

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

NO. 841

31 JULY 2020

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998
(ACT NO. 107 OF 1998)****CONSULTATION ON THE INTENTION TO IDENTIFY THE PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED IN APPLYING FOR OR DECIDING ON AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION FOR LARGE SCALE WIND AND SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITIES, WHEN OCCURRING IN RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ZONES**

I, Barbara Dallas Creecy, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, hereby consult on the intention to identify in terms of section 24(5)(a) and (b) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and regulation 15(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, procedures to be followed when applying for or deciding on an environmental authorisation application for large scale wind and solar photovoltaic facilities when occurring in Renewable Energy Developments Zones identified by notice in the *Government Gazette*.

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

By post to: The Director-General
Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
Attention: Dr D Fischer
Private Bag X447
PRETORIA
0001

By hand at: 473 Steve Biko Road
ARCADIA
0083

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

Comments or input received after the closing date may not be considered.



**BARBARA DALLAS CREECY
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

SCHEDULE

1. The Phase 2 Strategic Environmental Assessment for Wind and Solar Photovoltaic Energy in South Africa, 2019 identified 3 additional Renewable Energy Development Zones that are of strategic importance for large scale wind and solar photovoltaic energy development. These Renewable Energy Development Zones were published under Government Notice No. 786, published under Government Gazette No. 43528 of 17 July 2020. The areas identified are included on the map provided as Appendix 1 and are as follows:

Renewable Energy Development Zone Number	Name	Applicable Renewable Energy Technology
Renewable Energy Development Zone 9	Emalahleni	Large scale solar photovoltaic energy facilities
Renewable Energy Development Zone 10	Klerksdorp	Large scale solar photovoltaic energy facilities
Renewable Energy Development Zone 11	Beaufort West	Large scale wind and solar photovoltaic energy facilities

2. The scope of this Notice applies to an application for environmental authorisation or an application for an amendment of an environmental authorisation contemplated in Part 2 of Chapter 5 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended (the Regulations) for the activities contemplated in paragraph 2.1 and 2.2, including any associated activities necessary for the realisation of such infrastructure, where the greater part of the activity (90% or more) is undertaken within the Renewable Energy Development Zones identified in paragraph (1), except where such activity has been excluded in terms of section 24(2) of the Act. Activities requiring environmental authorisation for purposes of this Notice are—

2.1 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended:

2.1.1. Activity 11; and

2.1.2. Activity 36; and

2.2 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014, as amended:

2.2.1. Activity 1.

3. In order to obtain an environmental authorisation for an activity contemplated in paragraph 2.1 and 2.2 the applicant must follow the basic assessment process contemplated in regulations 19 and 20 of the Regulations.
4. The timeframe for decision-making on applications contemplated in paragraph 2 of this Notice is 57 days.
5. Applications for environmental authorisation for large scale wind or solar photovoltaic facilities that do not meet the requirements contained in paragraph 2 will be considered in line with the requirements prescribed in terms of the Regulations.
6. An application submitted prior to the date of coming into effect of this Notice and which is pending when this Notice takes effect, must be dispensed with in accordance with the requirements as prescribed at the time when such pending application was submitted.

7. The boundaries of the Renewable Energy Development Zones referred to in this Schedule are available from the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries at <http://egis.environment.gov.za> – Geographical Areas.
8. The information relating to the Renewable Energy Development Zones identified in this Schedule can also be obtained from:

PLACE	CONTACT PERSON/S	CONTACT DETAILS
Head Office of the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries	Directorate Enterprise Geospatial Information Management	GazetteMapping@environment.gov.za
	Ms Marlanie Moodley Ms Lisa Pretorius	Direct Line: +27 12 399 8916/ 9301 Call Centre Number: +27 86 111 2468

9. The Phase 2 Strategic Environmental Assessment for Wind and Solar Photovoltaic Energy in South Africa can be accessed at:
<http://redzs.csir.co.za>; or
<https://egis.environment.gov.za/redz>.

APPENDIX 1

RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ZONES 9 - 11

