

MEETING:

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSED AGENDA

Witberg Wind Energy Facility and associated infrastructure, Western Cape Province 28 August 2018

Savannah Environmental Offices, Savannah Boardroom, First Floor, Block 2, 5 Woodlands Drive,
Woodmead, 2191

AUTHORITY APPLICATION MEETING

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Purpose of the meeting
3. Project Historical Background
4. Proposed Amendments
 - a. Amendment of Wind Turbine Specifications;
 - b. Amendment of Wind Farm Layout;
 - c. Amendment of Contact Details for the Holder of the EA;
 - d. Amendment to authorised activities to correct minor spelling errors;
 - e. Amendment request for extension of validity of the EA;
 - f. Amendment of the heights of the Wind Measuring Masts; and
 - g. Amendment to Condition 40 of the EA.
5. Way forward (proposed amendments, assessment process and specialist studies)
6. Closure

WITBERG WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AMENDMENT APPLICATION

**NOTES OF DEA AUTHORITY MEETING
HELD ON 28 AUGUST 2018**

**VENUE: SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICES, SAVANNAH
BOARDROOM, FIRST FLOOR, BLOCK 2, 5 WOODLANDS DRIVE,
WOODMEAD, 2191**

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
E-mail: shaun@savannahsa.com

Please address any comments to Savannah Environmental at the above address

**PROJECT NAME: WITBERG WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE
ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AMENDMENT APPLICATION**

Venue: Savannah Environmental Offices, Savannah Boardroom, First Floor, Block 2, 5 Woodlands Drive, Woodmead, 2191

Date: 28 August 2018

Time: 11:00am

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Shaun Taylor opened the meeting, welcoming everyone. Introductions were provided by each attendee including their name, designation and representative entity. Details are provided below.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Organisation	Position	Email	Contact Number
Shaun Taylor (ST)	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd	Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Magdalena Michalowska (MM)	Building Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd	Junior Developer	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Sharief Harris (SH)	Building Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd	Environmental Compliance Manager	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Karen De Bruyn (KDB)	G7 Renewable Energies	Project Manager	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Muhammad Essop (ME)	Department of Environmental Affairs	Assistant Director – Strategic Infrastructure Projects	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Mmamohale Kabesa (MK)	Department of Environmental Affairs	Case Officer	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

APOLOGIES

None.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

ST explained that the application meeting was primarily being held as per the request of the DEA in their acknowledgement of receipt for the amendment application letter dated 14 August 2018 (Reference number: 12/12/20/1966/AM6). ST further stated that the purpose of the meeting was to present the proposed amendments, which were being applied for to the DEA within the Part 2

Amendment Application, address any potential historical concerns related to previous amendment appeals and applications and address any concerns related to the current proposed amendments requested.

PROJECT HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

ST presented the historical background to the project providing background information on the environmental authorization, amendments and appeal decisions issued by the DEA to date.

ME noted that the approval of Layout Revision 7 and turbine specifications in the appeal decision (LSA 105-439) dated 13 August 2013 was approved by the Minister of Environmental Affairs (the "Minister"). Current practice is for the Minister to refer the decision to the Strategic Infrastructure for approval. ME noted that there may be an issue as a result, as the Minister typically does not approve layouts and the Strategic Infrastructure Department has technically not approved Layout Revision 7. ME to revert back on outcome of internal discussions thereto with the Appeals Directorate in a day or so (**Action Item 1**)¹. ME's concern was that as the Minister approved the Layout Revision 7 and turbine specifications the Strategic Infrastructure Department would not be able to, legally, approve any amendment to the layout and turbine specifications for this project, unless instructed to do so by the Minister. ME however advised that the meeting continue on the preface that, after internal consultation, the Strategic Infrastructure Department would be the decision maker on the amendment application. ME also confirmed that in the event that the Minister would be the competent authority, that she may consider all change requests as she has wide powers.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

ST presented the proposed amendments requested in the application for amendment to the environmental authorisation (EA) submitted to the Department on the 23 July 2018. These included the following:

1. Amendment 1 – Wind Turbine Specifications

ST stated that the request was to amend the approved wind turbine specifications to increase the hub height, rotor diameter and wind turbine generation capacity to increase the efficiency and economic competitiveness of the project. ST also explained that a range of hub height and rotor diameter was being applied for and not a fixed hub height and rotor diameter. ME was happy with this approach and provided some guidance on the wording of the requested amendments to the hub height and rotor diameter requesting that the range be specified as a hub height ranging between 92m and 120m and a rotor diameter ranging between 116m and 136m. ME was also supportive of this approach which would lead to less chance of a further amendment to these turbine specifications being required.

¹ Post meeting note – ME reverted via telephone and email (31 August 2018) that the course of action to follow is to withdraw the current application and resubmit to the Appeals Directorate for their consideration. Details pertaining to this correspondence are in Appendix 1.

ME stated that a concern with amending the wind turbine specifications (particularly hub heights and rotor diameter) is the lowest rotor swept limit, as this has implications for potential impacts on bats. This would need to be considered. ST confirmed that this was considered by the bat specialist.

