



# 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:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/900/AM3

**Enquiries:** Ms Julliet Mahlangu

**Telephone:** (012) 399 9320 **E-mail:** [jmmahlangu@dfre.gov.za](mailto:jmmahlangu@dfre.gov.za)

Dr Kilian Hagemann  
Brandvalley Wind Farm (RF) (Pty) Ltd  
125 Buitengracht Street  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
**CAPE TOWN**  
8001

Tel: 021 300 0613  
E-mail: [Brandvalley@g7energies.com](mailto:Brandvalley@g7energies.com)

## **PER MAIL / EMAIL**

Dear Dr Hagemann

### **AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 23 NOVEMBER 2016 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF 147MW BRANDVALLEY WIND ENERGY FACILITY WITHIN THE KAROO HOOGLAND, WITZENBERG AND LAINGSBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES IN THE WESTERN AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the above-mentioned application by this Department on 23 November 2016, the amendment to the EA dated 14 February 2019 and 11 October 2021, your application for amendment and draft Motivation Report received by this Department on 18 May 2022, the acknowledgement letter dated 26 May 2022, comments on draft Motivation Report dated 15 June 2022, final Motivation Report received on 28 June 2022, Department's email dated 12 August 2022 requesting additional information and the additional information received by Department on 15 August 2022, 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 23 November 2016 as amended, as follows:

#### **Amendment 1: Amendment of the authorised number of turbines on page 7 of the EA**

##### **From:**

*"58 wind turbines with a maximum generating capacity of 140MW in total"*

##### **Is hereby amended to:**

*"Up to 32 wind turbines with a maximum generating capacity of 140MW in total of up to 7MW capacity each"*

##### **Reasons for Amendment**

The applicant wishes to amend the EA because wind turbine generators are constantly under development to increase the potential energy output per wind turbine. These amendments are proposed in order to increase the efficiency of the facility and consequently the economic competitiveness thereof, in turn reducing the electricity tariffs to be charged by the facility which would benefit electricity consumers at large.

**Amendment 2: To amend the generation capacity per turbine as specified on page 2 of EA amendment dated 14 February 2019.**

**From:**

*"Generation Capacity: 2 – 5.5 MW"*

**Is hereby amended to:**

*"Generation Capacity: Up to 7MW"*

**Reasons for Amendment**

The increase in generation capacity per turbine to a maximum of up to 7MW is as a result of the advances in turbine technology.

**Amendment 3: To amend the area occupied by each turbine and the hard standing area on page 7 of EA**

**From:**

*"Laydown areas of approximately 70m x 50m per turbine (total 20.3ha)"*

**Is hereby amended to:**

*"Laydown area of approximately 0.45ha per turbine"*

**Reason for amendment**

The increase in generation capacity per turbine to a maximum of up to 7MW will result in a reduced number of turbine positions being utilised on site. The exact orientation, position and dimensions of the hardstands will be subject to minor change pending the final selection of the TSA. The increased maximum allowable size of the hard standing will allow for these changes should they be required.

**Amendment 4: To amend the turbine hub height on page 8 of the EA**

**From:**

<i>Hub height from ground level</i>	<i>120m</i>
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**Is hereby amended to:**

<i>Hub height from ground level</i>	<i>up to 125m</i>
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**Reason for amendment**

Wind shear refers to the variation in wind speed over vertical distances. Installing wind turbine generators with a higher hub height will increase the overall performance of the WEF. This amendment will increase the economic competitiveness of the WEF, in turn reducing the electricity tariffs to be charged by the facility which would benefit electricity consumers at large.

**Amendment 5: To amend the rotor diameter on page 8 of the EA**

**From**

<i>Rotor diameter</i>	<i>140m</i>
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**Is hereby amended to:**

<i>Rotor diameter</i>	<i>up to 180m</i>
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**Reason for amendment**

The power output of a wind turbine is directly related to the swept area of the blades. The larger the diameter of swept area / rotor diameter of the blades, the more power, it is capable of extracting from the wind. By potentially installing wind turbine generators with a larger rotor diameter, it will increase the energy output per turbine. This will result in increasing the overall performance of the WEF. This amendment will increase the economic competitiveness of the WEF, in turn reducing the electricity tariffs to be charged by the facility which would benefit electricity consumers at large.

