



PROPOSED WIND ENERGY FACILITY EIA PROCESS

RECORD OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING

MATZIKAMA MUNICIPALITY, VREDENDAL

Held on
Wednesday 25 July 2007,
Matzikama Municipality offices, Vredendal

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Notes for the Record prepared by:

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Please address any comments to Shawn Johnston at the above address.

**FOCUS GROUP MEETING:
MATZIKAMA MUNICIPALITY, VREDENDAL**

Venue: Matzikama Municipality Offices, Vredendal

Date: Wednesday, 25 July 2007

Time: 09:00

WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Shawn Johnston, the process facilitator for the proposed Eskom Wind Energy Facility Public Participation Process opened the meeting. He provided an overview of the project and the process that lead up to the current phase of the environmental impact assessment process. He then introduced the core team present from Eskom and Savannah Environmental.

- » Nico Gewers - Chief Environmental Advisor - Generation Environmental Management
- » Morore Mashoa - Chief Engineer - Division Client Office. Acts as the client for Generation.
- » Kubentheran Nair - EIA project manager from Eskom Generation
- » Bessie Mabondza – Eskom Project Manager
- » Ian Smit – Technical expert
- » Karen Jodas – Savannah Environmental, undertaking the EIA for the project
- » Shawn Johnston - Sustainable Futures ZA, the public participation consultant for the project

MEETING ATTENDEES

- » Dean O’Niell – Municipal Manager Matzikama Municipality
- » Annali van der Westhuizen – Town Planner Matzikama Municipality
- » Nico Gewers – Eskom Generation
- » Kubentheran Nair – Eskom Generation
- » Bessie Mabondza – Eskom Projects
- » Morore Mashao – Eskom Generation
- » Ian Smit – Eskom research
- » Karen Jodas – Savannah Environmental
- » Shawn Johnston – Sustainable Futures ZA

BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

It was discussed that, as this was the second interaction with the office of the municipal manger regarding the proposed Eskom Wind Energy Facility, some information presented

may be a repetition of information provided in the first meeting. The first session was during the Regional Assessment process.

A formal presentation was delivered to the attendees. This presentation covered the following:

- » A strategic overview of Eskom's current initiatives and future generation plan (presented by Nico Gewers);
- » A overview of the Regional Assessment and Environmental Assessment Processes (presented by Karen Jodas);
- » A technical overview of the proposed Wind Energy Facility (presented by Morore Mashao).

The detailed information and presentations delivered by Nico Gewers, Karen Jodas and Morore Mashao are attached for reference.

After completing all the presentations, the facilitator opened the floor for points of clarification and questions.

DISCUSSION SESSION

The municipal manager and the town planner indicated their support of the project. They however highlighted the following questions:

- » *Which roads will be used as the access roads? Access is an issue for the local municipality, and there must be close interaction with the district roads engineer.*
The identification of the preferred access roads to be used for the project is part of the transportation study for the project. The EIA will highlight potential impacts, and will ensure consultation with all relevant roads engineers and departments. It is likely that the National and Provincial roads will be used as they can accommodate abnormal loads. However, a transportation strategy will ultimately define the access roads to be used.
- » *During the operation and maintenance phase of the project, grease and oil will be replaced in the turbines. How will waste oils and grease be managed?*
The EMP for the construction and operation of the facility will address waste management. Waste will be required to be disposed of appropriately in line with local and national requirements.
- » *How will agricultural land be affected? Specifically in the construction phase.*
There should not be any impact to agricultural lands outside of the areas affected by the project. The project manager on-site will ensure that the requirements of the EMP are adhered to.
- » *With respect to the number of people required during the construction phase: How many people will there be? Where will they live? How will sanitation facilities be provided? How will they be transported to the site?*

It is estimated that a construction crew will comprise approximately 15 people. There may be more than one crew on site at a time, depending on the phase of the project. No construction crews will reside on the site. All persons will be transported to site. The contractor will be required to assess the area to identify suitable places to accommodate the staff. It is likely that the relevant authority will be contacted for guidance in this regard.

WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

Mr Johnston thanked everybody for their participation and questions. The attendees were informed that the next steps in the EIA process are:

- » distribution of notes from the meeting;
- » release of the draft Scoping Report for public review and comment;
- » notification of the public meeting; and
- » hold the public meeting in August 2007.

The meeting was closed at 10h30.