2. Amendment 2 – Wind Farm Layout

ST stated that the request was to change the wind farm layout in terms of wind turbine placement and reduction in number of wind turbines. The applicant also optimized the layout of the construction camp, substation, linking station and associated 132kV power line.

ME enquired as to why the wind turbines were being requested to be reduced and re-positioned in areas?

KDB responded stating the approved Layout Revision 7 as per the decision issued by the Minister in August 2013 did not take the avifaunal sensitivities fully into account in terms of the Verreaux's Eagle Nest buffers of 1.5km. Bird pre-construction monitoring assessments undertaken in 2015 subsequent to the Minister's decision, recommended a 1.5km buffer to be implemented. In addition, the latest BirdLife guideline on preconstruction monitoring for Verreaux's Eagles recommend a 3km buffer around all Verreaux's Eagle nests. However, the avifauna specialists confirmed that a 1.5km buffer is acceptable where no wind turbines should be placed within 1,5km of the known Verreaux's eagle nests, in line with the latest bird guidelines for avifaunal assessments for wind farms.

Bat sensitivities also did not form part of the information considered in the appeal decision dated August 2013. As a result, wind turbines were removed where required and re-positioned as appropriate to avoid the high sensitive areas and buffers. Re-positioning also considered wind turbulence factors which can impact on generation potential. Some wind turbines were therefore moved to the southern most ridge (which was part of the initial development area) and some turbines were removed on the western ridge. It was stated that as a result, the collision risk in the original avifaunal collision risk model report had been reduced from 0.86 to approx. 0.84 for the current proposed wind farm layout.

3. Amendment 3 – Change to Contact Details of the Holder of the EA

ST stated that a change to the contact details of the Holder of the EA was being requested.

4. Amendment 4 – Amendment to Minor Spelling Errors in Authorised Listed Activities

ST stated the corrections to the authorised activities Government Notice (GN) Regulation 386 Item 1(m) & Item 7 in the EA dated 13 October 2011 were required.

5. Amendment 5 – Extension of the Validity of the EA

ST stated that the current EA is valid up to 28 September 2020, however the applicant is requesting that extension of the validity for a further two (2) years is requested up to 28 September 2022 for bidding purposes and in an effort to negate the need for a further amendment to the EA to extend the validity period in future.

ME stated that this would only be the second project to request extension of validity of the EA beyond ten (10) years to which DEA generally do not allow.

KDB responded that this amendment would assist to reduce paperwork in having to apply again in the near future for extension following potentially obtaining preferred bidder status. KDB queried whether not extending the EA by the requested amount would force construction to take place sooner, which is not possible in reality as the project is at the mercy of the REIPPPP process.

ME replied that DEA prefer construction to take place as soon as EA is issued as the EA can sterilize sites for alternative developments. KdB explained that the EA does not sterilize the area for future development that could be suitable for these farms i.e. agriculture/tourism. ME further stated that the application would be considered on its merits and that the request for extension beyond the ten (10) year limit could be applied for. The amendment application would be considered as such. However, this amendment request may be targeted for potential grounds for appeal from Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) if the request is not approved by the DEA.

KdB also questioned where the 10-year limit stems from. The 2014 regulations were amended to remove reference to the '10-year limit' – see section 26 (d) for more information. It was in any case the intention under the 2014 regulations that the EA may be extended after the 10-year validity period on application. It is therefore unclear why the Department would impose such a limitation. ME confirmed this will need to be discussed internally.

ST responded that discussion would be required between the EAP and the applicant to decide on the best course of action and length of validity request for the amendment.

SH stated that internal discussions would be undertaken to inform guidance on this way forward (**Action Item 2**).

6. Amendment 6 – Amendment to wind measuring mast heights

ST stated the it was requested to amend the wind measuring mast heights in line with the proposed hub heights amendments in order to record accurate data at the same heights to have accurate and relevant data to inform planning and operation of wind turbines.

7. Amendment 7 – Amendment to Condition 40 of the EA

ST stated that the final amendment request was to amend Condition 40 of the additional conditions added to the EA as per appeal decision dated August 2013, which instructs G7 to comply with the said condition, and not the holder of the EA, Witberg Wind Power (Pty) Ltd is the holder of the EA. This would need to be amended to refer to Witberg Wind Power (Pty) Ltd as the holder of the EA.

MM stated that this amendment request was not contained in the application submitted to the DEA and an updated application form would need to be submitted with the Draft Motivation Report for consideration.

ST responded that this would be undertaken upon submission of the Motivation Report.

WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

The discussion of the way forward was suggested to be dealt with in three components including the amendment process to be undertaken, specialist studies and concerns with the proposed amendments. ST opened the discussion in terms of the amendment process to be followed requesting clarification on the submission timeframes to be applied considering the ambiguity between correspondence on the original application submitted on 23 July 2018 and the receipt of incorrectly completed application for amendment letter dated 25 July 2018. The query related to whether the applicable 90-day submission timeframe in terms of Regulation 31(1)(a) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2014), as amended, would commence from the 23 July 2018 or the 3 August 2018?

