



## MEETING NOTES

<b>JOB TITLE</b>	Dalmanutha Wind Energy Facility
<b>PROJECT NUMBER</b>	41103722
<b>DATE</b>	14 June 2022
<b>TIME</b>	09h00
<b>VENUE</b>	MS Teams
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Pre-application Meeting with DFFE
<b>CLIENT</b>	Dalmanutha Wind (PTY) LTD
<b>PRESENT</b>	Ashlea Strong (AS) - WSP Thirushan Nadar (TN)- WSP Muhammad Essop (ME)- DFFE Coenrad Agenbach (CA)-DFFE Trisha Rene Pillay (TP)- DFFE Andrea Gibb (AG)- Enertrag SA Sean Maphosa (SM)- Enertrag SA Sandhisha Jay Narain (SJM)- Enertrag SA
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Michael Barnes (MB) -Enertrag SA

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## MEETING NOTES

### MATTERS ARISING

### ACTION

#### NOTE:

These notes constitute a summary of the key discussion points and decisions made during the discussion. They are not intended to reflect the exact discussions held.

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTIONS

Muhammad Essop (ME) opened meeting welcoming everyone and handed over to WSP. Each team proceeded with introductions (WSP, DFFE & ENERTRAG SA)

Ashlea Strong (AS) noted that Michael Barnes gave apologies for not attending.

Approval was obtained to record the meeting for minute purposes.

None

#### 2.0 PRESENTATION

ME requested that all questions should be raised with the “hand” function on MS teams

DFFE handed over to WSP for the presentation of the Dalmanutha wind farm project overview details and specifications.

Thirushan Nadar (TN) began presentation outlining the projects namely:

- Dalmanutha WEF (up to 300MW),
- Dalmanutha WEF grid infrastructure, (up to 132kV)
- Dalmanutha West WEF (less than 20MW)
- Dalmanutha West WEF grid infrastructure (up to 132kV)
- Common collector up to 132kV substation and powerline

The Presentation is included in **Appendix A**.

Location of the project and its respective district and local municipalities were presented.

AS further mentioned, that the project located, along the N4 running through towards Nelspruit on the northern boundary, (near the Bergendal Monument) the facility then runs southwards towards the next closest town, which is Carolina.

Coenrad Agenbach (CA) enquired on why the facility is being separated into WEF (up to 300MW) & West (less than 20MW) due to it sometimes problematic to later split and/or join the licence and authorisations.

Sean Maphosa (SM) replied, Dalmanutha West will possibly be off taken by EXXARO mine to supply power to them, just west from the location. If not it will connect to the main substation on the Dalmanutha facility, thereafter proceed to be Gumeni MTS.

ME noted that it was important to identify if the projects will be part of the IRP and or bidding programs, in order to find out who the Competent authority is for each. Thereafter, agreed to raise it at the end of the meeting.

TN noted that the project does not fall within a REDZ.

TN mentioned the projects will be applied for under a Special Purpose vehicles (SPV) allowing each to have its own EA

#### Scoping & EIA process

Dalmanutha WEF (up to 300MW),

#### Basic assessment process

Dalmanutha WEF grid infrastructure, (up to 132kV)

Dalmanutha West WEF (less than 20MW)

Dalmanutha West WEF grid infrastructure (up to 132kV)

Common collector up to 132kV substation and powerline

## MEETING NOTES

WULA component also will be required.

ME enquired if CBA and ESA identified on site were from DFFE screening tool, TN confirmed the tool was done and a report was generated giving this result.

ME also asked if there were Bioregional plans, sector plans or CBA plans for Mpumalanga province.

AS replied, yes there is the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Plan which the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) utilises.

ME noted that there is a need for finding out which particular CBA region the project falls under because the relative requirements will need to be adhered to for developments in those areas. *ME gave example of CBA area 1 requiring biodiversity offset and the need to include offsets thereafter.*

WSP confirmed

AS confirmed that this will be part of scope of work for the Ecology and terrestrial biodiversity studies.

ME mentioned that the specific listed activities triggered will need to be noted.

WSP confirmed

TN confirmed that only High-level Listed activities were outlined in the presentation and that the full scale of triggered activities will be listed later in Scoping and EIA phase.

WSP confirmed

CA enquired on Activity 11 in the project description referring to 3 wind farms, which was probably just a mistake? The error was confirmed, and TN noted that only 2 wind facilities will form part of the applications.

ME enquired if there are separate specialists for the different disciplines and if they are SACNASP accredited, and have all read and understood the protocols

AS confirmed, all of the above.

ME mentioned, Part A of protocols must be read, understood and included in reports of EIA phase, site verification and motivation component as well.

Sandhisha Jay Narain (SJN) enquired if terrestrial biodiversity and aquatic biodiversity study can be done by one specialist or must be two separate specialists.

AS Confirmed

ME answered it should ideally be two different specialists, AS further mentioned for this project will be separate specialists per discipline.

AS confirmed

Andrea Gibb (AG) enquired if fauna and flora should be different specialist as well.

ME outlined that according to regs the relative specialist must be registered in that specific field (i.e. aquatic specialist registered to produce aquatic studies), flora and fauna can be the same report. However, when encountering different threatened species then specific specialists will need to be appointed.

SM confirmed

ME enquired on Geotech study being included for all projects.

AS confirmed that a desktop Geotechnical Study is being included for all projects. Furthermore, AS mentioned, that studies identified by the screening tool for which external specialists were not appointed (i.e. low sensitivities), included the Aviation and Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) studies. In these cases the study/assessment will be done by WSP. WSP will be notifying the relevant stakeholders accordingly including Air Traffic Navigation Services (ATNS), Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), South African Weather Service (SAWS) and relevant telecommunication providers.

WSP to attach to minutes

AS noted, that the bigger facility will be Bid in the REIPPPP and the smaller facility ideally will be off taken by Exxaro mine (if not then will be bought into the REIPPPP Bid). SM agreed.

