



## **environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Fedsure Building · 315 Pretorius Street · PRETORIA  
Tel (+ 27 12) 310 3911 · Fax (+ 2712) 322 2682

**NEAS Reference:** DEAT/EIA/5954/2009

**DEA Reference:** 12/12/20/1585

**Enquiries:** Ms P Mashego

**Telephone:** (012) 310 3249 **Fax:** (012) 320 7539 **E-mail:** [PMashego@environment.gov.za](mailto:PMashego@environment.gov.za)

Ms Karen Jodas  
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd  
P. O. Box 148  
**SUNNINGHILL**  
2157

Fax no: (011) 234 6621

Dear Ms Jodas

### **APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON A SITE NEAR OYSTER BAY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

The final Scoping Report (FSR) and Plan of Study for the Environmental Impact Assessment (POSEIA) dated February and received by the Department on 02 February 2011 refers.

The Department has evaluated the submitted FSR dated February 2011 and is satisfied that the FSR complies with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2006. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of GN R.385 (31) (1) (a) of the EIA Regulations, 2006, subject to the following conditions:

1. The occurrence of TOPS listed species, as well as provincially protected species, should be included in the EIR phase, as it would be important to include this in the public participation process.
2. A map must indicate all sensitive environments such as the Provincial Biodiversity Conservation Plan (C-Plan), with identified CBAs, and sensitive aquatic areas and conservancy areas.
3. Removal of alien invasive species in accordance with the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (Act 43 of 1983), and follow-up procedures for at least three years should be part of the mitigation measures in the EMP, during and after the construction phase. Removal of natural vegetation should be in accordance to the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004), and TOPS-listed species identified.
4. The status of wetlands and pans (riparian vegetation) including potential impacts of the proposed wind energy facility should also be provided. For this, a wetland delineation study needs to be done and submitted with the EIR.
5. Wetlands and riparian zones must be delineated according to the Department of Water Affairs: Practical guideline for the identification and delineation of wetlands and riparian zones.
6. Identification of provincially protected species and TOPS-listed species, and the permits required if they need to be removed. This should preferably be accompanied by detailed and measurable mitigation measures.

7. The Eastern Cape Biodiversity Conservation Plan has to be included as part of the decision-making process, with the positions of the turbines overlaid.
8. Sand dune systems need to be mapped, if the turbines are placed anywhere near sandy soils there will need to be a study co-ordinated by an engineer to determine stability.
9. Measures to avoid soil erosion and compaction during construction should also be included in the EMP.
10. The EMP should provide measures to avoid collision of birds and bats with the wind energy facility.

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, 2006.


Please find attached information that should be used in the preparation of the EIAR.

Please ensure that comments from all relevant authorities are submitted to the Department with the Final Environmental Impact Report. This includes but is not limited to the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs (DEDEA), South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and the Department of Water Affairs (DWA). You are further requested to obtain a confirmation letter from Eskom indicating that the applicant will be able to connect to either the Eskom power grid/network, substation/s or power line. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the FEIAR.

Please submit at least one electronic copy (CD) and two (2) full hard copies of the FEIAR.

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

Yours sincerely



Ms Sibusisiwe Hlela

**ACTING CHIEF DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT**

Department of Environmental Affairs

Letter signed by: Mr Dumisani Mthembu

Designation: Director: Environmental Impact Evaluation

Date: 29/03/2011

CC: Mr. T Ribound

Renewable Energy Systems (RES) South Africa (Pty) Ltd

Fax: (021) 403 6301

## EIA INFORMATION GUIDELINE FOR WIND FARMS

### 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](mailto:AnnelizaC@nda.agric.za)  
[www.agis.agric.za](http://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.



