

STATEMENT

EXTENSION GRANTED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AREAS OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE FOR ELECTRICITY GRID EXPANSION; RENEWABLE ENERGY; AND GAS TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION PIPELINES; AS WELL AS RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES

14 AUGUST 2020

An extension has been granted to 4 September 2020 for public comment to be submitted on the amendment of procedures to be followed in applying for or deciding on environmental authorisation applications for large scale wind and solar photovoltaic activities and the various geographical areas identified under Government Notices No. 785, 786, 787 and 788 in *Government Gazette* No. 43528 published on the 17 July 2020, as well as the related environmental authorisation processes which were identified under Government Notices No. 834, 835, 836, 840 and 841 in *Government Gazette* No. 43571 published on the 31 July 2020.

The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Ms Barbara Creecy, had called for public input as part of the public consultation process on the amendment of procedures to be followed in applying for or deciding on environmental authorisation applications for large scale wind and solar photovoltaic activities and the identification of geographical areas of strategic importance for the development of: electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, large-scale wind and solar photovoltaic energy facilities and strategic gas transmission pipeline infrastructure. These areas of strategic importance for energy development were determined through three Strategic Environmental Assessments undertaken between 2016 and 2019.

Public input was also requested on the identification of procedures to be followed for applying and deciding on environmental authorisation applications for the development of gas transmission infrastructure when occurring in strategic gas corridors; electricity transmission or distribution infrastructure when occurring in renewable energy development zones; and large scale wind and solar photovoltaic facilities when occurring in renewable energy development zones.

In addition to the above sector-specific Notices, a generic environmental management programme relevant to an application for environmental authorisation for the development

or expansion of gas transmission pipeline infrastructure, and a standard for the development of electricity transmission or distribution infrastructure within identified geographical areas were also gazetted for public input.

The Department extends the comment period for Government Notices No. 785, 786, 787, and 788 in Government *Gazette* No. 43528 of 17 July 2020 and Government Notices No. 834, 835, 836, 840 and 841 in Government *Gazette* No. 43571 of 31 July 2020, to the 4 September 2020. Notice of this extension will be published on the Department's website and sent to stakeholders on the Department's database.

Members of the public are invited to submit written comments or input by 4 September 2020 to the following address:

By post to: The Acting Director -General
Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
Attention: Dr Dee 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 dosing date may not be considered.

The boundaries of the areas referred to in the Notices are available from the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries at <http://egis.environment.gov.za> – [Geographical Areas](#)

Copies of the *Gazettes* can be accessed by visiting:
https://www.environment.gov.za/legislation/gazetted_notices

For media inquiries contact Albi Modise on 083 490 2871

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