

21 November 2016

Dear Stakeholder

**PROPOSED SUURPLAAT WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED
INFRASTRUCTURE, WESTERN AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES
(DEA REF: 12/12/20/1583)**

**NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
AUTHORISATION**

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd undertook an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process on behalf of Moyeng Energy (Pty) Ltd, in terms of the EIA Regulations of 2006 GN R. 386 and 387 of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) for the proposed Suurplaat Wind Energy Facility and associated infrastructure, Western and Northern Cape Provinces. The Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report was submitted to the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), as the competent authority, in October 2010. On the basis of the outcomes of the EIA process, Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the project was issued by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in April 2011 (12/12/20/1583).

The following infrastructure was authorised as part of this authorisation:

- » Up to 400 wind turbine units of between 2MW and 3MW in capacity each (up to 80m to 100m high steel tower and nacelle; rotor diameter up to 90m - consisting of 3 blades up to 45m in length).
- » Concrete foundations to support the turbine towers.
- » Internal roads (approximately 6m in width) linking the wind turbines and other infrastructure on the site. Existing farm roads will be used as far as possible; however, the dispersed distribution pattern of wind turbines will necessitate the construction of a number of new roads.
- » Underground (~ 1m deep) 33kV cabling, linking the wind turbines to 33/132kV substations. In as far as possible, cabling will follow the internal access roads.
- » Thirteen (13) x 33/132kV substations. Each of these substations will have a high-voltage (HV) yard footprint of approximately 80m x 90m.
- » Eight (8) overhead power lines (4 x 132kV double circuit distribution lines) linking the substation at the wind energy facility to the 400kV substation.

- » An on-site office/workshop building(s)/equipment store complex, with a combined footprint of approximately 400 m².
- » One 400kV substation and 400kV power line to connect to either the Droerivier – Muldersvlei or Bacchus Droerivier 400kV power line.
- » An operations and maintenance facility, including a storage building (40 m x 20 m), security office (10 m x 5 m) and a car park area (15 m x 7 m).

The three phases of the wind energy facility, the transmission lines and substations were assessed separately in the final EIA report (Savannah Environmental, October 2010), however a single EIA process was followed and a single EA received for the entire facility and all electrical infrastructure.

Moyeng Energy has requested the split of the project into three separate phases, and that the grid infrastructure also be split from the wind energy facility. This is requested such that a separate Environmental Authorisation can be issued for each. The purpose of this request is as follows:

1. Eskom requires that the EA and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for Eskom's part of the works (i.e. all grid connection infrastructure) will be transferred to Eskom's name following completion of construction.
2. Each phase of the project will ultimately be managed by a separate Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). Therefore, each phase of the project must obtain a separate authorisation, which will be registered under the corresponding SPV.

Four separate authorisations are required, i.e. one EA for each of the three phases of the wind energy facility and a separate EA for the grid connection. Each of these EAs should include authorisation for the relevant associated infrastructure.

In addition, following developments in technology after the issuing of the EA and in finalising the site development plan on the basis of the wind monitoring results from the site and economic feasibility considerations, the developer is now proposing to increase the maximum turbine hub height from 100m to 120m and increase the maximum rotor diameter from 90m to 132m. A reduction in extent of the facility footprint is proposed in that the number of turbines is proposed to be reduced from 400 to 187. The number of on-site substations will also be reduced from 13 to 04.

An application has been submitted to the DEA, as the Competent Authority, and it has been confirmed that a Part 2 Amendment Process is to be followed in terms of Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations, 2014.

A separate amendment motivation report and Split EIA reports have been prepared by Savannah Environmental in support of the application. In terms of Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, these documents are being made available for

public comment. The 30-day review period is from **21 November 2016 to 12 January 2017**¹. The documentation can be downloaded at www.savannahSA.com/projects. CD copies are available on request from the contact person below.

Please submit your written comment to Savannah Environmental by **12 January 2017**. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further information.