ME noted that 300MW facility is bidding application, and 20MW facility will be off taken, therefore the **300MW facility together with grid infrastructure, (up to 132kV) and Common Collector**

## MEETING NOTES

**132kV and substation power line will have the DFFE as the Competent authority (National) and the West 20MW facility together with the grid infrastructure (up to 132kV) will have MDARDLEA (Provincial) as Competent authority.**

The Public Participation Plan (PPP) was presented and WSP noted that although not required a PPP will be made available with the minutes.

AG enquired on consolidated PP process despite different competent authorities. AS noted that the PP will be undertaken in a consolidated manner as far as possible so as to reduce the potential for stakeholder fatigue, especially considering the surrounding mining areas.

CA enquired if the language of the Project documents will be made available only in English and Afrikaans and not other languages. Possibility of having an executive summary in relative languages should be considered. AS confirmed that plans were already in place to ensure that adverts, site notices, notification letters and background information documents will be in English, Afrikaans and Zulu.

CA noted that Mining right holders must be considered as well as SANRAL and tourism sectors. Consult with biodiversity unit and protected areas unit and relative officials and protected parks. Visual impact assessment important as well.

AS confirmed all of the above. AS also noted that a Data free website will be used for access to project information

ME hesitant to agree to consolidated PPP. DFFE ok with it if MDARDLEA is on board as well. Furthermore, each project must have its own Stakeholder Engagement Report.

AS enquired if the DFFE would support combined specialist reporting, if they split impact assessment and mitigation for different projects?

CA replied DFFE don't support this. AS noted this response.

CA mentioned generic EMPr for substations etc are required in addition to the normal EMPrs. AS confirmed that these will be included in the EMPrs as required.

If Offsets are required as per mitigation hierarchy, DFFE requires draft Offset plan upfront with draft agreement in place for inclusion in Draft BAR or EIAR- time implications must be considered. Scoping report must have way forward if Offset plan is needed or not. This should be supported by specialists and authorities either agreeing or disagreeing if required.

Minutes to be sent to ME and TP

WSP to confirm with MDARDLEA

WSP noted

TN noted

### 3.0 CONCLUDING

- No further comments from attendees
- Meeting concluded

## MEETING NOTES

### APPENDIX A: PRESENTATION



# DFFE Pre-Application Meeting

Dalmanutha Wind Energy Complex



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## Introductions

- Developer** **ENERTRAC South Africa (Pty) Ltd**  
Michael Barnes (Senior Project Developer)  
Sandhisha Jay Narain (Senior Project Developer)  
Sean Maphosa (Junior Project Developer)  
Andrea Gibb (Senior Project Developer)
- EAP** **WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd**  
Ashlea Strong (Project Manager)  
Thirushan Nadar (Consultant)
- Authority** **Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)**  
Muhammad Essop  
Trisha Pillay  
Coenrad Agenbach



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## Agenda

- 1 **Overview of the Project**  
Background  
Location
- 2 **Overview & Confirmation of Permitting Processes**  
Listed Activities  
Specialist Assessments as identified by DFFE Screening Tool  
Specialist Studies commissioned  
Specialist Studies not commissioned  
Competent Authority
- 3 **Public Participation Process**
- 4 **Timeframes**
- 5 **Discussion**  
Clarification  
Questions  
Way Forward

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### Overview of the Project

## Background

ENERTRAG SA proposes to establish a renewable energy facility near Belfast Mpumalanga, known as the Dalmanutha Energy Complex, which requires various applications for environmental authorisations.

The proposed complex is divided into 5 subprojects:

- **Dalmanutha Wind Energy Facility (WEF) (up to 300MW)**
- **Dalmanutha Wind Energy Facility Grid infrastructure (up to 132kV )**
- **Dalmanutha West WEF (less than 20MW)**
- **Dalmanutha West Grid infrastructure (up to 132kV)**
- **Common Collection up to 132kV Substation and Powerline**

Each facility will include a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The BESS will be used to store excess energy generated by the wind facilities. The BESS will have a storage capacity of up to 100MW/400MWh with up to four hours of storage.

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Overview of the Project

### Location

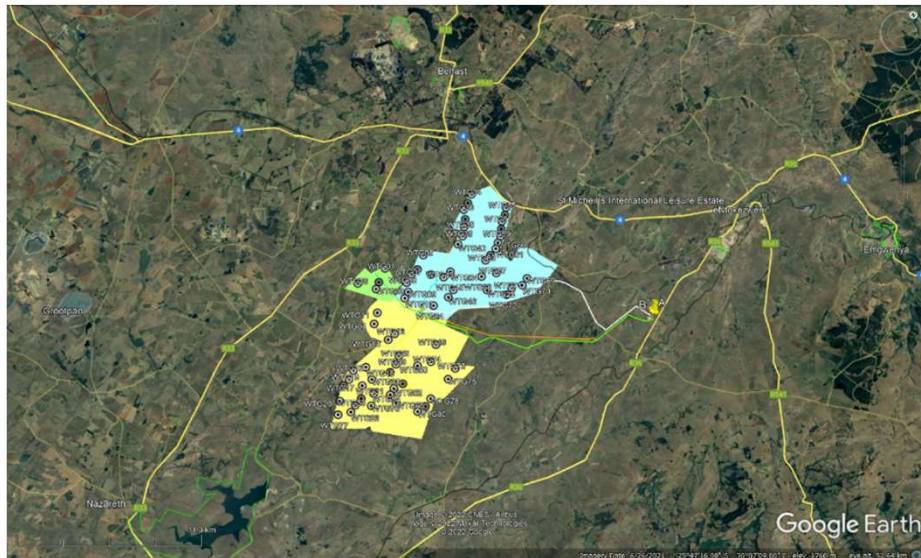
	Dalmanutha WEF & Grid Infrastructure	Dalmanutha West WEF & Grid Infrastructure	Common Grid Infrastructure
<b>Province</b>	Mpumalanga		
<b>District Municipalities</b>	Nkangala & Gert Sibande District Municipalities	Nkangala District Municipality	Nkangala District Municipality
<b>Local Municipalities</b>	Chief Albert Luthuli & Emakhazeni Local Municipalities	Emakhazeni Local Municipality	Emakhazeni Local Municipality
<b>Farms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portions 1 and 9 of Farm Berg-en-dal 378</li> <li>• Portions 5 and 7 of Farm Vogelstruispoort 384</li> <li>• Portions 6, 7, 8, 10, 12 and 13 of Farm Waaikraal 385</li> <li>• Waaikraal Portion 24 (a portion of Portion 7)</li> <li>• Portion 5 of Vogelstruispoort Farm 384</li> <li>• Portions 3 and 4 of Farm Leeuwkloof 403</li> <li>• Portion 1 and Portion 2 of Farm Leeuwkloof 404</li> <li>• Portion 3 of Farm Geluk 405</li> <li>• Portion 1 of Farm Welgevonden 412</li> <li>• Portion 0 of Farm Camelia 467</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portions 4, 15 and 17 of Vogelstruispoort 384</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portions 6, 7, 10, 12 of Farm Waaikraal 385</li> <li>• Portions 4 and 6 of Driekop 387</li> </ul>