ME confirmed that the applicable 90-day legislated timeframe will begin from 3 August 2018.

ST initiated discussion of the specialist studies by opening that the specialist's inputs obtained for the amendment application, have considered all amendment requests including amendment 7 which had not been included in the original application submitted on the 23 July 2018. ST stated that confirmation in terms of validity of data used for the specialist amendment assessments had been requested for comment by the relevant specialists. ST proceeded to provide the available findings obtained to date from each specialist to be included in the amendment application.

ME enquired whether specialists have considered the re-positioned power line and other infrastructure / building footprints?

KDB confirmed this.

MM added that information taken from the EIA in terms of footprint sizes were used to inform and motivate the re-positioning of the relevant components applied for in the amendment application.

ME reiterated that these queries were being discussed to ensure that all bases are covered in anticipation of potential appeals given the history of the project.

MM added that it was for this reason that Rob Simmons was requested to provide inputs from an avifaunal perspective, over and above the Collision Risk Modelling Report, which was undertaken by Dr Steve Percival.

ME requested whether the moderate impact significance rating was considered acceptable by the bat specialist, and whether the applicant could undertake the mitigation measures proposed?

KDB replied that it was considered acceptable, and that the additional mitigation measures (including curtailment mitigation measures) proposed by the bat specialists have already been considered as these were findings provided to the applicant in the pre-construction monitoring report dated 2015. Provision for implementation of the proposed mitigation measures have already been considered and provision has been made for this to be implemented.

ME requested whether the bat and bird pre-construction monitoring reports would be included in the motivation report?

ST confirmed this and advised that these would be appended to the Motivation Report submission.

DISCUSSION SESSION AND CLOSURE

ME stated that updated landowner consents would need to be obtained from the landowners for submission with the amendment application as required by Regulation 39 of the EIA Regulations (2014), as amended.

MM advised that this would be obtained and submitted as requested.

ME queried whether the applicant would like a consolidated EA containing all details as per the EA as well as subsequent amendments and appeal decision conditions or whether the applicant would prefer an additional decision on the EA amendment application?

ST enquired whether this would need to be requested specifically in the amendment application or the motivation report as a recommendation request?

ME responded that this could be requested in both the application and stated as a recommendation in the motivation report, in terms of Regulation 27(2) of the EIA Regulations (2014), as amended.

ME queried whether the Environmental Management Programme would be updated as part of the amendment application?

KDB responded that this could be included as requested.

MM requested that the minutes of the meeting be distributed along with action items.

ST responded that this would be distributed along with the presentation for record keeping purposes.

ME enquired whether the IAP database to be used has been updated?

MM confirmed that the IAP list was re-verified and updated accordingly and the PPP process, which would be followed in compliance with the requirements of the Regulations.

ME stated that the amendment application public participation is to be undertaken in line with Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations (2014), as amended.

ST noted this requirement and closed the meeting at 12:30pm.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION
AMENDMENT PROCESS
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

**WITBERG WIND ENERGY FACILITY, WESTERN
CAPE PROVINCE**

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL MOTIVATION
REPORT

Witberg Wind Energy Facility and associated infrastructure, Western Cape Province