**Amendment 6: To amend the width of internal roads on page 8 of the EA**

**From**

Width and length of internal roads	Internal roads width: <u>Up to 9m wide</u> Internal roads length: <u>Approximately 92km of which approximately 34km are existing roads that would be upgraded</u>
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**Is hereby amended to:**

Width and length of internal roads	Internal Roads width: <u>Up to 12m wide</u> Internal roads length: <u>Approximately 92km of which approximately 34km are existing roads that would be upgraded</u>
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**Reason for amendment**

The final layout makes provision for roads with a maximum width of between 9 and 12m to ensure suitable access to site for all required vehicles and equipment.

**Amendment 7: To amend the details of construction camp under technical details on page 8 of the EA**

The following description of the construction camp as indicated on page 8 of the EA is hereby removed from the EA:

*“Construction camp of 10ha and onsite batching plant of 1ha”*

**Reason for Amendment**

The applicant intends to utilise the existing Roggeveld Wind Project construction camp for the proposed Brandvalley WEF. The location of the Roggeveld Wind Project construction camp has been included in the final layout.

**Amendment 8: Removal of Construction Camp Co-ordinates on page 7 of the EA**

The following coordinates of construction camp 1 is hereby removed from the EA:

Construction camp 1	32° 57' 09.78"S	20° 32' 41.52"E
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**Reasons for Amendment**

The applicant intends to utilise the existing Roggeveld Wind Project construction camp (coordinates: 32°57'20.14" S; 20°30'50.60"E) for the proposed Brandvalley WEF. The location of the Roggeveld Wind Project construction camp has been included in the final layout

**Amendment 9: Amend the holder of the EA on pages 1, 2 and 3 of the EA**

**From:**

*"Brandvalley Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd"*

**Is hereby amended to:**

*Brandvalley Wind Farm (RF) (Pty) Ltd*

**Reasons for amendment**

The proponent wishes to amend the name of the Holder of the EA to correct an administrative error.

**Amendment 10: Approval of Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and Layout Map**

The EMPr dated 28 June 2022 submitted as part of application for amendment of EA, which is submitted to fulfil the requirements of Condition 16 of the EA dated 23 November 2016, as amended and the final layout Map appended under appendix B of the EMPr is hereby approved. The approved EMPr must be implemented and adhered to. This EMPr approval must be read in conjunction with the conditions contained within the abovementioned EA dated 23 November 2016, 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. For future amendments to this EMPr, your attention is drawn to the processes as outlined in the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

This proposed amendment letter must be read in conjunction with the Environmental Authorisation dated 23 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 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 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 decision 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@dfpe.gov.za](mailto:appeals@dfpe.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](https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations) or request a copy of the documents at [appeals@dfpe.gov.za](mailto:appeals@dfpe.gov.za).

Yours faithfully



**Ms Millicent Solomons**  
**Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
**Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**  
Date: 23/08/2022,

CC	Ms Ashlea Strong	WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd	Email: <a href="mailto:Ashlea.strong@wsp.com">Ashlea.strong@wsp.com</a>
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Ms. Milicent Solomons  
Director: Prioritized Infrastructure Projects

Dear Mrs Solomons

## APPOINTMENT AS ACTING CHIEF DIRECTOR: INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATIONS FOR THE PERIOD OF 25 APRIL 2022 UNTIL 31 OCTOBER 2022

I hereby inform you that I have decided to appoint you as the Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorizations for the period of 25 April to 31 October 2022 whilst Mr Sabelo Maiza is fulfilling his temporary reassignment function at the Forestry Branch.

All the correspondence and other documents that are usually signed by the Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorizations must be signed under Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorizations during the above-mentioned period.

Your appointment in the above acting position remains subject to the provisions of the Public Service Act, 1994 (Proclamation No. 103 of 1994), as amended, the Government Employees Pension Fund Act, 1996 (Proclamation No. 21 of 1996), the regulations promulgated under these Acts and relevant circulars.

In the execution of your duties and the exercising of the powers delegated to you, you will furthermore be subjected to the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act, compliance with the Promotion of Access to Information Act, Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, the Minimum Information Security Standard, Departmental Policies and other applicable legislations with the Republic of South Africa. You are therefore advised to make yourself familiar with the provisions of these legislations and policies and the amendments thereof. (Copies of Departmental policies can be obtained from the Human Resource Office).

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for all your assistance on behalf of the department.

Yours sincerely

Ms Devinagie Bendeman  
Deputy Director-General: RCSM (Regulatory Compliance and  
Sector Monitoring)

Date 20 April 2022

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I ACCEPT / ~~DO NOT ACCEPT~~  
appointment as Acting Chief  
Director: Integrated Environmental  
Authorizations

Signed:

Date: 20/04/2022