



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: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1028/2/MP1

Enquiries: Mr Coenrad Agenbach

Telephone: (012) 399 9403 **E-mail:** CAgenbach@dffe.gov.za

Mr Sheldon Vandrey
Hartebeesthoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 71664
PORT ELIZABETH
6001

Telephone Number: (041) 506 4900
Email Address: Sheldon.vandrey@edf-re.co.za

PER E-MAIL

Dear Mr Vandrey

APPROVAL OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (EMPR) AND LAYOUT PLAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 26 OCTOBER 2021 (AS AMENDED) FOR THE 74.4MW HARTEBEESTHOEK WEST WIND ENERGY FACILITY (HBH WEST WEF) NEAR NOUPOORT WITHIN THE UMSOBOMVU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE AND THE INXUBA YETHEMBA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the above application by this Department on 26 October 2021 (as amended), and the final EMPr and final Site Layout Plan received by the Department on 23 January 2023, refer.

The final EMPr and final Site Layout Plan were submitted to fulfil the requirements of Conditions 14, 16 and 17 of the EA dated 26 October 2021 (as amended) which stated that:

Condition14:

"A copy of the final site layout map must be made available for comments by registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final development layout map must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following...."

Condition16:

"The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the EIAr is not approved and must be amended to include measures as dictated by the final site lay-out map and micro-siting, and the provisions of this environmental authorisation. The EMPr must be made available for comments by registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final EMPr must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. Once approved the EMPr must be implemented and adhered to."

✍

Condition 17:**17. "The EMPr amendment must include the following:**

- 17.1 The requirements and conditions of this authorisation.
- 17.2 All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAr.
- 17.3 All mitigation measures as listed in the specialist reports must be included in the EMPr and implemented.
- 17.4 The final site layout map.
- 17.5 An alien invasive management plan to be implemented during construction and operation of the facility. The plan must include mitigation measures to reduce the invasion of alien species and ensure that the continuous monitoring and removal of alien species is undertaken.
- 17.6 A plant rescue and protection plan which allows for the maximum transplant of conservation important species from areas to be transformed. This plan must be compiled by a vegetation specialist familiar with the site in consultation with the ECO and be implemented prior to commencement of the construction phase.
- 17.7 A re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. Restoration must be undertaken as soon as possible after completion of construction activities to reduce the amount of habitat converted at any one time and to speed up the recovery to natural habitats.
- 17.8 A traffic management plan for the site access roads to ensure that no hazards would result from the increased truck traffic and that traffic flow would not be adversely impacted. This plan must include measures to minimize impacts on local commuters e.g. limiting construction vehicles travelling on public roadways during the morning and late afternoon commute time and avoid using roads through densely populated built-up areas so as not to disturb existing retail and commercial operations.
- 17.9 A construction and operational avifauna and bat monitoring plan.
- 17.10 A conservation management plan must be drafted and submitted to SAHRA for review and comment. The management plan, as recommended by SAHRA must be included in the final EMPr.
- 17.11 A storm water management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. The plan must ensure compliance with applicable regulations and prevent off-site migration of contaminated storm water or increased soil erosion. The plan must include the construction of appropriate design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off.
- 17.12 An erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the facility. Appropriate erosion mitigation must form part of this plan to prevent and reduce the risk of any potential erosion.
- 17.13 An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water systems.
- 17.14 A fire management plan to be implemented during the construction and operational phases.
- 17.15 Measures to protect hydrological features such as streams, rivers, pans, wetlands, dams and their catchments, and other environmental sensitive areas from construction impacts including the direct or indirect spillage of pollutants.
- 17.16 An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the EIA process.
- 17.17 A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map. This map must reflect the proposed location of the turbine as stated in the EIAr and this authorisation.

This Department has evaluated the final EMPr and final Site Layout Plan dated March 2023, prepared by Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd). The revised EMPr and final Site Layout Plan comply and fulfil the requirements of Conditions 14, 16 and 17 of the EA dated 26 October 2021 as amended and is hereby **approved**.

This EMPr approval must be read in conjunction with all the conditions contained within the abovementioned EA dated 26 October 2021 as amended. This EMPr should be regarded as a 'living document', which may be amended from time to time as and when the need arises.

In terms of Regulation 36. (1) & (2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, the following is drawn to your attention:

1. Regulation 36(1), "*where an amendment is required to the impact management **actions** of an EMPr, such amendments may immediately be effected by the holder and reflected in the next environmental audit report submitted as contemplated in the environmental authorisation and regulation 34.* In terms of Regulation 36(1), an amendment to an impact management action, which does not result in the amendment of the impact management outcomes of the EMPr, may therefore be immediately effected by the holder, provided that such is reflected in the next environmental audit report as per Regulation 36(1).
2. Regulation 36(2), "*where an amendment to the impact management outcomes of an EMPr is required before an audit is required in terms of the environmental authorisation, an EMPr may be amended on application by the holder of the EA*". This process also requires a public participation process per Regulation 37(2), as well as submission of the amended EMPr to the Competent Authority for comment and approval.

Yours faithfully



Ms Millicent Solomons

Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Date: 31/03/2023

cc	Ashlin Bodasing	Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Limited	Email: Ashlin.Bodasing@arcusconsulting.co.za
----	-----------------	---	--