DEA Ref: 12/12/20/1966/AM6

August 2018

Meeting Agenda

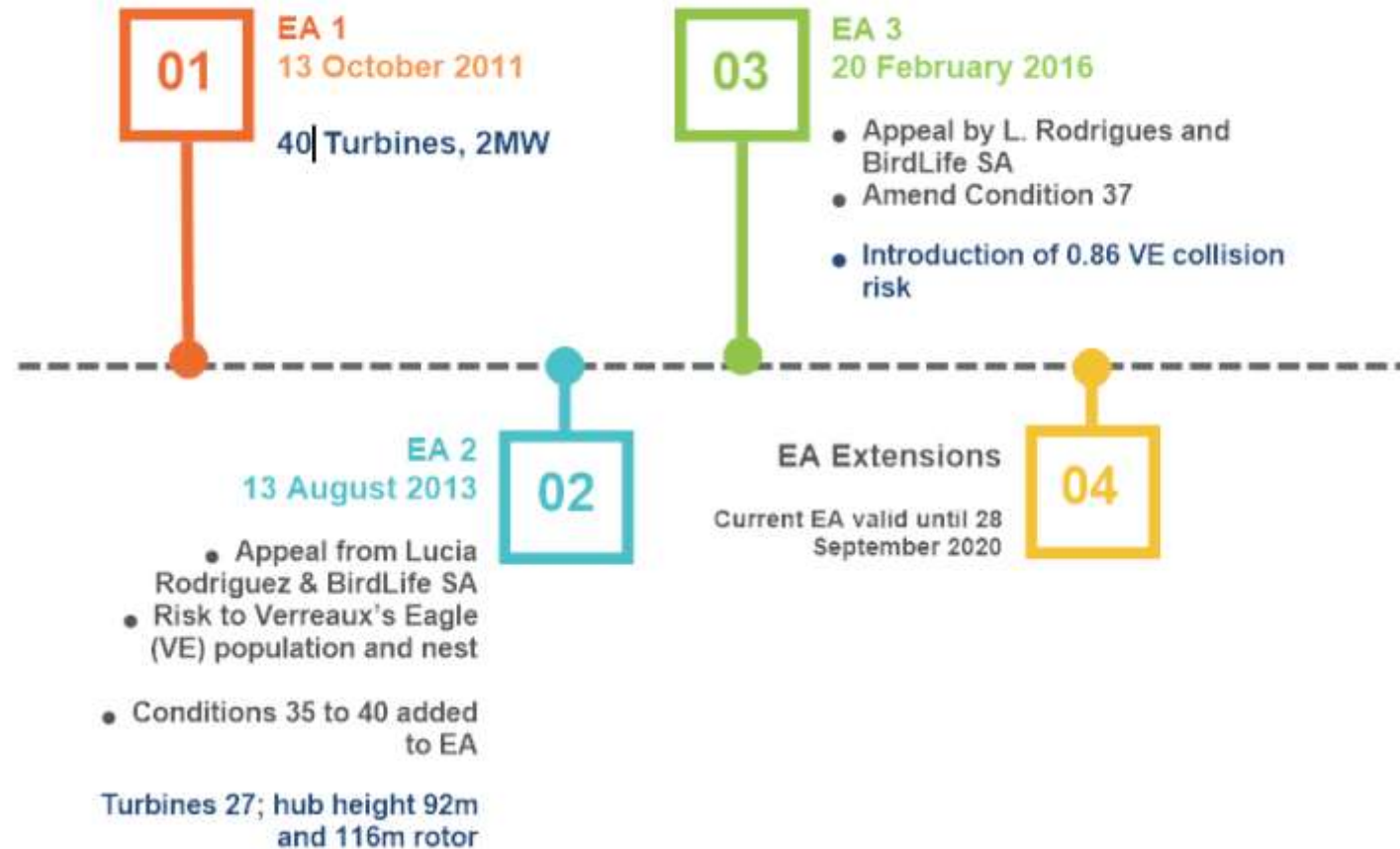
1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Purpose of Meeting
3. Project Historical Background
4. Proposed Amendments
 1. Amendment of Wind Turbine Specifications
 2. Amendment of Wind Farm Layout
 3. Amendment of EA Holder Contact Details
 4. Amendment of Minor Spelling Errors for Authorised Activities
 5. Amendment of the Validity of EA
 6. Amendment of the Heights of Wind Measuring Masts
 7. Amendment to Condition 40 of EA (New)
5. Way Forward (Proposed Amendments, Assessment Process, Specialists Studies)
6. Discussion session

Purpose of the Meeting

- Present the proposed amendments for the Witberg Wind Energy Facility, including the associated motivation
- Address historical concerns related to previous amendment appeals and applications
- Address any concerns related to the current proposed amendment application

