



PROPOSED WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING

RECORD OF EIA PHASE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING

LUTZVILLE PUBLIC MEETING

Held on
Thursday 24 January 2008,
Lutzville Sports Complex, Lutzville

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

EIA PHASE PUBLIC MEETING: LUTZVILLE

Venue: Lutzville Sports Complex
Date: Thursday, 24 January 2008
Time: 19h00

WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Shawn Johnson, process facilitator from Sustainable Futures, thanked everybody for their attendance. He welcomed all the stakeholders to last public meeting of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. The purpose of this meeting was to provide feedback to stakeholders on the outcomes of the EIA process and the impact assessment studies, to record further comments on issues of concern, and to hear feedback from stakeholders who have already had an opportunity to study the Draft EIA Report (which were placed at public venues in the Matzikama Municipal area from 7 January 2008). The comments and concerns received at this meeting would form part of the consultation record in the Final EIA Report, which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) and Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) for review and decision-making.

MEETING ATTENDEES

- » Willem Cloete, Lutzville Community
- » Edward Mostert, ORBEEF
- » Francios Swartbooi, ORBEEF
- » H. Dam, ORBEEF
- » Mark Gentle, WBHO
- » E. De Waal, Farmer
- » A. Rossouw, Farmer
- » S. Agenbach, Farmer
- » Hanlie Swart, SACLAWA
- » Paul Herselman, Western Cape Department of Agriculture and Landcare
- » Cornelius Swart, ORBEEF
- » Frikkie van Aardt, WBHO
- » Toffie Turner, Private
- » P. De Waal, Farm owner
- » J. Swart, SC Motor
- » Andre Kotze, Department of Housing
- » Nerina Lochner, Department of Housing
- » Nolene Kotze, Department of Housing

- » N. Beukes, Bernic Projects
- » W.J. Klazen, Sadawa Enterprises
- » Nico Gewers – Eskom Generation
- » Morore Mashao – Eskom Generation
- » Zuki Qina, Eskom
- » Isaac Blou, Eskom
- » Linda Khuluse, Eskom
- » Trevor Cairns, Eskom
- » Patience Selepe, Eskom
- » G. Langeveld, Eskom
- » M. Eygelaar, Eskom
- » S. Visagie, Eskom Transmission
- » Ayanda Nokedi, Eskom Foundation
- » Karen Jodas, Savannah Environmental
- » Kinesh Chetty, EcoSecurities
- » Grant Little, EcoSecurities
- » Shawn Johnston – Sustainable Futures ZA
- » René Ngwenya - Sustainable Futures ZA

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the following parties:

- » Annalie van der Westhuizen – Planner, Matzikama Municipality
- » Nakkie Pienaar – Landowner. It was noted that Mr Pienaar had provided written comments, which will be included within the Final EIA Report.

BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Shawn Johnston provided an overview of the draft agenda. He noted that negotiations are currently underway with various landowners with regards to the potential for Eskom to purchase their land (should this project be approved). This process of negotiation is, however, separate to the EIA process and is not a process which will be reported on through the public meeting.

Shawn Johnston explained that purpose of the meeting was to provide feedback to the community and to communicate the EIA findings. He referred to the maps/posters which were available for viewing at the meeting, and invited the community to take the opportunity to comment on the proposed project.

Shawn Johnston informed the meeting that representatives of local government, provincial and national government visited the area the day before as a visual inspection of the various aspects of the proposed wind energy facility project. He confirmed that the site visit

focused on the proposed transmission line alignments, the Skaapvlei road and the proposed site for the wind energy facility. He further mentioned that this site visit was not a public site visit, but was intended as a specific site visit for those officials who deal with the authorisation process of the EIA process.

Shawn Johnston then introduced Karen Jodas, the lead environmental practitioner, who was responsible for the compilation of the Draft EIA Report.

A formal presentation was delivered to the attendees. This presentation provided an overview of the Environmental Assessment (EIA) Process and feedback of the findings of the EIA Phase and the draft EIA report (presented by Karen Jodas). A copy of the presentation delivered is attached for reference.

Grant Little, a representative from EcoSecurities was provided an opportunity to explain how the proposed wind energy facility would be linked to Eskom's Cleaner Development Mechanism (CDM) initiatives (refer to the attached presentation).

