



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1494

Enquiries: Ms Makhosi Yeni

Telephone: (012) 399 9400 **E-mail:** MYeni@environment.gov.za

Richard Gordon
Soetwater Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd
P.O. Box 23101
CLAREMONT
7735

Tel no: (021) 670 1408
Email: Richard.Gordon@aiimafrica.com

PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Sir/Madam

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998: GNR. 982/983: THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A SWITCHING STATION, 132kV POWER LINE DOUBLE CIRCUIT OVERHEAD POWERLINE AND ANCILLARIES FOR THE AUTHORISED SOETWATER WIND FARM NEAR SUTHERLAND WITHIN THE KAROO HOOGLAND LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OF NAMAKWA DISTRICT IN NORTHERN CAPE

With reference to the above application, please be advised that the Department has decided to grant authorisation. The environmental authorisation (EA) and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

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, of the Department's decision in respect of your application as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of Government Notice No. R.993, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. An appellant must submit an 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.

By post: Private Bag X447,
Pretoria, 0001; or

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

If the applicant wishes to lodge an appeal, it must also serve a copy of the notice of intention to appeal on all registered interested and affected parties as well as a notice indicating where, and for what period, the appeal submission will be available for inspection, should you intend to submit an appeal.

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Appeals must be submitted in writing to:

Mr Z Hassam, Director: Appeals and Legal Review, of this Department at the above mentioned addresses. Mr Hassam can also be contacted at:

Tel: (012) 399 9356

Email: Appealsdirector@environment.gov.za

Please note that in terms of section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, an appeal under section 43 of that Act 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.

For guidance on appeals submitted to the Minister in terms of NEMA and the SEMAs, please find a copy of the guideline on the administration of appeals on the Department's website:
(https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations).

Kindly include a copy of this document with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs

Date: 03/05/2016

CC:	Ms Tebogo Mapinga	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd	011 656 3256	tebogo@savannahsa.com
	Mr Anga Yaphi	Northern Cape: Department of Environment and Nature Conservation	054 338 4800	ayaphi@ncpg.gov.za
	Mr Gustav Von Mollendorf	Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality	053 384 8600	mmanager@bcrn.gov.za



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Environmental Authorisation

In terms of regulation 25 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014

**PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A SWITCHING STATION, 132kV POWER LINE DOUBLE
CIRCUIT OVERHEAD POWER LINE AND ANCILLARIES FOR THE AUTHORISED SOETWATER
WIND FARM NEAR SUTHERLAND WITHIN THE KAROO HOOGLAND LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
NORTHERN CAPE**

Namakwa District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	<i>14/12/16/3/3/1/1494</i>
Last amended:	<i>First issue</i>
Holder of authorisation:	<i>Soetwater Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd</i>
Location of activity:	<i>NORTHERN CAPE: Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality</i>

This environmental authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.

Decision

The Department is satisfied on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with the conditions of this environmental authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activities specified below.

Non-compliance with a condition of this environmental authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the EIA regulations.

Details regarding the basis on which the Department reached this decision are set out in Annexure 1.

Activities authorised

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 the Department hereby authorises –

SOETWATER WIND FARM (PTY) LTD

(hereafter referred to as the **holder of the authorisation**)

with the following contact details –

Richard Gordon
Soetwater Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd
P.O. Box 23101
CLAREMONT
7735

Tel no: (021) 670 1408
Email: Richard.Gordon@aiimafrica.com

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to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notice 1 & 3 (GN R. 983 & GN R 985):

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><u>GN R. 983 Item 11:</u></p> <p><i>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity-</i></p> <p><i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts;</i></p>	<p>Construction of a switching station, 132kV power line (~8km long) and ancillaries outside an urban area to connect the Soetwater Wind Farm facility to the National Eskom Grid at the proposed Eskom Karusa Switching Station.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Activity 12:</u></p> <p><i>"The development of-</i></p> <p><i>(xii) infrastructure or structure with a physical footprint of 100m² or more;</i></p> <p><i>(a) Within a watercourse,</i></p> <p><i>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.</i></p>	<p>The construction of access roads/tracks required for construction and maintenance activities of the Project will have a physical footprint of up to 100m² or more within a watercourse or within 32m of a watercourse.</p>
<p><u>GN R.983, Activity 19:</u></p> <p><i>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shell, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from a watercourse</i></p>	<p>The construction of access roads/tracks required for construction and maintenance activities of the Project will require the infilling or depositing of material more than 5 cubic metres into a watercourse.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Item 24:</u></p> <p><i>The development of</i></p> <p><i>A road with a reserve wider than 13.5 metres, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres.</i></p>	<p>The project will require the development of a road/ tracks wider than 8m where no reserve exists.</p>
<p><u>GN 983, Activity 27:</u></p> <p><i>(ii) The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation</i></p>	<p>The construction of the proposed Project will require the clearance of indigenous vegetation of more</p>