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Overview of the Project



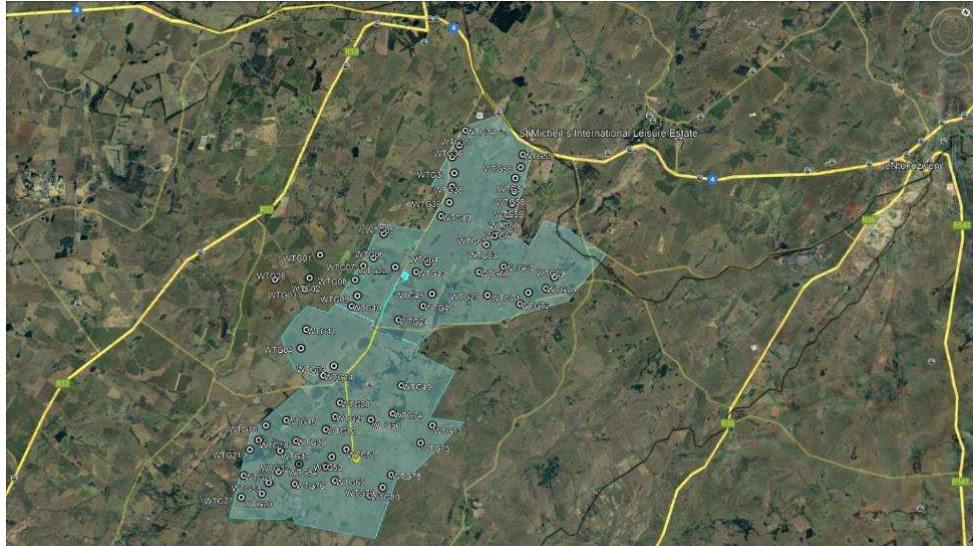
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Dalmanutha Wind Facility



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Dalmanutha West Wind Facility

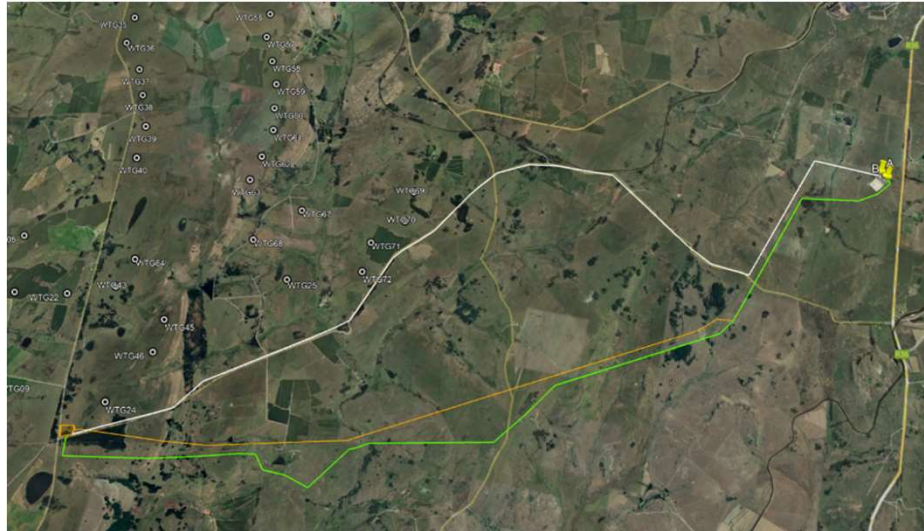


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**Common Collection up to 132kV Substation and Powerline**



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**Overview of the Project**

**Typical Infrastructure**

Specifications	Dalmanutha WEF	Dalmanutha West
Total Project Area	9 400 ha	580 ha
Buildable Area	Approximately 400 ha	Approximately 15 ha
Wind Turbines	Up to 70	Up to 4
WEF capacity	Up to 300MW	Less than 20MW
Hub Height	Up to 200m	
Rotor Diameter	Up to 200m	
Powerline	Up to 132kV	
Powerline Length	Approximately 15km	
On-site Substation footprint including BESS	Up to 4ha	Up to 2ha
BESS capacity	100MW/400MWh	100MW/400MWh

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#### Overview of the Project

## Typical Infrastructure

Specifications	Dalmanutha Wind Energy Common Grid Infrastructure
Total Project Area	Up to 5ha
Powerline	Single 132 kV double circuit
Powerline Length	Approximately 18km
Eskom substation expansion footprint	Up to 2ha

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#### Overview of the Project

## Key Considerations

- The general project area falls within **Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA)** and **Ecological Support Areas (ESA)**. The CBA and ESA include both terrestrial and aquatic themes among other themes.
- The project are also falls within **National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES) Focus Areas**.
- The ecosystem of the project area is considered endangered and vulnerable, and is located within a **Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area (FEPA)** sub-catchment.
- The Project Area does not fall with in any **Strategic Transmission Corridors** or **Renewable Energy Development Zones**.