Kind regards

GABRIELE WOOD
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT
SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL

¹ The 30-day review period excludes the days of reckoning from 15 December 2016 – 05 January 2017 as per Regulation 3(2) of the EIA Regulations, 2014

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NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (DEA REF: 12/12/20/1583)
PROOF OF NOTIFICATION SENT TO REGISTERED INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES**

The screenshot shows an Outlook email window titled "PROPOSED SUURPLAAT WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, WESTERN AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES - NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION FOR AME...". The interface includes a ribbon with "File" and "Message" tabs, and a "Tell me what you want to do" search bar. The ribbon contains various action buttons such as Ignore, Delete, Reply, Forward, Meeting, Quick Steps, Move, Mark Unread, Categorize, Follow Up, Translate, Find, Related, Select, Zoom, and Archive to Sugar. The email content shows a message from Gabriele Wood (gabriele@savannahsa.com) dated Mon 21/11/2016 15:12. The subject is "PROPOSED SUURPLAAT WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, WESTERN AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES - NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION". The "To" field lists numerous email addresses, and the "Bcc" field lists another set of addresses. A PDF attachment titled "Suurplaat EA Amendm..." (189 KB) is visible. The email body begins with "Dear Stakeholder" and discusses the environmental authorisation process for the Suurplaat Wind Energy Facility, mentioning Eskom's requirements and the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) as the competent authority. The email concludes with "Kind regards" and the name "Gabriele Wood". The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 15:12 on 21/11/2016, with system icons for network, volume, and power.

Mon 21/11/2016 15:12
Gabriele Wood <gabriele@savannahsa.com>
PROPOSED SUURPLAAT WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, WESTERN AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES - NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

To
'pawilliams@laingsburg.gov.za'; 'AndreK@drakenstein.gov.za'; 'ivang@namakwa-dm.gov.za'; 'wroets@capenature.co.za'; 'jlobser@namakwa-dm.gov.za'; 'allistar.gibbons@gmail.com'; 'morgan.griffiths@wessa.co.za'; 'Bfisher@ncpg.gov.za'; 'BradleyG@ewt.org.za'; 'Tommie.Potgieter@investec.co.za'; 'strohl@caa.co.za'; 'jakavulaz@caa.co.za'; 'Abrahamsn@nra.co.za'; 'mwiltshire@pgwc.gov.za'; 'andy@wessa.co.za'; 'secretary@birdlife.org.za'; 'advocacy@birdlife.org.za'; 'energy@birdlife.org.za'; 'lgu@adu.uct.ac.za'; 'francois.williams@sake24.com'; 'patrick@wessa.co.za'; 'phardcas@pgwc.gov.za'; 'lstarke@pgwc.gov.za'; 'ebrahim@sanbi.org'; 'elsenburg.landcare@elsenburg.com'; 'jbonthuy@dieburger.com'; 'agenis@landbou.com'; 'aduffell-canham@capenature.co.za'; 'Aggabrie@pgwc.gov.za'; 'ockie.muller@aurecongroup.com'; 'tshupo.seekoe@dst.gov.za'; 'lipuo.mothae@dst.gov.za'; 'mere.kgampe@dst.gov.za'; 'alta@icegroup.co.za'; 'Mmabunda@pgwc.gov.za'; 'nazli@sao.ac.za'; 'Givansc@pgwc.gov.za';

PDF Suurplaat EA Amendm...
189 KB

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Moyeng Energy (Pty) Ltd obtained Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the Suurplaat Wind Energy Facility and associated infrastructure in April 2011. The three phases of the wind energy facility, the transmissions lines and substations were assessed separately in the final EIA Report (Savannah Environmental, 2010), however a single EIA process was followed and a single EA received for the entire facility and electrical infrastructure. Moyeng Energy has requested the split of the project into three separate phases and that the grid infrastructure also be split from the wind energy facility. The purpose of this request is as follows:

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An application has been submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), as the competent authority. The DEA has advised that this application is considered to be a Part 2 Amendment as contemplated in terms of Regulation 31 of the EIA Regulations, 2014. In terms of Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations 2014, opportunity is being provided to the public to provide comment on the proposed amendments. A separate amendment motivation report and Split EIA reports have been prepared and are available for a 30-day review period. Please refer to the attached notification letter for further information regarding the amendment application and review period of the amendment motivation report and Split EIA reports.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further queries in this regard.

Kind regards
Gabriele Wood

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