



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA · 0001· Environment House · 473 Steve Biko, Arcadia· PRETORIA

DEA Reference: 12/12/20/2370/1/AM6

Enquiries: Ms Matlhodi Mogorosi

Telephone: (012) 399 9388 E-mail: mmogorosi@environment.gov.za

Mr William George Price
ACED Renewables Hidden Valley (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 651286
BENMORE
2010

Tel: (010) 344 0220

Email: Nthabiseng.mosehle@enel.com / shaun.taylor@enel.com

PER MAIL / EMAIL

Dear Mr Price

AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 12 AUGUST 2014 FOR THE PROPOSED 140MW KARUSA WIND ENERGY FACILITY (PHASE 1) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE FARM DE HOOP 202; FARM STANDVASTIGHEID 210; PORTIONS 1, 3 AND THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM RHEEBOKKE FONTEIN 209 WITHIN THE KAROO HOOGLAND LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the abovementioned application by this Department on 12 August 2014, the first EA amendment issued by the Department on 08 May 2016, the second EA amendment issued by the Department on 04 November 2016; the third EA amendment issued by the Department on 03 May 2017; the fourth EA amendment issued by the Department on 09 March 2018; the fifth EA amendment issued by the Department on 10 September 2019, your application for amendment to the EA received by this Department on 24 February 2020, the acknowledgement letter dated 05 March 2020, and the additional information received by this Department on 17 March 2020, 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 (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, has decided to amend the EA dated 12 August 2014 as follows:

Amendment 1: Inclusion of one property in the project title and table on the cover of the EA, and in the project description on page 7 of the EA, as well as the inclusion of the associated SG code on page 8 of the EA

The property Portion 1 of Farm Rheeboeke Fontein 209 is hereby included in the EA as follows:

In the project title on page 1 of the EA

From:

The proposed 140MW Karusa Wind Energy Facility (Phase 1) and its associated infrastructure on the Farm De Hoop 202; Farm Standvastigheid 210; Portion 3 of Farm Rheeboeke Fontein 209; the Remainder of Farm Rheeboeke Fontein 209 within the Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality, Northern Cape province

M.J

To:

The proposed 140MW Karusa Wind Energy Facility (Phase 1) and associated infrastructure on the Farm De Hoop 202; Farm Standvastigheid 210; Portions 1, 3 and the Remainder of the Farm Rheebokke Fontein 209 within the Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province

In the table on page 1 of the EA

From:

Location of activity:	<p><i>Farm De Hoop 202</i> <i>Farm Standvastigheid 210</i> <i>Portion 3 of Farm Rheebokke Fontein 209</i> <i>The Remainder of Farm Rheebokke Fontein 209</i></p> <p><i>Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality</i> <i>Namakwa District Municipality</i> <i>NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE</i></p>
------------------------------	--

To:

Location of activity:	<p><i>Farm De Hoop 202</i> <i>Farm Standvastigheid 210</i> <i>Portion 1 of Farm Rheebokke Fontein 209</i> <i>Portion 3 of Farm Rheebokke Fontein 209</i> <i>The Remainder of Farm Rheebokke Fontein 209</i></p> <p><i>Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality</i> <i>Namakwa District Municipality</i> <i>NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE</i></p>
------------------------------	--

In the project description on page 7 of the EA

From:

- for the proposed 140MW Karusa Wind Energy Facility (Phase 1) and its associated infrastructure on the Farm De Hoop 202; Farm Standvastigheid 210; Portion 3 of Farm Rheebokke Fontein 209 and the Remainder of Farm Rheebokke Fontein 209 within the Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality of the Namakwa District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the properties".

To:

- for the proposed 140MW Karusa Wind Energy Facility (Phase 1) and associated infrastructure on the Farm De Hoop 202; Farm Standvastigheid 210; Portions 1, 3 and the Remainder of the Farm Rheebokke Fontein 209 within the Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality of the Namakwa District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the properties".

