

Oya WEF

DFFE REFERENCES

14/12/16/3/3/1/1976/2/AM3

Environmental Audit Report



Access road clearing underway

Barry Wiesner

November 2023

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Declaration

Oya WEF – Environmental Audit Report for November 2023

1 Introduction

Amathemba Environmental Management Consulting CC has been appointed by G7 Renewable Energies (PTY) LTD to be the independent Environmental Control Officer for the Wind Energy Facility development for the construction phase of the project (Declaration included in appendix 1). One site inspection and meeting has been undertaken this month, on 21st November 2023. The site inspection was limited to the access road construction, for the limited construction works until the end of 2023.

1.1 Scope, purposes and objectives of the audit

The main objective of the monthly compliance audit is to comply with conditions 24-30 of the Environmental Authorisation (EA) for conditions 24-30 for WEF EA, pertaining to the duties of the independent Environmental Control Officer (ECO) and reporting to the department. The proposed development must comply with the following approved authorisations and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr):

| Document Title | Document Reference Number | Date of Issue |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Environmental Authorisation in terms of the NEMA (Act 107 of 1998) and EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) Issued by DEA: Integrated Environmental Authorisations. | DFFE Ref No.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1976/2 | 17 May 2021 |
| Final EMPr May 2021 | DFFE Ref No.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1976/2 | 17 May 2021 |

1.2 Audit Methodology

The following methodology was employed for this external compliance audit:

1.2.1 Pre-audit tasks

Review of the various approvals / documents relevant to the proposed development, namely:

- EAs issued by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE).
- Final EMPr (EMPr), October 2023

1.2.2 On-site audit

A site visit was undertaken on 21st November 2023 by Barry Wiesner. The site walkabout served to give the auditor an understanding of the implementation of the conditions of the EA and requirements of the EMPr.

1.2.3 Reporting

Compilation of the audit report based on the information obtained during the audit inspection, site meeting and interaction with relevant contractor and applicant personnel. An electronic copy of this report is issued to the Holder of the EA and to DFFE Compliance Department.

1.3 Assumptions, limitations, and gaps in knowledge

- The assumption is made that all information received on which this audit report is based, is accurate and correct. Parties that contributed information to inform this audit were the Applicant and Synhydro Construction (on behalf on Power China), for the project.
- No public consultation was undertaken as part of this audit. In the opinion of the auditor, this was not required / warranted for the purposes of conducting the audit.

- The auditor had access to all the information necessary to compile this audit report. There are no gaps in knowledge that would suggest any level of uncertainty in the findings of the auditor.

2 Expertise of auditor

2.1 Barry Wiesner (Auditor and Author of Audit Report)

Barry completed a master’s in philosophy (MPHIL) in Environmental Management at the University of Cape Town. Barry also has read a BA majoring in Archaeology and Environmental and Geographical Science and has a Higher Diploma in Education (HDE) from the University of Cape Town. He also has a Bachelor of Theology from the University of South Africa. Barry is a Green Star SA Accredited Professional and a member of the International Association of Impact Assessors.

Barry has extensive site experience working as an Environmental Control Officer (ECO) at major construction sites and in conducting Environmental Audits, EIAs, BARs and the compilation of numerous Environmental Management Programs (EMPrs) over the last 22 years.

2.2 Statement of Independence

Amathemba Environmental Management Consulting CC was appointed to carry out the external compliance audit and compile this resultant Audit Report. Neither Barry Wiesner in his private capacity, nor Amathemba Environmental Management Consulting CC have any material present or contingent interest in the outcome of this report, nor do they have any pecuniary or other interest that could be reasonably regarded as being capable of affecting their independence. Amathemba Environmental Management Consulting CC has no beneficial interest in the outcome of this compliance audit, other than reasonable remuneration for work performed in undertaking the audit inspection and compiling this report.

3 Requirements of Appendix 7 of EIA Regulations (2014, as amended)

Environmental audit reports undertaken as under this EA must meet the requirements of Appendix 7 of the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended. These requirements are included herewith, which contains the minimum content requirements for compliance audit reports.

| Regulatory Ref # of Appendix 7 | Details of requirement | Report Section Reference |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | The environmental audit report must provide for recommendations regarding the need to amend the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan. | None at this stage. |
| 2 (a) (i) | Report on level of compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan. | Sections 5 and 6 |
| 2 (a) (ii) | Report on the extent to which the avoidance, management and mitigation measures provided for in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan achieves the objectives and outcomes of the EMPr, and closure plan. | Sections 5 and 6 |
| 2 (b) | Identify and assess any new impacts and risks as a result of undertaking the activity. | Section 6 |
| 2 (c) | Evaluate the effectiveness of the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan. | Section 6 |
| 2 (d) | Identify shortcomings in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan. | Section 6 |
| 2 (e) | Identify the need for any changes to the avoidance, management and mitigation measures provided for in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan. | Section 6 |
| 3 (1) a | An environmental audit report prepared in terms of these Regulations must contain details of the— (i) independent person who prepared the environmental audit report; and (ii) expertise of the independent person that compiled the environmental audit report | Section 2.1 |
| 3 (1) b | a declaration that the independent auditor is independent in a form as may be specified by the competent authority; | Section 2.2 and appendix 1 |

| | | |
|---------|--|---|
| 3 (1) c | an indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the environmental audit report was prepared; | Section 1.1 |
| 3 (1) d | a description of the methodology adopted in preparing the environmental audit report; | Section 1.2 |
| 3 (1) e | an indication of the ability of the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan to— (i) sufficiently provide for the avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity on an ongoing basis; (ii) sufficiently provide for the avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the closure of the facility; and (iii) ensure compliance with the provisions of environmental authorisation, EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan; | Section 5 and 6 |
| 3 (1) f | a description of any assumptions made, and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge; | Section 1.3 |
| 3 (1) g | a description of any public consultation process that was undertaken during the course of carrying out the environmental audit report; | Section 1.3 |
| 3 (1) h | a summary and copies of any comments that were received during any public consultation process; and | NA |
| 3 (1) i | any other information requested by the competent authority. | No additional requirements known at this point. |

4 Pre-Construction Requirements

There are several pre-construction requirements listed in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the site (shown in *italics* below).

