

Appendix B1

Pre-application meetings

DEA PRE-APPLICATION MEETING

Meeting Notes

Project number	500571	Meeting date	17 October 2017
Project name	Impofu Wind Farms and Grid Connection	Recorded by	KJ
Meeting/subject	DEA Pre-application Meeting	Total pages	7

Present	Apology	Copy	Name	Organisation	Contact details
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Muhammad Essop	Department of Environmental Affairs	MEssop@environment.gov.za
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coenrad Agenbach	Department of Environmental Affairs	Cagenbach@environment.gov.za
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thabile Sangweni	Department of Environmental Affairs	TSangweni@environment.gov.za
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lance Blaine	Red Cap Energy	lance@red-cap.co.za
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jadon Schmidt	Red Cap Energy	jadon@red-cap.co.za
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mieke Barry	Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd	Mieke.barry@aurecongroup.com
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kirsten Jones	Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd	Kirsten.jones@aurecongroup.com

Item	Points of discussion
1	Welcome and Introduction
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MB introduced the Impofu Wind Farms and Grid Connection Project, where Red Cap Impofu Pty Ltd, Red Cap Impofu East Pty Ltd and Red Cap Impofu West Pty Ltd are the applicants for the three wind farms respectively and Red Cap Impofu Pty Ltd is the applicant for the grid, while Aurecon is the appointed Environmental Assessment Practitioners. MB noted that she is the project manager and there would be a team of process leads, and the project would involve approximately five or six key consultants. KJ was introduced as one of the process leads. ME questioned who would be the EAP. MB confirmed that she is the EAP. LB and JS are known to ME and CA through previous projects and SAWEA involvement.
2	Overview of the Proposed Project
	<p><u>Project motivation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LB described the projects/s and provided the motivation for the location. The Impofu Wind Farms site and Grid Connection was selected in its current location due to the extremely favourable wind resource. Due to the length of grid connection required (approx. 115 km), Red Cap initially looked elsewhere in the Western, Northern and Eastern Cape. Other environmental issues were identified elsewhere such as vultures, which resulted in the Impofu location being preferred despite the long grid connection. The approach is that three wind farms would cover the cost for the grid line and therefore Red Cap are pursuing three sites in the project area. With reference to Slide 3 (the REDZ Phase 2 map), one of the largest favourable REDZ areas falls within the proposed Impofu Wind Farms site. It is assumed that one of the main reasons that there is no further REDZ zoning within the site is as a result of the agricultural potential and mandate of Department of Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF). The site is largely transformed by arable dryland farming and is surrounded by existing wind farms. This project would essentially be 'filling up' the farm land cradled between existing wind farms with turbines.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are still concerns about DAFF’s assessment of the site as they have recently turned down a Juwi application in transformed farm land. However, the farmers with existing wind farms on their land in the vicinity of the project site, are proof that the steady reliable income from wind farms rental results in the farmers investing in their farms and being able to improve the productivity and agricultural potential of their farms (refer to Item 6 of the Notes for additional information).
	<p><u>Wind farms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ME queried where the three wind farms would fall, are they within the site boundary shown on Slide 3? • LB confirmed that the consolidated site is about 15,500 ha and would include three wind farms, and this would be described later in the presentation. Of the ±15,500 ha, only about 7,800 ha remains after exclusion of no go areas. CA queried the capacity in terms of Megawatts (MW) and turbines. • LB described that there would be a maximum of just over 400 MW for all three wind farms, but that this could be split differently between the three depending on the REIP4 requirements, or if the power is distributed through private to private sales. It is anticipated that capacity for each farm would be between 100 – 300 MW. • ME queried why the maximum of just over 400 MW and LB responded confirming that the proposed transmission line could not evacuate more than just over 400 MW of power. • In terms of turbines, there would not be more than 120 turbines for all three wind farms and this is already a commitment that has been made to some I&APs. The proportion of turbines on each wind farm is unknown at this stage. • ME noted that with reference to wind farms, the breakdown of turbines and MW per project must be provided in the application, but that this could change between Scoping and EIA phases. The maximum could be included in the application. • The wind farm site was described by LB, the site is bordered by the Impofu Dam to the north east and this is why the name has been chosen. Impofu is translated as Eland from isiXhosa. The south east and south west corners have been identified as most sensitive in terms of heritage and biodiversity resources and have been excluded. The north west section across the N2 is mountainous and would only have a few turbines which are spread out. The main area for turbines is across the middle of the consolidated site. Photos of the site are provided on Slides 7, 8 and 9. The predominant land use is dairy farming and dry land agriculture.
