

# UMMBILA EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY SPLITTING OF EA AND SPV RENAMING, & EMPr AND LAYOUT APPROVAL FOR PHASE 1 AND ASSOCIATED GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE

Umbila Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility – DFFE Ref No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2160  
Umbila Emoyeni Electrical Grid Infrastructure – DFFE Ref No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2162

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**MEETING NOTES OF THE PRE-APPLICATION MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, 27 MARCH AT 11H00  
VENUE: VIRTUAL MEETING, MICROSOFT TEAMS**

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**Notes for the Record prepared by:**

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**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**

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*Please note that these notes are not verbatim, but a summary of the comments submitted and discussion at the meeting. Recording of the meeting also available*

*Please address any comments to Savannah Environmental at the above address*

**UMMBILA EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY SPLITTING OF EA AND SPV RENAMING, & EMPr AND LAYOUT APPROVAL FOR PHASE 1 AND ASSOCIATED GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE  
MEETING ATTENDEES**

Name	Position
<b>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment</b>	
Nyiko Nkosi	Case Officer
Ditebogo Chantell Mabusela	Case Officer
Zama Langa	Case Officer
Dr. Danie Smit	Deputy Director
Muhammad Essop	Deputy Director
<b>Seriti Green</b>	
Ben Brimble	Development Director
Belinda Mills	Project Manager
Debbie Weldon	Project Manager
<b>Savannah Environmental</b>	
Jo-Anne Thomas	Director and EAP
Karen Jodas	Director
Chantelle Geyer	Environmental Consultant

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Jo-Anne Thomas welcomed the attendees at the Pre-Application Meeting. After introducing herself, she requested the project team to introduce themselves to the officials and thereafter requested the officials to introduce themselves to the project team.

She presented the agenda and purpose of the meeting.

### APOLOGIES

Ms. Nyiko Nkosi submitted an apology on behalf of Ms. Julliet Mahlangu who was unable to attend the meeting.

### BACKGROUND AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Jo-Anne Thomas presented the following:

- » a brief overview of the approved Ummbila Emoyeni Wind and Grid project;
- » provided details of the proposed splitting of the EA for Ummbila Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and Grid Connection Infrastructure;
- » discussed the Ummbila Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility EMPr and layout approval process for Phase 1; and
- » requested to change SPV names for Ummbila Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility EA and Ummbila Emoyeni Electrical Grid Infrastructure EA

She ended the presentation by providing the way forward and opening the platform for discussion.

The presentation is attached as **Appendix A** to the meeting notes.

## **DISCUSSION SESSION**

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The following main points were raised and discussed during the meeting:

- » A concern was raised by the DFFE officials with regards to the approved wind farm being split into five phases, however there were only three substations approved in the EA. Therefore, each phase for the wind farm will not consist of all of the required infrastructure (i.e. substations and possibly access roads). It was stated that there is a risk that the phases which do not contain the required associated infrastructure such as an onsite substation will not be approved.
- » Seriti Green indicated that where associated infrastructure is not included in the proposed split project, separate EIA processes for the additional substations that will be required for Wind Farm 2 and 4 could be undertaken, should it be required.
- » Clarity was requested and provided on the splitting of the MTS infrastructure that forms part of the grid EA. Following the split, one EA will consist of a 400kV MTS that will include a LILO 400kV power line (to be ceded to Eskom), and the other EA will include the 132kV infrastructure, such as the collector substation and overhead power lines from each wind farm to the MTS (to be retained by the SPV).
- » It was confirmed that the 400kV MTS and LILO power line forms part of the approved EA for the grid connection infrastructure and not the wind farm.
- » A request was made by the DFFE officials to edit the table provided in slide 4 to clearly indicate which split/phase falls under which EA.
- » Clarity was requested and provided on the infrastructure included in each proposed phase of the wind farm. A table is provided as **Appendix B** to indicate the infrastructure associated with each phase as well as details of the associated SPVs.
- » The DFFE advised that a motivation for the need and desirability of the request to split the EAs will need to be included in the amendment application.
- » An explanation was provided by Seriti Green on the requirement for the project to be built in phases due to the large extent (900MW) of the approved project EA. It is not feasible to build such a large project in one phase, therefore the proposal was made to split the project into smaller phases (i.e. ~150MW per phase). Each project/phase will have its own off-taker with the Lender requirements to have each project/phase ring fenced.
- » As stated in the EIA Report, the need and desirability of the 900MW Umbila Emoyeni Renewable Energy Farm is based on the energy requirements in terms of the IRP as well as the Just Energy Transition, especially in the Mpumalanga Province.
- » The energy from the first phase has been committed to Seriti Resources and the project is planned to be constructed in the near future.
- » It was advised that the project is authorised for up to 900MW and up to 111 turbines and that all infrastructure does not have to be constructed as part of one phase. It was noted however that Condition 8 within the EA states that construction should be concluded within 5 years of