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
	than 1 hectares, if and where required.
<p><u>GN R. 983 Item 28:</u></p> <p><i>Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture or afforestation on or after 1 April 1998 and where such development</i></p> <p><i>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare,</i></p> <p><i>excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional purposes.</i></p>	<p>The footprint of the proposed power line, switching station and ancillary infrastructure will be equal to or exceed 1 hectare and is on land that is currently used for agricultural purposes.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 985 Activity 4:</u></p> <p><i>The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13.5 metres-</i></p> <p><i>(a) In Northern Cape Province</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Outside urban areas, in:</i></p> <p><i>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas</i></p> <p><i>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systemic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority.</i></p>	<p>The project will require the development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13.5 metres in an area that falls within the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas and critical biodiversity area (CBA 2).</p>
<p><u>R985, Activity 12:</u></p> <p><i>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation –</i></p> <p><i>(d) In the Northern Cape:</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans</i></p>	<p>The infrastructure required for the Project will require clearing of 300 square metres of indigenous vegetation within critical biodiversity areas.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 985 Activity 14:</u></p> <p><i>"The development of –</i></p> <p><i>(xii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more</i></p> <p><i>Where such development occurs-</i></p> <p><i>(c) If no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of the watercourse.</i></p> <p><i>(a) In the Northern Cape:</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Outside urban areas, in:</i></p>	<p>The infrastructure required for the Project will exceed 10 square metres in size and falls within the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas and critical biodiversity area (CBA 2)</p>

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus Area (ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in system Biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.	

As described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated January 2016 at:

Northern Cape Province

Farm Name: Portion 1 of Orange Fontein 203;

Farm Name: Remainder of Farm Leeuwe Hoek 183;

Farm Name: Remainder of Farm Annex Oranje Fontein 185;

Farm Name: Remainder of De Hoop 202.

21 Digit SG code:

C	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	1
C	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	3	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	5	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0

New Switching Station	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Centre point of activity	32°48'40.19"	20°37'27.76"
New Proposed Power line Corridor	Latitude	Longitude
Starting point of activity	32°48'41.02"	20°37'28.07"
Middle point of activity	32°52'20.19"	20°38'47.88"
End point of activity	32°55'54.65"	20°35'43.28"

- for the construction of a switching station, 132kV double circuit overhead power line and ancillaries for the authorised Soetwater Wind Farm near Sutherland within the Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality of Namakwa District in the Northern Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property"

In order to connect and evacuate the power from the Soetwater Wind Energy Facility into the National Eskom grid, the following infrastructure (the "Project") will be required:

- A double circuit 132kV overhead power line connecting the authorised substation (located within the wind energy facility) to the proposed Karusa Substation, which will be up to 15km in length, and would be constructed within a servitude of approximately 36m in width.
- Construction of a Switching Station complex (120m x 60m);
- Ancillaries (including access tracks/roads that are approximately 4m in wide, laydown areas, metering installation, operational and maintenance facilities); and
- The construction will take place within the 300m wide corridor that was assessed to allow for optimisation of the infrastructure layout, including laydown areas, in order to inter alia, accommodate specialist findings where necessary as well as local geotechnical, topographical conditions and any potential environmental sensitivities.

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The preferred route Alternative 1, for the proposed construction of the construction of a switching station, 132kV double circuit overhead power line and ancillaries for the authorised Soetwater Wind Farm near Sutherland within the Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality of Namakwa District in the Northern Cape Province with the above coordinates is approved.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this environmental authorisation, which form part of the environmental authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.
3. The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this environmental authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
4. The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this environmental authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such

changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further environmental authorisation in terms of the regulations.