	<p><u>Grid corridor</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MB presented the overview map of the project (refer to Slide 4) showing the project site for the wind farms near Oyster Bay and the broader grid corridor of up to about 21 km width (which is being investigated for preferred routes and 3 km corridors) which extends to the east towards Port Elizabeth (PE). • Refer to Slides 5 and 9, the infrastructure includes three substations with Eskom switching stations adjacent to them (one per wind farm), with three short grid connections (maximum 5 km) to one collector switching station, which will allow for one transmission line that extends to PE. • The substations that the grid will link into are on the western outskirts of PE and are San Souci or Chatty and are Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM) substations. The option to connect via an Eskom substation would have required an extra 30 km of line through built up areas of PE to either Grassridge or Didisa. • MB presented a GoogleEarth flyover of the approximately 115 km grid connection which would be a 132 kV line from the collector switching station via Eskom’s Melkhout substation, via Lady Slipper to Sans Souci or Chatty NMBM substations. • At this point ME raised the fact that a second pre-application meeting for the grid connection may be required as it could be allocated to a different case officer if it was lodged later than the wind farm applications. It was decided to discuss this later in the meeting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LB explained that the preferred transmission line would follow existing lines for about 80% of the route. As one can only sign servitude option agreements with the landowners and pay for these once an EA for the final route has been issued, one cannot guarantee that the landowners will allow the route over their land until after the EA is issued. Therefore a 3 km corridor is requested for approval which would include over 150 landowners and give some flexibility if a landowner did not allow the route over their land or sold their land and the new owner did not want to allow the route over their land. As a 3 km corridor will only result in 1.5 km on either side of the preferred alignment it means any farm wider than 1.5 km could still result in an amendment/ new application having to be submitted if the landowner refused the route after the EA was issued as it would push the line outside the 3 km corridor.
	<p><u>Process and approach:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Slide 13 and 14. MB showed how the proposed three EIAs for the wind farms and the BA for the grid connection would occur in parallel. • The process commenced with a screening phase which is where we are now. This included a desk based study by the specialists, sensitivity mapping and identification of no go areas, a multi day site visit (with a helicopter flight along the grid corridor), a screening workshop with all the specialists and relevant engineers to interrogate sensitivities collaboratively, and a Multi-Criteria Decision-Making (MCDM) exercise for the grid to identify the preferred alternative. LB noted that a week was spent on site with specialists for site visits and workshops. The process will be documented in a Screening Report. • This phase will be followed by the development of the wind farm layouts and the grid corridor refinements, then pre-application public participation prior to the submission of the Application Forms for the Wind Farms and commencement of the Scoping process. The pre-application Public Participation Process (PPP) would occur over the December closure period in order to notify seasonal stakeholders. • The grid Application Form will only be submitted later on so that the Draft BAR and Draft EIR comment periods coincide. This scheduling is in order that the decision-making periods for all four projects coincide. • LB noted that there was a long period between this pre-application meeting and submission of the wind farm application forms (planned for October 2018) in order to do as much detailed work up front (including bird and bat monitoring) so we are not restricted by the timeframes in the EIA Regulations. Also that the specialists had been brought on board right from the outset. MB noted that this allowed for avoidance of impacts as the most preferable approach to mitigation. • ME agreed that this would reduce delays later in the process. • MB also noted the lag between this meeting and the submission of the grid connection Application Form (planned for March 2019) would hopefully reduce the risk of landowners along the grid not agreeing to the servitude across their land once the EA is issued as the time afforded would be used to try and build up good relationships with these owners but it could also result in landowners selling their land and new owners not wanting to sign for a servitude and again this is why it is requested that a preferred alignment with a 3 km corridor be approved. • CA agreed that overall it was an acceptable approach.
	<p><u>Communications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Slide 15. MB queried if there would be one case officer as this was optimal. • ME advised that the three wind farms would be allocated to one case officer, who was not available to attend this meeting. • ME further indicated that the grid case officer may be a different person, in which case the four projects could be split between two case officers. However, this could only be allocated at the time of lodging the applications.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MB raised the fact that the pre-application form was for all the projects- the three wind farms and the grid connection. • It was recommended by ME that the Application Form is accompanied by a cover letter describing all of the projects, and that the minutes of this meeting are attached. In which case there is a chance that the application for the BAR could be allocated to the same case officer as a related project. • It was recommended by DEA later in the meeting that due to the delays between this pre-application meeting and the proposed time of lodging the Application Forms, that another pre-application meeting is arranged with DEA as a refresher to provide an update on the status of the project.
	<p><u>Specialist studies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Slide 16. MB listed the environmental specialists appointed. She added that archaeology would include impacts to the built environment. • LB noted that there were two separate bird specialists appointed for the wind farms and grid connection, respectively. These are two of the best specialists in the country. For the wind farms they have already commenced two seasons of monitoring. Sensitive species included Denham's Bustard, Martial Eagle and Black Harrier. Only one or two Martial Eagle sightings have been recorded and there appear to be no nesting sites on or close to the site. Only two Black Harrier sightings have been recorded so far.
