



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447- PRETORIA 0001- Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia- PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 12/12/20/1782/1/AM5

Enquiries: Mr Lunga Dlova

Telephone: (012) 399 8524 E-mail: LDlova@environment.gov.za

Mr Eugene Marais
Rietrug Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 45063
CLAREMONT
7735

Telephone Number: (021) 657 4052
Mobile Number: (073) 871 5781
Email Address: Eugene.Marais@mainstreamrp.com

PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Marais

AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 10 NOVEMBER 2016 FOR THE UPGRADING AND WIDENING OF THE ACCESS ROAD TO THE AUTHORISED 140MW RIETRUG WIND ENERGY FACILITY LOCATED NEAR SUTHERLAND, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the abovementioned application by this Department on 10 November 2016, the amendments to the EA dated 25 November 2016, 25 August 2017, 10 March 2020 and 21 July 2021, your application for amendment of the EA received by the Department on 13 September 2021 and the acknowledgement letter dated 07 October 2021, 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, has decided to amend the EA dated 10 November 2016 as amended, as follows:

Amendment 1: Amendment to description of the infrastructure within the Environmental Authorisation related to the upgrade of the access road to the Rietrug Wind Energy Farm:

The project description of the specifications on page 04 of the Environmental Authorisation be amended, from:

"The 140MW Rietrug Wind Energy Facility will comprise of the following:

- Up to 39 wind turbines with a height of up to 200 metres and rotor diameter of up to 200 metres.
- The wind turbines will be connected to another by means of medium voltage cables. The cables will be buried approximately 1m below ground level.
- An internal gravel road will be constructed to facilitate movement between turbines on site. These roads will be up to 15m wide and 8km in length and will include drainage and cabling.
- Some existing public roads may need to be upgraded to facilitate the turbine transport.
- A hard standing laydown area of a maximum of 10 000m² will be constructed; and
- A site compound will be constructed for all contractors, this would be approximately 5000m² in size"

MJ

Is hereby amended to:

"The 140MW Rietrug Wind Energy Facility will comprise of the following:

- Up to 39 wind turbines with a height of up to 200 metres and rotor diameter of up to 200 metres;
- The wind turbines will be connected to another by means of medium voltage cables. The cables will be buried approximately 1m below ground level.
- An internal gravel road will be constructed to facilitate movement between turbines on site. These roads will be up to 15m wide and 8km in length and will include drainage and cabling.
- A 10km portion of the existing access road will be upgraded and widened up to a width of 7 metres to facilitate abnormal loads to the Rietrug WEF site.
- A hard standing laydown area of a maximum of 10 000m² will be constructed; and
- A site compound will be constructed for all contractors, this would be approximately 5000m² in size"

Amendment 2: Amendment to technical details of proposed facility within the Environmental Authorisation related to the upgrade of the access road to the Rietrug WEF.

The description of technical details on page 05 of the Environmental Authorisation be amended from:

"Technical details of the proposed facility:

Component	Location/Dimensions
Location of the site	Sutherland, Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality and Namakwa District Municipality, Northern Cape Province
Farm Names	Portion 1 of Beeren Valley Farm 150 Remaining Extent of Beeren Valley Farm 150 Remaining Extent of Nootgedacht Farm 148
Site Access	Secondary road off the R354
Export capacity	140MW
Proposed technology	Wind turbines
Number of turbines	39
Hub height from ground level	200m
Rotor diameter	200m
Width and length of internal roads	15m wide and 8km

Is hereby amended to:

"Technical details of the proposed facility:

Component	Location/Dimensions
Location of the site	Sutherland, Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality and Namakwa District Municipality, Northern Cape Province
Farm Names	Portion 1 of Beeren Valley Farm 150 Remaining Extent of Beeren Valley Farm 150 Remaining Extent of Nootgedacht Farm 148
Site Access	Secondary road off the R354 <u>with a 10km portion to be upgraded and widened up to 7m.</u>
Export capacity	140MW
Proposed technology	Wind turbines

Number of turbines	39
Hub height from ground level	200m
Rotor diameter	200m
Width and length of internal roads	15m wide and 8km

Amendment 3: Addition of start and end co-ordinates associated with the Environmental Authorisation related to the upgrade of the access road to the preferred Rietrug WEF site:

The following co-ordinates related to the upgrade of the 10km portion of existing access to the preferred Rietrug site on page 04 of the Environmental Authorisation be amended/included, from:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
A	-32.662799°	20.844044°
B	-32.578964°	20.875831°
C	-32.599922°	20.942203°
D	-32.603969°	21.014796°
E	-32.623689°	21.042648°
F	-32.649592°	21.037906°
G	-32.639166°	20.963243°

Is hereby amended to:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
A	-32.662799°	20.844044°
B	-32.578964°	20.875831°
C	-32.599922°	20.942203°
D	-32.603969°	21.014796°
E	-32.623689°	21.042648°
F	-32.649592°	21.037906°
G	-32.639166°	20.963243°

Existing Access Road Upgrade Co-ordinates:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
A	32°32'2.58"S	20°58'22.36"E
B	32°34'10.84"S	21° 0'40.37"E
C	32°36'12.76"S	21° 0'38.24"E

Reasons for the amendments: The co-ordinates of the existing access road and the width have not been specified within the authorisations for the wind energy facility (i.e., The Environmental Authorisation only specifies that access to the wind energy facility will be via the Secondary Road off the R354, however the start, middle and end co-ordinates of this existing access road has not been specified). Furthermore, on the page 04 of the Environmental Authorisation explains that "some existing roads may need to be upgraded to facilitate the turbine transport" indicating that potential upgrade would need to be undertaken in the future.

The applicant requested for the inclusion of the co-ordinates of the existing access road and to assess the impacts associated with upgrading and widening of a 10km portion of the existing road ((will also include the addition of the start, middle and end co-ordinates of the access road being upgraded for the Rietrug wind energy facility) to allow for facilitation of abnormal loads during the transport of Wind Turbines during construction.

MJ

Activities related to the expansion of existing roads were deemed not triggered as these fall under the threshold of Listed Activities as per EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

This proposed amendment letter must be read in conjunction with the EA dated 10 November 2016 as amended.

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.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended (the EIA 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 as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) National Appeal Regulations published under Government Notice R993 in Government Gazette No. 38303 dated 08 December 2014 (National Appeal Regulations, 2014), which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. Kindly include a copy of this document (National Appeal Regulations, 2014) with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties in this matter.

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:

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

By email: appeals@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, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, 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 appeals@environment.gov.za.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Date: 06/12/2021

cc:	Ms Arlene Singh	Nala Environmental (Pty) Ltd	E-mail: arlene@veersgroup.com
	Mr Alistar Gibbons	Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality	E-mail: a.gibbons@karoohoogland.gov.za
	Mr Bryan Fisher	Northern Cape Environmental Affairs and Nature Conservation	E-mail: Bfisher@ncpg.gov.za