

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT & INVITATION TO COMMENT

INYANDA - ROODEPLAAT WIND FARM

Background to the project: Inyanda Energy Projects (Pty) Ltd, a renewable energy company, plans to develop a wind powered electricity generation facility (known as a 'wind farm') in the district of Uitenhage, Cacadu District Municipality, Eastern Cape Province of South Africa (refer to Figure 2).

Coastal & Environmental Services (CES) has been appointed by Inyanda Energy Projects (Pty) Ltd to undertake the necessary environmental investigations for the wind energy project, and to apply for approval from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), for its construction and operation, as required by South Africa's environmental legislation. Details of the environmental impact assessment process are provided on the next page.

Project description: The wind farm (refer to Figure 2 for relevant farm position) will entail the construction and operation of approximately 35 wind turbines, each generating a maximum of 2-3MW (Mega Watts). Three alternative layouts have been proposed for the project. The total land cover of the wind farm would be 12,000 hectares, and will feed into the national grid.

Dimensions: The ultimate size of the wind turbines will depend on further technical assessments but will typically consist of rotor turbines with rotor diameters up to a maximum of 120 meters. The towers will have a nacelle or transformer hub between 100 and 140 meters above ground with a blade tip height of between 160 and 200 meters above ground.

REGISTRATION



CES requests that all potential stakeholders and interested and affected parties register as participants in the EIA process

Return address for comments:

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Grahamstown, 6140

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Fax: (046) 622 6564

Email: a.jackson@cesnet.co.za

Or

Mr Justin Green

Email: j.green@cesnet.co.za



Figure 1: The Coega wind turbine. The Inyanda-Roodeplaat WEF will have turbines of a similar model.

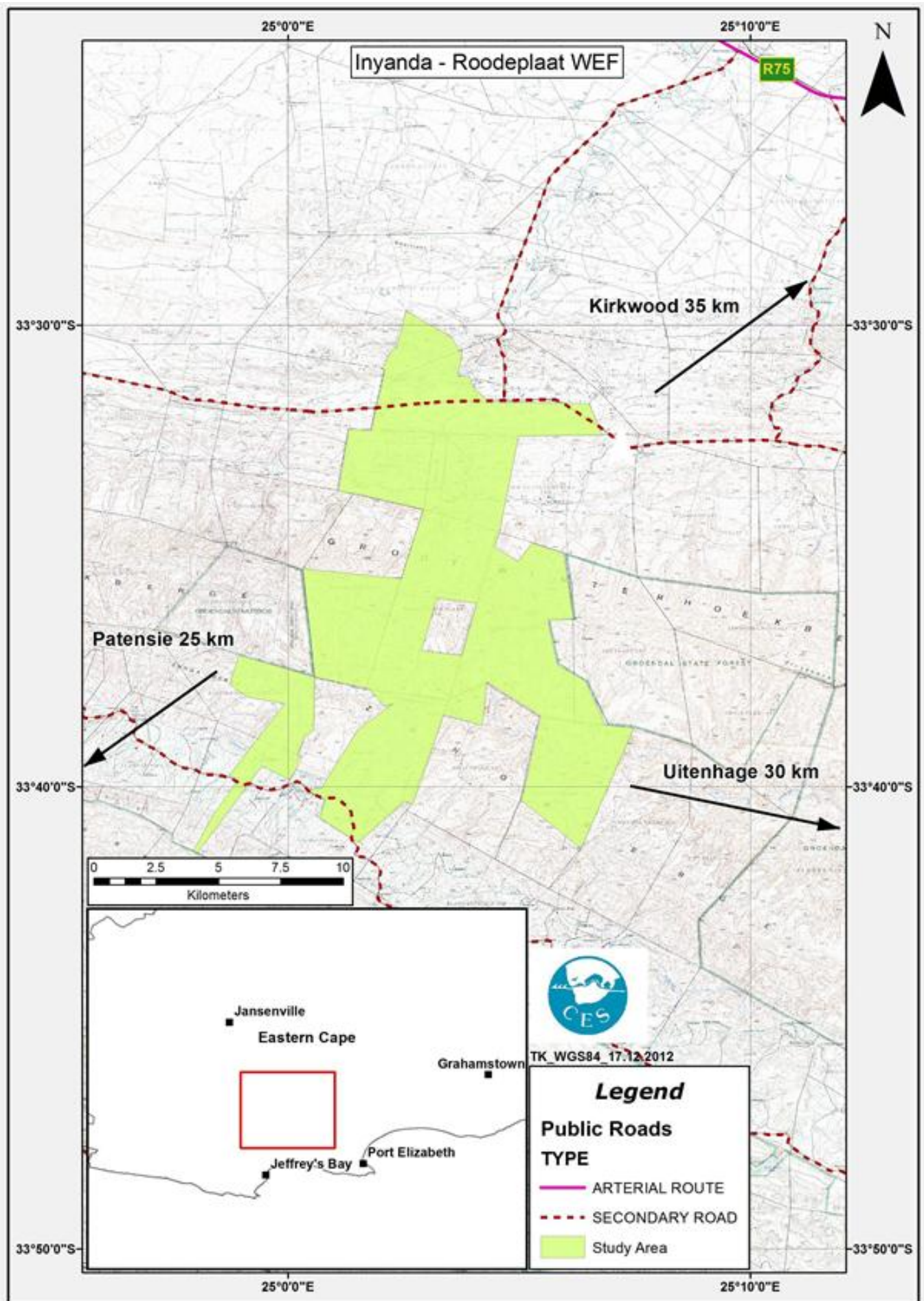
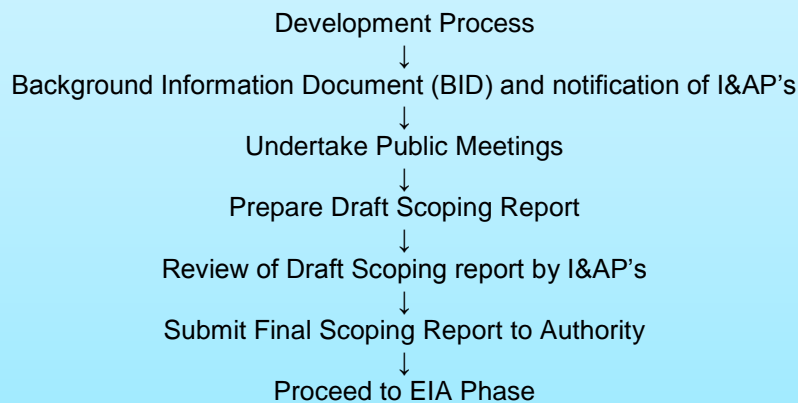


