

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

PRE-APPLICATION NOTICE PROPOSED NORDEX EURONOTUS CONCRETE TOWER FACILITY, LAINGSBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE

15 OCTOBER 2021

CEN Integrated Environmental Management Unit

Telephone: 082 320 3111 / Fax: 086 504 2549

E-mail: steenbok@aerosat.co.za

PURPOSE OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide stakeholders with additional information, the opportunity to register as Interested and Affected Parties and to obtain their comments on the proposed **Euronotus Concrete Tower Facility / Factory**, in Ward 2, Laingsburg Local Municipality, Western Cape.

Nordex Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Nordex Energy SA) will be applying for an **Environmental Authorisation** for the proposed **Euronotus Concrete Tower Facility / Factory**, in terms of the **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014**, as amended. This application will be done in terms of activities listed in Government Notice Regulation 327 & 324 of 7 April 2017, published in terms of Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, as amended. The proposed activities require that a **Basic Assessment** process be undertaken and the relevant authority is the **Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP)**.

Nordex Energy SA will also apply for a **Water Use Licence / General Authorisation** for water uses under Section 21, in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (No. 36 of 1998) to the **Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) / Breede Gouritz CMA**.

If you would like to participate in the process please register yourself and/or your organization as an Interested and Affected Party. Submit issues or comments that you feel need to be addressed by completing the response form or in a letter or by email to:

CEN IEM Unit

Dr Mike Cohen / Mrs Lucille Behrens

Fax: 086 504 2549

Email: steenbok@aerosat.co.za / lucille@environmentcen.co.za

REGISTRATION AS AN INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY AND ALL
COMMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS
NOTICE.

DATE OF NOTICE – 15 OCTOBER 2021

CLOSING DATE FOR COMMENTS – 15 NOVEMBER 2021

1. THE PROPOSED PROJECT

1.1. Introduction

CEN IEM Unit has been appointed by Nordex Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Nordex Energy SA) to undertake the EIA process as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) for the proposed Euronotus Concrete Tower Facility / Factory.

The applicant for an Environmental Authorisation will be Nordex Energy SA.

1.2. Proposed Activity

The proposed project entails the construction and operations of a concrete tower facility that will manufacture concrete towers for the developing windfarms. The site area to be cleared and developed is approximately 10 hectares in extent.

The proposed concrete tower facility may be located within the regulated areas of watercourses.

1.3. Locality

The proposed Euronotus Concrete Tower Facility will be located on the Farm Nuwerus No. 284, in Ward 2, Laingsburg Local Municipality, Central Karoo District Municipality, of the Western Cape.

The SG 21 digit Code is C0430000000028400000.

The geographic co-ordinates of the central point: 32°58'58.87"S, 20°33'30.37"E.

The site is located approximately 28km north of Matjiesfontein, along the R354.

Refer to **Figures 1 and 2**.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

2.1. National Environmental Management Act and EIA Regulations (2014)

The Minister of Environmental Affairs has in terms of Sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998, NEMA), as amended, listed the activities that require an environmental assessment.

The purpose of the environmental assessment is to identify potential impacts associated with the development and to recommend measures to avoid or reduce adverse impacts and enhance beneficial or positive impacts.

The following activities are subject to a **Basic Assessment** process in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014, made under Section 24(5) of NEMA and amended in Government Notice No. 324 and 327 (7 April 2017). The competent authority is the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP).

Listed Activity	Description
Listing Notice 1 (GN R327): Activity 12: The development of— (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs— c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse excluding— (cc) activities listed in activity 14 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 or activity 14 in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, in which case that activity applies; (ee) where such development occurs within existing roads, road reserves or	The concrete tower facility / factory and associated infrastructure may be located within 32m of a watercourse. This will be confirmed in the EIA process.

