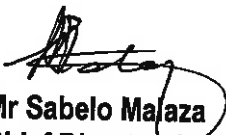
By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko,
Arcadia,
Pretoria,
0083; or

By post: Private Bag X447,
Pretoria,
0001

Please note that in terms of section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, the lodging of an appeal will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal is finalised.

To obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, please visit the Department's website at https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations or request a copy of the documents at appealsdirector@environment.gov.za.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs

Date: 05/05/2017

cc:	Ms Jo-Anne Thomas	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd	Email: joanne@savannahsa.com
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Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA · 0001· Environment House · 473 Steve Biko, Arcadia· PRETORIA
Tel (+ 27 12) 399 9372

DEA Reference: 12/12/20/2370/3/AM3

Enquiries: Ms Zesipho Makhosayafana

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Mr Richard Gordon
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PO Box 23101
CLAREMONT
7735

Telephone Number: (021) 670 1401
Email Address: Richard.gordon@aiimafrica.com

PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Gordon

AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 14 AUGUST 2014 FOR THE PROPOSED 140 MEGAWATTS GREAT KAROO WIND FARM (PHASE 3) AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE FARM KENTUCKY 206 AND PORTION 1 (WELGEMOED) OF THE FARM WOLVENKOP 207 WITHIN THE KAROO HOOGLAND LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the above-mentioned application by this Department on 12 August 2014, the first amendment to the EA dated 25 July 2016, the second amendment to the EA dated 05 May 2017, your application for amendment of the EA received by this Department on 25 April 2019, the comments issued by this Department on 13 May 2019 and the final report received on 12 July 2019, refers.

Based on a review of the reason for requesting an amendment to the above EA, this Department, in terms of Chapter 5 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended, has decided to amend the EA dated 12 August 2014, as follows:

Amendment 1: Extension of the validity period of the EA

Condition of authorization 6 of the EA dated 12 August 2014 is thus amended as follows:

"6. The activity must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue of the authorisation (i.e. the authorisation lapses on 12 August 2024). If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for environmental authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken."

Amendment 2: Wind turbine specification

The wording in the table on page 8 of the EA is mended:

From:

MS

Up to 52 wind turbines (with up to 3.6MW in capacity and with up to 140m rotor diameter and a hub height of up to 120m) and associated foundations.

To:

Up to 42 wind turbines (with up to 6.5MW in capacity and with up to 180m rotor diameter and a hub height of up to 150m) and associated foundations.

Amendment 3: Decrease in number of wind turbines on page 8 of the EA

From:

52 turbines

To:

42 turbines

Amendment 4: Site Layout Plan update

From:

The Site Layout Plan dated 2016 with 52 wind turbine (with up to 3.6MW in capacity and with up to 140m rotor diameter and a hub height of up to 120m) and associated foundations.

To:

The proposed new Site Layout Plan with 42 turbines (with up to 6.5MW in capacity and with up to 180m rotor diameter and a hub height of up to 150m) and associated foundations.

Amendment 5: Amendment to the conditions of the EA

1. Condition 13.2

A copy of the final development layout must be made available for comments by registered Interested and Affected Parties and the applicant must consider such comments. Once amended, the final development layout map must be submitted to the department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. 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 include the following:

13.2. A 150m and 100m buffer respectively between watercourses; ridge edge and the turbine/ construction activities.

To:

A copy of the final development layout must be made available for comments by registered interested and affected parties and the applicant must consider such comments. Once amended, the final development layout map must be submitted to the department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. 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 include the following:

13.2. Turbine and infrastructure positions as approved by an avifaunal specialist.

2. Condition 49

A 150m between watercourse and 100m buffer between the ridge edge and the turbines/ construction activities must be implemented.

To:

The final layout (turbines and infrastructure positions) must be approved by an avifauna specialist before submission to this department for review and approval.

The below additional conditions are included as per the recommendations of the specialist studies submitted as part of the amendment report dated July 2019:

1. A more refined and focussed preconstruction monitoring must be undertaken, findings of the monitoring must be used to update the existing avifaunal baseline for the site and must also be used to inform final micro siting of the WEF where applicable.
2. Nest sites (N1-N3) must be revisited by an avifaunal specialist during eagle breeding season (June – September) to confirm activity and species utilisation. The findings of the aforementioned must be included and inform the final EMPr and layout plan to be submitted to this department for approval.
3. Should active nesting sites be confirmed, then regular monitoring to determine breeding success of eagles must be undertaken during both construction and operational phases of the authorised project in accordance with applicable guidelines in effect at the time.
4. A bat specialist must assess the final layout and provide input and recommendation for placement of turbines.

Reason for amendment:

Following the issuing of the EA for the project, there have been advancements to wind turbine technology with newer turbines becoming larger and more powerful. The turbines authorised in the EA are therefore not considered to be the most suitable in terms of production and economic considerations. These amendments to the project are proposed in order to increase the efficiency of the facility and consequently the economic competitiveness thereof, as well as to avoid environmental sensitivities on the site. The Applicant intends to bid the Great Karoo Wind Farm in the next bidding window of the South African Government's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP). To date there have been four bidding windows in the REIPPPP, with the last of these bid windows taking place in 2014. The next REIPPPP bid window is now anticipated in the second half of 2019 or early 2020. Should the wind farm be successfully selected as a Preferred Bidder in the next round of REIPPPP, construction would be expected to commence in late 2020 or 2021 at the absolute earliest.

This amendment letter must be read in conjunction with the EA dated on 12 August 2014, as amended.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the National Environmental Management Act: the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended (the EIA Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of this EA, of the Department's decision as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

In terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000 (Act No 3 of 2000), you are entitled to the right to fair, lawful and reasonable administrative action; and to written reasons for administrative action that affects you negatively. Further your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act no. 4 of 2013) which stipulate that the Department should conduct itself in a responsible manner when collecting, processing, storing and sharing an individual or another entity's personal information by holding the Department accountable should the Department abuse or compromise your personal information in any way.

Should any person wish to lodge an appeal against this decision, he/she must submit the appeal to the appeal administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the applicant, any registered interested and affected party, and any organ of state with interest in the matter within 20 days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered interested and affected parties by the applicant; or the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the Department, whichever is applicable.

Appeals must be submitted in writing in the prescribed form to:

Director: Appeals and Legal Review of this Department at the below mentioned addresses.

By email: appealsdirector@environment.gov.za;

By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko Street
Arcadia
Pretoria
0083; or

By post: Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the NEMA, the lodging of an appeal will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with any activity authorised in the EA until such time that the appeal is finalised.

To obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, please visit the Department's website at https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations or request a copy of the documents at appealsdirector@environment.gov.za.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs

Date: 19/09/2019

cc:	Mr G Raath	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd	Email: gideon@savannahsa.com
	Ms D Moleko	Department of Environment and Nature Conservation	Email: dmoleko@ncpg.gov.za
	Mr L Vermeulen	Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality	Email: leov.namakwa-dm.gov.za