	<p><u>Decision-making</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Slide 17. The timeframes of the process discussed previously were presented. • The Specialist site visit is planned for March 2018. The wind farm Application Forms would be submitted in about October 2018, with the grid connection Applications being submitted in about March 2019. The wind farm Scoping process is proposed from October to November 2018, with the EIA process between March and October 2019. The grid connection BA process would be March to October 2019. • KJ noted that our process was designed so that the decision-making periods for the wind farms and grid connections overlapped so that decision-making could occur in parallel to ensure that the issue of "associated infrastructure" could be adequately addressed by DEA even though the grid and wind farms would be submitted as separate applications. Therefore what is the scenario if one of the projects e.g. the grid connection is delayed. Would DEA put the wind farm decision on hold? • ME stated that this could be decided at the time. But it could be a condition that the wind farms are authorised on condition of the grid connection being granted an Environmental Authorisation (EA). CA agreed, stating that this had been done before. • LB highlighted that the PPP for the wind farms and the grid would overlap and that the IAP's would be made aware that the full project consisted of wind farms and a grid connection, even though they would be submitted as separate applications. The reason for this is that the grid is not part of only one of the wind farms but linked to all of them so it cant be included in all their EIA's and also the grid once constructed must be handed over to Eskom as it will be their grid and thus it needs to be a separate application so that it can be transferred to Eskom. Also the fact that DEA will always be aware that the Grid is part of the bigger project and will also have the final decision making periods for the wind farms and the grid overlapping will all ensure that DEA can confidently assess all the associated infrastructure with the wind farms to make an informed decision on the impacts of the total project. • ME and CA agreed that this approach was a good way to ensure that associated infrastructure could be assessed and that there was no issue with separating the grid application from the wind farm application if it was undertaken in this manner. • KJ queried who would be the decision-maker in the case of a Private to Private offtaker? Was it the provincial authority? • ME agreed that if it was through Eskom (and REIP4) it would be DEA, if Private to Private (e.g. Municipalities) it was provincial. However if there is uncertainty, it would be DEA.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LB noted that in this case the intention is REIP4 but with the uncertainty of the process, it may end up being NMBM. It is therefore uncertain at this stage and we would apply to DEA. • ME and CA agreed.
	<p><u>Screening tool:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Slide 18. MB stated that the approach with screening was to adopt avoidance early on in the process, so that the preferred alternative will be the best environmental option for the project/s. On this basis, it is not planned to assess alternatives in the EIA or BAR, only assessing the preferred alternative against the no go alternative. The screening approach would be documented as motivation. • This was agreed by ME and CA as the NEMA EIA Regulations state that this is acceptable as long as there is sound motivation. • DEA's Screening Tool was discussed in the context of the Aurecon Screening Report. ME and CA agreed that the tool auto-generated a report with a number of maps that would be compulsory to attach to the any application. If the site has already been groundtruthed, as in this case, the Screening approach adopted by Red Cap can be discussed at the Scoping or BAR stage. It was noted that there are delays with publishing this tool.
	<p><u>Cumulative impact assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Slide 19, 20 and 21 which depicts and infographic of the approach to cumulative impact assessment and the map of neighbouring wind farms. • MB explained the approach whereby Aurecon and specialists would include the four existing wind farms (Kouga, Tsitsikamma, Gibson Bay and Jefferey's Bay) in the baseline environment. The proposed and approved wind farms within 30km would include Oyster Bay, Ubuntu and Banna ba Pifhu. Those excluded are Deep River and Happy Valley wind farms as they are reported to have lapsed. • ME noted that Banna ba Pifhu had recently submitted an application to extent the validity of the EA. Those that are under construction or have a valid EA should be included as cumulative projects. ME also noted that he was not aware of any other proposed new wind energy projects in the area. • CA agreed to the approach to include the existing wind farms as baseline and stated with reference to the infographic, that they were not concerned with how we define the scenarios, but rather to ensure that all the relevant projects were included in the cumulative assessment. • It was agreed by ME and CA that Thyspunt Nuclear and associated transmission line applications (although never authorised) do not require consideration because the Duynefontein site had recently been authorised.
	<p><u>Public participation process</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Slides 22, 23 and 24 for the proposed flow diagram for the processes showing combined PPP activities. This namely includes a combined BID PPP (21 days), focus group meetings, pre-application SR & BAR PPP (30 days) and DEIR & DBAR PPP (30 days). • Public meetings were proposed for the BID PPP and also the DEIR and DBAR PPP, the grid would allow for two geographical locations. ME noted that public meetings are not legislated and therefore it is Aurecon's discretion. • MB emphasised that although the three wind farms and the grid connection projects are separate, the PPP would be joint and this would ensure that the public was always aware of the full project and associated infrastructure. • KJ queried whether the CRR should be joint. ME stated that the comments could be included in both, but only responses required where relevant. • MB raised the issue of the PPP for the 3 km grid corridor and whether adjacent landowners should be notified as well as landowners as with a linear development in the old EIA regulations one did not

