

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED  
THYSPUNT TRANSMISSION LINES INTEGRATION PROJECT (TTLIP)**

(DEA Ref No: 12/12/20/1211 - Southern Corridor)

(DEA Ref No: 12/12/20/1212 - Northern Corridor)

(DEA Ref No: 12/12/20/1213 - New Port Elizabeth Substation)

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED  
UBUNTU WIND ENERGY PROJECT, FARM ZUURBRON AND VLAKTEPLAAS**

(DEA Ref No: 12/12/20/1752)

## **NOTES FROM DISCUSSION MEETING**

Held on Thursday 17 November 2011 at 10am

At the Humansdorp Coffee Shop & Deli, 95 Main Street, Humansdorp

### **PRESENT**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Email</b>
Bernadette Solomon	Eskom (legal advisor)	SolomoB@eskom.co.za
Lerato Mokgwathheng (LMG)	Eskom Transmission (Senior Advisor Environmental)	MokgwaLL@eskom.co.za
Dean Wilson (DWN)	Eskom (Land acquisition)	<a href="mailto:WilsonD@eskom.co.za">WilsonD@eskom.co.za</a>
Paul da Cruz (PdC)	SiVest (EAP for TTLIP EIA)	<a href="mailto:pauld@sivest.co.za">pauld@sivest.co.za</a>
Nicolene Venter (NVR)	SiVest (Public Participation)	<a href="mailto:NicoleneV@sivest.co.za">NicoleneV@sivest.co.za</a>
David Wolfromm (DWM)	WKN WindCurrent SA	<a href="mailto:wolfromm@wkn-windcurrent.com">wolfromm@wkn-windcurrent.com</a>
Alan Wolfromm (AWM)	WKN WindCurrent SA	mrwolf@mweb.co.za
Jacques Steenkamp (JSP)	Landowner: Zuurbron Farm	<a href="mailto:njalasafaris@xsinet.co.za">njalasafaris@xsinet.co.za</a>
Frankie Lotter (FLR)	Landowner: Vlakteplaas Farm	<a href="mailto:frank@truewan.co.za">frank@truewan.co.za</a>
Cassie Lotter (CLR)	WKN WindCurrent SA	<a href="mailto:c.lotter@mweb.co.za">c.lotter@mweb.co.za</a>
Paul Lochner (PLR)	CSIR (EAP for Ubuntu EIA)	<a href="mailto:plochner@csir.co.za">plochner@csir.co.za</a>

*Note: Frank Lotter arrived about 15 minutes into the meeting.*

### **APOLOGIES**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Email</b>
Joyce Mashiteng	Eskom Program Manager	

### **AGENDA**

The following agenda was distributed by NVR via email on 16/11/2011:

- Welcome, introduction & apologies
- Background to the proposed TTLIP and EIA-team's preferred routing (Paul da Cruz)
- Background to the proposed Ubuntu wind energy project (David Wolfromm)
- Discussion session (all)
- Way forward

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The participants introduced themselves. It was agreed that NVR could audio record the meeting and that PL would take notes to summarise the key outcomes and actions from the discussion.

The recorded meeting will be made available to WKN WindCurrent SA on CD.

## **BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED TTLIP AND EIA (including preferred routing) (Paul da Cruz)**

The key purpose of the project is to link the proposed nuclear plant at Thyspunt to the grid at Grassridge substation (north of the Coega IDZ). Two corridors are planned: a northern corridor with three 400kV lines; and a southern corridor with two 400kV lines. Each line requires a servitude of 55m wide. The pylons are 43m high, with a span of 400m to 800m between pylons. DWN explained that the angle in the “corners” of the routing should not be less than 120°.

For quality of supply purposes, Eskom require two corridors, with a minimum of 2km between the corridors. The corridors may converge for short sections (e.g. at the Gamtoos River crossing), but this is not ideal in terms of risk management. Eskom is seeking Environmental Authorisation for two corridors (each 2km wide, to provide flexibility in later siting of tower positions and negotiations with the individual land owners) but it should be noted that the registered servitude for the power lines will be 165m (northern) and 110m (southern).

PdC explained that initially in the TTLIP EIA, the northern corridor was further northwards, and the southern corridor was further southwards. He explained the environmental, socio-economic and cultural factors that led to the two corridors recently being shifted closer together in the vicinity of Ubuntu wind project. He explained that SiVEST has received comments on the Draft EIA Report and is currently preparing a revised corridor routing plan (including provisional routing of the five power lines), for inclusion in the Final EIA Report.