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Permitting Processes


## Environmental Authorisation Process

Each of the below will be applied for under a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), allowing each its own Environmental Authorisation

- **Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) Processes:**
  - Dalmanutha WEF (up to 300MW)
- **Basic Assessment Process:**
  - Dalmanutha West WEF (less than 20MW)
  - Dalmanutha West WEF 132 kV grid infrastructure
  - Dalmanutha WEF 132 kV grid infrastructure
  - Common collector 132kV substation and powerline
- **Water Use Licence**
  - Water use Licences and/or General Authorisations will be applied for as required

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Permitting Processes

## Listed Activities – Listing Notice 1

Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
<p><u>Activity 1</u> The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where—</p> <p>(i) the electricity output is more than 10 megawatts but less than 20 megawatts; or</p> <p>(ii) the output is 10 megawatts or less but the total extent of the facility covers an area in excess of 1 hectare;</p> <p>excluding where such development of facilities or infrastructure is for photovoltaic installations and occurs—</p> <p>(a) within an urban area; or</p> <p>(b) on existing infrastructure.</p>	<p>The proposed Dalmanutha West WEF will generate less than <b>20 MW of electricity output</b> from a renewable resource.</p>
<p><u>Activity 11</u> The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity—</p> <p>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts; or</p> <p>(ii) inside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more; excluding the development of bypass infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity where such bypass infrastructure is —</p> <p>(a) temporarily required to allow for maintenance of existing infrastructure;</p> <p>(b) 2 kilometres or shorter in length;</p> <p>(c) within an existing transmission line servitude; and</p> <p>(d) will be removed within 18 months of the commencement of development.</p>	<p>The Dalmanutha Wind Complex (all three wind farms) will connect to the nearby Gumeni MTS through a Common <b>132kV substation</b> and a <b>132kV Powerline</b>. The common powerline is approximately <b>18km in length</b>.</p>

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**Permitting Processes**

## Listed Activities – Listing Notice 1

Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
<p><u>Activity 27</u>                      The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for:                      (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or                      (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p>	<p>The on-site Substation footprint including BESS facilities will utilise a footprint of <b>up to 6ha</b> for the North and South WEF, and <b>up to 2 ha</b> for the West WEF which will result in the clearance of less than 20 ha of indigenous vegetation.</p>

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**Permitting Processes**

## Listed Activities – Listing Notice 2

Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
<p><u>Activity 1</u>                      The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more, excluding where such development of facilities or infrastructure is for photovoltaic installations and occurs:                      (a) within an urban area; or                      (b) on existing infrastructure.</p>	<p>The proposed Dalmanutha WEF will generate up to <b>300 MW of electricity output</b> from a renewable resource.</p>
<p><u>Activity 15</u>                      The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for—                      (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or                      (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p>	<p>The proposed Dalmanutha WEF will result in the clearance of up to <b>200 ha</b> of indigenous vegetation.</p>

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Permitting Processes

## DEA Screening Tool Identified Sensitivities

	Very High Sensitivity	High Sensitivity	Medium Sensitivity	Low Sensitivity
Agriculture Theme	Dalmanutha WEF	Dalmanutha WEF and West WEF 132 kV Grid Connections		
Animal Species Theme		All projects		
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	All projects			
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme	Dalmanutha WEF 132 kV Grid Connections			Dalmanutha WEF and West WEF 132kV Grid Connections
Avian (Wind) Theme				All WEFs
Bats (Wind) Theme		All WEFs		
Civil Aviation Theme		Dalmanutha WEF 132 kV Grid Connections	Dalmanutha WEF and West WEF & 132kV Grid Connections	
Defence Theme				All projects
Flicker Theme	All WEFs			
Landscape (Wind) Theme	All WEFs			
Palaeontology Theme	All projects			
Noise Theme	All WEFs			
Plant Species Theme			All projects	
RFI (Wind) Theme				All WEFs
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	All projects			

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Permitting Processes

## DEA Screening Tool Specialist Assessments

Specialist Study	Dalmanutha WEF	West WEF	132KV Grid Connection	Dalmanutha WEF 132kV	132kV West Grid Connection
Agricultural	X	X	X	X	X
Landscape / Visual	X	X	X	X	X
Archaeological and Cultural heritage	X	X	X	X	X
Palaeontological	X	X	X	X	X
Terrestrial Biodiversity	X	X	X	X	X
Aquatic Biodiversity	X	X	X	X	X
Avian Impact	X	X	X	X	X
Civil Aviation	X	X	X	X	X
Defence	X	X			
RFI	X	X	X	X	X
Noise	X	X			
Flicker	X	X			
Traffic	X	X			
Geotechnical	X	X	X	X	X
Socio-Economic	X	X			
Plant Species	X	X	X	X	X
Animal Species	X	X	X	X	X

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Permitting Processes

## Specialist Studies Commissioned

SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT	COMMENT
Soils and Agricultural Potential Assessment	A soils and agricultural survey will be undertaken.
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	An Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment will be undertaken.
Palaeontology Impact Assessment	A Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be undertaken.
Visual Impact Assessment	The projects could potentially negatively impact sensitive visual receptors. A Visual Impact Assessment will therefore be undertaken. The Visual impact Assessment will consider impacts related to flicker.
Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	The projects could negatively affect CBA and NPAES Focus Areas. A Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment will be undertaken. This assessment will include both fauna and flora aspects.
Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	The projects could negatively affect FEPA areas. An Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment will be undertaken.
Freshwater Impact Assessment	The projects could potentially negatively impact water resources. A Freshwater Impact Assessment will therefore be undertaken.
Avifauna Impact Assessment	Due to the potential impacts on birds as a result of the projects, an Avifauna Assessment will be undertaken.

