

NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF
MOTIVATION REPORT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

14 November 2018

Dear Interest and Affected Party

**APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION:
PROPOSED WITBERG WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, WESTERN
CAPE PROVINCE**

**APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION
(DEA Ref.: 12/12/20/1966/AM6)**

Witberg Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd received an Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the construction of Witberg Wind Energy Facility and associated infrastructure in the Western Cape Province (DEA ref: 12/12/20/1966) on the 13th of October 2011. An appeal decision (Reference: LSA 105-439) dated the 13th of August 2013 was subsequently issued reducing the number of originally authorised wind turbines from 70 to 27 turbines, along with revised turbine specifications. However, a number of amendments to the EA and the authorised turbine specifications according to the appeal decision are now required. Firstly, the project is intended to be bid into future rounds of the Department of Energy's (DoE) Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement (REIPPP) Programme. There have been advancements to wind turbine technology since the issuing of the EA, and the turbines authorised in the EA are therefore not considered to be the most suitable in terms of production and economic considerations.

In this regard, Witberg Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd are considering an updated turbine model for the project. An amendment to the authorised turbine specifications are required as follows:

- » Range of Hub height: from 92m to a **range from 92m to up to 120m;**
- » Range of Rotor diameter: from 116m to a **range from 116m to up to 136m;** and
- » Range of Wind turbine capacity per wind turbine: from 3MW to a **range from 3MW to up to 5MW.**

In addition, an amendment to the wind farm layout is required to avoid sensitive areas, and to optimise the layout. Therefore, the number of wind turbines will be reduced from 27 wind turbines to **25 wind turbines**, and the wind turbines and associated infrastructure will be re-positioned within the originally assessed site.

In addition to the above, the following amendments are also being applied for:

- » The contact person and relevant details are to be updated and added for the holder of the EA.
- » Minor spelling corrections are to be requested for the minor details of two (2) of the authorised listed activities in the EA.
- » An extension of the validity of the EA by a further two (2) years is requested.
- » Amendment to the height of the wind measuring masts from 80m to 120m (in line with new wind turbine hub height) is requested.
- » Condition 40 of the EA, as per additional conditions to be added to the EA, in the amendment of the EA (Ref: LSA 105-439), is requested to be amended so that Condition 40 is correctly addressed to the Holder of the EA (i.e. Witberg Wind Power (Pty) Ltd).
- » Amendment to consolidate all EAs, amendments and appeal decisions into one EA.

The proposed amendments in themselves are not listed activities and do not trigger any new listed activity as the proposed amendments are within the original authorised development footprint and do not change the scope of the EA.

In terms of Condition 5 of the Environmental Authorisation and Chapter 5 of the EIA Regulations of December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2017 and 13 July 2018), 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. Savannah Environmental has prepared a motivation report in support of this amendment application on behalf of Witberg West Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd.

In order to verify the potential for a change in the impacts on avifauna, bats, ecology, heritage, visual exposure, noise and social specialist input into the amendment motivation report has been included.

The draft motivation report has been made available to registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and Organs of State for a 30-day review period from the **14 November 2018 to 14 December 2018**. The draft motivation report is available at the Laingsburg Public Library (Van Riebeeck Street, Laingsburg). The draft motivation report can also be downloaded from www.savannahsa.com. The due date for written comment is **14 December 2018**. Comments can be made as a written submission of fax, post or email. The draft motivation report and any relevant information will be made available on request, should this be required.

All comments received will be included in the final motivation report which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for review and decision-making.

Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process. We also welcome you to share this information with any others that you feel will have a stake in the project and should be part of this process (such as occupiers of directly affected or surrounding properties, interest groups, community groups etc.).

Kind regards

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