Listed Activity	Description
railway line reserves.	
<p>Listing Notice 1 (GN R327): Activity 24: The development of a road— (ii) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres; but excluding a road— (c) which is 1 kilometre or shorter.</p>	The existing access road may be required to be upgraded and internal roads within the facility would be required. The width and length of the roads will be confirmed in the EIA process.
<p>Listing Notice 1 (GN R327): Activity 27: The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for— (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p>	The site area to be cleared of indigenous vegetation is approximately 10 hectares in extent.
<p>Listing Notice 1 (GN R327): Activity 28: Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development: (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare; excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional purposes.</p>	The site area to be developed is approximately 10 hectares in extent and is located outside an urban area.
<p>Listing Notice 3 (GN R324): Activity 4: The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres. (i) Western Cape, (ii) Areas outside urban areas, (aa) Areas containing indigenous vegetation.</p>	<p>The existing access road may be required to be upgraded and internal roads within the facility would be required. The width and length of the roads will be confirmed in the EIA process.</p> <p>The site is located outside of an urban area and consists of indigenous vegetation.</p>
<p>Listing Notice 3 (GN R324): Activity 12: The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan. (i) Western Cape (ii) Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans.</p>	<p>The site area to be cleared of indigenous vegetation is approximately 10 hectares in extent.</p> <p>The site is located within a CBA in terms of the Western Cape Biodiversity Framework (2014) and Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (2017).</p>
<p>Listing Notice 3 (GN R324): Activity 14: The development of— (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such development occurs— (c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse. (i) Western Cape i. Outside urban areas: (dd) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental</p>	<p>The concrete tower facility / factory and associated infrastructure may be located within 32m of a watercourse. This will be confirmed in the EIA process.</p> <p>The site is located outside urban areas in a CBA in terms of the Western Cape Biodiversity Framework (2014) and Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (2017).</p>

Listed Activity	Description
management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority; (ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.	

2.2. National Water Act and Water Use Activities

The National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) [NWA] aims to regulate the use of water and activities, which may impact on water resources through the categorisation of 'listed water uses'. Such activities require authorisation by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) before such an activity may take place.

Activities for the water uses associated with the proposed project, include the following:

Activity	Description
<p>Section 21(c) Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse</p> <p>Section 21(i) Altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse</p>	The concrete tower facility / factory and associated infrastructure may be located within regulated areas, i.e. 100m from a watercourse or 500m from a wetland.

3. IDENTIFIED ISSUES / IMPACTS

As we progress with the environmental investigations we will identify potentially beneficial and adverse impacts. All identified issues will be subjected to an assessment to determine if they are significant and if they require additional investigation. Possible mitigation measures will also be provided to reduce the anticipated adverse impacts. Based on our preliminary investigations, together with the DEA Screener Tool, we have identified the following specialist assessments:

- ✿ Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment
- ✿ Archaeological & Heritage Assessment
- ✿ Paleontological Assessment
- ✿ Agricultural Assessment
- ✿ Visual Assessment
- ✿ Traffic Impact Assessment
- ✿ Aquatic Assessment

4. DESCRIPTION OF TASKS IN THE BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- ✿ Public participation starts announcing the proposed project, and registration of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). Newspaper advertisements and site notices are placed, and notifications are also sent to identified stakeholders. – We are here in the process. Refer to Figure 3.
- ✿ An application for an Environmental Authorisation will be submitted to the competent authority.
- ✿ A Basic Assessment Report is compiled that considers inputs from stakeholders, I&APs and specialists, in terms of:
 - potential impacts of the activity on the environment;
 - whether the impacts can be mitigated, and if so to what extent; and,
 - whether there are any other significant issues / impacts to be investigated.

- ✿ Once the Basic Assessment Report is compiled, it is then submitted for a 30 day review period to registered I&APs and stakeholders. This enables you to comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report and accompanying Draft Environmental Management Programme.
- ✿ Your comments are incorporated and the reports are then finalised.
- ✿ These final reports are submitted to the competent authority for consideration.
- ✿ The competent authority reviews the documents and decides whether the project can proceed or not, their decision is known as an Environmental Authorisation (EA).
- ✿ A copy of the EA is made available to you to consider, along with the reasons for the decision made. If you disagree with the decision, you are provided with information on how to lodge an appeal.

5. HOW DO YOU PARTICIPATE

Register as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP) in order to comment on the proposed application and raise issues or concerns that you feel needs to be considered during the process.

Complete the attached registration form and submit it to the contact details as reflected. Upon submission of the registration form to CEN IEM Unit, you will be registered as an I&AP, and be included on an I&APs database which will ensure that you receive future project notifications.

Regulation 42 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended, requires a register of interested and affected parties to be opened and maintained throughout an EIA process. This register must contain the names, contact details and addresses of (a) all persons who, as a consequence of the public participation process conducted, have submitted written comments or attended meetings; (b) all persons who have requested in writing, for their names to be placed on the register.

In participating in the EIA process, your consent is provided for your personal information (names, contact details and addresses) to be added to the Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) Database as required by the EIA Regulations, 2014. Please note the I&AP database is required to be included in any draft or final EIA reports, however CEN IEM Unit will endeavour to not make your personal information (contact details or addresses) available in reports that are provided in the public domain.

CEN IEM Unit will maintain the I&AP database until the end of the EIA Process, and will not wilfully or intentionally distribute this information to a 3rd party.