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Permitting Processes

## Specialist Studies Commissioned

SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT	COMMENT
Bat Impact Assessment	Due to the potential impacts on bats as a result of the projects, an Avifauna Assessment will be undertaken. This study will be specific to the WEFS.
Social Impact Assessment	A detailed social assessment will be prepared. The social statement will be based on a desktop review and telephonic interviews with key stakeholders.
Noise Impact Assessment	Due to potential impacts on sensitive receptors with regards to noise generated from the wind turbines, a Noise Assessment will be undertaken.
Geotechnical Assessment	A preliminary Geotechnical Assessment will be undertaken as part of the S&EIA Process.
Traffic Assessment	A traffic assessment will be undertaken
Qualitative Risk Assessment	A hazard and risk identification assessment for the three BESS facilities will be undertaken

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Permitting Processes

## Specialist Studies Not-Commissioned

SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT	COMMENT
RFI	A Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) Study will not be undertaken. The South African Weather Service (SAWS) and relevant telecommunications stakeholders will be engaged with as part of the Public Participation Process.
Civil Aviation	The Civil Aviation Authority will be included on the project stakeholder database. They will be informed of the proposed Project, and comment will be sought. An Application for the Approval of Obstacles will also be submitted to SACAA once preferred bidder status is obtained. A compliance statement will be prepared by the EAP and included in the EIA Reports.
Defence	The Department of Defence will be included on the project stakeholder database. They will be informed of the proposed Project, and comment will be sought. A compliance statement will be prepared by the EAP and included in the EIA Reports for the three WEFs.

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Permitting Processes

## Competent Authority

- **Section 24C(2)(a) of NEMA**
  - The Minister must be identified as the Competent Authority (CA) if the activity has implications for international environmental commitments or relations
- **GN 779 of 01 July 2016**
  - Identifies the Minister as the CA for the consideration and processing of environmental authorisations and amendments thereto for activities related the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) 2010 – 2030
- **DFFE is therefore deemed to be the Competent Authority**

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#### Public Participation Process

## Public Participation Plan

- A consolidated approach to the Public Participation (PP) Process for the S&EIA and BA processes respectively
- Site notices:
  - English, Afrikaans and Zulu
  - Onsite and in the surrounding areas
- Compilation and management of I&AP Database
- Written notification:
  - Owners and occupiers on or adjacent to the proposed project site
  - Municipality Ward Councillor
  - District Municipality
  - Relevant State Departments
- Advertisement (English, Afrikaans and Zulu in local newspaper)
- Draft Report Review for 30 days
  - WSP on request
  - Online on the WSP website
  - WSP will confirm with local Public Libraries as to whether they are open and able to accept documents for public review
- Public or focus group meetings will be held as required.

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#### Timeframes

## Timeframes

- Authority Timeframes
  - Does not fall within a Strategic Transmission Corridor (GN 113)
  - Does not fall within a REDZ (GN 114)
  - Authority decision making timeframe is 107 days
- Key Milestones:
  - Submission of Application Forms – August 2022 and January 2023
  - Draft Scoping Report Public Review – August / September 2022
  - Submission of Final Scoping Reports – September 2022
  - Draft EIA and BA Report Public Review – February 2023
  - Submission of Final EIA and BA Reports - March 2023

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#### Discussion

### ○ Specific Clarification

- Combined specialist reporting: The propose to combine specialist reporting for linked infrastructure e.g. the WEF and associated grid connection. Specialist will be required to split the impact assessment and mitigation measures accordingly – is this approach acceptable to the DFFE?
- Given the workload – it is anticipated that two or more Case Officers may be allocated to the project?
- Given that ATNS are now the official party responsible for obstacle assessments and effectively subcontract CAA - is ATNS comment on the EIA sufficient for the purposes of informing the protocols as they relate to the CAA?

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#### Discussion

### ○ Questions





### ○ Way Forward



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# Thank you

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## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESSES FOR THE DALMANUTHA WIND ENERGY COMPLEX

### DFFE REF NUMBER: TO BE CONFIRMED ONCE RESPECTIVE APPLICATIONS ARE SUBMITTED

The restrictions enforced in terms of Government Gazette 43096 which placed the country in a national state of disaster limiting the movement of people to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus have placed some limitations on the commencement and continuation of the public consultation as part of an EIA process. Considering these limitations, the following consultation process has been designed and will be implemented, upon approval by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), to cater for the facilitation of the public participation process (PPP). The PPP includes Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), the competent authority, directly impacted landowners/occupiers, adjacent landowners/occupiers, relevant Organs of State departments, Municipalities, ward councillors and other key stakeholders and all other parties that may have an interest on this project.

The Public Participation Plan (PPP) was a requirement as per the requirements of the General Provisions of Annexure 2 of the Regulations issued in terms of Section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No.57 of 2002). Which was published on 05 June 2020 in Government Notice No R560 of Government Gazette No 43412. It is noted that these regulations have since been released and as of 01 May 2022, it is no longer a prerequisite to submitting a PPP to the DFFE. However, WSP will still submit this plan to the DFFE to outline the planned public participation activities.

This plan has been developed for the environmental impact and basic assessment processes required for Dalmanutha Wind Energy Complex. The projects associated with this facility include:

- Environmental Impact Assessment for the Dalmanutha Wind Energy Facility (Up to 300MW)
- Basic Assessment for the Dalmanutha West Wind Energy Facility (less than 20 MW)
- Basic Assessment for the Dalmanutha Wind Energy Facility Grid Infrastructure (up to 132kV)
- Basic Assessment for the Dalmanutha West Wind Energy Facility Grid Infrastructure (up to 132kV)

According to Section (2)(4)(f) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), the participation of all I&APs must be promoted and all potential I&APs must be informed early and in an informative and proactive way regarding applications that may affect their lives or livelihood in order to give effect to the above sections, and that it is essential to ensure that there is an adequate and appropriate opportunity for public participation in decisions that may affect the environment.