Project Historical Background

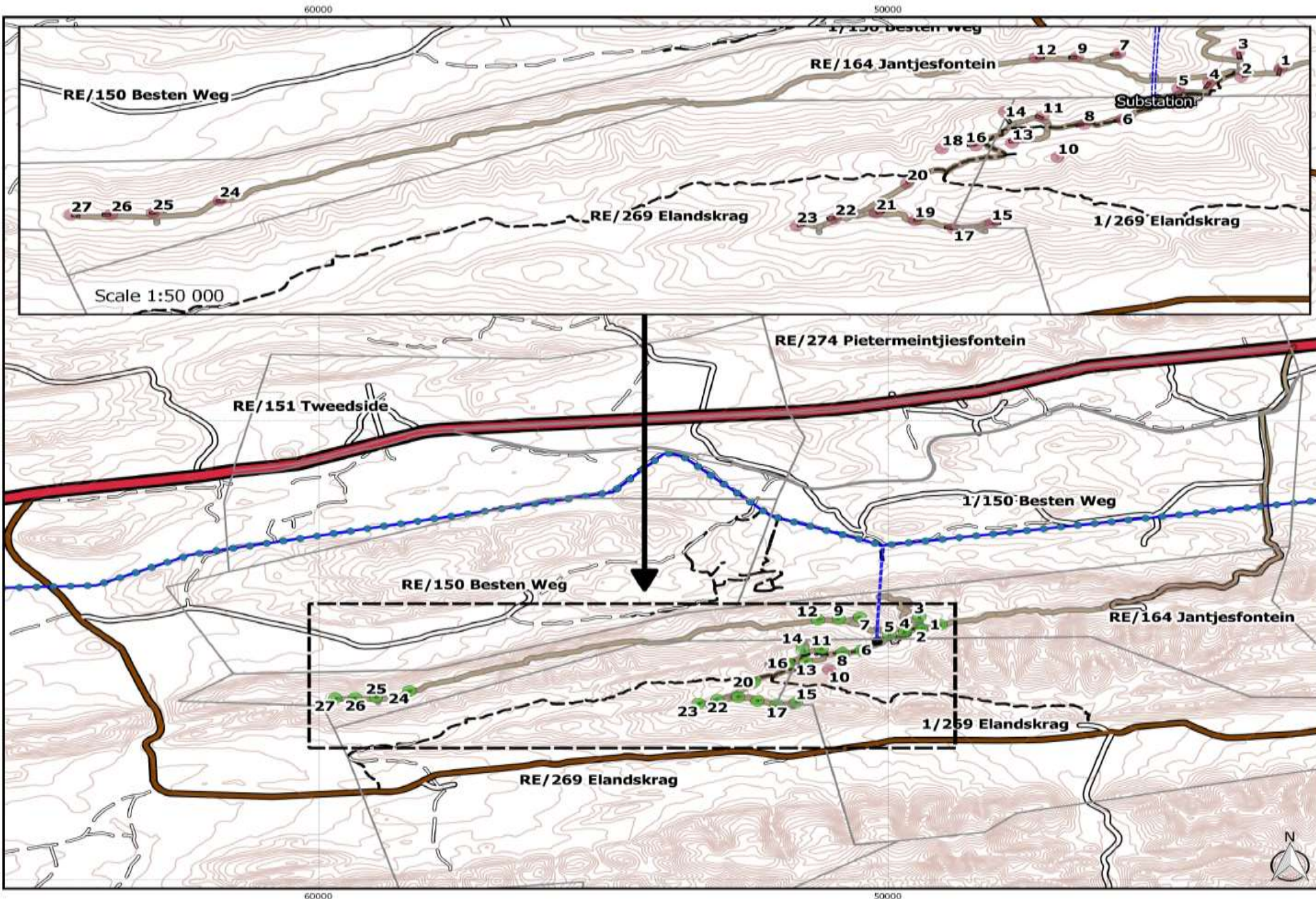
WITBERG WIND FARM - HISTORY RELEVANT TO LAYOUT/ TURBINE SPECIFICATION



Project Historical Background

Environmental Authorisation, Amendments and Appeals Decisions:

- EA Amendment 4 (12/12/20/1966/AM4) – dated 28 September 2015:
 - Extension of Validity of EA (Expiry 26 November 2017)
- EA Amendment Appeal Decision (LSA 148 697) – dated 20 February 2016:
 - Appeals dismissed
 - Condition 37 amended and Condition 41 added to EA
- EA Amendment 5 (12/12/20/1966/AM5) – dated 12 June 2017:
 - Amend details of Holder of EA
 - Extension of Validity of EA (Expiry 28 September 2020)
- EA Appeal Amendment Decision (DEA Ref No:169 619) – dated 07 June 2018:
 - Appeals dismissed



Witberg WEF proposed vs authorised turbines

- Legend**
- Witberg Properties
 - N1 National Road
 - Main Gravel Road
 - Secondary Gravel Roads
 - Farm Roads
 - Existing Eskom 132kV
 - Existing Farm Tracks
 - contours

- Witberg WEF Infrastructure**
- Proposed turbines (25)
 - Authorised turbines (27)
 - Proposed 132kV
 - Substation 100mx100m
 - Proposed roads
 - Crane pads & Construction camp

