



## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Environment House · 473 Steve Biko, Arcadia · PRETORIA  
Tel (+ 27 12) 399 9372

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1017/AM1

Enquiries: Ms Zesipho Makhosayafana

Telephone: 012 399 8741 E-mail: zmakhosayafana@environment.gov.za

Mr Eugene Marais  
South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 45063  
CLAREMONT  
7735

Tel: (021) 657 4045  
E-mail: eugene.marais@mainstreamrp.com

PER MAIL / EMAIL

Dear Mr Marais

### AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 15 MARCH 2018 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE 235MW GRASKOPPIES WIND FARM SITUATED NEAR LOERIESFONTEIN, HANTAM AND KHAI-MA LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the above application by this Department on 15 March 2018 and your application for amendment of the EA received by this Department on the 11 April 2019 refer.

Based on a review of the reason for requesting an amendment to the abovementioned EA, this Department, in terms of Chapter 5 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 as amended, has decided to amend the EA dated 15 March 2018, as follows:

#### Amendment 1 to turbine curtailment

##### Condition 43 on Page 13

**From:**

All turbines must be curtailed below cut in speed and not allow for free-wheeling from the start of the operation, for every night of the year from sunset to sunrise.

**To:**

Curtailment be applied from the start of operation at Level 3 on all turbines for every night from dusk until dawn, from 1 August to 30 April every year (thus months of May, June and July are excluded). Level three requires ninety degree feathering of blades below manufacturer's cut in speed so it is exactly parallel to the wind direction as to minimise free-wheeling blade rotation as much as possible without locking the blades.

##### Condition 44 of page 13 and 14

**From:**

The following curtailment schedule must be implemented. The levels of curtailment must be adjusted according to the results of the operational monitoring, based on robust mortality data:

13/03/2023

**Themba Mnguni**

Commissioner of Oaths  
Admitted Attorney RSA  
4th Floor Mariendahl House,  
Newlands on Main,  
Cnr of Campground and  
Main Road, Cape Town

MS

	<b>Specific conditions of mitigation implementation</b>
Peak activity (times to implement curtailment/ mitigation)	Met Mast (80m): 15 – 25 January over the time of sunset – 01:00
Environmental conditions in which to implement curtailment/ mitigation	Met Mast (80m): Wind speed below 7m/s <i>and</i> Temperature above 18°C
Peak activity (times to implement curtailment/ mitigation)	Met Mast (80m): 25 August – 30 November over the time of sunset – 00:00
Environmental conditions in which to implement curtailment/ mitigation	Met Mast (80m): Wind speed below 8m/s (non-normalised data used) <i>and</i> Temperature above 14°C

**To:**

Should robust and scientifically defensible data gathered during the operational study phase reveal higher bat mortalities than currently anticipated, the mitigations in Table 1 should be applied to the turbines identified as causing the highest impacts. Such curtailment specified in Table 1 will have to be at a maximum of Level 5 which requires ninety degree feathering of blades below mitigation cut in conditions.

Table 1: The periods and weather conditions for implementation when needed, as outlined above

<b>Specific conditions of mitigation implementation</b>	
Peak activity (times to implement curtailment/ mitigation)	Met Mast (80m): 15 – 25 January over the time of sunset – 01:00
Environmental conditions in which to implement curtailment/ mitigation	Met Mast (80m): Wind speed below 7m/s <i>and</i> Temperature above 18°C
Peak activity (times to implement curtailment/ mitigation)	Met Mast (80m): 25 August – 30 November over the time of sunset – 00:00
Environmental conditions in which to implement curtailment/ mitigation	Met Mast (80m): Wind speed below 8m/s (non-normalised data used) <i>and</i> Temperature above 14°C

**Amendment 2: Contact details for the holder of the EA**

**From:**

South African Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd  
 Mr Michael Mangnall  
 PO Box 45063  
**CLAREMONT**  
 7735

Telephone Number: (021) 657 045  
 Cell phone Number: (083) 785 1492  
 Email Address: [mike.mangnall@mainstreamrp.com](mailto:mike.mangnall@mainstreamrp.com)

**To:**

South African Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd  
 Mr Eugene Marias  
 PO Box 45063  
**CLAREMONT**  
 7735  
 Telephone Number: (021) 657 4040  
 Fax Number: (021) 671 5665  
 Email Address: [Eugene.marais@mainstreamrp.com](mailto:Eugene.marais@mainstreamrp.com)



Reason for decision:

Mainstream initially intended to construct 70 wind turbines on the Graskoppies Wind Farm site and as such the environmental specialists assessed the entire development site during the scoping phase and then extensively investigated the proposed 70 turbine layout during the EIA phase of the project. However, in order to ensure that the proposed wind farm development avoided the sensitive areas identified during the EIA phase and did not result in significant environmental impacts, Mainstream put forward an alternative turbine layout for assessment, in which the number of turbines was reduced to 47 and environmentally sensitive areas were avoided. The 47 turbine layout was comparatively assessed by the specialists as a design alternative to the original 70 turbine layout and was found to be the preferred alternative from an environmental perspective and was granted EA. During the EIA process, the specialists updated the findings of their studies and revised the recommended mitigation measures, where necessary. The reduction in the number of turbines resulted in significant changes to the turbine curtailment measures recommended by the Bat Specialist. These revised turbine curtailment measures are however not reflected in the specific conditions of the EA issued on 15 March 2018. It is therefore necessary to amend the EA to ensure that it is aligned with the recommendations of the Bat Specialist pertaining to turbine curtailment which are specific to the authorised 47 turbine layout and which were informed by the 12 months of preconstruction bat monitoring. The amendments to the turbine curtailment conditions will not result in any additional impacts, nor change the nature, scope or description of the authorised project.

An amendment to the contact details for the holder of the EA is required, as Mr Michael Mangnall is no longer employed by Mainstream and Mr Eugene Marais is now acting as the contact person.

This letter must be read in conjunction with the EA dated 15 March 2018, as amended.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (the 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 amendment, of the Department's decision in respect of your application as well as the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeals Regulations, and the provisions regarding the submission of appeals as contained in the Regulations.

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 stipulates 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 abuses or compromises your personal information in any way.

Your attention is also 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 prescribe 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: [appealsdirector@environment.gov.za](mailto:appealsdirector@environment.gov.za);

By hand: Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Road,  
Arcadia,  
Pretoria, or

By post: Private Bag X447,  
Pretoria,  
0001

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, the lodging of an appeal will suspend the amendment to 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](https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations) or request a copy of the documents at [appealsdirector@environment.gov.za](mailto:appealsdirector@environment.gov.za).

Yours faithfully

  
Mr Sabelo Malaza  
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Department of Environmental Affairs

Date: 17/05/2019

CC: Mr Andea Gibb	Tel: 011 798 0600	Email: <a href="mailto:andreaq@sivest.co.za">andreaq@sivest.co.za</a>
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