In certain circumstances, e.g. appeals of Environmental Authorisations, CEN IEM Unit may be required to provide the I&AP database to the Applicant on closure of the EIA Process.

Please note if you do not want to be included in the I&AP database, please advise us in order for your details to be removed. Otherwise it is deemed that you consent for your details to be included, in terms of the Protection of Personal Information Act (No. 4 of 2013 (POPIA)).

If you intend to register as an I&AP or forward comments regarding the proposed application, please submit your completed registration form to CEN IEM Unit by 15 NOVEMBER 2021.



Figure 1: Locality Map

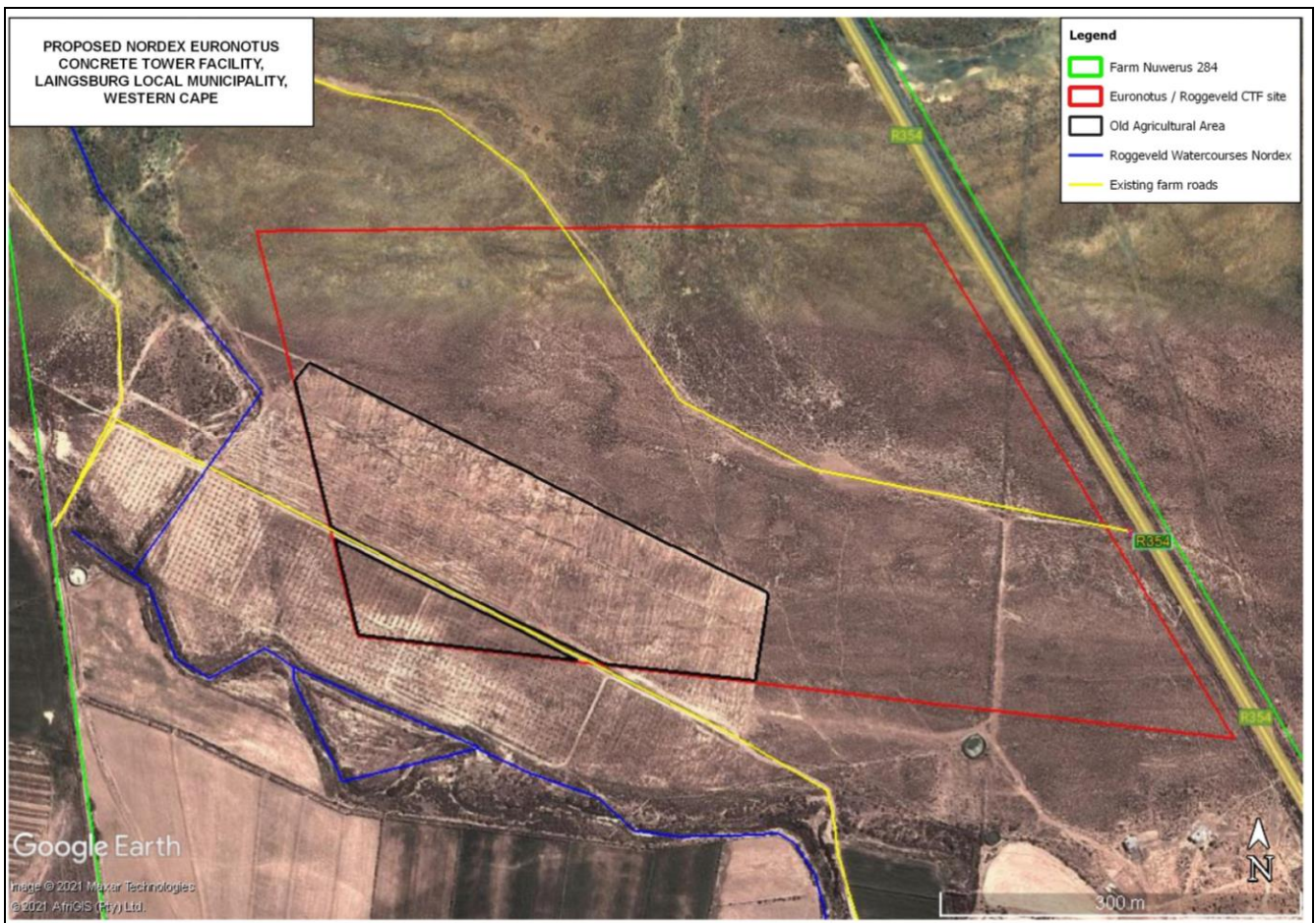


Figure 2: Proposed Site on Farm Nuwerus No. 284

