



PROPOSED WIND ENERGY FACILITY EIA PROCESS

RECORD OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING

TRANSHEX MINING OPERATIONS, DE PUNT

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Held on
Thursday 26 July 2007,
Transhex Mining Operations, De Punt

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:
TRANSHEX MINING OPERATIONS, DE PUNT**

Venue: Transhex Mining Operations, De Punt

Date: Thursday, 26 July 2007

Time: 10:30

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
- » Karen Jodas – Savannah Environmental, undertaking the EIA for the project
- » Shawn Johnston - Sustainable Futures ZA, the public participation consultant for the project

MEETING ATTENDEES

- » FP Slott-Nielsen, Mine Manager, Transhex Mining Group
- » Pierre Kotze, Operations Manager, Transhex Mining Group
- » 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 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 following questions were raised:

- » *Is government doing anything to fast-track approvals on Eskoms projects? Energy projects are "life-giving", not just to make money, and they should be given preference.*
- » *What is the construction program? What is the expected start date on site?*
This is dependant on the necessary approvals from Government. This would also be dictated to by the availability of the turbines from overseas.
- » *Where are the turbines being sourced from?*
There is no local supplier of the turbines themselves. They will be sourced internationally. Eskom have invited companies to express their interest in supplying the equipment. This enquiry is currently still open.
- » *Where will labour be sourced from?*
Labour is skilled and semi-skilled. A portion of the crews can be sourced locally.
- » *Due to the nature of the soils, work will be required on the access roads to the site, specifically with the transportation of heavy equipment. This will also hold true for the access roads on site.*
- » *R1.1 billion is a high cost for the plant. Why is Eskom perusing this project?*
The capital expenditure is high, but is compensated for by low running costs and zero fuel costs. This is typical for renewables projects.
- » *What environmental or biophysical loss can be expected from such a project?*
The site will be required to be cleared for turbine foundations, access roads, substations etc. The area does not rehabilitate quickly, and so disturbance during construction must be limited.
- » *Is the facility noisy?*
The turbines do generate sound, which is typically off-set by the sound of the wind. A noise impact assessment is being conducted as part of the EIA process to assess the extent and significance of noise from the facility. This study will model results.
- » *Why has a place like Port Elizabeth not been considered for a wind facility?*
A small scale facility is currently under investigation in PE – this is not an Eskom project, as the scale is too small. It is difficult to establish a commercial facility in a built up area. Also, the wind resource is gusty, which is not considered an optimal resource.

- » *How many people does the construction phase require? How many non-skilled people will be required?*

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. The crew will consist of skilled and semi-skilled labour.

- » *What is the land purchasing strategy for the proposed site?*

This is to be negotiated with landowners by Eskom Lands and Rights division.

- » *What is the feeling amongst the landowners regarding such a project?*

Landowners have been approached and the project discussed with them. In general, the response has been very positive.

- » *Will Namakwa Sands receive the power?*

Eskom Distribution are still considering the optimum strategy for the evacuation of power. It is at present not decided if the power will be evacuated to Koekenaap substation, or Juno Substation.

- » *Will local landowners get power?*

The power will be closer to the local landowners. Applications can be made to Eskom for connection to the grid.

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 12h00.