	<p>need to inform adjacent landowners due to the logistical complexity. . This long linear development would result in a significant number of adjacent landowners that would need to be contacted and in many cases their details are not available. How would we demonstrate that we have tried in cases where we were not successful? E.g. if no success through using windeed and contacting municipalities etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ME stated that it would not be possible to seek exemption from an aspect of PPP because you need to undertake PPP for the exemption process. You would need to demonstrate 'reasonable effort'. • ME stated that Eastern Cape Parks & Tourism Agency (as a division of Department of Economic Affairs, Environment and Tourism) should be included as an I&AP. MB noted that the Huisclip Nature Reserve is nearby. • MB confirmed that the transfer of the grid connection EA to Eskom after construction would comprise a Part 1 Amendment. ME and CA agreed.
4	Technical Queries
	<p><u>Wind farms and number of turbines</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Slide 27, LB explained the approach to apply for up to about 200 turbine locations, whilst only a maximum of 120 turbines will actually be constructed. This is because some turbine locations may fall away after the EA is granted for a number of reasons e.g. DAFF approvals, Eskom, municipalities, technical issues etc. The final number cannot be established at the stage of the EIA. The specialists would assess a worst case scenario based on all 200. But there is a commitment to I&APs that a maximum of 120 would be constructed and this could be a condition of the EA. • ME and CA agreed that 200 positions could be assessed as a worst case scenario but could be to Red Cap's detriment e.g. in the context of cumulative impacts. • LB said the specialists could include a statement to indicate that 200 have been assessed as a worst case scenario but the final impact could end up being lower as less turbines would be built. • ME and CA stated that this statement cannot be the assumption used in the decision-making, that the assessment of the 200 locations would be the basis for the decision. • LB noted that there may be impacts where the fact that only 120 turbines would ultimately be constructed could be used to reduce the significance but it would have to be logically and soundly motivated and it would obviously be up to DEA to make the final assessment.
	<p><u>Rotor swept area envelope</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LB presented the rotor swept area envelope in Slide 28 and explained that this was going to be used by the specialists from the start of the process as a worst case scenario on which to base their assessments. • ME and CA were in agreement and ME noted that they may find that areas could be shaved off the edges of the envelope once their assessment has been undertaken.
	<p><u>Sale of power</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slide 29 had already been discussed and it was agreed that if there was uncertainty, that DEA should be the decision-maker.
	<p><u>Grid connection</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Slide 30. It had already been explained that a preferred corridor had been identified through a MCDM process collaboratively with the team of specialists and engineers. The final alignment would be based on landowner willingness. • LB explained the approach of applying for a corridor 3 km wide to allow for this uncertainty, and including no go areas within this corridor.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ME and CA stated that based on their experience the actual alignment had to be identified and assessed. They needed to consult with their colleagues that deal with power line applications to confirm. • Upon discussion internally, it is noted that a corridor can be approved, with the various sensitivities as well as no-go areas, provided that all specialists adequately assess the entire corridor. This must be done in detail, where the specialists provide an indication that the entire area is suitable to place the powerline. If this is not done, then an alignment must then be assessed and presented in the process for decision making. • KJ and MB stated from their experience within their team, corridors were permitted. • It was concluded that DEA would need to discuss internally on this matter and that a formal query should be lodged. Once Aurecon submits the minutes of the meeting, they could include advice in their response.
5	DEA Comments and Way Forward
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A further pre-application meeting would be required prior to lodging any applications. • It is anticipated that the wind farm applications would be split between Thabile Sangweni and Mmamohale Kabasa. ME requested that queries during the pre-application phase be directed to him. Once a case officer has been assigned, then queries can be directed to the case officer. • The minutes of this meeting should be attached to any application being submitted to increase the chances of being allocated the same case officer. • Aurecon to attach the presentation to the minutes of this meeting, which should be sent to DEA for sign off.
6	Additional Information
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With regards to the potential loss of agricultural potential and socio-economic impacts, there is proof that the steady reliable income from wind farms rental in the area results in the farmers investing in their farms and being able to improve the productivity and agricultural potential of their farms and that that the minor loss of land from the wind farm infrastructure has no meaningful negative impact on their agricultural productivity or farming operations. The best case of this is a landowner who could not sustain himself by farming so his land was dormant but now that he has some turbines on his land he has given up his job in the city and is now farming full time and vastly increasing the productivity of his property.

