PROPOSED WIND ENERGY FACILITY EIA PROCESS

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RECORD OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING

LANDOWNERS AND FARMER'S UNION - LUTZVILLE

Held on
Thursday 26 July 2007,
Lutzville Rugby Club

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Sustainable Futures ZA & Savannah Environmental

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

FOCUS GROUP MEETING:
LANDOWNERS AND FARMER'S UNION - LUTZVILLE

Venue: Lutzville Rugby Club
Date: Thursday, 26 July 2007
Time: 19:00

WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

This meeting was officially opened by Oubaas George Kersop, Vice Chairperson of the Lutzville Farmers Association. He introduced Shawn Johnston the process facilitator for the proposed Eskom Wind Energy Facility Public Participation Process. Shawn Johnston 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
- Karen Jodas – Savannah Environmental, undertaking the EIA for the project
- Shawn Johnston - Sustainable Futures ZA, the public participation consultant for the project

MEETING ATTENDEES

- Riaan Smuts – Keukenhof
- Jannie Mostert – Flentervlieg
- Reinier Engelbrecht – Klein Begin
- Eric Burden – Morewag
- Fanie Crafford – Private
- Andre van Hoff - Platskaal
- J Agenbach - Platskaal
- Guy Le Roux – Elrhyn
- JP de Villiers – Oranjekroon
- WJ Pool – Hoekklip
- JH Cornelissen – Nuwemoed
- Johan Fourie – Naoada
- Riaan Wiese – Afguns
- P Retief – Monotonka
- Hansie Visser – Skaapvlei
- J Smuts – Private

- Japie van Rhyn – G Lutz Boerdery
- A Cornelissen – Jandu Boerdery
- J Coetzee – Chairperson Lutzville Farmers Association
- EH Truter – South African Police Services Lutzville
- Oubaas George Kersop – Vice Chairperson Lutzville Farmers Association
- HM Moolman – Kieriekop
- J Esterhuyse - Teledokter
- Nico Gewers – Eskom Generation
- Kubentheran Nair – Eskom Generation
- Bessie Mabondza – Eskom Projects
- Morore Mashao – Eskom Generation
- Karen Jodas – Savannah Environmental
- Shawn Johnston – Sustainable Futures ZA

BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

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 Shawn Johnston);
- A technical overview of the proposed Wind Energy Facility (presented by Morore Mashao).

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

After completing all the presentations, the facilitator opened the floor for points of clarification and questions. The following questions were raised during this session:

DISCUSSION SESSION

- *Detailed technical information provided in the presentation is not in the BID.*
  Technical information can be made available. The presentation will be included in the minutes.
- *How will the gravel roads be able to accommodate the types of trucks that will be used for transportation? The National road should not have a problem is supporting the traffic.*

The gravel roads will be upgraded to accommodate the required vehicles. A transportation study will provide details pertaining to all the access roads proposed to be used.

» *Is there a possibility of the roads being tarred?*
The costs of tarring roads will need to be investigated.

» *How much energy is provided by one turbine – that is many houses can a turbine power up?*
A 2MW turbine operating optimally can easily power 200 to 300 regular homes – but this will be when the wind blows at 50kmh plus.

» *What materials are going to be used to construct the towers?*
Steel towers with concrete foundations. The blades are typically fibreglass.

» *How many MW is the Wind Facility going to generate in comparison to Koeberg nuclear power station?*
Approximately 10% of Koeberg – Koeberg currently generates ~ 1800MW.

» *What is the cost of 1 turbine?*
Costs are still being determined, and this will also be dictated by the turbines to be supplied. At this stage, Eskom assume R1.1 billion for 50 turbines, which includes costs for land, civil works, studies etc.

» *While consent forms were signed, nothing was mentioned about purchasing or renting the land - can Eskom advise on that?*
The consent for is for the landowner to provide consent for the EIA to be undertaken. Eskom pursue various options with regards to land purchase and/or rental of a servitude. Eskom will embark on a process to investigate these options with the affected landowners. The Land and Rights Department within Eskom will look at the available options to acquire the land.

» *Green energy is considered to be more expensive than energy produced from coal. Will government subsidise the cost of this electricity so it does not affect pricing?*
The cost of electricity is regulated by the NER. This forms part of Eskom's budget allocation through NERSA. There will be no additional costs to the customers as a direct result of this facility.

» *What is the lifespan of the turbines?*
20 years plus. The life of the plant would most probably extended through upgrading equipment, but this would be a commercial decision at the time.

» *Is there much maintenance that needs to be undertaken?*
Maintenance is limited, with scheduled lubrication twice annually.

» *How can the community benefit from this facility?*
If individuals apply for a distribution connection, this facility could be a benefit as it could provide a shorter point f connection.

» *Why is there a sudden interest in wind facilities? There has been other people in the area talking about wind energy facilities, as well as at Darling etc.*
Eskom are looking at adding renewable energy to their mix. Government has targets which will be required to be met. International companies are also showing interest in South Africa with renewable projects, as a wind farm would qualify as a CDM project.

» *What is the minimum wind speed that is required to generate electricity?*

About 15km/h.

» *Does the plant not tangle itself up on its cables when it has to turn into the wind?*
No is computer controlled. It can turn 3-4 times in a specific direction.

» *Who is Vestas? They have speaking about wind facilities in the community.*
Vestas are the largest manufacturer of wind turbines with about 35% of the market. They would most likely be responding the Eskom's bidding process to supply the turbines. They are conducting social responsibility research in the area.

» *Where would the workers live?*
It is proposed that no staff live on the construction site. This will be addressed through the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

» *How constant must the wind be in order to generate electricity and be viable?*
A constant wind speed of 50km/h plus for full power. The plant is only likely to achieve 26% utilisation.

» *Where is the power planned to go? Will it feed the greater Matzikama area, or the national grid?*
It is most likely that it will fed into the national grid, but the additional power will strength supply.

» *When the power cuts come, it is requested that the locals get access to electricity from this facility especially during the harvesting season.*

» *It is believed that the Norwegians have got the best technology, and Eskom should look at getting the latest and best technology to implement in South Africa.*
Eskom have sent out an expression of interest for turbine supplier to respond with recommendations. Eskom will be interested in technology which is proven and tested.

» *How certain are we that we are getting good turbines and the best technology?*
Eskom have a rigid and transparent commercial process backed by industry standard requirements and specification.

» *What are the limiting factors for this project? What is stopping us from blanketing the coast with wind facilities?*
The Western Cape DEA&DP have a guideline document for the Western Cape which includes buffer distances of between 30 and 500 km between facilities. The intention was to limit the number of such facilities in any one area.

» *Can this be integrated with solar technology instead?*
Large scale concentrating solar is not fully commercial yet. Eskom are looking at a demo plant in the Upington area for future roll out and believe solar is going to be applied far more than wind due to the abundance of resource in the Northern Cape. Wind will play its fair share specifically along the coast where fog and wind will debilitate concentrating solar.

» *Was there an EIA carried out for the Clanwilliam dam turbine?*
Eskom are not involved in a project at the Clanwilliam Dam.

» *Why has white been selected as the colour for the turbines? Can the facility be made to blend into the surroundings?*
Worldwide the choice of the off-white colour (RAL 90/10) seems to be the most pleasing on the eye under all conditions. Experiments with multiple schemes and types of camouflage have failed as the seasonal changes occur.

» *What happens now after this meeting?*
A draft environmental Scoping Report will be released for public review comment in August. A public meeting will be held during this review period to provide an opportunity for public feedback. The date of this meeting will be advertised.

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 21h30.