Scale: 1:100 000
 0 0.8 1.6 2.4 3.2 km

Date: 27-8-2018 Project: Witberg

Coordinate System: WG 21

Drawn: KdB

Approved: FP

GM001.1 Revision: 0



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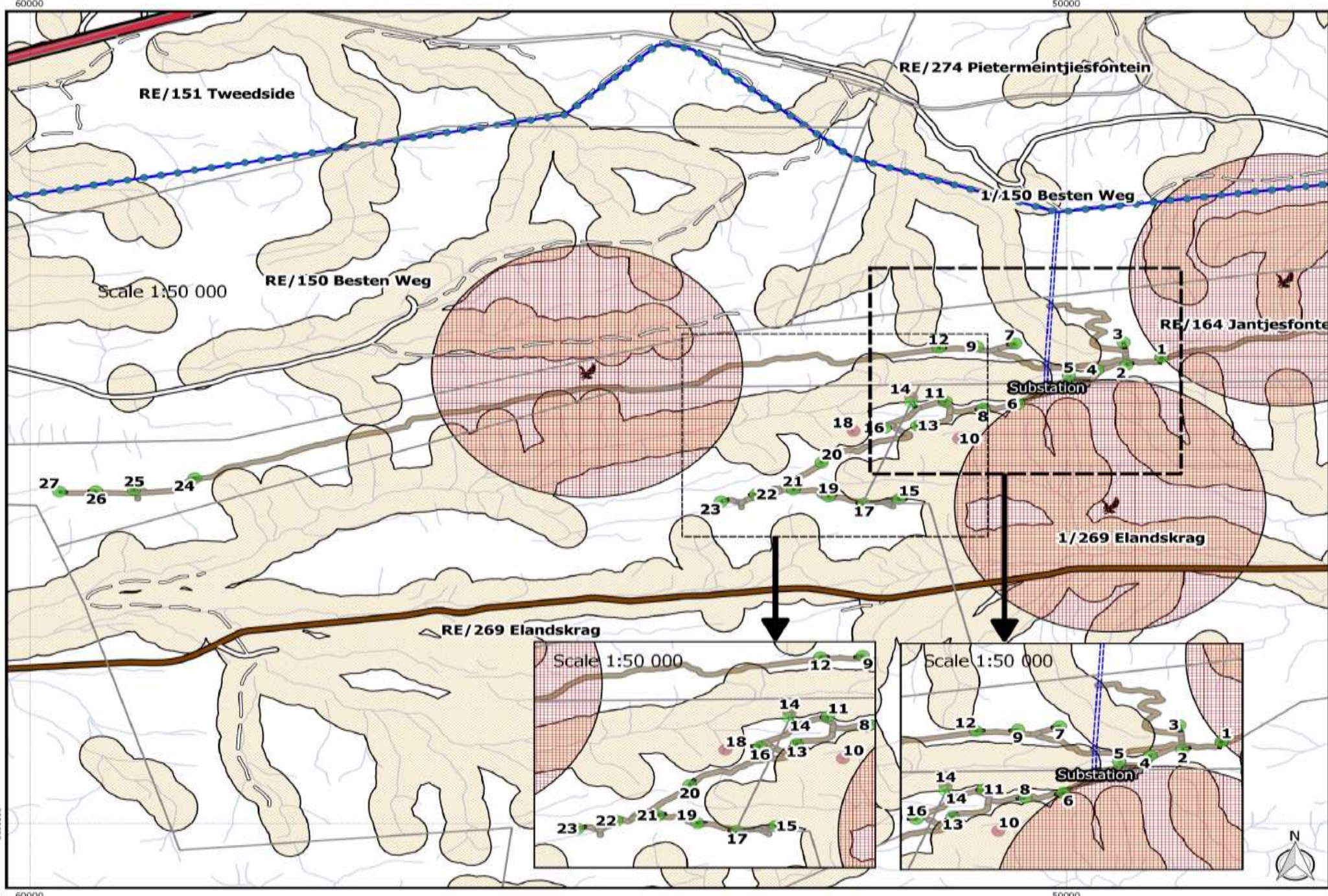
Proposed Amendments

Amendment 1 – Wind Turbine Specifications

- Wind Turbine Specifications requested to be amended and added to EA for the following:
 - From hub height range of 92m to, **up to 120m**;
 - From rotor diameter range of 116m to, **up to 136m**;
 - From wind turbine generation capacity range of 3MW, to **up to 5MW**.
- Reason – increase the efficiency and economic competitiveness

Amendment 2 – Wind Farm Layout

- Layout Revision 7 approved in appeal decision approves 27 wind turbine layout, which does not fully take into account 1.5km Verreaux's Eagle nest buffer.
- Construction camp, substation, linking station and associated 132kV power line re-positioned to optimise the layout.
- Wind Farm Layout amendment requested.
- Reasons – Avoid sensitivities and optimise layout



Witberg WEF proposed layout & environmental sensitivities

Legend

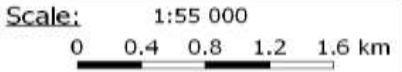
- Witberg Properties
- N1 National Road
- Main Gravel Road
- Secondary Gravel Roads
- Farm Roads
- Existing Eskom 132kV
- Existing Farm Tracks
- contours

Witberg WEF Infrastructure

- Proposed turbines (25)
- Proposed 132kV
- Proposed roads
- Crane pads & Construction camp

Bird and Bat

- 1.5km nest buffer
- 200m High sensitivity bat buffer



Date: 27-8-2018	Project: Witberg
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Coordinate System: WG 21

Drawn:	KdB
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Approved:	FP
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GM001.1	Revision: 0
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Witberg Wind Farm, Western Cape Province