Meeting Notes

Project number	500571	Meeting date	11 September 2018
Project name	Impofu Wind Farms and Grid Connection	Recorded by	MB
Meeting/subject	DEA Pre-application Meeting no 2	Total pages	3

Present	Apology	Copy	Name	Organisation	Contact details
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Muhammad Essop	Department of Environmental Affairs	MEssop@environment.gov.za
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thabile Sangweni	Department of Environmental Affairs	TSangweni@environment.gov.za
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lance Blaine	Red Cap Energy	lance@red-cap.co.za
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jadon Schmidt	Red Cap Energy	jadon@red-cap.co.za
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mieke Barry	Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd	Mieke.barry@aurecongroup.com

Item	Points of discussion
1	Welcome
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ME welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested that the EAP (MB) take the meeting notes. Introductions were made around the table.
2	Recap of the proposed project
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LB provided a recap of the project for the Wind Farms and Grid connection.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LB mentioned that although a lot of work has been undertaken to date, it is anticipated that the boundaries of the wind farms may still change between the scoping and EIR phases due to new information coming to light which ME confirmed was acceptable.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LB stated that for the grid connection corridor they are trying to follow the existing power lines as far as practicable. LB mentioned that although the team had presented a 3km corridor at the previous pre-application meeting, it was decided to submit an application for a 2km corridor with sections (where there are potential landowner and environmental issues) that are slightly wider or narrower to ensure robust specialist assessments. ME confirmed that DEA supported this approach.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LB described the various project components for the entire project. LB then went on to describe the exacerbated rotor swept area envelope, which the specialists would be considering in their assessments. The rotor swept area envelope allows for a range of turbine technologies which is unknown at this stage, therefore this approach considers the worst-case scenario for specialists to assess. ME noted DEA was happy with this approach.
3	Recap of the proposed approach undertaken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MB provided a recap of the approach for the project. She went on to state that the screening phase is complete, and that the pre-application scoping/BAR PPP comment period has ended and that the draft scoping reports and applications for the WFs are currently being finalised.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LB mentioned that the aim was to submit the Grid Corridor BAR application at a similar time to the WFs draft EIR so that DEA can consider the grid connection and the wind farms applications together. However, he noted that due to the complexity of both processes and the unknowns involved there is a chance that either the BAR or the EIR could be delayed so that there is not an overlap. LB mentioned

