

17 December 2015  
478867



## Record of Meeting: Inyanda Roodeplaat Wind Energy Project ECPTA Offices (Newton Park), 9 December 2015, 10:00 – 11:30

### Attendees

Brian Reeves (ECPTA): BR	Rob Gardiner (SRK Consulting): RG
Shanè October (ECPTA): SO	Nicola Rump (SRK Consulting): NR
Hylton Newcombe (Newcombe Wind Developments - on behalf of the applicant): HN	Tanya Speyers (SRK Consulting): TS

### Introduction

The meeting was convened to discuss previous comments made by the Eastern Cape Parks & Tourism Agency (ECPTA) as part of the EIA process for the Inyanda Roodeplaat Wind Energy Facility (WEF), and ensure these and any further input are adequately addressed in the approved Plan of Study for EIA (including DEA's additional requirements). This was SRK's first meeting with ECPTA since becoming involved with the project.

### Discussion

- SRK gave an overview of the project and EIA process (including plan of study for EIA) since SRK's involvement as the EAP (EOH CES had previously been the appointed EAP).
- HN confirmed that the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) is dealing with the WEF EIA and legal investigation into the construction of a road on the site as separate matters.
- RG noted that DEDEAT has indicated that they are waiting on the Draft EIR and specialist reports before commenting further on the project.
- BR advised that the visual specialist study include viewpoints sensitive to the Groendal Nature Reserve, and that the VIA specialist should liaise with him in this regard if necessary.
- It was confirmed that SO and BR are the contact persons for ECPTA (previous ECPTA representatives who commented on the project are no longer involved).
- NR explained that due to changes in the project layout (primarily addition of associated infrastructure not previously included in the assessment), revisions to the ecological study are required. Leigh-Ann de Wet of LD Biodiversity Consulting has been appointed to update the CES report based on the Terms of Reference given in the FSR (which take ECPTA's comments regarding the inclusion of herpetological and reptilian species into account).
- BR advised that the ecological study should take into account the fine scale plans developed for the Baviaans area which should be available for download on BGIS.
- HN confirmed that some changes to the turbine layout may be required to accommodate various constraints of the site, including environmental. This is most likely to entail the loss of some turbines (a

Partners AH Bracken, MJ Braune, JM Brown, CD Dalglish, JR Dixon, DM Duthie, BM Engelsman, R Gardiner, GC Howell, WC Joughin, DA Kilian, PR Labrum, B Liber, DJ Mahlangu, RRW McNeill, HAC Meintjes, JA Middleton, MJ Morris, GP Nel, VS Reddy, M Ristic, PE Schmidt, PJ Shepherd, MJ Sim, VM Simposya, AA Smithen, HFJ Theart, KM Uderstadt, AT van Zyl, DJ Venter, ML Wertz, MD Wanless, A Wood

Directors AJ Barrett, JR Dixon, PR Labrum, V Maharaj, DJ Mahlangu, VS Reddy, PE Schmidt, PJ Shepherd

Associate Partners R Armstrong, N Brien, L Coetser, M Hirsch, AH Kirsten, Dr LH Kirsten, S Kisten, JA Lake, V Maharaj, SA McDonald, RD O'Brien, T Shepherd, JJ Slabbert, D Visser

Consultants AC Burger, BSC(Hons); JAC Cowan, PrSciNat, BSc(Hons); JH de Beer, PrSci Nat, MSc; T Hart, MA, TTHD; GA Jones, PrEng, PhD; TR Stacey, PrEng, DSc; OKH Steffen, PrEng, PhD; PJ Terbrugge, PrSciNat, MSc; DW Warwick, PrSciNat, BSc(Hons)

SRK Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd

Reg No 1995.012890.07

#### African Offices:

Cape Town	+ 27 (0) 21 659 3060
Durban	+ 27 (0) 31 279 1200
East London	+ 27 (0) 43 748 6292
Johannesburg	+ 27 (0) 11 441 1111
Kimberley	+ 27 (0) 53 861 5798
Pietermaritzburg	+ 27 (0) 33 347 5069
Port Elizabeth	+ 27 (0) 41 509 4800
Pretoria	+ 27 (0) 12 361 9821
Rustenburg	+ 27 (0) 14 594 1280
Accra	+ 23 (3) 24 485 0928
Harare	+ 263 (4) 49 6182
Lubumbashi	+ 243 (0) 81 999 9775

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minimum of 48 turbines out of the 55 indicated on the layout are required). The turbine located within 80 m of the boundary of the Groendal nature reserve will need to be moved or eliminated so that it is a minimum of 1.5 times the turbine tip height from the boundary, as per the safety requirements.

- HN explained that the road currently under investigation by DEA would not be used in its entirety for the wind energy facility due to the steep gradient and sharp turning points.
- BR mentioned that the site provides possible habitat for Hewitt's ghost frog, an endangered species, and the construction of roads could have a negative impact on any population within the area, specifically due to crossings of streams and drainage lines.
- BR advised that ECPTA would pay specific attention to the findings of the bird impact studies, as it is his understanding that the area falls within important habitat range for a number of raptor species of special concern.
- BR noted that the overhead powerline routes should be considered in the bird specialist study. SRK confirmed that the powerline route options have been included in the study.
- BR emphasised that ECPTA expects to receive copies of all specialist study reports (including those by previous specialists) for the project in order to understand the full picture and comment appropriately.
- BR noted that nocturnal birds should be considered in the bird specialist study.
- SO indicated that a dust management plan might be required and that the recently published dust management regulations should be taken into consideration.
- BR requested that the fire management plan should allow for a natural fire regime and that no active burning should be allowed.
- SRK noted that the Draft EIR would need to be submitted to DEA in early April, and that a focus group meeting with key stakeholders (primarily ECPTA, DEDEAT) would be planned for March to obtain comments on the report prior to submission.
- SO suggested that DWS be invited to the focus group meeting as they may have input regarding the hydrological study. SO agreed to forward SRK contact details of the relevant DWS representative.
- SO requested that SRK forwards a copy of the draft EIR to ECPTA for review prior to the focus group meeting.

Minutes take by:

SRK Consulting - Certified Electronic Signature  
  
478867/42059/Minutes  
5578-700-9820-SPET  
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Tanya Speyers  
Environmental Scientist  
**SRK Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd**