

Departement Landbou | Department of Agriculture | Isebe Lwezolimo

**wes-kaap landbou
agriculture western cape
ezolimo entshona koloni**

**Mr S. Johnston – Sustainable Futures ZA
Rondebosch
CAPE TOWN**

086 510 2537

Comment: Draft Environmental Scoping Report (part of EIA Process) for Proposed Wind Energy Facility.

Applicant: Eskom Holdings Limited (Eskom).

Site: 25km² known as 'Skaapvlei', Koekenaap area, 60km NW of Vredendal & comprising Ptn 5 of Gravewaterkop no 158 & Ptns 617 & 620 of Olifants River Settlement.

District: Vredendal (Matzikama) & Vanrhynsdorp (WCMD) Districts.

Comment - investigations for inclusion in Proposed Environment Impact Assessment:

1. **Construction aligned to season:** The construction should possibly be done during the winter months – suspected lowest wind velocities & durations (to be confirmed), best potential for recovery of plants.
2. **Protection of construction areas against wind erosion:** The sites for the erection of the towers will have to be cleared of vegetation and should be surrounded by shade cloth fences during this time e.g. 1.2m high surrounds.
3. **Protection of linking trenches against wind erosion:** By allowing the minimum of time to lapse between opening and closing the trenches, and by damping the area down on a regular basis until well-recovered thereafter, the necessity of protection as in #2 above may be avoided.
4. **Stockpiling of Soil:** Any stockpiles need to be protected against wind erosion – surrounded by shade cloth fences or damped down on a regular basis (water would make the inner bio-diversity more sustainable.)
5. **Seeding:** Some areas would need to be reseeded and kept fenced off for some time after the towers are up (& possibly watered.)
6. **Regular visits / maintenance:** Rather than have numerous access roads on the site it needs to be investigated whether the placement on site, in a secure facility, or the bringing to site on a trailer, of a 'quad bike' type of vehicle to move around between the towers would not be preferable to an ldv (the resultant damage of a slow, well-guided 'quad' is much less than that caused by an ldv, even when carrying two persons.)
7. **Initial construction & maintenance roads on site:** The impact of all vehicles on the surface can be greatly reduced by the use of temporary ground covers for the areas to be driven on (e.g. 'Fleximesh', a Maccaferri product, distributes the weight of vehicles and results in less damage. There are undoubtedly similar products on the market.)
8. **Botanical consultant:** This office would prefer to see a botanical consultant with experience of the area assisting the applicant from the start of the operation to ensure the best possible rehabilitation (fast & complete.) This consultant should give regular reports which should be made available to the group as outlined in #11 below. His / her initial report & recommendations should be included as part of the EMP.
9. **Fencing:** It is assumed that the entire area would be fenced. If the area is to be used for grazing by animals, it is highly recommended that unstable, disturbed areas are fenced.



Posbus 130 / PO Box 130, Vredendal 8160

Tel: (027) 213 2000 • Faks/Fax: (027) 213 2712 • Webwerf/Website: paulh@elsenburg.com

**LANDBOU-ONTWIKKELINGSENTRA / AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRES:
ELSENBURG • GEORGE • MOORREESBURG • OUDTSHOORN • VREDENDAL**

10. **Storage of heavy machinery during construction:** The heavy machinery needs to be stored in the maintenance area every night in order that the diesel & oil which will leak from these units will be 'captured' by the soil on top of an impermeable lining and not fall on 'unprotected' sand. This soil, as well as the lining, needs to be removed and properly disposed of at closure, as part of the rehabilitation process.
11. **Local Relationship Information Committee:** This project is viewed as having potential in the long-term from an eco-tourism point of view. It may be worthwhile initiating a group of people to assist in monitoring the development & rehabilitation of the site with a view to exploring the potential of eco-tourism of the site e.g. organized group visits, etc.

Access roads:

A traffic study and study of access roads would be of great importance, as well as the method and route and method of transport of the sections of the towers / blades, some which are very large (includes the route from the harbours or site of construction to the Skaapvlei site.)

Zoning Departures:

The applicant would need to comply with Municipal legislation by applying for the required zoning departures on the property.



PA Herselman - CIT

Sustainable Resource Management: LandCare – Vredendal.
13 September 2007.

Cc JH Briers – Regional Manager: Mineral Development - WC Region, Dept. Min & Energy.
021-419 6260

MM Charlie – Head of Audit Office: Land Use & Soil Man – Bellville, Dept of Agriculture.
021-949 3886.

J Smit – Manager: Land Use – WC Dept of Agriculture - Elsenburg
021-808 5092

J Meij – CT: Sustainable Resource Management: LandCare – Moorreesburg.
022 – 433 2102.