	<p>that at the previous meeting it was agreed that should the BAR be submitted later, a condition could be included in the EA for the wind farms, that the construction of the wind farms could only start if the Grid Connection BAR gets a positive EA. ME confirmed that this was still the case.</p>
4	Outcomes of the Screening Process
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MB provided a description of the screening process undertaken for the Wind Farms and the Grid Connection Corridor. The aim of the screening process was to follow the NEMA mitigation hierarchy of avoidance first.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MB went on to present the results of the screening processes for the WFs and Grid Connection. She mentioned that the screening process would be described in the Scoping and BAR reports, instead of including alternatives chapters, and that the impact assessment would only be undertaken on the preferred layout/ alignment. ME agreed that this approach is still acceptable.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ME asked out of interest if Aurecon had used DEA's screening tool. MB mentioned that they had used Impofu as an example for their team when using the screening tool, and that all the specialist studies recommended by the tool has been undertaken for this project.
5	Public Participation Process
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MB went through the PPP for the project. The PPP processes for the WF applications and the Grid connection are all undertaken in parallel with shared public meetings. The project team felt that this was important to ensure that I&APs got a sense of the entire project. ME confirmed their support for this approach.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MB went on to describe the PPP that has been undertaken thus far. Notifications were first sent out at the end of last year. It was decided to include the December period into this notification period, as the St Francis area is a tourist area, and the team thus wanted to capture vacationing I&APs as well. There was therefore an extended notification period. Those I&APs that registered where provided with a BID. Focus group meetings were held at the beginning of the year. The pre-application PPP for the Scoping Reports and BAR, commenced at the beginning of August and three combined public open days/ meetings were held during this period.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MB stated that three focus group meetings where held with authorities, key stakeholders, and landowners/adjacent landowners from 6-8 February 2018. Key outcomes of the focus group meetings were presented.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three pre-application public open days/meetings where held between 21 August – 23 August 2018 in St Francis Bay, Thornhill and Despatch. The format of the meetings included an open day from 9:00am – 7:30pm, with formal presentations at 10:30am and 6:00pm. MB provided the main outcomes/concerns of these meetings. • LB queried if DEA agreed that there was not a need for a public meeting during the official scoping stage and ME confirmed that this was acceptable.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ME queried whether it was anticipated that any of the PPP comment periods going forward would be over the December period. If so, approval would be required from DEA? • MB stated that none of the PPP comment periods going forward will be over December.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ME queried whether SENTECH has been included on the Stakeholder database. • MB has confirmed that they are and that they have already provided comment, which has been forwarded to the client.
6	Cumulative Impact Assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MB presented the assessment approach to be undertaken for the project:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish environmental baseline including existing WFs ○ Assessment of impacts of one Impofu WF on the existing baseline ○ The cumulative assessment would consist of two scenarios. Scenario 1 assessment of the impacts from the Impofu WF in combination with the other two Impofu WFs and Scenario 2 all three Impofu WFs and associated infrastructure, in addition to similar developments with an EA and/or bidder status within 30km from the site. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ME happy with the approach.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LB noted that the Ubuntu WF EA is due to expire mid next year. Since the EA was issued it was also discovered that there is a unique Black Harrier roost on the site. LB is, therefore, of the opinion that the EA will not be renewed or if it is there will be a buffer around the roost that would make the project unviable. LB asked ME based on these aspects should Ubuntu WF still be considered in the cumulative assessment. ME stated yes, if the EA is still valid it must be considered in the cumulative assessment.
7	Further Queries
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ME confirmed that TS would be the case officer for all three wind farm applications as well as the grid connection application for the project and they would fall under his management.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ME queried whether any weather services are close to the proposed sites. JS mentioned that there weren't any to his knowledge.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● JS stated that Red Cap is engaging directly with Telkom.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ME queried whether the proposed project would be "stealing" wind from the adjacent existing wind farms. ● LB stated that this is unlikely to be problematic as the layout has already taken this into consideration by including a 1 km buffer around the turbine locations.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ME stated that when the EAP declaration is completed that it should be in the name of the individual EAP and not the company. He also mentioned that there was an updated EAP declaration form on the DEA website. ● MB confirmed that this will be done.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ME highlighted that the two pre-application meetings are under different reference numbers, and he recommended that both reference numbers be included in the cover letter of the application forms. He also mentioned that in the cover letter we need to mention that pre-application meetings were held with himself and TS.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● JS asked what the process is with regards to an amendment of the EMPr after an EA has been issued? ME stated that the EMPr would need to go through a 30-day public comment period prior to submission of the amended EMPr to DEA. ● MB asked if there was a requirement to go out and advertise the amendment of the EMPr, or if it would be ok just to inform the registered I&APs? ME confirmed that there was no requirement to advertise the amendment of the EMPr and that we just need to notify registered I&APs.
8	Way Forward
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MB stated that it was the intention to submit the applications for the three Wind Farms in October 2018, with the DSRs circulated for public comment from October – November 2018. ● The application for the grid connection is anticipated to be submitted to DEA in March 2019, along with the draft EIRs for the WFs.

