

GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NO. 350

13 APRIL 2017

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998)

NOTICE OF IDENTIFICATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 24(5) OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998, OF THE PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED IN APPLYING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR LARGE SCALE WIND AND SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IDENTIFIED IN TERMS OF SECTION 24(2)(a) OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 WHEN OCCURRING IN GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE IDENTIFIED IN TERMS OF SECTION 24(3) OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998, NAMELY RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ZONES AND ASSOCIATED STRATEGIC TRANSMISSION CORRIDORS

I, Bomo Edith Edna Molewa, Minister of Environmental Affairs, hereby give notice of the procedure to be followed in applying for environmental authorisation, in terms of section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and Regulation 15 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 for large scale wind and solar photovoltaic development activities identified in terms of section 24(2)(a) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 which require environmental authorisation for activity 1 of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014 and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, or activity 9 of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014 and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, where the entire activity is occurring in an area of strategic importance identified in terms of section 24(3) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, namely in a Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ) or associated strategic transmission corridor, set out in the Schedule hereto.

Members of the public are invited to submit to the Minister, within 30 days after the publication of this Notice in the *Gazette*, written comments or inputs to the following addresses:

By post to: The Director-General:
Department of Environmental Affairs
Attention: Mr Franz Scheepers
Private Bag X447
PRETORIA
0001

By hand at: Reception, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0083

By e-mail: FScheepers@environment.gov.za

Any inquiries in connection with the Notice can be directed to Ms Amanda Britz at (012) 399 9283 or 9285.

Comments received after the closing date will not be considered.


BOMO EDITH EDNA MOLEWA
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

SCHEDULE

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 of 1998)

IDENTIFICATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 24(5) OF THE PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED IN APPLYING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR LARGE SCALE WIND AND SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES, IDENTIFIED IN TERMS OF SECTION 24(2)(a) OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 WHEN OCCURRING IN AREAS OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE, COMPILED IN TERMS OF SECTION 24(3) OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998, NAMELY RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ZONES AND ASSOCIATED STRATEGIC TRANSMISSION CORRIDORS

The Strategic Environmental Assessment for Wind and Solar Photovoltaic Energy in South Africa, 2015 has identified 8 Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZs) that are of strategic importance for large scale wind and solar photovoltaic development, including the rollout of its supporting transmission and distribution infrastructure, in terms of Strategic Integrated Project 8: Green Energy in Support of the South African Economy and associated strategic transmission corridors, including the rollout of its supporting transmission and distribution infrastructure, in terms of Strategic Integrated Project 10: Electricity Transmission and Distribution.

On 17 February 2016, Cabinet approved the—

- Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZs) contained in this Notice which are of strategic importance for large scale wind and solar photovoltaic development;
- associated Strategic Transmission Corridors contained in this Notice, which support areas where long term electricity grid will be developed;
- process of basic assessment to be followed and reduced decision-making timeframe for processing of applications for environmental authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998; and
- acceptance of routes which have been pre-negotiated with all landowners as part of applications for environmental authorisations for powerlines and substations contemplated in this Notice.

Therefore, I hereby give Notice that applications for environmental authorisation for—

- large scale wind or solar photovoltaic facilities, when such facilities trigger activity 1 of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014 and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, and where the

entire proposed facility is to occur in such Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZs) or associated strategic transmission corridors; and,

- powerlines and substations, when such facilities trigger activity 9 of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014 and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, and where the entire proposed facility is to occur in one or more such strategic transmission corridors,

must follow the basic assessment procedure contemplated in regulation 19 and 20 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 in order to obtain environmental authorisation, as required in terms of the Act.

- The timeframe for decision making as contained in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 for purposes of the applications for environmental authorisation contemplated in this Notice will be 57 days.
- For applications for environmental authorisation for powerlines and substations, when such facilities require environmental authorisation for activity 9 of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014 and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, as contemplated in this Notice, routes that have been pre-negotiated with all landowners must be submitted as part of such application for environmental authorisation.

The boundaries of the renewable energy development zones and associated strategic transmission corridors referred to in this Schedule are as indicated on the map, available from the Department of Environmental Affairs at <http://egis.environment.gov.za> – **Geographical Areas**

The information relating to the renewable energy development zones and associated strategic transmission corridors contained in this Schedule can also be obtained from:

PLACE	CONTACT PERSON/S	CONTACT DETAILS
Head office of the Department of Environmental Affairs	Directorate Enterprise Geospatial Information Management	GazetteMapping@environment.gov.za
	Ms Marlanie Moodley	Direct Line: 012 399 8916/ 9300 Call Centre Number: +27 86 111 2468

The Strategic Environmental Assessment for Wind and Solar Photovoltaic Energy in South Africa, 2015 and the Strategic Environmental Assessment for Electricity Grid Infrastructure in South Africa, 2016 can be accessed at:

<http://egi.csir.co.za/>;

<http://www.csir.co.za/nationalwindsolaresea;>

<https://egis.environment.gov.za/redz;> or

https://www.environment.gov.za/legislation/gazetted_notices

Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZs) compiled in terms of section 24(3) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 are:

- Renewable energy development zone 1 – Overberg;
- Renewable energy development zone 2 – Komsberg;
- Renewable energy development zone 3 – Cookhouse;
- Renewable energy development zone 4 – Stormberg;
- Renewable energy development zone 5 – Kimberley;
- Renewable energy development zone 6 – Vryberg;
- Renewable energy development zone 7 – Upington; and
- Renewable energy development zone 8 – Springbok.

Associated strategic transmission corridors compiled in terms of section 24(3) of National Environmental Management Act, 1998 are:

- Central corridor;
- Eastern corridor;
- International corridor;
- Northern corridor; and
- Western corridor.

