



environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

DEFF Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2044/AM1

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Mr David Peinke
Bloemsmond Solar 4 (Pty) Ltd
101, Block A, West Quay Building
7 West Quay Road
WATERFRONT
Cape Town
8001

Telephone Number: (021) 418 2596
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PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Peinke

AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 08 NOVEMBER 2019 FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF 100MW BLOEMSMOND 4 PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR FACILITY ON PORTION 5 AND PORTION 14 OF FARM BLOEMSMOND 455 WITHIN KAIL GARIB LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the abovementioned application by this Department on 08 November 2019, your application for amendment of the EA received by the Department on 18 August 2020, the acknowledgement letter dated 26 August 2020, draft Amendment Report received by the Department on 7 September 2020 and Department's comments on the draft Amendment Report dated 1 October 2020 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 08 November 2021 as amended, as follows:

Amendment 1: Change of Activity Description on page 1 of EA Issued 08 November 2019 to include Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

From:

"The development of 100MW Bloemsmond 4 Photovoltaic Solar Facility on Portion 5 and 14 of Farm Bloemsmond 455 within the Kail Garib Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province."

M.S

To:

"The development of 100MW Bloemsmond 4 Photovoltaic Solar Facility with a Battery Energy Storage System of up to 500MWh on Portion 5 and 14 of Farm Bloemsmond 455 within the Kai! Garib Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province."

Amendment 2: Change of Activity Description on page 6 of EA issued 08 November 2019 to include BESS

From:

"-for the proposed development of 100MW Bloemsmond 4 Photovoltaic Solar Facility on Portion 5 and 14 of Farm Bloemsmond 455, within Kai !Garib Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property"

To:

"-for the proposed development of 100MW Bloemsmond 4 Photovoltaic Solar Facility with a Battery Energy Storage System of up to 500MWh on Portion 5 and 14 of Farm Bloemsmond 455, within Kai !Garib Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property"

Amendment 3: Change of Activity Description on page 6 of EA Issued 08 November 2019 to include a Battery Energy Storage System of up to 500MWh.

From:

"The PV energy facility is to consist of solar photovoltaic (PV) technology, fixed-tilt-, single-axis tracking- or dual-axis tracking- mounting structures, with a net generating capacity of 100 MW as well as associated infrastructure, which will include:

- *On-site switching-station / substation;*
- *Auxiliary buildings (gate-house and security, control centre, office, warehouse, canteen & visitors centre, staff lockers etc.);*
- *Inverter-stations, transformers and internal electrical reticulation (underground cabling);*
- *Access and internal road network;*
- *Laydown area;*
- *Bloemsmond 4 will connect from the on-site substation to the Upington MTS via the Bloemsmond collector substation (this basic assessment process only includes the IPP portion of the on-site substation, while the remainder of the grid connection is being assessed as part of a separate basic assessment process).*
- *Rainwater tanks; and*
- *Perimeter fencing and security infrastructure."*

To:

"The PV energy facility is to consist of solar photovoltaic (PV) technology, fixed-tilt-, single-axis tracking- or dual-axis tracking- mounting structures, with a net generating capacity of 100 MW as well as associated infrastructure, which will include:

- *On-site switching-station / substation;*
- *Auxiliary buildings (gate-house and security, control center, office, warehouse, canteen & visitors center, staff lockers etc.);*

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- Inverter-stations, transformers and internal electrical reticulation (underground cabling);
- Access and internal road network;
- Laydown area;
- Bloemsmond 4 will connect from the on-site substation to the Upington MTS via the Bloemsmond collector substation (this basic assessment process only includes the IPP portion of the on-site substation, while the remainder of the grid connection is being assessed as part of a separate basic assessment process).
- Rainwater tanks; and
- Perimeter fencing and security infrastructure; and
- A Battery Energy Storage System of up to 500MWh.

Amendment 4: Change to the planned infrastructure table on page 7 of EA dated 08 November 2019

From:

Development Foot print	Approximately 268ha (This includes the total footprint of PV panels, auxiliary buildings, onsite substation, inverter stations and internal roads).
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To:

Development Foot print	Approximately 310ha (This includes the total footprint of PV panels, <u>a Battery Energy Storage System of up to 500MWh</u> , auxiliary buildings, onsite substation, inverter stations and internal roads).
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Amendment 5: Change condition 1 on page 8 of EA dated 08 November 2019 to include BESS

From:

"The proposed development of 100MW Bloemsmond 4 Photovoltaic Solar Facility on Portion 5 and Portion 14 of Farm Bloemsmond 455, within Kai I Garib Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province is hereby approved as per the geographic coordinates indicated above."

To:

"The proposed development of 100MW Bloemsmond 4 Photovoltaic Solar Facility with a Battery Energy Storage System of up to 500MWh on Portion 5 and Portion 14 of Farm Bloemsmond 455, within Kai I Garib Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province is hereby approved as per the geographic coordinates indicated above."

Amendment 6: Change condition 12 on page 9 of EA dated 08 November 2019

From:

"A final site layout submitted as part of the BAR dated 09 September 2019 is hereby approved."

M.S

To:

"A revised final site layout plan to include the Battery Energy Storage System submitted as part of the Amendment Application, is hereby approved."

Amendment 7: Inclusion of technical details of the BESS on the EA dated 08 November 2019

Components	Description/Dimension
Size of BESS	Up to 500 Megawatt Hours
Height of BESS	±3 metres
Technology	Lithium Battery Technologies

Amendment 8: Inclusion of the coordinates of the BESS on the EA dated 08 November 2019

Corner coordinates of BESS	Latitude	Longitude
North West	28° 34' 44.4" S	21° 01' 35.9"
North East	28° 34' 39.6" S	21° 01' 43.4"
South West	28° 34' 47.8" S	21° 01' 35.8"
South East	28° 34' 48.0" S	21° 01' 44.4"

Reason for amendment 1 to 8

To include battery energy storage in the form of Lithium Battery Technologies to the descriptions of the solar facility. The inclusion of a BESS into renewable energy facilities is an important step in securing peak demand energy in South Africa. It falls in line with all the relevant policies and programmes that are driving renewable energy development. The proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is proposed on the approved footprint, preferably adjacent to the on-site substation. The size of the battery storage area is dependant on specific manufacturer but conservatively the area calculation is 12kWh/m². Thus, the required area for a 500MWh BESS will be 4.17ha. This will be achieved by consolidating and altering auxiliary footprint areas identified in the approved EA to accommodate the BESS. The approved footprint will not increase in size.

Amendment 9: Approval of amended EMPr to include the proposed amendment of the BESS

The amended EMPr dated 23 October 2020 submitted as part of the application for amendment is hereby approved.

Reason for amendment of EMPr:

The applicant is applying for an amendment to the EA and EMPr to include A 500 Mega Watt Hour (MWh) Battery Energy Storage System within the authorised footprint of the Facility. The revised EMPr submitted as part of this application for details regarding the proposed amendments. It includes management outcomes and actions specific to the proposed BESS and includes the original EIR in its entirety for the remainder of outcomes and actions associated with the facility as a whole.

This proposed amendment letter must be read in conjunction with the EA dated 08 November 2019.

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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.

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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 Environment, Forestry and Fisheries

Date: *24/02/2021*

cc:	Mr Dale Holder	Cape EAPrac	E-mail: dale@cape-eaprac.co.za
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