A consolidated I&AP database will be compiled for these processes. The I&APs will be provided with the opportunity to review and make comments on all relevant documentation associated with the above-mentioned applications.

**Table 1** provides the competent authority with a detailed outline of the public participation process that will be undertaken for the projects. **Table 2** provides the competent authority with an outline of the meetings

The requirements of the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 14 of 2013) (POPIA) relating to registers of I&APs and the inclusion of comments in reports will be taken into consideration.

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Table 1: Proposed Public Participation Plan

SUMMARY OF PPP REQUIREMENT (GNR 326 OF EIA REGULATIONS)	PROPOSED PLAN/ACTIVITIES
<p>39 (1) If the proponent is not the owner or person in control of the land on which the activity is to be undertaken, the proponent must, before applying for an environmental authorisation in respect of such activity, obtain the written consent of the landowner or person in control of the land to undertake such activity on that land.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Landowner consent letters will be obtained for each of the farm portions where the proposed activities will be undertaken. Consent letters will be included in the Application forms for Environmental Authorisation.</li> </ul>
<p>39 (2) Sub regulation (1) does not apply in respect of—</p> <p>(a) linear activities;</p> <p>(b) activities constituting, or activities directly related to prospecting or exploration of a mineral and petroleum resource or extraction and primary processing of a mineral or petroleum resource; and</p> <p>(c) strategic integrated projects as contemplated in the Infrastructure Development Act, 2014.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Landowner Consent Letters are not required for linear activities.</li> <li>— Notification letters of the Environmental Assessment Processes undertaken for the linear projects will be distributed via email and/or hand delivery (as required) to the directly impacted landowners or occupiers of the land.</li> </ul>
<p>40 (1) The public participation process to which the—</p> <p>(a) basic assessment report and EMPr, and where applicable the closure plan, submitted in terms of regulation 19; and</p> <p>(b) scoping report submitted in terms of regulation 21 and the environmental impact assessment report and EMPr submitted in terms of regulation 23;</p> <p>was subjected to must give all potential or registered interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, a period of at least 30 days to submit comments on each of the basic assessment report, EMPr, scoping report and environmental impact assessment report, and where applicable the closure plan, as well as the report contemplated in regulation 32, if such reports or plans are submitted at different times.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Notification of the availability of the Scoping and Environmental Impact (S&amp;EIA) and Basic Assessment (BA) Reports as relevant for the relevant Dalmanutha Wind Energy Facility projects, as well as the period for review will be sent to all identified and registered stakeholders via email and SMS.</li> <li>— The Draft Reports will be made available to all stakeholders for a 30-day comment period as follows:</li> <li>— From WSP on request and electronic copies can be shared via secure links that will be emailed.</li> <li>— On the WSP website as well as on a data-free website<sup>1</sup> for download.</li> <li>— Hard copies of the Reports will be placed at the relevant public places such as libraries, community halls, ward councillor offices etc.</li> <li>— Flash drives and/or Hard Copies submitted to the relevant Organs of State.</li> <li>— Submitted to the DFFE via the DFFE online portal.</li> <li>—</li> </ul>
<p>40 (2) The public participation process contemplated in this regulation must provide access to all information that reasonably has or may have the potential to influence any decision with regard to an application unless access to that information is</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Provision has been made to ensure all project information will be made available to all I&amp;APs, and that they are afforded the opportunity to participate in the projects, as well as submit comments and raise any concerns and/or issues with regards to the proposed projects. This will include:</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> A data free website is a website that the public can access and download information without using their own data or incurring costs



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<p>protected by law and must include consultation with—</p> <p>(a) the competent authority.</p> <p>(b) every State department administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment relevant to an application for an environmental authorisation.</p> <p>(c) all organs of the state which have jurisdiction in respect of the activity to which the application relates; and</p> <p>(d) all potential, or, where relevant, registered interested and affected parties.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Identification of stakeholders with a potential interest in the project will be at the outset of the project.</li> <li>— All stakeholders identified will be registered on the project stakeholder database, and the database will be maintained throughout the S&amp;EIA and BA processes.</li> <li>— The stakeholder database will include all relevant authorities (government departments and relevant district and local municipalities), ward councillors, relevant conservation bodies and non-governmental organisations (NGO's), as well as neighbouring landowners and the surrounding community.</li> <li>— General communication (written notification) with identified stakeholders (public and other government departments/authorities) on the proposed projects.</li> <li>— Distribution of the Background Information Document (BID), inclusive of a Registration and Comments Form, to allow stakeholders to register and ensure all comments and queries regarding the projects are captured for inclusion in the relevant Stakeholder Engagement Reports.</li> <li>— Consultation of relevant communities via the Ward Councillor and/or community representative, in a manner determined and/or required during stakeholder engagement.</li> </ul>
<p>40 (3) Potential or registered interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in sub-regulation (1) prior to submission of an application but must be provided with an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the competent authority.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Reports will be made available to all potential or registered I&amp;APS following the submission of the applications to the DFFE, that is during the legislated relevant report review periods.</li> <li>— Reports will be available on request, on the WSP website, and in hard copy at appropriate public places in the study area such as public libraries and municipal officers.</li> <li>— All I&amp;APs will be provided with an opportunity to comment on the reports and submit comments directly to the EAP. Comments can be submitted in the following ways:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Comments Forms via fax or email</li> <li>— Written comments via email or fax</li> <li>— Telephonically for capturing by the EAP; and</li> <li>— Via Whatsapp or SMS (including the use of “please call me”).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>41(2) The person conducting a PPP must give notice to all potential I&amp;APs by-</p> <p>(a) fixing a notice board at a place conspicuous to and accessible by the public at the boundary, on the fence or along the corridor of—</p> <p>(i) the site where the activity to which the application or proposed application relates is or is to be undertaken; and</p> <p>(ii) any alternative site;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Placement of site notices (in English, Afrikaans and IsiZulu) at appropriate locations on-site (at the wind facilities and at various points along the grid infrastructure routes) and in the surrounding area.</li> <li>— This will include the boundary/access road to the sites, as well as additional public places within the greater Belfast area, such as grocery stores, municipality, and/or local public libraries.</li> </ul>
<p>(b) giving written notice, in any of the manners provided for in section 47D of the Act, to—</p> <p>(i) the occupiers of the site and, if the proponent or applicant is not the owner or person in control of the site on which the activity is to be undertaken, the owner or person in control of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken and to any</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— A written notification (in English, Afrikaans, and Isizulu) will be sent to owners and occupiers on or adjacent to the proposed project sites, municipality ward councillors, local and district municipality, and relevant state departments.</li> <li>— General communication (written notification) with stakeholders (public and government departments/authorities) throughout the respective environmental impact assessment (EIA) and basic assessment (BA) processes.</li> </ul>

