

25 February 2019

Dear Stakeholder,

ZONNEQUA WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE
DEA Ref.No.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1970
NOTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION GRANTED

Genesis Zonnequa Wind (Pty) Ltd submitted an application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), for the proposed Namas Wind Energy Facility and associated infrastructure near Kleinsee, Northern Cape Province.

The applicant hereby notifies all registered interested and affected parties, as instructed by the decision issued by the DEA on 18 February 2019, and in terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, of the outcome of the application for EA. The DEA granted EA for the above-mentioned project.

The reasons for the decision are outlined in the EA and are as follows:

1. Information considered in making the decision:

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration:

- a) The listed activities as applied for in the application form received in October 2018.
- b) The information contained in the BAR dated December 2018.
- c) The comments received from SAHRA, Eskom, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, the Department of Water and Sanitation, BirdLife SA, the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation, and interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated December 2018.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR and the EMPr.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the BAR dated December 2018.

2. Key factors considered in making the decision:

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- a) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- b) The need for the proposed project stems from the provision of electricity to the national grid.

- c) The BAR dated December 2018 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The location of the proposed wind energy facility in a REDZ.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated December 2018 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- f) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken, and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, for public involvement

3. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings:

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the BAR dated December 2018 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- c) The information contained in the BAR dated December 2018 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- e) EMPr measure for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the environmental authorization, the authorized activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the authorized activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The environmental authorisation is accordingly granted.

NOTICE OF APPEAL PROCESS

As an interested and affected party, your attention is drawn to Chapter 2, Regulation 4(2) of Government Notice No. 993, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. Should you wish to appeal the decision, or any part of the decision, by the DEA, you must submit your 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 registered interested and affected parties by the applicant (i.e. Monday, 18 March 2019).

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

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review

Email: appealsdirector@environment.gov.za
By hand: Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, Pretoria.
By post: Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001

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

A copy of the appeal Regulations is included with this notification letter.

Please note that **appeals should be submitted to the DEA and not to the consultant** (Savannah Environmental).

Kind regards,



Nicolene Venter

Public Participation and Social Consultant

Document Attached: Environmental Authorisation
National Appeals Regulations, 2014
National Appeal Amendment Regulations, 2015