M.S

In the list of SG codes, in the technical details table on page 8 of the EA

From:

SG Codes	» C07200000000020200000 » C07200000000021000000 » C07200000000020900003 » C07200000000020900000
----------	--

To:

SG Codes	» C07200000000020200000 » C07200000000021000000 » <u>C07200000000020900001</u> » C07200000000020900003 » C07200000000020900000
----------	--

The reason for the amendment is as follows:

A satellite camp location has been identified that can be beneficial to the project (has ready access to water and electricity) and can result in a reduction of the total footprint and associated impact of the wind farm, by consolidating the satellite camps of two individual projects (Karusa Wind Farm and Soetwater Wind Farm) into a centralised location, which is already disturbed. These two projects are adjacent to each other, have the same applicant and contractor, and will be developed concurrently. The camp is situated on Portion 1 of Farm Rheeboeke Fontein 209, at approximately -32°50'46.53"S; 20°41'31.60"E. This farm does not fall within the footprint of the Karusa Wind Farm as per the current approved layout, but was assessed as part of the original EIA process and included in the original EA. An application was made to remove the property from the original EA, in the EA amendment dated 4 November 2016 (DEA Reference number: 12/12/20/2370/1/AM2). This EA amendment therefore re-includes Portion 1 of Farm Rheeboeke Fontein 209 to the project and associated EA.

Amendment 2. Amendment of the approved layout plan and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

The amended layout plan (in the figure below) and the updated EMPr dated February 2020 (Document name: "Karusa Wind Farm, near Sutherland, Northern Cape Province: Construction and Operation Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) - Revision 3"), amended to include only the property details and updated layout plan (Appendix B of the EMPr) with the following changes, is hereby approved:

- Relocation of the satellite camp;
- Relocation of the associated batch plant;
- Reduction of the laydown area; and
- Minor re-alignment of road (by-pass road).