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<p>alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;</p> <p>(ii) owners, persons in control of, and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken and to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;</p> <p>(iii) the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site and alternative site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represent the community in the area;</p> <p>(iv) the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area;</p> <p>(v) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and</p> <p>(vi) any other party as required by the competent authority;</p>	<p>— Stakeholders will be added to the database on request as the project progresses.</p>
<p>(c) placing an advertisement in—</p> <p>(i) one local newspaper; or</p> <p>(ii) any official Gazette that is published specifically for the purpose of providing public notice of applications or other submissions made in terms of these Regulations;</p>	<p>An advert will be published in relevant local newspapers (in English, Afrikaans and IsiZulu), formally announcing the commencement of the Environmental Authorisation (EA) applications, requesting stakeholders to register their interest in the project, and informing them of the release of the Draft Scoping, EIA and BA Reports for public review and comment. The adverts and notifications will be inclusive of the Heritage Impact Assessment and Water Use Licence Application information.</p>
<p>(d) placing an advertisement in at least one provincial newspaper or national newspaper, if the activity has or may have an impact that extends beyond the boundaries of the metropolitan or district municipality in which it is or will be undertaken</p>	<p>It has been established that advertising in provincial and national newspapers is not required as the impact of the activities do not extend beyond the boundaries of the district municipality or province in which the Project will be undertaken.</p>
<p>(e) using reasonable alternative methods, as agreed to by the competent authority, in those instances where a person is desirous of but unable to participate in the process due to—</p> <p>(i) illiteracy;</p> <p>(ii) disability; or</p> <p>(iii) any other disadvantage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— A consolidated I&amp;AP database will be compiled for the project. Any existing I&amp;AP databases for other projects in the area known to the applicant will be utilised as a basis for the database. These I&amp;APs will be contacted to request formal consent to be included in the projects’ database, in line with the POPI Act. As part of the verification process, existing I&amp;APs will be contacted telephonically and asked to confirm their preferred method of communication.</li> <li>— The relevant ward councillors will be contacted to ensure that community-based organisations are aware of the Project and can assist in distributing and communicating relevant Project information to community members.</li> <li>— Virtual focus group meetings will be held as required.</li> <li>— In the event that face-to-face meetings are requested, these will be arranged on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the relevant COVID restrictions at the time of the request.</li> <li>— I&amp;APs will be able to contact the EAP via email, fax, telephone, WhatsApp, or SMS (Including the use of “please call me”).</li> </ul>
<p>41 (3) A notice, notice board or advertisement referred to in sub regulation (2) must—</p>	<p>— An advert will be published in relevant local newspapers (in English, Afrikaans and IsiZulu), formally announcing the commencement of the</p>



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<p>(a) give details of the application or proposed application which is subjected to public participation; and</p> <p>(b) state—</p> <p>(i) whether basic assessment or S&amp;EIR procedures are being applied to the application;</p> <p>(ii) the nature and location of the activity to which the application relates;</p> <p>(iii) where further information on the application or proposed application can be obtained; and</p> <p>(iv) the manner in which and the person to whom representations in respect of the application or proposed application may be made.</p>	<p>Environmental Authorisation (EA) applications, requesting stakeholders to register their interest in the project, and informing them of the release of the Draft Scoping, EIA and BA Reports for public review and comment.</p> <p>— Site notices (in English, Afrikaans and IsiZulu) will be placed at appropriate locations on site) and in the surrounding area. The size and content of the site notices will be in line with Regulation 41 (3) and 41(4) as contained herein.</p>
<p>41 (4) A notice board referred to in sub regulation (2) must—</p> <p>(a) be of a size of at least 60cm by 42cm; and</p> <p>(b) display the required information in lettering and in a format as may be determined by the competent authority.</p>	<p>— If the revised reports are required to undergo additional review, the requirements of Regulation 41(5) will be followed.</p>
<p>41 (5) Where public participation is conducted in terms of this regulation for an application or proposed application, sub regulation (2)(a), (b), (c) and (d) need not be complied with again during the additional public participation process contemplated in regulations 19(1)(b) or 23(1)(b) or the public participation process contemplated in regulation 21(2)(d), on condition that—</p> <p>(a) such process has been preceded by a public participation process which included compliance with sub regulation (2)(a), (b), (c) and (d); and</p> <p>(b) written notice is given to registered interested and affected parties regarding where the—</p> <p>(i) revised basic assessment report or, EMPr or closure plan, as contemplated in regulation 19(1)(b);</p> <p>(ii) revised environmental impact assessment report or EMPr as contemplated in regulation 23(1)(b); or</p> <p>(iii) environmental impact assessment report and EMPr as contemplated in regulation 21(2)(d);</p>	