commencement, therefore restricting the approach to construct a small portion of the project at a time. The DFFE advised that an application could be submitted to remove Condition 8.

- » It was advised by the DFFE that the applicant cannot apply for approval of the EMPr and layout for only Phase 1 until the decision on the split has been made. The two processes cannot run concurrently.
- » Two options were provided on the way forward:
  1. To continue with the split of Phase 1 from the remainder of the project and then undertake the further split later. A detailed motivation would be required.
  2. To amend Condition 8 which includes the requirement for the construction to be concluded within 5 years of commencement, and continue with Phase 1 of the project.

## **WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE**

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Jo-Anne Thomas thanked the participants for making time to attend the meeting and for their valuable inputs into the amendment process.

The meeting was closed at 11h49.

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	LED	Local Economic Development
EA	Environmental Authorisation	LILO	Loop-In-Loop-Out
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	MTS	Main Transmission Substation
IRP	Integrated Resource Plan	SPV	Special Purpose Vehicle

## **Appendix A - Presentation**

# UMMBILA EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY SPLITTING OF EA AND SPV RENAMING, & EMPr AND LAYOUT APPROVAL FOR PHASE 1 AND ASSOCIATED GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

March 2023



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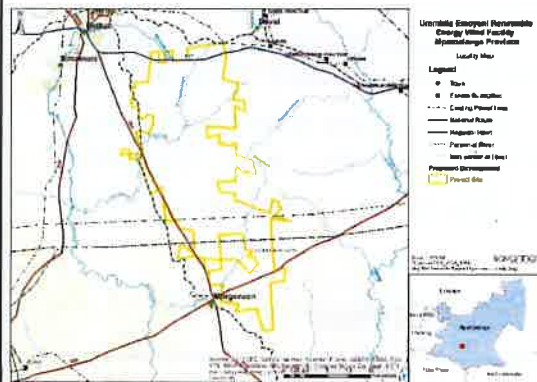
## AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction
- Overview of the approved Umbbila Emoyeni Wind and Grid project
- Provide details of the proposed splitting of the EA for Umbbila Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility
- Discuss the Umbbila Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility EMPr and layout approval process for Phase 1
- Request to change SPV names for Umbbila Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility EA and Umbbila Emoyeni Electrical Grid Infrastructure EA
- Way Forward
- Discussions and Questions



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## BRIEF PROJECT OVERVIEW



- Umbbila Emoyeni Renewable Energy Facility – consists of a wind farm, solar PV facility and associated grid infrastructure
- Project site of 27 819ha
- Located southeast of Bethal, Mpumalanga
- Umbbila WEF and EGI awarded EA on 26 and 27 January 2023



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## DETAILS OF PROPOSED SPLITTING

- Applicant proposes that the WEF project and EA be divided up and new SPVs assigned to each phase:

Phase	Activity	Project Name	SPV	Phase 1 Turbines	MW Size
1	WEF	Umbbila Emoyeni One	Umbbila Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd	25	110
2	WEF	Umbbila Emoyeni Two	Umbbila Emoyeni Two (Pty) Ltd	25	220
3	WEF	Umbbila Emoyeni Three	Umbbila Emoyeni Three (Pty) Ltd	25	220
4	WEF	Umbbila Emoyeni Four	Umbbila Emoyeni Four (Pty) Ltd	19	160
5	WEF	Umbbila Emoyeni Five	Umbbila Emoyeni Five (Pty) Ltd	17	140
7	BESS	Umbbila Emoyeni Seven	Umbbila Emoyeni Seven (Pty) Ltd		
8	BESS	Umbbila Emoyeni Eight	Umbbila Emoyeni Eight (Pty) Ltd		
1	Grid	Umbbila Emoyeni One	Umbbila Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd		
	MTS (distribution)	Umbbila Emoyeni One	Umbbila Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd		
	MTS (transmission)	ESKOM	ESKOM		
			Total	111	900



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## FINAL EMPRs

- The EMPrs and layout were not approved in the EAs
- Specialist walk through surveys completed and management plans being compiled
- Possible to complete split amendment and EMPr & layout approval process concurrently?

## WAY FORWARD

## DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

**Appendix B – Table of Infrastructure Associated with the Proposed Phases**



<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>SPV</b>	<b>LPI</b>	<b>Owner</b>
BESS	BESS 1 (400MWh)	Umbila Emoyeni Seven	Umbila Emoyeni Seven (Pty) Ltd	TOIS0000000004220001	VENTER GERHARDUS
BESS	BESS 2 (400MWh)	Umbila Emoyeni Eight	Umbila Emoyeni Eight (Pty) Ltd	TOIS0000000004220001	VENTER GERHARDUS
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Link to WEF Phase</b>	<b>SPV</b>		
Grid	MTS distribution	Umbila Emoyeni One	Umbila Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd	TOIS0000000004580002	VENTER GERHARDUS
	MTS transmission + 400kV line	ESKOM	ESKOM	TOIS0000000004580002	VENTER GERHARDUS
	Collector SS 1	Umbila Emoyeni One	Umbila Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd	TOIS0000000004220001	VENTER GERHARDUS
	Collector SS 2	Umbila Emoyeni Three	Umbila Emoyeni Three (Pty) Ltd	TOIS0000000002640001	LOMBARD JOHAN ANDRE
	Collector SS 3	Umbila Emoyeni Five	Umbila Emoyeni Five (Pty) Ltd	TOIS0000000004670000	ZWARTS JAN HENDRIK
	IPP SS 1	Umbila Emoyeni Four	Umbila Emoyeni Four (Pty) Ltd	TOIS0000000002640000	NICJAC PIETERSE BOERDERY CC
	IPP SS 2	Umbila Emoyeni Two	Umbila Emoyeni Two (Pty) Ltd	TOIS0000000004220000	ERASMUS PIETER FRANCOIS
	IPP SS 3	Umbila Emoyeni One	Umbila Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd	TOIS0000000004220001	VENTER GERHARDUS
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Link to WEF Phase</b>			
Auxiliary	Batching Plant - all 3	Umbila Emoyeni One	Umbila Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd	TOIS0000000004580002	VENTER GERHARDUS
Infrastructure	Construction Compound - all 3	Umbila Emoyeni One	Umbila Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd	TOIS0000000004580002	VENTER GERHARDUS
	O&M Office 1	Umbila Emoyeni One	Umbila Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd	TOIS0000000004220001	VENTER GERHARDUS
	O&M Office 2	Umbila Emoyeni Three	Umbila Emoyeni Three (Pty) Ltd	TOIS0000000002640001	LOMBARD JOHAN ANDRE
	O&M Office 3	Umbila Emoyeni Five	Umbila Emoyeni Five (Pty) Ltd	TOIS0000000004670000	ZWARTS JAN HENDRIK
	Temp Laydown Area	Umbila Emoyeni One	Umbila Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd	TOIS0000000004580002	VENTER GERHARDUS