Environmental Sensitivity and Layout Map



Legend

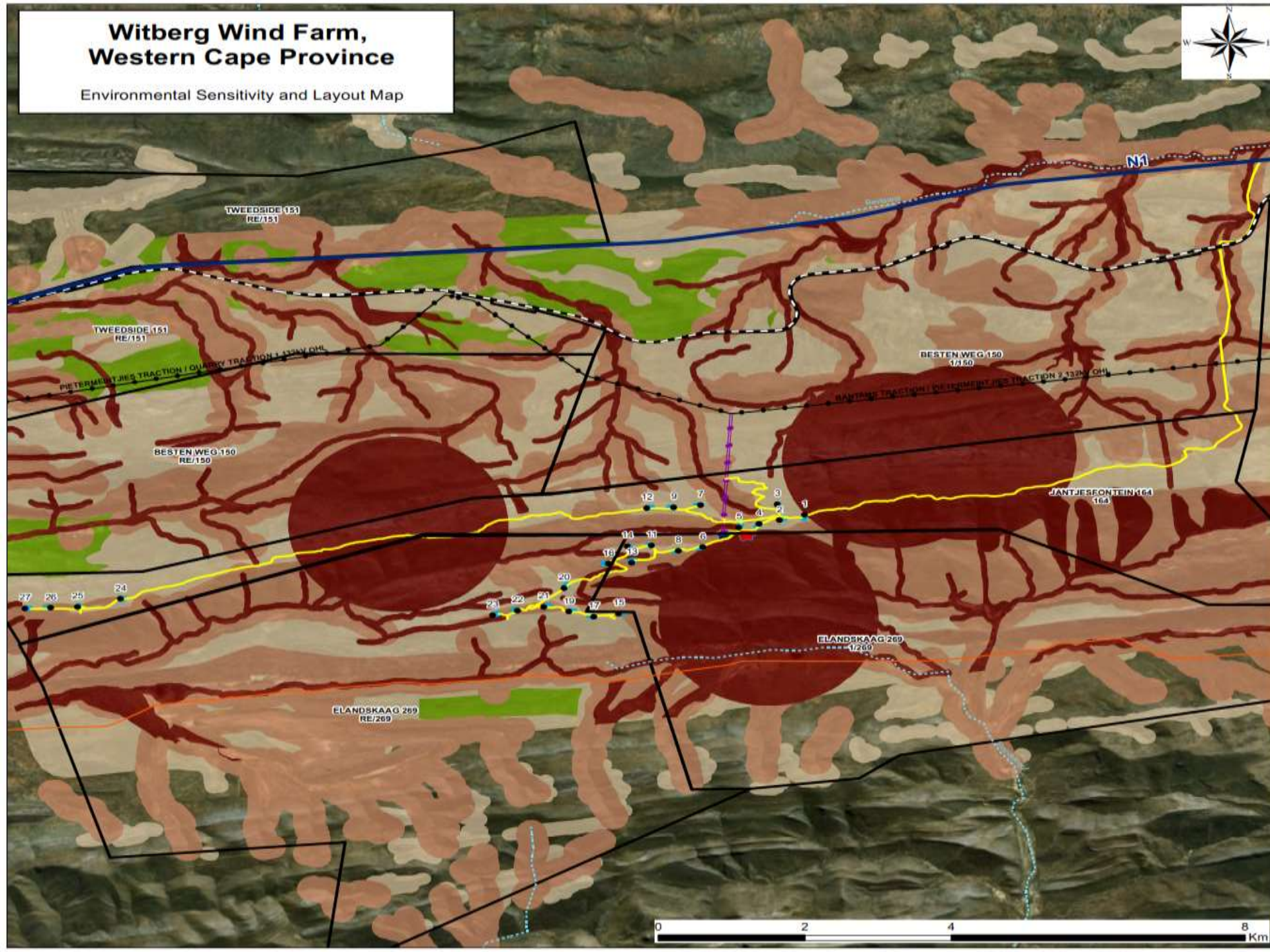
- Existing Power Line
- Main Road
- Railway Line
- Non-perennial River
- Project Site

Layout Plan:

- Turbine
- 132kV Overhead Power Line
- Access Roads
- Construction Camp
- On-site Substation
- Crane Pads

Environmental Sensitivities:

- Very High Sensitivity
- High Sensitivity
- Medium Sensitivity
- Low Sensitivity



Scale: 1:56 000
Projection: GCS_WGS_1984_L017
Map ref: Witberg WF - Layout Map - 22.08.18

Proposed Amendments

Amendment 3 – Change to Contact Details of the Holder the EA

- Postal address details to change and cell phone details to be added as follows:

From: Mr. Paolo Fagnoli
Witberg Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd
Unit B103a Cape Quarter Piazza
72 Waterkant Street
Cape Town
8001
Telephone Number: 021 418 3940
Email Address: p.fagnoli@buildingenergy.it

To: Mr. Paolo Fagnoli
Witberg Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd
Postnet Suite 150
Private Bag X3
Roggebaai
8012
Telephone Number: 021 418 3940
Cellphone Number: 076 254 9224
Email Address: p.fagnoli@buildingenergy.it

Proposed Amendments

Amendment 4 – Correct Minor Spelling Errors in Authorised Listed Activities

From:

GN R.386 Item 1(m)

The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structures or infrastructure, for any purpose in the one in ten year flood line of a river or stream, or within 32 metres from the **back** of a river or stream where the flood line is unknown, excluding purposes associated with existing residential use, but including (i) canals; (ii) channels; (iii) bridges; (iv) dams; and (v) weirs.

To:

GN R.386 Item 1(m)

The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structures or infrastructure, for any purpose in the one in ten year flood line of a river or stream, or within 32 metres from the **bank** of a river or stream where the flood line is unknown, excluding purposes associated with existing residential use, but including (i) canals; (ii) channels; (iii) bridges; (iv) dams; and (v) weirs.

