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# **Tony Barbour**

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING AND RESEARCH**

10 Firs Avenue, 7708, South Africa

(Cell) 082 600 8266

(E-Mail) [tony@tonybarbour.co.za](mailto:tony@tonybarbour.co.za)

[www.tonybarbour.co.za](http://www.tonybarbour.co.za)

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## **SOCIAL STATEMENT**

### **PART II AMENDMENT APPLICATION**

#### **RIETKLOOF ENERGY FACILITY**

**NOVEMBER 2021**

**By**

**Tony Barbour**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO REPORT**

WSP Environment, Energy Africa was appointed in 2018 to manage the Basic Assessment (BA) process for the proposed Rietkloof 140 MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF) proposed by the Rietkloof Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd. The proposed facility is located within the Komsberg Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ), one of the eleven REDZ formally gazetted in South Africa for the purpose of development of solar and wind energy generation facilities. Tony Barbour was appointed by WSP Environment to prepare a social statement as part of the BA process (January 2019). The statement was informed by the findings of the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) undertaken for the Rietkloof WEF in 2016 (Barbour and van der Merwe, 2016).

Rietkloof Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd received environmental Authorisation on 10 April 2019 (Reference No. 14/12/16/3/3/1/1977) for the construction of up to 51 wind turbines, with a hub height of 125 m and rotor diameter of 160 m.

Subsequent to the above, WSP have been appointed by to manage a Part II Amendment application process to address revised changes that include changes in the wind turbine specifications and a reduction in the number of wind turbines proposed. The changes are described below.

## **2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Rietkloof Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd intend to follow a Part II Amendment Application process due to the change of scope of the existing authorisation for the Rietkloof WEF (Reference No. 14/12/16/3/3/1/1977), which was for a total of up to 51 turbines with a maximum generation capacity of 140 MW. Each turbine was authorised for rotor diameter (RD) of up to 160 m, hub height (HH) of up to 125 m.

The proposed amendments are aimed at improving the efficiency of the Rietkloof WEF and involves the following changes:

- A reduction in the number of wind turbines of up to 47.
- Increase in turbine hub height of up to 125 m.
- Increase in rotor diameter from 160 m to 180 m.
- Increase capacity of each turbine of up to 7MW.

The material changes to the authorised Rietkloof WEF (Reference No. 14/12/16/3/3/1/1977) therefore involve a reduction in the number of wind turbines from 51 to 34, changes in hub height and rotor diameter. The location of the turbines remains the same as the components assessed by the SIA undertaken in 2016 as part of the EIA process managed by EOH Coastal and Environmental Services.

## **3. APPROACH TO PREPARING SOCIAL STATEMENT**

As of February 2021, there are no sensitivity layers on the DEFF Screening Tool for Socio-economic- features, therefore this report is not compliant with the Assessment Protocols published on 20 March 2020, in Government Gazette 43110, GN 320. This specifically includes Part A, which provides the Site Sensitivity Verification Requirements where a Specialist Assessment is required but no Specific Assessment Protocol has been prescribed. Part A has therefore not been compiled for this assessment.

The Social Statement comments on the implications of the proposed changes to the authorised Rietkloof WEF. The approach to preparing the Social Statement is based on the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Guidelines for Social Impact Assessment (DEADP, 2007). These guidelines are based on international best practice. The approach to preparing the Social Statement included:

- A review of the findings of the SIA undertaken in 2016 (Barbour and van der Merwe, 2016).
- Review of Social Impact Assessment Addendum prepared in 2019 as part of the BA for the proposed 140 MW Rietkloof WEF (Barbour and van der Merwe, 2019).

The Addendum prepared in 2019 included a follow-up site visit and review of relevant policy and land use planning documents to ensure that the most recent documents were referred to in the amendment application. The following documents were reviewed.

- Laingsburg Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDP) (2017-22).
- Laingsburg Municipality Spatial Development Framework (SDF) (2017).
- Central Karoo District Integrated Development Plan (2017-22).
- Central Karoo District Municipality Spatial Development Framework (2013).
- District Growth and Development Strategy (2007– 2022).

#### **4. ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS**

##### **4.1 Assumptions**

###### ***Findings of SIA (2016)***

Assumed that the key findings of the SIA undertaken in 2016 remain valid.

###### ***Social Impact Assessment Addendum (2019)***

Assumed that the findings of SIA Addendum prepared in 2019 remain valid.

###### ***Socio-economic baseline data***

The Social Impact Assessment Addendum prepared in 2019 included a review of the baseline socio-economic data and key policy and planning documents (see above). This information remains relevant to the 2021 Part II Amendment.

##### **4.2 Limitations**

###### ***Limitations***

Based on the experience of the consultant, there are no limitations that have a material bearing on the preparation of the Social Statement.

#### **5. SPECIALIST DETAILS**

Tony Barbour is an independent specialist with 28 years' experience in the field of environmental management. In terms of SIA experience Tony Barbour has undertaken in the region of 260 SIAs and is the author of the Guidelines for Social Impact Assessments for EIA's adopted by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) in the Western Cape in 2007. Annexure A contains a copy of Mr Barbour's CV.