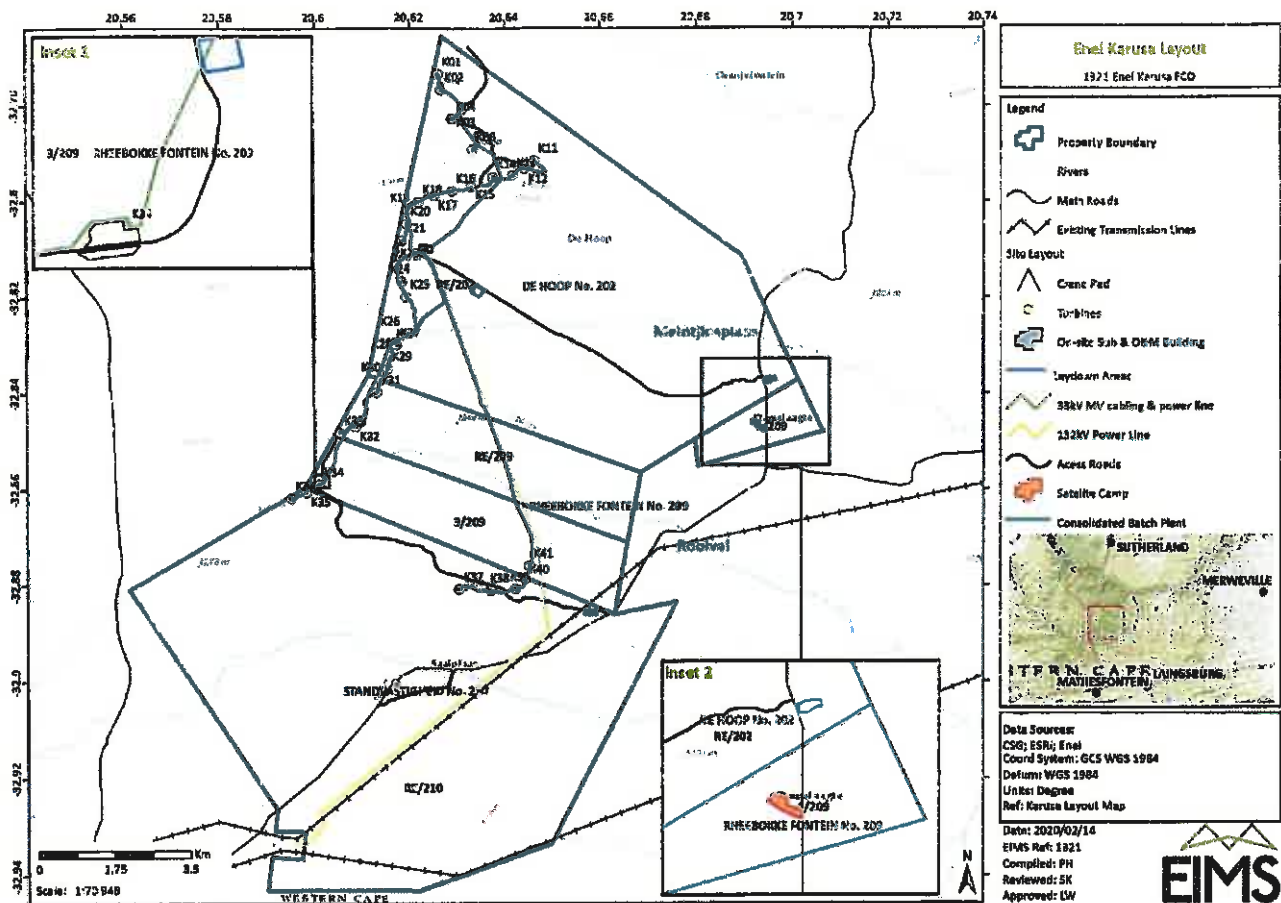


Figure: Updated Layout Plan for the 140MW Karusa Wind Energy Facility (WEF)

Reasons for the amendment of the layout plan and approval of the updated EMPr are as follows:

Relocation of the Satellite Camp

The satellite camp has been relocated from the Farm Standvastigheid 210 to Portion 1 of the Farm Rheebokke Fontein 209. This EA amendment therefore provides for the re-inclusion of Portion 1 of the Farm Rheebokke Fontein 209 into the EA, in order to relocate the satellite camp to a disturbed location on that property. The new location is expected to be beneficial to the project and will result in a reduction of the total footprint of the approved laydown area at the Farm Standvastigheid 210, and the wind farm as a whole, as clearing of new areas will be minimised. Furthermore, the new location for the camp is serviced (water and electricity readily available, negating the need to install these services, which would result in further disturbance to the environment), has existing access roads, and is situated on previously disturbed land. The new location is right next to the Provincial gravel road, which makes exiting and entering easy and safe, with very good sight distance in both directions.

Relocation of the Batch Plant

The batch plant has been relocated from the Farm Standvastigheid 210 to the Farm De Hoop 202, taking into account environmental sensitivities. The new location is expected to be beneficial to the project, and will result in a reduction of the total footprint of the wind farm, as this location and batch plant will be a shared area with the Soetwater Wind Farm. These two projects are adjacent to each other, have the same applicant and contractor, and will be developed concurrently. Therefore, locating the batch plant for both projects in the same area will reduce the ecological impacts associated with batching activities on both projects. The new location is right next to the Provincial gravel road, which makes exiting and entering easy and safe with very

M.S

good sight distance in both directions. The new location falls within the approved footprint of the Karusa Wind Farm.

Reduction of the laydown area

This will be environmentally beneficial to the project, since the originally approved laydown area will be reduced from 2.24ha to 1.54ha, following the relocation of the satellite camp to a centralised, disturbed area, and the relocation of the batch plant to a shared area with the Soetwater Wind Farm, which is located adjacent to the Karusa Wind Farm. The Soetwater Wind Farm EA and layout plan have been similarly amended to reflect the new consolidated satellite camp and batch plant within the approved footprint of the Karusa Wind Farm (DEA Reference number: 12/12/20/2370/2/AM6).

Minor realignment of the by-pass road

The minor re-alignment of the by-pass road is based on the need to move the crossing point approximately 20m to avoid current farming activities on the farm (requested by the landowner). This slight adjustment will not change the scope of the EA nor increase the level or nature of the impact.

Updated EMPr:

Since the layout plan is appended to the EMPr (both of which were previously approved on 29 January 2016 and amended on 10 September 2019), the EMPr was required to be updated, only to include the revised facility layout plan. No mitigation measures, objectives or outcomes of the EMPr were changed, as these are still applicable as they are.

These amendments will not change the scope of the EA nor result in an increase in impacts, as they seek to re-include one property, which was originally a part of the EIA assessment and EA; to reduce the ecological footprint by consolidating and relocating the satellite camp and batch plant for the two WEF facilities (Karusa Wind Farm and Soetwater Wind Farm) to centralised and shared areas; and to avoid impacts on farming activities through the minor realignment of the by-pass road.

General

This letter must be read in conjunction with the EA dated 12 August 2014; the first EA amendment dated 08 May 2016; the second EA amendment dated 04 November 2016; the third EA amendment dated 03 May 2017; the fourth EA amendment dated 09 March 2018; and the fifth EA amendment dated 10 September 2019.

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 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@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 decision 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 Environmental Affairs

Date: 08/06/2020

CC	Mr S Mahlangu	Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd	Email: sk@eims.co.za
	Mr B Fisher	Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation	Email: bfisher@ncpcg.gov.za
	Mr JJ Fortuin	Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality	Email: munman@karoohoogland.gov.za