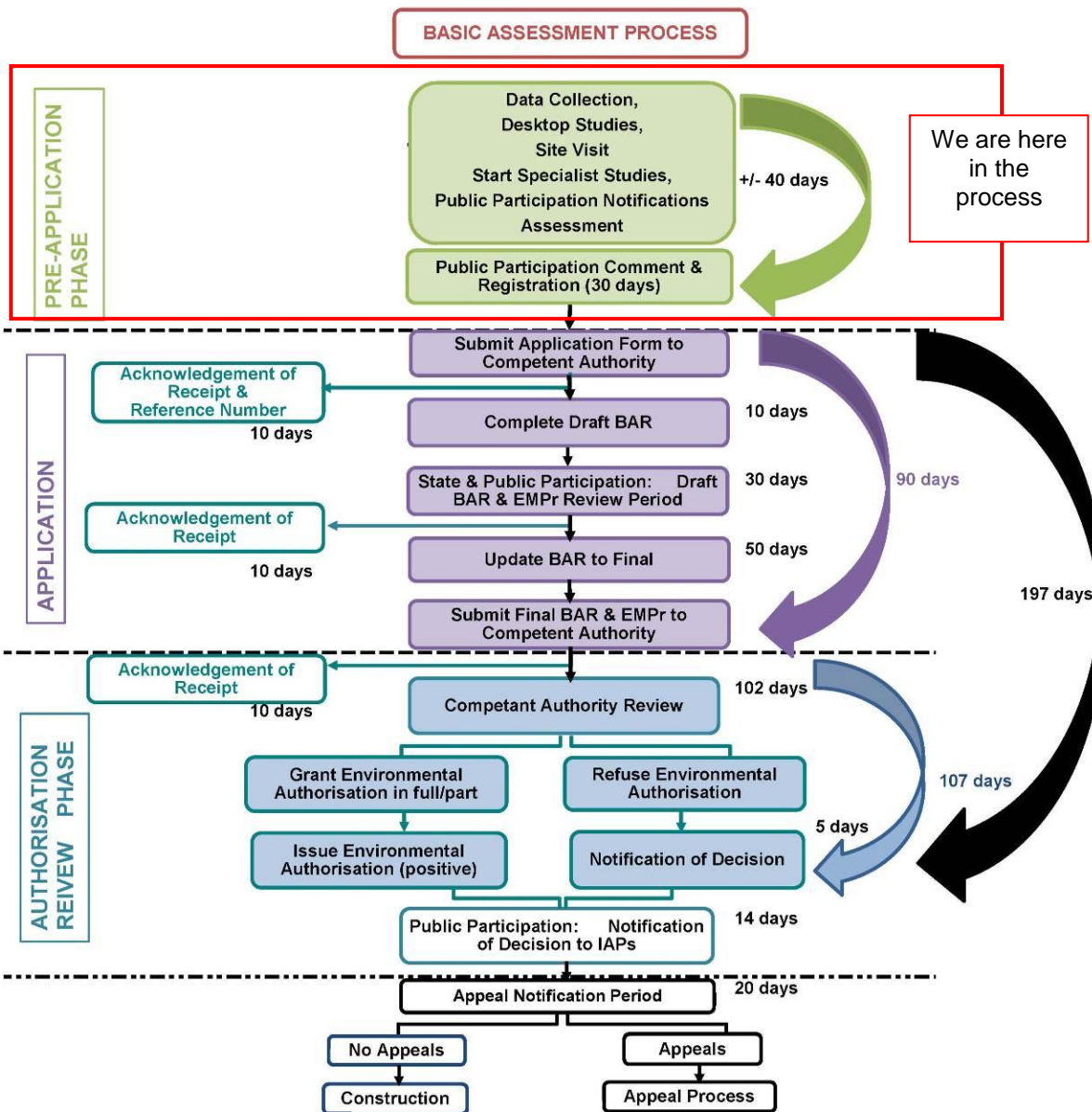


Figure 3: Basic Assessment Process, EIA Regulations 2014



CEN IEM UNIT

Fax 086 504 2549

Email steenbok@aerosat.co.za / lucille@environmentcen.co.za

REGISTRATION / COMMENT SHEET

PROPOSED NORDEX EURONOTUS CONCRETE TOWER FACILITY, LAINGSBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE

Date of Notice: 15 October 2021

I wish to register as an Interested and / or Affected Party and request that the following issues receive attention during the assessment process

Closing Date for Comments: 15 NOVEMBER 2021

Name of Respondent: _____

Organisation / Company: _____

Address: _____

Fax Number: _____

Tel Number: _____

Email: _____

Please use additional sheets as necessary

Signature: _____

Date: _____