Appendix B2

Scoping phase



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia · PRETORIA

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1103

Enquiries: Azrah Essop

Tel: 012 399 8529 E-mail: AEssop@environment.gov.za

Mieke Barry
Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd
P O Box 494
CAPE TOWN
8000

Tel: 021 526 6025
Email: Mieke.barry@aurecongroup.com

PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS) AND SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED IMPOFU WEST WIND FARM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN OYSTER BAY WITHIN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Department confirms having received the Application and draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 10 October 2018. We further confirm that you have submitted these documents to comply with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 published under Government Notice R982 in Government Gazette No. 38282 dated 04 December 2014, as amended ('the EIA Regulations, 2014').

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.

All documentation delivered to the physical address contained in this form must be delivered during the official Departmental Office Hours which is visible on the Departmental gate. EIA related documents (includes application forms, reports or any EIA related submissions) that are faxed; emailed; delivered to Security or placed in the Departmental Tender Box will not be accepted.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.

Yours sincerely



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs

Letter signed by: Ms Azrah Essop

Designation: Environmental Officer: EIA Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support

Date: 12 October 2018

CC:	Lance Blaine	Red Cap Impofu West (Pty) Ltd	Email: Lance@red-cap.co.za
	Charl du Plessis	Kouga Local Municipality	Email: jreed@kouga.gov.za
	Ted Pillay	Sarah Baartman Municipality	Email: tpillay@cacadu.co.za
	Dayalan Govender	Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism	Email: Dayalan.govender@dedea.gov.za



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA · 0001· Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road· PRETORIA

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1103

Enquiries: Thabile Sangweni

Telephone: (012) 399 9409 **E-mail:** TSangweni@environment.gov.za

Ms Mieke Barry
Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 494
CAPE TOWN
8000

Telephone Number: (021) 526 6025
Email Address: Mieke.barry@aurecongroup.com

PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Ms Barry

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED IMPOFU WEST WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN OYSTER BAY IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The draft Scoping Report (SR) and the application form received by this Department on 10 October 2018 refer.

This Department has the following comments on the abovementioned application:

- i. Please ensure that all relevant listed activities applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.
- ii. If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the draft SR, an amended application form must be submitted with the final SR. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.
- iii. The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development; particularly the South African Astronomical Observatory, the Eastern Cape Environmental Department, the District and Local Municipalities.
- iv. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received, during the circulation of the draft SR, from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- v. A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "Noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments.

- vi. Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of turbine positions, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.
- vii. The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.
- viii. Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expert advice.
- ix. Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads and internal cables is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.
- x. Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Department's definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer.
- xi. The bat and avifaunal specialist assessments must assess and make recommendations for definite measurements for the preferred hub heights and rotor diameter.
- xii. The proposed development is located adjacent to various authorised wind energy facilities. The applicant and EAP must provide proof that sufficient engagement has been made, with the adjacent wind energy facilities, and that the adjacent wind energy facilities are satisfied with the proposed methods to mitigate the impacts should there be any.
- xiii. Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:
 - Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
 - The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
 - A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.
- xiv. The final SR must indicate and describe the competing land uses in the area. This must further motivate the desirability of locating the wind energy facility at the preferred location.
- xv. The EAP must ensure that all appointed specialists sign the "specialist declaration of interest" form.
- xvi. In accordance with Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, the details of—
 - (i) *the EAP who prepared the report; and*
 - (ii) *the expertise of the EAP to carry out Scoping and Environmental Impact assessment procedures;*must be submitted.
- xvii. You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

xviii. Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs

Signed by: Mr Muhammad Essop

Designation: Acting Deputy Director: Strategic Infrastructure Developments

Date:

07/11/14

cc:	L Blaine	Red Cap Impofu (Pty) Ltd	Email: Lance@red-cap.co.za
-----	----------	--------------------------	----------------------------

Annexure 1

Format for Comments and Response Trail Report:

Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
27/01/2016 Email Department of Environmental Affairs: Strategic Infrastructure Development (John Soap)	Please record C&R trail report in this format Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority	EAP: (Noted)The C&R trail report has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia · PRETORIA

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1103

Enquiries: Juliet Mahlangu

Tel: 012 399 9320 **E-mail:** jmmahlangu@environment.gov.za

Ms Mieke Barry
AURECON
P O Box 494
CAPE TOWN
8000

Tel: 021 526 9400

Email: mieke.barry@aurecongroup.com

PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED IMPOFU WEST WIND FARM, NEAR OYSTER BAY, EASTERN CAPE

The Department confirms having received the Final Scoping Report for the abovementioned project on 23 November 2018. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (EIA), 2014, as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs), including the Competent Authority (CA), may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority (CA).