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<p>may be obtained, the manner in which and the person to whom representations on these reports or plans may be made and the date on which such representations are due.</p>	
<p>41 (6) When complying with this regulation, the person conducting the public participation process must ensure that—</p> <p>(a) information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application or proposed application is made available to potential interested and affected parties; and</p> <p>(b) participation by potential or registered interested and affected parties is facilitated in such a manner that all potential or registered interested and affected parties are provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the application or proposed application.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Provision has been made to ensure all project information will be made available to all I&amp;APs, and that they are afforded the opportunity to participate in the projects, as well as submit comments and raise any concerns and/or issues with regards to the proposed projects.</li> <li>— A Notification Letter and BID will be compiled to provide preliminary information regarding the project and its location, as well as to invite comments from I&amp;APs during the 30-day public review period of the Draft Reports.</li> <li>— All registered I&amp;APs will be included in any communication regarding the application processes for the projects throughout the respective S&amp;EIA and BA processes.</li> </ul>
<p>41 (7) Where an environmental authorisation is required in terms of these Regulations and an authorisation, permit or licence is required in terms of a specific environmental management Act, the public participation process contemplated in this Chapter may be combined with any public participation processes prescribed in terms of a specific environmental management Act, on condition that all relevant authorities agree to such combination of processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Applications for the proposed projects will also be made under the National Water Act (NWA), through a Water Use Licence Application (WULA) or General Authorisation (GA) processes as applicable for the purposes of Water Use Authorisation under the National Water Act. A Public Participation Process (PPP) in terms of the EIA Regulations (contained herein) and the NWA will be undertaken as well as a Heritage Impact Assessment.</li> </ul>
<p>(42) A proponent or applicant must ensure the opening and maintenance of a register of interested and affected parties and submit such a register to the competent authority, which register must contain the names, contact details and addresses of—</p> <p>(a) all persons who, as a consequence of the public participation process conducted in respect of that application, have submitted written comments or attended meetings with the proponent, applicant or EAP;</p> <p>(b) all persons who have requested the proponent or applicant, in writing, for their names to be placed on the register; and</p> <p>(c) all organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the activity to which the application relates.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Stakeholders with a potential interest in the Project will be identified at the outset of the Project and will include all relevant authorities (government departments and the local and district municipalities), relevant conservation bodies and non-governmental organisations (NGO's), as well as landowners, neighbouring landowners, and the surrounding community.</li> <li>— This stakeholder database will be updated on an ongoing basis as new stakeholders request to be registered.</li> <li>— All stakeholders identified will be registered on the project stakeholder database, and the database will be maintained throughout the EIA and BA processes.</li> <li>— The EAP will continue to ensure that individuals/organisations from referrals and networking are notified of the proposed project.</li> </ul>
<p>(43) (1) A registered interested and affected party is entitled to comment, in writing, on all reports or</p>	<p>All Draft Reports will be made available to all stakeholders for a 30-day comment period. Strict adherence to all COVID-19 protocols and regulations</p>

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<p>plans submitted to such party during the public participation process contemplated in these Regulations and to bring to the attention of the proponent or applicant any issues which that party believes may be of significance to the consideration of the application, provided that the interested and affected party discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application.</p> <p>(2) In order to give effect to section 24O of the Act, any State department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment must be requested, subject to regulation 7(2), to comment within 30 days.</p>	<p>as well as best practice measures will be ensured throughout PPP. As a result, the Draft Reports will be made available to stakeholders as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– From WSP on request and electronic copies can be shared via secure links that will be emailed.</li> <li>– On the WSP website and on a data-free website for download.</li> <li>– Hard copies of the Reports will be placed at the relevant public places such as libraries, community halls, ward councillor offices</li> <li>– CDs and/or Hard Copies submitted to the relevant Organs of State.</li> <li>– Submitted to the DFFE via the DFFE online portal.</li> </ul> <p>Comment forms (in a bound booklet) will be placed with the Draft Reports at the abovementioned public places. These booklets will be collected at the end of the public review period as required. In addition, the contact details of EAP will be provided should the I&amp;AP wish to contact the EAP directly.</p> <p>A Comment and Response Report (CRR) will be generated for inclusion in Final Reports for consideration by the competent authority.</p>
<p>44(1) The applicant must ensure that the comments of interested and affected parties are recorded in reports and plans and that such written comments, including responses to such comments and records of meetings, are attached to the reports and plans that are submitted to the competent authority in terms of these Regulations.</p> <p>(2) Where a person desires but is unable to access written comments as contemplated in sub regulation (1) due to—</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a lack of skills to read or write;</li> <li>(b) disability; or</li> <li>(c) any other disadvantage;</li> </ol> <p>reasonable alternative methods of recording comments must be provided for.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– All I&amp;APs will be able to submit comments directly to the EAP in the following ways:</li> <li>– Comments Forms via fax or email</li> <li>– Written comments via email or fax</li> <li>– Telephonically for capturing by the EAP; and</li> <li>– Via WhatsApp or SMS.</li> </ul> <p>Comments received telephonically will be transcribed and captured as formal comments in the Comments and Responses Report.</p> <p>I&amp;APs that do not have access to the internet or emails will also be able to submit via the consultation process that includes engaging with the Ward Councillor and/or Community Representative.</p>
<p>Regulation 44 (2) The applicant must, in writing, within 14 days of the date of the decision on the application ensure that—</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) all registered interested and affected parties are provided with access to the decision and the reasons for such decision; and</li> <li>(b) the attention of all registered interested and affected parties is drawn to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeal Regulations, if such appeal is available in the circumstances of the decision.</li> </ol>	<p>Written notification of the decision on the EAs will be sent to all registered I&amp;APs, as well as communicated via Ward Councillors to I&amp;APs that do not have access to internet and emails. Registered I&amp;APs will be informed of the appeal procedure as well as advised that copies of the EA decisions can be provided on request.</p>



Table 2: Meetings

**PROJECT MEETINGS**

Pre-Application Meeting	A pre-application consultation with DFFE was held on 14 June 2022 to discuss the proposed projects, proposed approach, and confirm the processes.
Public and/or Focus Group Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Virtual focus group meetings will be held as required.</li><li>– In the event that face-to-face meetings are requested, these will be arranged on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the relevant COVID restrictions at the time of the request.</li></ul>