#### **6. DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

This confirms that Tony Barbour, the specialist consultant responsible for undertaking the study and preparing the Social Statement, is independent and does not have any vested or financial interests in the proposed WEF being either approved or rejected. A signed declaration is contained in Annexure B.

#### **7. SOCIAL STATEMENT**

The proposed amendments to the Rietkloof WEF are aimed at improving the efficiency and involve:

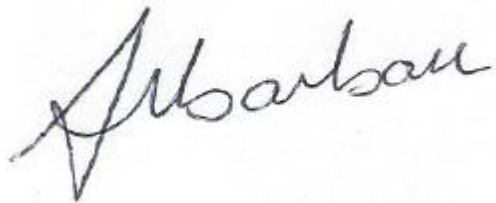
- A reduction in the number of wind turbines of up to 47.
- Increase in turbine hub height of up to 125 m.

- Increase in rotor diameter from 160 m to 180 m.
- Increase capacity of each turbine of up to 7MW.

Based on a review of changes associated with the Part II Amendment there are no changes to the significance ratings reflected in the Rietkloof WEF SIA (2016). In this regard the:

- The reduction on the number of wind turbines from 51 to 34 and the increase in hub height and rotor diameter of the wind turbines associated with the Part II Amendment will not change the nature or significance of any of the social impacts previously assessed as part of the SIA (2016) for the Rietkloof WEF.
- The mitigation measures for the construction of the Rietkloof WEF listed in the SIA (2016) are appropriate for Part II Amendment. No additional management outcomes or mitigation measures in terms of social impacts are therefore required.

The Part II Amendment of the Rietkloof WEF, is therefore supported.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Barbour', is written in a cursive style.

Tony Barbour  
Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research  
19 November 2021

## **ANNEXURE A**

### **Tony Barbour**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING AND RESEARCH**

10 Firs Avenue, Claremont, 7708, South Africa  
(Cell) 082 600 8266  
(E-Mail) [tbarbour@telkomsa.net](mailto:tbarbour@telkomsa.net)

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Tony Barbour's experience as an environmental consultant includes working for ten years as a consultant in the private sector followed by four years at the University of Cape Town's Environmental Evaluation Unit. He has worked as an independent consultant since 2004, with a key focus on Social Impact Assessment. His other areas of interest include Strategic Environmental Assessment and review work.

#### **EDUCATION**

- BSc (Geology and Economics) Rhodes (1984);
- B Economics (Honours) Rhodes (1985);
- MSc (Environmental Science), University of Cape Town (1992)

#### **EMPLOYMENT RECORD**

- Independent Consultant: November 2004 – current;
- University of Cape Town: August 1996-October 2004: Environmental Evaluation Unit (EEU), University of Cape Town. Senior Environmental Consultant and Researcher;
- Private sector: 1991-August 2000: 1991-1996: Ninham Shand Consulting (Now Aurecon, Cape Town). Senior Environmental Scientist; 1996-August 2000: Steffen, Robertson and Kirsten (SRK Consulting) – Associate Director, Manager Environmental Section, SRK Cape Town.

#### **LECTURING**

- University of Cape Town: Resource Economics; SEA and EIA (1991-2004);
- University of Cape Town: Social Impact Assessment (2004-current);
- Cape Technikon: Resource Economics and Waste Management (1994-1998);
- Peninsula Technikon: Resource Economics and Waste Management (1996-1998).

#### **RELEVANT EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE**

Tony Barbour has undertaken in the region of 260 SIA's, including SIA's for renewable energy developments, infrastructure projects, dams, pipelines, and roads. In addition, he is the author of the Guidelines for undertaking SIA's as part of the EIA process commissioned by the Western Cape Provincial Environmental Authorities in 2007. These guidelines have been used throughout South Africa.

Tony was also the project manager for a study commissioned in 2005 by the then South African Department of Water Affairs and Forestry for the development of a Social Assessment and Development Framework. The aim of the framework was to enable the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry to identify, assess and manage social impacts associated with large infrastructure projects, such as dams. The study also included the development of guidelines for Social Impact Assessment, Conflict Management, Relocation and Resettlement and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Countries with work experience include South Africa, Namibia, Angola, Botswana, Zambia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Mozambique, Mauritius, Kenya, Ethiopia, Oman, South Sudan, Sudan, Senegal and Armenia.

## ANNEXURE B

The specialist declaration of independence in terms of the Regulations\_

I, Tony Barbour \_\_\_\_\_, declare that --

General declaration:

I act as the independent specialist in this application;

I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;

I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;

I have expertise in conducting the specialist report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;

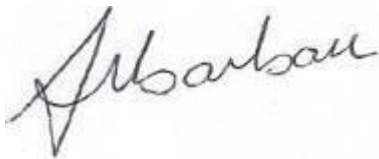
I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;

I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;

I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;

all the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and

I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the Act.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the specialist:

Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of company (if applicable):

19 November 2021

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Date: