

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Mr Methuli Mbanjwa
Roggeveld Wind Power (Pty) Ltd
5th Floor
125 Buitengracht Street
Cape Town
8001

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROGGEVELD WIND FARM: PHASE 1 AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE DEA Ref No: 12/12/20/1988/1

RE: Request for Revision of Decision Regrading the setback line of Roggeveld Wind Farm from the R354

Roggeveld Wind Power (Pty) Ltd. is developing a wind energy project on a site immediately west of the R354 road that links Matjiesfontein and Sutherland. The project falls within both the Western and Northern Cape. SAHRA is responsible for commenting on the Northern Cape portion of the development. In previous communications SAHRA took into account the cumulative impact this development and other similar developments will have on the sense of place of this area, particularly as it relates to the scenic value of the R354 road. In an Interim Comment of 15 August 2012, SAHRA requested that:

- 1. Turbines 6, 7, 8 and 11 must be removed in order to protect the sense of place and decrease the visual impact on the R354.*
- 2. No turbines are to be located within 3kms of the R354 in order to create a visual buffer between the road and the development.*
- 3. Ancillary infrastructure should be no closure than 500m to the R354.*
- 4. All other recommendations of the SAHRA review comment of 9 May 2012, besides that regarding the removal of turbines from mountain ridge, should be followed.*

In addition, SAHRA made the following recommendations on 13 February 2014, it was requested that:

- 1. That the developer separately assesses how the removal of turbines 39, 40 and 41 and of turbines 26, 27, 28 and 29 would lessen the high visibility gradient along the R354 which is a means to assess the impact of the wind energy facility on the sense of place and to the integrity of the cultural landscape.*
- 2. In the light of the results presented above, SAHRA will then further comment on the possibility to remove these turbines from the final layout of Phase 1.*
- 3. SAHRA agrees with the placement of the other turbines (35, 36, 37, 38, 42, 43, 44, 45 and 46) within the 3km of the R354.*

Roggeveld (Pty) Ltd. has since motivated to SAHRA to reconsider the 3km setback for wind turbines from the R354. The developer considers a 1km setback from the R354 as sufficient as currently proposed as part of Phase 1. The documents provided to SAHRA with regard to the proposed locations of the wind turbines indicates that the closest located wind turbine (WTG 29) is situated about 1.96km from the R354, and that WTG 28 and 29 are the most visually obtrusive. With these turbines omitted the closest turbines are between 2.4 - 2.6km from the R354 scenic road. In addition, the developer consulted with the heritage specialist with regards to the placement of the turbines. The specialist indicated that the removal of turbines 26, 27, 28, and 29 will make a difference to the quality of view with respect to the southward view and the same was noted for turbines 39, 40, 41 for the northern view. However, the specialist indicated that the removal of the above turbines would not significantly mitigate the change in sense of place considering the scale and scope of the wind energy facility (WEF).

Final Comment:

After due consideration of the information presented, SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has come to the following decision:

1. To reduce the visual impact of the wind farm on the R354, it is requested that turbines 28 and 29 be removed from the development of Phase 1 of the project;
2. Whilst SAHRA agrees that the sense of place will be changed by the development of the WEF, the removal of turbine 28 and 29 will significantly reduce the high visual impact on the R354 which is an important view point and location from where the sense of place may be experienced;
3. SAHRA is satisfied with the placement of other turbines and ancillary infrastructure that forms part of the Phase 1.
4. Please note that these recommendations are only applicable for Phase 1. SAHRA will make separate recommendations for the other phases of the development.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully



Phillip Hine
Heritage Officer

Roggeveld Wind Farm Phase 1

Our Ref: 9/2/091/0004

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CaseID: 4503

Date: Thursday April 10, 2014

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an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/152532>
(DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/1988/1)

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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