Proposed Amendments

Amendment 4 – Correct Minor Spelling Errors in Authorised Listed Activities
Contd...

From:

GN R.386 Item 7

The above ground storage of a dangerous good, including petrol, diesel, liquid petroleum gas or paraffin, in containers with a combined capacity of more than 30 cubic metres **and** less than 1 000 cubic metres at any one location or site.

To:

GN R.386 Item 7

The above ground storage of a dangerous good, including petrol, diesel, liquid petroleum gas or paraffin, in containers with a combined capacity of more than 30 cubic metres **but** less than 1 000 cubic metres at any one location or site.

Proposed Amendments

Amendment 5 – Extend the Validity of the EA

- Currently the EA validity has been extended and remains valid up to 28 September 2020
- Requested to extend the validity by a further two (2) years to **28 September 2022**
- Reasons:
 - Intended to be bid in next round expected in November 2018;
 - Valid EA required for project development and bid purposes should project become preferred bidder

Amendment 6 – Amendment of Wind Measuring Mast Heights

- Requested to increase the height of the wind measuring masts in line with proposed hub height increase from 80m to up to **120m – to match the HH of turbines**
- Reasons – need to be increased to record relevant and accurate wind data at similar hub height proposed

Proposed Amendments

Amendment 7 – Amendment to Condition 40 of the EA

- Condition 40, as per Conditions added to the EA as result of appeal decision dated 13 August 2013, refers to G7 as holder of the EA
- Reason – Requested to be amended to Witberg Wind Power (Pty) Ltd as current holder of EA

Way Forward

Assessment Process

- To be undertaken as required in terms of EIA Regulations 2014, as amended
- Application submitted 23 July 2018
- Requested to submit additional information to application on 25 July 2018, submitted and received 3 August 2018. DEA advised that timeframes will restart on receipt of additional information
- DEA acceptance of updated information confirmation received on 6 August 2018

Specialist Studies

- Appointed specialists to consider all proposed amendments with focus on turbine dimension changes, amended wind farm layout etc.
- Confirmation of validity of data and no significant change in environment confirmed by bird and bat specialists using latest monitoring data as of 2015
- Validity of data irrelevant for noise and visual as these are based on current
- Confirmation of validity of data to be included by other specialists, as relevant

Specialist Team

Ecology – Simon Todd

Bats – Animalia, Werner Marais

Birds – Collision risk assessment by Dr Steve Percival; Dr Rob Simmons

Heritage – ACO, Tim Hart

Noise – Dr Brett Williams

Social – Dr Neville Bews & Associates

Visual – Bernard Oberholzer; Landscape Architect / Environmental Planner

Specialist Key Findings

Ecology – Simon Todd

1. No material additional impact or mitigation measures on terrestrial ecology
2. Need for a pre-construction walk-through of footprint prior to construction recommended

Bats – Animalia, Werner Marais

1. Confirmed the 25 turbine layout avoids all high sensitive areas.
2. Curtailment proposed for turbines in moderate and high buffer sensitivity areas
3. Reduced impact significance ratings, no additional mitigation measures
4. Layout and all other amendments acceptable

Birds – Collision risk assessment by Dr Steve Percival; Dr Rob Simmons

1. Assessed collision risk. Reduced substantially from 0,86 VE per annum. Confirmed the new layout does not increase the collision risk for Verreaux's Eagles
2. Avoid all VE nests by 1.5km,
3. 1.5km acceptable based on confirmed use of the area

Specialist Key Findings

Heritage – ACO, Tim Hart

1. No material additional impact on palaeontology
2. Reduction of impacts from high negative to medium negative on visual setting or cultural landscape with reduction of wind turbines from 27 to 25
3. Turbines less dominantly placed 11 km from Matjiesfontein as opposed to 9 km in the original proposal
4. No additional mitigation measures
5. Proposed amendments are considered acceptable

Noise – Dr Brett Williams

1. Cumulative noise impact modelling results indicate that the SANS 10103:2008 limit of 45 dB(A) will not be exceeded at any of the noise sensitive areas (including cumulative noise impacts)
2. No change in impact ratings or mitigation measures
3. Proposed amendments are considered acceptable

Specialist Key Findings

Social – Dr Neville Bews & Associates

1. No material additional impact and additional mitigation measures from social perspective
2. Proposed amendments are supported from social perspective

Visual – Bernard Oberholzer; Landscape Architect / Environmental Planner

1. Analysis indicated a negligible change to the viewshed (zone of visual exposure) and therefore negligible effect on significance ratings
2. No additional mitigation measures
3. Proposed amendments are approved from a visual perspective

Discussion Session

Questions from Savannah:

- Any concerns / information requirements to be included as requested by DEA other than that presented in terms of assessment process?
- DEA to confirm timeframes applicable (i.e. begin from 23 July 2018 or 3 August 2018)?
- Required to submit final motivation report (including 30 day public review and participation process), by no later than (23 October 2018 or 6 November 2018)?

Questions from DEA?

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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