## **BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED UBUNTU WIND ENERGY PROJECT AND EIA (David Wolfromm)**

DWM handed out copies of a presentation package entitled “Ubuntu Wind Farm Renewable Energy Project – Environmental Impact Phase, September 2011” (23 pages). The Final EIA Report was submitted to DEA in October 2011 for decision-making. AWM explained that at the time of starting the Ubuntu EIA process, and for most of the duration of the EIA, the TTLIP corridors were to the north and south of the Ubuntu project. PLR confirmed that written land-owner consent was obtained at the start of the EIA process by the CSIR, as required by the 2006 EIA Regulations. DWM conveyed that they have completed a lease agreement with the landowners and the lease agreements are signed and lodged at the Deeds Office. In addition WKN-Windcurrent has CAA approval for the project, a loop-in connection confirmed as “easy” with Eskom into the existing 132kV grid, including a non-binding quote from Eskom for this connection, confirmation of no objection (in writing) from DAFF for the project, confirmation of water use from the Department of Water Affairs and no objections registered against the project excepting the one in question. The project has several international turbine suppliers well advanced in tendering to supply, several large banking institutions (local as well as offshore) proposing debt terms and several local and international potential equity partners engaged with due diligence of the Ubuntu Wind Farm. All of the above to be completed in time for the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012 bid submission. DWM explained the project is for a maximum of 100 MW. The EIA included a range of turbine capacities (from 2 to 3 MW

each) and consequently a range in total turbine numbers from 33 to 50. Consequently, at this stage there are several layout options. Connecting cabling between turbines would be underground.

WKN WindCurrent SA has done an initial Energy Yield Analysis, and will have a more definitive analysis completed during December 2011. This will inform the selection of turbine types and capacities (for maximum efficiency), which will then determine the number of turbines and the optimal layout plan. The rezoning application is in progress, and will be informed by the updated layout plan. DWM explained that from the outset they have worked closely with Eskom on the grid connection planning.

## **OUTCOMES FROM THE GROUP DISCUSSION**

A discussion was held on the routing of the northern and southern corridors. PdC explained that from an environmental perspective they would like to avoid moving the southern corridor southwards close to the N2 road, due to the visual and tourism impacts.

JSP (landowner) conveyed that he would like to see both projects proceed. He proposed that both Eskom corridors could be moved northwards, this echoed by DWN and PdC as feasible in their opinion, onto property on his farm that is north of the area leased by WKN Windcurrent SA (see the green shaded area in the attached map). DWM explained that the turbines are all set-back at least 200m from the edge of the leased area. DWN agreed that moving the corridors north was a feasible solution, if JSP agreed to allow the necessary servitudes over this land.

LMG explained that Eskom has made an objection during the public review process period of Ubuntu's Draft EIR. Furthermore, Eskom may lodge an appeal against the "anticipated" Environmental Authorisation for Ubuntu project if the parties cannot work together to reach a mutually acceptable compromise. DWN added that there is room for compromise and to incorporate a revised corridor routing.

In conclusion, all parties agreed that a mutually beneficial solution is possible that satisfies the requirements of both the Ubuntu and TTLIP project. The parties also committed to work together in a spirit of cooperation to avoid an appeal from Eskom should Ubuntu be granted an Environmental Authorisation. .

## **ACTIONS AND WAY FORWARD**

1. All parties to review and comment on the meeting notes by end of Monday 21 Nov 2011.
2. CSIR and SiVEST to submit the final meeting notes to the respective DEA Case Officers for the Ubuntu EIA and the TTLIP EIA.
3. A meeting between the respective DEA Case Officers, Eskom and WKN WindCurrent SA could be convened, if considered necessary (following the response of DEA to the letter conveying the outcomes of this meeting of 17 Nov 2011).
4. WKN WindCurrent (DWM) to provide Eskom (LMG) with the current layout plan for 50 turbines on the Ubuntu site. This reflects a "worst case" scenario in terms of number of turbines. *(DWM to email a date to all parties).*
5. WKN WindCurrent (DWM) to provide Eskom (LMG) with the updated layout plan when their Energy Yield Analysis is completed (planned for end Dec 2011), to enable Eskom to take this into consideration in SiVEST's revised corridor plan.

6. SiVEST (PdC) to expand the corridors to the north of the Ubuntu site and check the revised route plan with Eskom engineers (especially regarding constraints on convergence of lines).
7. SiVEST to incorporate the revised route plan into the Final EIA Report for the TTLIP.
8. All parties reserve their rights to appeal the outcome of the various Environmental Authorisations.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

- Map showing current layout of Ubuntu wind project, leased area and additional property to the north of Ubuntu site (provided by David Wolfromm, WKN Wind Current SA, Nov 2011)

**Map showing current layout of Ubuntu wind project, leased area and additional property to the north of Ubuntu site (provided by David Wolfromm, WKN Wind Current SA, Nov 2011)**

