

EIA FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT A SITE IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

**AUTHORITY CONSULTATION MEETING
MEETING WITH WESTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

9 MARCH 2007

NOTES FOR THE RECORD

PRESENT

Name	Company	Tel No	Fax No	Cellphone	E-mail
Paul Hardcastle	DEA&DP	021 453-5657			phardcas@pgwc.gov.za
Suretha van Rooyen	DEA&DP	021 483-3763	021 483-4372		suvrooye@pgwc.gov.za
Kubentheran Nair	Eskom Generation	011 800-2100	011 800-5146	083 242 1827	nairk@eskom.co.za
Morore Mashao	Eskom Generation	011 800-2100	086 655 3382	082 604 5044	morore.mashao@eskom.co.za
Shawn Johnston	Sustainable Futures ZA	021 559-1069	086 510 2537	083 325 965	swjohnston@mweb.co.za
Karen Jodas	Savannah Environmental	011 234-6621	086 684 0547	082 655 1935	karen@savannahSA.com
Jo-Anne Thomas	Savannah Environmental	011 234-6621	086 684 0547	082 775 5628	joanne@savannahSA.com

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Karen Jodas welcomed everyone and thanked DEA&DP for making themselves available to meet with Savannah Environmental.

APPLICATION FORM

A copy of the application form (faxed to the Department on Tuesday 6 March 2007) was provided to DEA&DP. Karen Jodas explained that the original of this application form had been submitted to the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEAT) and Tourism and that a meeting had been requested. She indicated that DEA&DP would be notified as soon as a date for this meeting had been secured.

Suretha van Rooyen indicated that the faxed copy of the application form had been received and that a DEA&DP reference number would be forwarded to Savannah Environmental as soon as possible (**Action: DEA&DP**). It was agreed that the national reference number would be used on all documentation to the public (e.g. advertisements).

GENERAL

Paul Hardcastle indicated that DEA&DP need to understand how the SEA document produced by DEA&DP to guide the siting of wind energy facilities (titled: 'Strategic initiative to introduce commercial land-based wind energy developments to the Cape Western Coast') has been used in Eskom's identification of alternative sites to date, and how it would be referred to in the EIA process. He explained that this document was intended to provide a strategic context for an EIA for a wind energy facility, and was intended to be used in identifying potential sites. Wind energy facilities have a significant impact on landscapes, and the cumulative effect on landscapes is required to be considered. This document provides a regional methodology (refer to Report 5 of the document).

Karen Jodas replied that Eskom had provided Savannah Environmental with an SEA for the siting of the proposed wind energy facility, and had indicated that the criteria outlined within the DEA&DP SEA had been considered.

Paul Hardcastle indicated that it was important to show how strategic alternatives had been considered in the determination of alternative sites for the proposed wind energy facility. He added that DEA&DP acknowledge that wind data is important in the siting of wind energy facilities, but that it is critical for DEA&DP that the site alternatives selected minimise environmental impacts at a regional level. He also said that DEA&DP do not want a valuable wind resource to be sterilised through poor planning, and that siting needs to deal with cumulative implications. He said that DEA&DP were in the process of developing a Western Cape Policy for wind energy. He indicated that Eskom should provide the DEA&DP with a copy of the SEA which they undertook to identify alternative site locations such that they can understand how Eskom have determined these sites from a regional level (**Action: Eskom**).

Morore Mashao explained that Eskom had undertaken detailed research at the Klipheuwel wind facility and had undertaken a strategic analysis to identify technically feasible sites for the establishment of a full-scale wind energy facility. He added that Eskom have been working on this project for the past 5 years.

Paul Hardcastle suggested that the Eskom SEA be made available to the public for their information. He explained that this would provide competitors or future developers with information regarding where future wind energy facility developments may occur, based on the DEA&DP's suggested 50 km buffer area around wind energy facilities (as stated in the DEA&DP SEA).

Paul Hardcastle indicated that the strategic study could be combined with the EIA process, although it would be best to undertake the strategic studies up-front. He views the process as follows:

- » *Strategic level assessment*: provides opportunity for DEA&DP to "support" the findings; identify target area and/or sites for development
- » *EIA*: consider one or more properties; if siting alternatives eliminated at SEA level, then consider alternatives such as turbine heights, layout of turbines etc.

Paul Hardcastle added that this assessment could be at a broader level in order for Eskom to also identify future sites for wind energy facilities. He advised that he considers the strategic planning essential, and that it is responsible development and planning from both Eskom and the Department's perspectives. Karen Jodas asked what DEA&DP would be able to provide in terms of 'a decision' on the strategic assessment. Paul Hardcastle explained that DEA&DP would not be in a position to authorise the strategic assessment, but could support the outcomes, thereby facilitating the EIA process going forward.

Paul Hardcastle indicated that it was important that the Local Authority be involved in the strategic assessment such that development plans such as Strategic Development Frameworks (SDFs) can be considered in determining possible sites for the establishment of wind energy facilities. He added that it is important to understand what the Local Authority has planned for developing the proposed area.

Paul Hardcastle indicated that he had made presentations to Wynand Fourie and Danie Smit of National DEAT detailing the DEA&DP SEA. Therefore, DEAT are aware of the Department's guideline document and its contents. He acknowledged that DEA&DP are a commenting authority on the EIA process for the proposed wind energy facility (with National DEAT being the lead authority), and indicated that he would attend the meeting with National DEAT which Savannah Environmental has requested. He would make a presentation to DEAT again, if required (**Action: Savannah Environmental and Paul Hardcastle**).

DEA&DP advised Eskom that other parties (from India and Norway) have indicated some interest in establishing similar facilities in the Western Cape.

Kuben Nair thanked Paul Hardcastle for his input and time. He indicated that Eskom would provide the DEA&DP with a copy of the SEA which has been undertaken to identify the alternative site locations (**Action: Eskom**).

CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 14:45.