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**Reference:** 12/12/20/1585

**Enquiries:** Portia Mashego

**Tel:** 012 310 3249 **Fax:** 012 320 7539 **E-mail:** pmashego@environment.gov.za

Ms Karen Jodas  
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 148  
**SUNNINGHILL**  
2157

**Fax:** 086 684 0547

**PER FACSIMILE / MAIL**

Dear Ms Jodas

**APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT  
OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY ON A SITE NEAR OYSTER BAY, EASTERN CAPE  
PROVINCE**

The Department confirms having received the amended Application Form submitted by you on 20 October 2010 for environmental authorisation for the above mentioned project.

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

Yours sincerely

Ms Lize McCarr  
Chief Director: Environmental Impact Management  
Department of Environmental Affairs  
Letter signed by: Ms Hilda Bezuidenhout  
Designation: Assistant Director: Environmental Impact Evaluation  
Date: 03/11/2010



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Reference: 12/12/20/1585

Enquiries: Mr. Takalani Maswime

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Ms Karen Jodas  
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd  
Private Bag X 148  
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Fax: (086) 684 0547

Dear Ms Jacobs

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE APPLICATION FORM FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON A SITE NEAR OYSTER BAY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

The Department confirms having received the application form for environmental authorisation of the abovementioned project on 31 July 2009. You may proceed with the Scoping Report process required in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2006.

Having considered the information contained in the application form, it is evident that you do not intend to apply for exemption from any provision contained in the EIA Regulations. Please note that should you fail to meet a requirement of the regulation and if no exemption from that provision was applied for, your application Scoping Report will be rejected.

The Department requires that you provide a description of the need and desirability of the proposed activity; and any identified alternatives to the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable. You are hereby reminded that it is mandatory to investigate and assess the option of not proceeding with the proposed activity (i.e. the "no-go" option) in addition to other alternatives identified. Alternatives may include technological, design or process alternatives.

You are advised that in undertaking the Scoping process you must take into account the above applicable guidelines developed by the Department. Refer to the Department's Integrated Environmental Management Information Series and copies of these series can be obtained from: Mr. Simon Moganetsi, Tel: (012) 310 3062, [smoganetsi@deat.gov.za](mailto:smoganetsi@deat.gov.za); or Ms. Fuziwe Mkuthi, Tel: (012) 310 3043, [fmkuthi@deat.gov.za](mailto:fmkuthi@deat.gov.za), at the Department

The Applicant must ensure that all requirements of Chapter II, Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, are complied with in this EIA process, and that the

comments and / or recommendations of the relevant heritage resources authority responsible for the area in which the development is proposed, is considered.

The comments and/or response from the relevant heritage resource agency must clearly state that the requirements of the Heritage Resources Act have been met during the study.

The application has been assigned the reference number **12/12/20/1585**. Kindly quote this reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.

Please be informed that the provincial department of environmental affairs must comment on all reports before it is submitted to this Department.

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

Yours faithfully



**Ms Lize McCourt**

**Chief Director: Environmental Impact Management**

**Department of Environmental Affairs**

**Letter signed by: Mr Takalani Maswime**

**Designation: PEO: Environmental Impact Evaluation: Parastatals and National**

**Date: 04/09/2008**

CC: Mr Pieter F Roux      South African Renewable Green Energy (Pty) Ltd      Fax: (021) 403 6401





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Ms Ravisha Ajodhapersadh  
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PO Box 148  
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2157

Fax: 086 684 0547

**PER FACSIMILE / MAIL**

Dear Ms Ajodhapersadh

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: PROPOSED WIND ENERGY FACILITY NORTH OF OYSTER BAY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

The Department confirms having received the draft Scoping Report for the abovementioned project on 25 November 2010.

Please note that the Department will start reviewing once the final Scoping Report is received.

Yours sincerely

Mr Dumisani Mthembu  
Chief Director: Environmental Impact Management (Acting)  
Department of Environmental Affairs  
Letter signed by: Ms Hilda Bezuidenhout  
Designation: Assistant Director: Environmental Impact Evaluation  
Date: 10/01/2011