



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DEA Reference: 12/12/20/2370/2/AM1

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Mr Richard Gordan
Soetwater Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 23101
Claremont
CAPE TOWN
7735

Telephone number: (021) 670 1401
Email Address: Richard.Gordon@aiimafrica.com

PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Gordan

AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 12 AUGUST 2014 FOR THE 140MW SOETWATER WIND FARM (PHASE 2) AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE REMAINDER OF AND PORTION 1, 2 AND 4 OF FARM ORANGE FONTEIN 203 AND ANNEX ORANGE FONTEIN 185, FARM LEEUWE HOEK 183 AND FARM ZWANPELSHOEK 184 WITHIN THE KAROO HOOGLAND LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the above application by this Department on 12 August 2014 and your application for amendment of the EA received by this Department on 05 April 2016 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, has decided to amend the EA dated 12 August 2014 as follows:

Amendment 1: Amendment to the project description of the EA:

Page 07 of the EA:

From:

"The infrastructure associated with this facility includes:

- *Wind turbines (between 2MW and 3.5MW in capacity and with a 120m rotor diameter and a hub height of up to 120m) and associated foundations;*
- *Medium voltage cabling between the turbines, to be laid underground where practical;*
- *Internal access roads to each turbine, the substation complex and the ancillary infrastructure;*
- *One on-site substation complex to facilitate stepping up the voltage from medium to high voltage (up to 132kV) to enable the connection of the wind energy facility and the Eskom grid at Eskom's Komsberg Substation;*
- *A high voltage power line for connection to a double circuit high voltage power line from the Karusa Wind Farm Substation to the Eskom Komsberg Substation;*

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- Operations and services workshop area / office building for control, maintenance and storage; and
- Temporary infrastructure including a site camp, laydown areas and a batching plant.”

To:

“The infrastructure associated with this facility includes:

- Wind turbines (between 2MW and 3.5MW in capacity and with a 120m rotor diameter and a hub height of up to 120m) and associated foundations;
- Medium voltage cabling between the turbines, to be laid underground where practical;
- Internal access roads to each turbine, the substation complex and the ancillary infrastructure;
- Operations and services workshop area / office building for control, maintenance and storage; and
- Temporary infrastructure including a site camp, laydown areas and a batching plant.”

The following conditions related to the powerline and substation is hereby removed from the EA:

Condition 13.8 on page 11 of the EA:

“Substation(s) inverters and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;”

Condition 13.9 on page 11 of the EA:

“Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;”

The abovementioned amendment is to remove the grid connection infrastructure from the EA as it is no longer considered as technically feasible. A new application for environmental authorisation for the grid connection infrastructure was lodged.

This proposed amendment letter must be read in conjunction with the EA dated 12 August 2014.

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 Department’s decision in respect of the amendment made 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. Kindly include a copy of this document with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties.

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 applicant by the competent authority.

By post: Private Bag X447,
Pretoria,
0001; or
By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko,
Arcadia, Pretoria,

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).

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs

Date: *03/05/2016*

cc:	Ms J Thomas	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd	E-mail: joanne@savannahsa.com
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