6. The holder of an environmental authorisation must apply for an amendment of the environmental authorisation with the competent authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.
7. This activity must commence within a period of five (05) years from the date of issue of this environmental authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for environmental authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.
8. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this environmental authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

9. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this environmental authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.
10. The notification referred to must –
 - 10.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
 - 10.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
 - 10.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
 - 10.4. give the reasons of the competent authority for the decision.
11. The holder of the authorisation must publish a notice –
 - 11.1. informing interested and affected parties of the decision;
 - 11.2. informing interested and affected parties where the decision can be accessed; and
 - 11.3. drawing the attention of interested and affected parties to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against this decision in terms of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014.

Commencement of the activity

12. The authorised activity shall not commence within twenty (20) days of the date of signature of the authorisation.

13. In terms of section 43 (7), an appeal under section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 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/ies until such time that the appeal has been finalised.

Management of the activity

14. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) dated January 2016, submitted as part of the Application for EA is hereby approved. This EMPr must be implemented and adhered to.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

15. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 23 below indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the environmental authorisation or EMPr.
16. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
17. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of GN R. 982. The updated EMPr must be subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.
18. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of GN R.982. Prior to approving an amended EMPr, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
19. The holder of the authorisation may apply for an amendment of an EMPr, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The holder must notify the Department of its intention to amend the EMPr at least 60 days prior to submitting such amendments to the EMPr to the Department for approval. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department will consider the processes and requirements prescribed in Regulation 37 of GN R. 982.

Monitoring

20. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced independent Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this environmental authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr.
 - 20.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
 - 20.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department.
 - 20.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
 - 20.4. The ECO must remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.

Recording and reporting to the Department

21. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this environmental authorisation, must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
22. The holder of the environmental authorisation must, for the period during which the environmental authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
23. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of GN R. 982.
24. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit an environmental audit reports to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e. within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
25. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 and must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the

outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the environmental authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr.

26. Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.

Notification to authorities

27. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity will commence, as well as a reference number.

Operation of the activity

28. A written notification of operation must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity operational phase.

Site closure and decommissioning

29. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the holder of the authorisation must undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and competent authority at that time.

Specific conditions

30. A pre-construction walk-through within the development footprint must be done to determine the protected species and to demarcate all sensitive areas that must be avoided during construction. The findings of the walk-through must be submitted to the Department for review and approval.
31. The power line construction servitude must be clearly demarcated and aligned to avoid protected trees should they occur within the route alignment.
32. The Applicant and the contractors must ensure that a designated access to the proposed site and power line servitude is created such that it is aligned with existing roads on site.
33. Species of conservation concern must be transplanted to similar habitat outside the development footprint under the supervision of an ecologist or plant translocation specialist. Permits from the

- Northern Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Nature Conservation (DEANC) as well as Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) must be obtained prior relocation.
34. The siting of the construction equipment camp must take cognisance of any sensitive areas, reflected on the sensitive map.
 35. If concentrations of historical and pre-colonial archaeological heritage material and/or human remains (including graves and burials) are uncovered during construction, all work in the immediate area affecting the findings, must cease immediately and be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and an archaeologist must be appointed at the cost of the Proponent so that systematic and professional investigation/excavation can be undertaken.
 36. All disturbed areas must be rehabilitated and re-seeded with indigenous plants at the end of the construction phase.
 37. All construction material, equipment and any other foreign objects brought into the area by contractors and staff must be removed immediately after construction.
 38. Any solid waste must be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008).

General

39. A copy of this environmental authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMP, must be made available for inspection and copying-
 - 39.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
 - 39.2. to anyone on request; and
 - 39.3. where the holder of the environmental authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
40. National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder of the authorisation or his/her successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the holder of the authorisation with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.

Date of environmental authorisation: 03/05/2016


Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs

Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

1. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration –

- a) The information contained in the BAR dated January 2016 and received by the Department on 08 January 2016;
- b) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR dated January 2016 and the EMPr;
- c) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within Appendix D of the BAR; and
- d) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998).

2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- a) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- b) The need for the proposed project which is to facilitate the connection of the Soetwater Wind Farm to the National Eskom electricity grid, which will have a positive economic impact at a local and regional level in terms of job creation (directly and indirectly) as well as contributing to alleviate South Africa's existing energy supply shortage.
- c) The BAR dated January 2016 identified all legislations and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated January 2016 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- e) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 for public involvement.

3. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings -

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the BAR dated January 2016 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- c) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- d) EMPr proposed mitigation measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development and were included in the BAR. The EMPr will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the environmental authorisation, the authorised activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the authorised activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The environmental authorisation is accordingly granted.

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