



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NEAS Reference: DE/VEIA/0000044/2010

DEA Reference: 12/12/20/2099

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Ms Louise Corbett
Aurecon (Pty) Ltd
P. O. Box 494
CAPE TOWN
8000

Fax No: (021) 424 5588

PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Ms Corbett

To:		File:		
Date: 17/06/2011				
	To	Seen	Act	Cl
SW/	Initials			
COL	LC			

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED WIND ENERGY FACILITY NEAR COPPERTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Final Scoping Report (FSR) and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated May 2011 and received by the Department on 10 May 2011 refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted FSR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated May 2011 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2010. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of regulation 30(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2010.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2010. In addition to the specialist studies to be conducted, a study must be done to determine the land use potential of the area especially with regard to the agricultural potential of the site and the impact of the proposed development on this potential.

Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This includes but is not limited to the Northern Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Nature Conservation, the Department of Agriculture Forestry & Fisheries, the Department of Water Affairs, the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA), the South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA), the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality, Eskom, etc, and any other stakeholders which deal with environmental matters within the Province.

Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final EIR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.

The applicant must make sure that there is consistency between listed activities applied for in the application form, the notice to I&APs and the FSR.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of regulation 67 with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations, and regulations 56 and 57 with regard to the allowance of a comment period for interested and affected parties on all reports submitted to the competent authority for decision-making. The reports referred to are listed in regulation 56(3a-3h).

Please ensure that the Final EIR includes at least one A3 regional map of the area and the locality maps included in the final EIR. The maps must be of acceptable quality and as a minimum, have the following attributes:

- Maps are relatable to one another;
- Cardinal points;
- Co-ordinates;
- Legible legends;
- Indicate alternatives;
- Latest land cover;
- Vegetation types of the study area; and
- A3 size locality map.

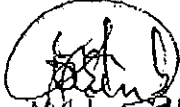
Further, it must be reiterated that, should an application for Environmental Authorisation be subject to the provisions of Chapter II, Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, then this Department will not be able to make nor issue a decision in terms of your application for Environmental Authorisation pending a letter from the pertinent heritage authority categorically stating that the application fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority as described in Chapter II, Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999.

You are requested to submit five (5) copies of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to the Department as per regulation 34(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2010. Please submit at least one electronic copy (CD/DVD) of the complete final report with the hard copy documents.

Please also find attached information that should be used in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report. This will enable the Department to speedily review the EIAR and make a decision on the application.

You are hereby reminded that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Mr Ishaam Abader

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND PROTECTION

Department of Environmental Affairs

Letter signed by: Mr Dumisani Mthembu

Designation: Director: Environmental Impact Evaluation

Date: 15/6/2014

CC:	Mr Zuben Jessa	Plan 8 (Pty) Ltd	Tel: 021-481-2555	Fax no: 021-424-5588
	Ms Anqa Yaphi	NCDEANC	Tel: 054-332-2885	Fax no: 054-331-1155
	Mr S Diokpala	Pixley ka Seme District Municipality	Tel: 053-631-0891	Fax no: 054-331-1155

EIA INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR WIND FARM APPLICATIONS

1. General site information

The following general site information is required:

- Descriptions of all affected farm portions
- 21 digit Surveyor General codes of all affected farm portions
- Copies of deeds of all affected farm portions
- Photos of areas that give a visual perspective of all parts of the site
- Photographs from sensitive visual receptors (tourism routes, tourism facilities, etc.)
- Turbine design specifications including:
 - Nacelle height
 - Blade length
 - Turbine shaft dimensions
 - Foundation dimensions
 - Laydown area dimensions (construction period and thereafter)
 - Blade rotation direction
 - Generation capacity
- Onsite measured wind parameters (speed, variability, etc.)
- Generation capacity of the facility as a whole at delivery points

This information must be indicated on the first page of any Scoping or EIA document. It is also advised that it be double checked as there are too many mistakes in the applications that have been received that take too much time from authorities to correct.

2. Site maps and GIS information

Site maps and GIS information should include at least the following:

- All maps/information layers must also be provided in ESRI Shapefile format
- All affected farm portions must be indicated
- The exact site of the application must be indicated (the areas that will be occupied by the application)
- A status quo map/layer must be provided that includes the following:
 - Current use of land on the site including:
 - Buildings and other structures
 - Agricultural fields
 - Grazing areas
 - Natural vegetation areas (natural veld not cultivated for the preceding 10 years) with an indication of the vegetation quality as well as fine scale mapping in respect of Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas
 - Critically endangered and endangered vegetation areas that occur on the site
 - Bare areas which may be susceptible to soil erosion
 - Cultural historical sites and elements
 - Rivers, streams and water courses
 - Ridgelines and 20m continuous contours with height references in the GIS database
 - Fountains, boreholes, dams (in-stream as well as off-stream) and reservoirs
 - High potential agricultural areas as defined by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
 - Buffer zones (also where it is dictated by elements outside the site):
 - 500m from any irrigated agricultural land

- 1km from residential areas
 - Indicate isolated residential, tourism facilities on or within 1km of the site
- A slope analysis map/layer that include the following slope ranges:
 - Less than 8% slope (preferred areas for turbines and infrastructure)
 - between 8% and 12% slope (potentially sensitive to turbines and infrastructure)
 - between 12% and 14% slope (highly sensitive to turbines and infrastructure)
 - steeper than 18 % slope (unsuitable for turbines and infrastructure)
- A map/layer that indicate locations of birds and bats including roosting and foraging areas (specialist input required)
- A site development proposal map(s)/layer(s) that indicate:
 - Turbine positions
 - Foundation footprint
 - Permanent laydown area footprint
 - Construction period laydown footprint
 - Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible)
 - River, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used
 - Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint.
 - Cable routes and trench dimensions (where they are not along internal roads)
 - Connection routes to the distribution/transmission network (the connection must form part of the EIA even if the construction and maintenance thereof will be done by another entity such as ESKOM)
 - Cut and fill areas at turbine sites along roads and at substation/transformer sites indicating the expected volume of each cut and fill
 - Borrow pits
 - Spoil heaps (temporary for topsoil and subsoil and permanently for excess material)
 - Buildings including accommodation

With the above information authorities will be able to assess the strategic and site impacts of the application.

3. Regional map and GIS information

The regional map and GIS information should include at least the following:

- All maps/information layers must also be provided in ESRI Shapefile format
- The map/layer must cover an area of 20km around the site
- Indicate the following:
 - roads including their types (tarred or gravel) and category (national, provincial, local or private)
 - Railway lines and stations
 - Industrial areas
 - Harbours and airports
 - Electricity transmission and distribution lines and substations
 - Pipelines
 - A visibility assessment of the areas from where the facility will be visible
 - Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas
 - Critically Endangered and Endangered vegetation areas
 - Agricultural fields

- Irrigated areas
- An indication of new road or changes and upgrades that must be done to existing roads in order to get equipment onto the site including cut and fill areas and crossings of rivers and streams.

4. Important stakeholders

Amongst other important stakeholders, comments from the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries must be obtained and submitted to the Department. Request for comment must be submitted to:

Mrs. Anneliza Collett
Directorate: Land Use & Soil Management
Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries
Tel: 012 - 319 7508
Fax: 012 - 329 5938
e-mail: AnnelizaC@nda.agric.za
www.agis.agric.za

In addition, comments must be requested from Eskom (Mr Kevin Leask or Mr Ronald Marais (011) 8008111) regarding grid connectivity and capacity.