Figure 2: Location of the proposed Inyanda-Roodeplaat Wind Farm.

APPROACH TO THE SCOPING PHASE

The Scoping Phase is important for informing the public and relevant authorities about the nature and size of the proposed project. A critical component of the Scoping Phase is the Public Participation Process, in which Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are given an opportunity to raise any issues or concerns they may have about the project. The process is outlined in the figure below. The Draft Scoping Report will be made available for review by the public and all registered I&APs will be notified to the availability thereof. This report will set the scope and specialist terms of reference for the EIA Phase.

The Scoping Process



The Environmental Impact Assessment phase

This phase is more complex and more detailed than the Scoping phase, because it focuses on undertaking a number of specialist studies that have been identified as being necessary during the Scoping phase. These studies provide expert input into the EIA process based on scientific information. I&APs will be consulted again during this phase, and will be given an opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that will contain the specialist reports. During this phase an Environmental Management Plan must also be prepared for the project.

Environmental Authorisation phase

The final EIR is submitted to the national Department of Environment Affairs (DEA) who, after considering the report, will make a decision either authorising the project to continue under certain conditions, or requiring additional work to be undertaken.

Potential issues for investigation

The following specialist studies will be conducted within the proposed wind farm site, to ascertain any potential impacts, positive and negative, that may occur as a result of pre-construction, construction and operational phases.

- **Visual and aesthetic impacts**

A wind farm will normally have a high visibility due to the height of the turbines.

- **Noise impacts**

The Noise Impact Investigation will be conducted in accordance with the South African National Standard (SANS) 10328 "Methods for environmental noise impact assessments"

- **Ecological impacts**

The location of any species of special concern will be identified, and the location noted in order to inform the mitigation and management measures.

- **Avifaunal and Bat impacts**

Potential impacts to birds and bats

- **Heritage, archaeological and/or palaeontological impacts**

Potential impacts on heritage, cultural resources and/or fossils etc.

I hereby wish to register as an Interested and Affected Party (IAP) for the

Inyanda - Roodeplaat Wind Farm EIA process

Name:

Organization:

Postal address:

Email:

Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____

My initial comments, issues or concerns are:

Other individuals, stakeholders, organisations or entities that should be registered are:

Name:

Organization:

Postal address:

Email:

Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____

Please return details to: **Ms Amber Jackson**: P.O. Box 934, Grahamstown, 6140

Telephone: (046) 622 2364 Fax: (046) 622 6564 Email: a.jackson@cesnet.co.za