



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: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2077/AM1

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Mr Eugene Marais
South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 45063
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Mobile Number: (073) 871 5781
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PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Marais

AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 08 JUNE 2020 FOR THE RELOCATION OF THE AUTHORISED MAIN TRANSMISSION SUBSTATION (MTS) AND CO-ORDINATES ASSOCIATED WITH THE AUTHORISED ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT THE AUTHORISED SUTHERLAND, SUTHERLAND 2 AND RIETRUG WIND ENERGY FACILITIES (WEF'S), NORTHERN CAPE AND WESTERN CAPE PROVINCES.

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the abovementioned application by this Department on 08 June 2020, your application for amendment of the EA received by the Department on 12 July 2021 and the acknowledgement letter dated 21 July 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 08 June 2020 as amended, as follows:

Amendment 1: Amendment to the description of the activities related to the MTS and power lines:

It is requested that the description of the MTS specifications within the table of activities on page 3 of the Environmental Authorisation be amended - from:

Listed Activities	Activity/ Project Description
GN R984 Item 9: <i>"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more, outside an urban area or industrial complex."</i>	The proposed project will entail the construction and installation of an overhead 400kV power line, approximately 4km, which will transfer electricity to an existing Eskom 400kV power line. It will also entail the construction and installation of a MTS (400m x 400m, including an O&M Building and Laydown area) as well as associated infrastructure in order to facilitate

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	connection to the national grid. The proposed project will take place outside an urban area.
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Is hereby amended to:

Listed Activities	Activity/ Project Description
GN R984 Item 9: <i>"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more, outside an urban area or industrial complex."</i>	The proposed project will entail the construction and installation of an overhead 400kV power line, approximately 2.25km, which will transfer electricity to an existing Eskom 400kV power line. It will also entail the construction and installation of a MTS (480m x 558m, including an O&M Building and Laydown area) as well as associated infrastructure in order to facilitate connection to the national grid. The proposed project will take place outside an urban area.

Amendment 2: Amendment to the location of the MTS and the start and end co-ordinates of the authorised 132kV and 400kV power lines.

a) It is requested that the co-ordinates of the MTS specifications on page 7 of the Environmental Authorisation be amended - from:

400kV Major Transmission Substation (MTS)	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Centre Co-ordinates	32°41'51.998"S	21°15'18.445"E

Is hereby amended to:

400kV Major Transmission Substation (MTS)	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Corner 1	32°42'37.11"S	21°15'24.19"E
Corner 2	32°42'35.96"S	21°15'43.59"E
Corner 3	32°42'50.36"S	21°15'46.77"E
Corner 4	32°42'52.48"S	21°15'25.50"E

b) It is requested that the start and end co-ordinates of the 132kV and 400kV powerline that terminate and start at the MTS on page 7 of the Environmental Authorisation be amended from:

132kV Power line	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Starting point of activity	32°38'41.115"S	20°55'2.470"E
Middle point of activity	32°37'52.510"S	21°8'0.841"E
End point of activity	32°41'54.652"S	21°15'23.209"E
400kV Powerline	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Starting point of activity	32°41'54.625"S	21°15'23.209"E
End point of activity	32°44'4.970"S	21°15'41.530"E

Is hereby amended to:

132kV Power line	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Starting point of activity	32°38'41.115"S	20°55'2.470"E
Middle point of activity	32°37'52.510"S	21°8'0.841"E
End point of activity	32°42'36.24"S	21°15'33.63"E
400kV Powerline	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Starting point of activity	32°42'51.53"S	21°15'34.99"E
End point of activity	32°44'4.970"S	21°15'41.530"E

Reasons for the amendment : The Final Basic Assessment report submitted to DFFE in 2019 indicates that proposed 132kV powerline, MTS and 400kV powerline were assessed within a 500m corridor. At the time of the assessment it was indicated that the location of the MTS within this authorised grid connection corridor was not considered to be an ideal location for the MTS as it had been positioned in an area with hills and numerous small drainage lines leading off the slopes onto the adjacent plains. This limited the size of the MTS to 400m x 400m which was subsequently authorised. The assessment indicated that a significant amount of earth moving and levelling would be required to prepare the site resulting in increased construction costs. Furthermore, the assessment indicated that a significant amount of earth moving and levelling will be required to prepare the site.

As no species of high conservation concern were observed within the development footprint, the authorised location was selected at the time. However, following further surveys of the site it was determined that the authorised location of the MTS was unsuitable for construction works due to the steep nature of the site. It had also been determined that this MTS will be deemed as the connection hub for other renewable energy project in the area should they be selected as preferred bidders in the upcoming bid windows. The steep nature of the MTS location will inhibit the connection of other projects in the future. It was determined the MTS must be relocated to a more suitable location to enable construction work and future connection opportunities to the national grid. The relocation of the MTS within the 500m grid corridor will enable the developer to determine the suitable location based on site sensitivities, terrain and elevation within this already assessed grid corridor.

As the authorised 132kV powerline feeds into this MTS, the end co-ordinates authorised within the EA need to be amended, and as the authorised 400kV powerline starts at the MTS, its start co-ordinates will need to be amended accordingly. It was determined the 500m corridor that had been assessed for the electrical grid infrastructure will remain unchanged and not deviate from original assessed.

The new location of the MTS take into consideration the areas of high sensitivity and buffer recommendations from an ecological, surface water, soil and agricultural potential and heritage perspective. Following considerations of the technical aspects of the project by the Developer regarding the relocation of the MTS for the development as part of the more detailed design of the facility, it has been concluded that the new location sited within the authorised grid corridor is considered as the most feasible location for the MTS.

In overview, the applicant is applying to amend the authorised location of the MTS and related start and end co-ordinates of the 132kV and 400kV power lines as it is the most feasible option from a technical perspective to allow for construction activities and connection to the nation grid for the Rietrug, Sutherland and Sutherland 2 WEFs as well other projects that may require connection to the nation grid in the future.

This proposed amendment letter must be read in conjunction with the EA dated 08 June 2020 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: 24/11/2021

cc:	Mr Zaahir Toefy	Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning	E-mail: Zaahir.Toefy@westerncape.gov.za
	Mr John Komanisi	Laingsburg Local Municipality	E-mail: john@laingsburg.gov.za
	Mr Bryan Fisher	Northern Cape Environmental Affairs and Nature Conservation	E-mail: Bfisher@ncpg.gov.za
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	Ms Arlene Singh	Nala Environmental (Pty) Ltd	E-mail: arlene@veersgroup.com