After the completion of the presentations, the facilitator opened the floor for comments and questions of clarification.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Paul Herselman	It was pointed out that the presentations were conducted in English and that this posed a concern around language accessibility. He requested that it is acknowledged that the community is predominantly Afrikaans-speaking.
Shawn Johnston	Shawn Johnston explained that he invited the community to express themselves in the language they felt most comfortable to communicate in. He also explained that the use of both English and Afrikaans has been the trend in all the meetings held with the same community and that no objections were made in this regard to date.
Paul Herselman	He enquired whether there is a technical reason for the turbines to be painted white in colour.
Morore Mashao	The proposed colour to be used on the turbines is off-white, and this is in line with international standards. This colour is also the most preferred colour for aviation safety purposes.
Karen Jodas	Appendix T of the report provides detailed information on windfarms and civil aviation procedures.
Mark Gentle	What will happen with the excavated material i.e. where will the topsoil and the spoil material be stored after excavation, and how much spoil material is anticipated?
Morore Mashao	Topsoil would be stored separately on-site and re-used during rehabilitation. Spoil material (e.g. from foundation excavations) would be

	used for filling purposes, where required on-site. It is unlikely that excess spoil material would need to be transported off-site.
Trevor Cairns	The project Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be site-specific and will address soil management. Where required, method statements will support the EMP and provide specific methodologies. The value of topsoil is acknowledged, and must be retained for rehabilitation of the site.
Toffie Turner	<p>Part of the land allocated for the wind farm is in a natural depression and it might be more suitable to build a dam in the area. He believes that the storage of water in this areas would have long-term benefits. He undertook to send a map of the possible dam site.</p> <p>Mr Turner also explained that there are benefits to the use of the colour white for the turbines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White is a common colour used as a warning signal for aircrafts and birds; • White is an economical paint; and • White is commonly used to protect against erosion close to the ocean.
Edward Mostert	<p>What is the financial value of the project?</p> <p>What are the possibilities for local businesses and black empowerment, both at the short and long term?</p>
Morore Mashao	<p>The first phase (approx 50 turbines) is estimated at R1,2 billion. The full 100 turbines is estimated at R2 billion.</p> <p>Eskom will consider international supplies for the equipment (i.e. the provision of a portion of the tower as well as the turbine itself) and some civils work.</p> <p>Local companies will have the opportunity to provide input and skills other aspects of the project – 30% of the budget is allocated for AsgiSA initiatives.</p> <p>Where civils work is required on roads, Eskom intends to work with the municipalities and principal departments to identify possible parties to assist.</p> <p>It is anticipated that small teams of will be required to work on the site. Local suppliers will be considered where possible.</p> <p>Any supplier to Eskom must be registered on the Eskom vendor database – it is requested that all parties interested in providing services to Eskom register as a vendor through the Eskom supplier forum.</p> <p>A Supplier Forum will be held closer to the start of the construction date. Capacity building sessions will be held with the community and the suppliers appointed will also be required to mentor local suppliers where appropriate.</p>
Edward Mostert	Will a stakeholders meeting be arranged for these discussions (regarding job opportunities) with Eskom?
Morore Mashao	Eskom will call for a Local Community Forum closer to construction. Local

	business should focus on registering on the Eskom Service Provider database to indicate what type of skills and expertise they have.
Marc Gentle	What is the project timeframe?
Trevor Cairns	Eskom is committed to the project, and the project has been approved at Board level. The required permits/permissions/authorisations are required to be obtained before any construction can commence. The first phase (i.e. 50 turbines) is proposed to be completed by 31 March 2010.
Paul Herselman	Where would Eskom source water from for the construction phase of the project, as water on-site is limited. The negotiation process with the landowners must include an evaluation by an agricultural economist to ensure equitable negotiations. The negotiations must consider the loss of grazing land and production.
Morore Mashao	An evaluator has been appointed by Eskom to evaluate the properties and discussions with an agricultural economist are being pursued. The principle of willing seller-willing buyer will be observed. With regards to water supply, will consider all available water sources. Should a landowner have a licence for water use, and may be in a position to assist with water supply, they could contact Eskom. The logistics regarding the sourcing of potable water will be addressed as part of the final design and tender process.
Francios Swartbooi	The best view of the wind farm is from the sea side. The view from the seaward side of the site could be attractive for tourism purposes provided that an alternative access road is provided. He requested that Eskom considers the active involvement of local people utilising the Visitors Centre as a long-term point for tourism – that a tourism corridor is created. He would not like to see a small building in the corner as the Visitors Centre. He stated that the site rehabilitation is considered crucial, and requested that the best expertise are used and that the EMP address site rehabilitation as a crucial aspect of how the site would look after construction is complete.
Karen Jodas	There are no final plans with regard to the Visitors Centre at this time. Approximately 400m ² is proposed to be under roof. Rehabilitation will take place as the project progresses, and so phased rehabilitation efforts can be anticipated on the site.
Mark Gentle	Mark warned that the rehabilitation requirements in the area are not the same as the rehabilitation in the rest of the Western Cape. He suggested that specialists be brought to assist and that indigenous knowledge be applied.
Karen Jodas	The EMP will address rehabilitation of the site as a whole. It is acknowledged that rehabilitation specialists will be required to be part of

	the rehabilitation process. The Namaqualand Restoration Institute has been approached for advice and input into the EMP, and information regarding best practice models (to be used in conjunction with local knowledge of the vegetation in the area) has been provided.
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WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

Shawn Johnston thanked everybody for their participation and questions. He invited the audience study the Draft EIA Report, which is available at the public venues and on the internet, and to send their comments directly by fax, e-mail, telephone or mail.

The meeting closed at 21h00.