



26 July 2007

Dear Stakeholder,

PROPOSED WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Eskom Holdings Limited is proposing to establish a commercial wind energy facility on a site on the West Coast in the Western Cape Province. It is proposed for a cluster of up to 100 wind turbines (described as a wind energy facility or a wind farm) to be constructed over an area of approximately 25km² in extent.

Through a regional site identification process, a broader area which falls within the Matzikama Local Municipality on the West Coast (near the towns of Koekenaap and Lutzville) has been identified by Eskom as potentially suitable for the wind energy development, and is to now be considered within an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The wind farm is proposed to accommodate up to 100 turbines. The performance of the turbines is also determined by disturbances to the wind resource, which requires that they are appropriately spaced, and turbines would therefore be positioned over an area of approximately 25km². As local level issues were not assessed in sufficient detail through the regional level site identification study, these issues are now being considered within site-specific studies and assessments through the EIA in order to delineate areas of potential sensitivity within the broader area. Once constraining factors have been determined, the layout of the wind turbines and infrastructure can be planned to minimise social and environmental impacts.

Other infrastructure associated with the wind energy facility is proposed to include:

- » foundations to support the turbine towers
- » underground cables between turbines
- » a substation
- » overhead powerlines (132 kV distribution lines) feeding into the electricity distribution network/grid at Koekenaap or Vredendal
- » an access road to the site from the main road/s within the area
- » internal access road to each wind turbine

In terms of sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No 107 of 1998), as read with Government Notices R385 (Regulations 27-36) and R387, a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment are required to be undertaken for this proposed project. This project has been registered with the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT), the Competent Authority for this proposed project, under Application Reference Number 12/12/20/913.

In this regard, *Savannah Environmental* has been appointed as an independent consultant to undertake the required environmental impact assessment and public participation for the proposed project. *Sustainable Futures ZA* is assisting Savannah Environmental in the process of facilitating the public participation process.

As an interested and/or affected party (I&AP), stakeholder or representative of an organisation in the region, you are invited to participate in this EIA process. You can get involved in the EIA process by:

- » Registering as an interested and affected party (by completing the attached reply form)
- » Attending the upcoming public meeting scheduled in your region
- » Commenting on the draft Scoping Report, and/or draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report once its has been completed and made available for comment
- » Informing other stakeholders of the process.

A background information document which provides further information on the EIA process as well as the nature and extent of the proposed facility can be made available to you on your request. Please find enclosed a reply form to register as an interested and affected party and request to be kept informed of the EIA process. As a registered stakeholder, you will be notified of dates and venues of the planned public meetings to be held throughout the process, as well as the availability of reports for review and comment.

Registration as an interested and affected party as well as written comments can be sent to:

Shawn Johnston of Sustainable Futures ZA
P.O. Box 749, Rondebosch, 7701
Tel: 083 325 9965
E-mail: windfarms@mweb.co.za
Fax: 086 510 2537
To view project documentation, visit www.savannahsa.com

Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process.

Yours sincerely,



Shawn Johnston
Process Facilitator

Enclosed: Wind Energy Facility EIA Reply Form & Background Information Paper