Submission of Final Layout

- The final layout was submitted on 3rd October 2023.

Notification to the DFFE with regards to the commencement of construction and the appointment of the independent environmental control officer (ECO).

- Amathemba Environmental Management Construction CC has been appointed and the notification together with the notification of commencement of construction was submitted on 3 October 2023.

Pre-construction walk-through conducted, sensitive areas demarcated.

- This has been undertaken and is indicated in the final layout.

Pre-construction walk-through conducted and sensitive areas identified.

- This has been undertaken and is indicated in the final layout.

A pre-construction site record

- This report forms part of the pre-construction site record. Further pre-construction records will be done when further activity commences on site. At the moment it is limited to the limited notice to proceed (LNTP) works.

5 Method statements

The following method statements have been received and approved.

- Site establishment
- Road construction
- Clear and grub
- Traffic management
- Security management

6 Site inspection 21st November 2023

It should be noted that Limited Notice to Proceed (LNTP) has been issued. the construction of 11kms of road for the Wind Energy Facility. This phase of construction is expected to last until the builders break in December 2023.

Plant search and rescue has been completed for all areas that have been cleared to date.

6.1 Roads

11kms of road is to be constructed on the WEF site. Relevant method statements have been submitted and limited plant will be on site.

Work has begun on the road with staking out the road and clearing under way.

A concrete causeway will be expanded at the current water crossing near the start of the access road.

No environmental concerns were noted.





Road construction underway.



Concrete causeway to be constructed in water course.

An EA checklist based on the WEF EA is included below.

Thank you for your co-operation to date.

Yours sincerely

Barry Wiesner (0824626221)

Shading Key

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Compliance | |
| Partial compliance | |
| Non-compliance | |
| Not Applicable | |

The following table is based on the approved EA and EMPr.

7 EA Checklist 14/12/16/3/3/1/1976/2/AM3

| Condition Associated Impacts Management Action Timing | Responsible Party | Monitoring | ✓/X/NA | Comment |
|--|--------------------------|--|--------|--|
| Scope of Authorisation: Conditions 1-9 | Applicant | None required | ✓ | All conditions met |
| Notification of authorisation and right to appeal: Conditions 10-11 | Applicant and EAP | Proof of notification | ✓ | All conditions met |
| Commencement of the activity: Condition 12 | Applicant | Proof of submission of notification. | ✓ | All conditions met |
| Management of activity: conditions 13-18 Submission of final layout | Applicant | Proof of compliance | ✓ | 3 rd October 2023 |
| Frequency and process of updating the EMP: Condition 19-23 | Applicant | Proof of compliance | ✓ | Currently no updates. |
| Monitoring: Condition 24 | Applicant/ECO | Appointment and scope of works for ECO | ✓ | ECO appointed and monitoring underway. |
| Recording and reporting to the department: Conditions 25-30 | Applicant/ECO | Submission of required documents | ✓ | Noted, this is the first report. |
| Notification to authorities: Condition 31 | Applicant | Proof of notification | ✓ | 9 th October 2023 |
| Operation of the activity: Condition 32 | Applicant | None at this stage | NA | Currently in construction phase. |
| Site closure and decommissioning: Condition 33 | Applicant | None at this stage | NA | Currently in construction phase. |
| Specific conditions: Condition 34-36 | Applicant/Contractor/ECO | As required by the EA and EMP | ✓ | |
| Condition 34 All wind turbines as well as associated infrastructure (powerline and substations) must avoid all areas designated and "no-go" areas and their buffers. | Applicant/Contractor/ECO | As required by the EA and EMP | ✓ | Noted and compliant. |
| Condition 35 removed in amendment. | Applicant/Contractor/ECO | As required by the EA and EMP | NA | Condition removed from EA. |
| Condition 36: Should archaeological sites or graves be exposed in other areas during construction work, it must immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made. | Applicant/Contractor/ECO | As required by the EA and EMP | ✓ | Noted and compliant. |
| General: Condition 37-38 | | | | |
| Copy of EA on site | Contractor/ECO | Check if on site | ✓ | Noted and compliant. |
| Indemnification of authorities | Applicant | None | ✓ | Noted. |

APPENDIX 1: DECLARATION

THE INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER (EAP)

I, **B Wiesner**, as the appointed independent environmental practitioner ("EAP") hereby declare that I:

- act/ed as the independent EAP in this audit report.
- regard the information contained in this report to be true and correct.
- do not have and will not have any financial interest in the undertaking of the activity, other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the NEMA, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2017 and any specific environmental management Act; and
- have and will not have no vested interest in the activity.



Signature of the environmental assessment practitioner:

Amathemba Environmental Management Consulting CC

Name of company:

Date: **27th November 2023**