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.

Yours sincerely

Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs

Letter signed by: Ms Azrah Essop

Designation: Environmental Officer: Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support

Date: 26 November 2018



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road · Arcadia · PRETORIA

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1103

Enquiries: Ms Thabile Sangweni

Telephone: (012) 399 9409 **E-mail:** TSangweni@environment.gov.za

Ms Mieke Barry
Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 494
CAPE TOWN
8000

Telephone Number: (021) 526 6025
Email Address: Mieke.barry@aurecongroup.com

PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Ms Barry

ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED IMPOFU WEST WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR OYSTER BAY IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Scoping Report (SR) and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA) dated November 2018 and received by this Department on 23 November 2018 refer.

This Department has evaluated the submitted SR and the PoSEIA dated November 2018 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended. The SR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22 (a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

You may proceed with the Environmental Impact Assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the PoSEIA and the requirements of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

All comments and recommendations made by all stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in the draft SR and submitted as part of the final SR must be taken into consideration when preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment report (EIAR) in respect of the proposed development. Please ensure that all mitigation measures and recommendations in the specialist studies are addressed and included in the final EIAR and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the final EIAR. This includes but is not limited to the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT), the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), the provincial Department of Agriculture, the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), the Department of Transport, the Kouga Local Municipality, the Sarah Baartman Municipality, the Koukamma Local Municipality, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL), the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), BirdLife SA, the Department of Mineral Resources, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, the Department of Environmental Affairs: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation, and the Department of Environmental Affairs: Directorate Protected Area Management.

You are also required to address all issues raised by Organs of State and I&APs prior to the submission of the EIAr to the Department. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the EIAr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.

The EAP must, in order to give effect to Regulation 8, give registered I&APs access to, and an opportunity to comment on the report in writing within 30 days before submitting the final EIAr to the Department.

In addition, the following additional information is required for the EIAr:

- i. The EIAr must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.
- ii. The listed activities represented in the EIAr and the application form must be the same and correct.
- iii. The EIAr must assess the correct sub listed activity for each listed activity applied for. Please note that the EAP must remove any sub-listed activities that are not listed from the application form and assessment reports.
- iv. The EAP must provide landowner consent for all farm portions affected by the proposed project, whether the project component is linear or not, i.e. all farm portions where the pipeline, access road, wind turbines and associated infrastructure is to be located.
- v. The EIAr must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions. A sample for the minimum information required is listed under point 2 of the EIA information required for wind energy facilities below.
- vi. The EIAr must provide the four corner coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.
- vii. The EIAr must provide the following:
 - Clear indication of the envisioned area for the proposed wind energy facility; i.e. placing of wind turbines and all associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale.
 - Clear description of all associated infrastructure. This description must include, but is not limited to the following:
 - Powerlines;
 - Internal roads infrastructure; and;
 - All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house and control room etc.
 - All necessary details regarding all possible locations and sizes of the proposed satellite substation and the main substation.
- viii. The EIAr must also include a comments and response report in accordance with Appendix 2 h (iii) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
- ix. The EIAr must include the detail inclusive of the PPP in accordance with Regulation 41 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
- x. Details of the future plans for the site and infrastructure after decommissioning in 20-30 years and the possibility of upgrading the proposed infrastructure to more advanced technologies.
- xi. A significant amount of materials and equipment will be delivered to the site during the construction phase of the development and will thus have impacts on the environment. The impacts of this activity must be fully identified and assessed. The terms of reference for the Traffic Impact Assessment must be expanded to include the following:
 - Evaluate the impacts of the proposed development on existing road network and traffic volumes. The study must determine the specific traffic needs during the different phases of implementation, namely wind turbine construction and installation, operation and decommissioning;
 - Identify the position and suitability of the preferred access road alternative;
 - Evaluate the roadway capacity of the road network;
 - Confirm the associated clearances required for the necessary equipment to be transported from the point of delivery to the various sites;
 - Confirm freight and transport requirements during construction, operation and maintenance;

- Propose origins and destinations of equipment; and
 - Determine (Abnormal) Permit requirements if any.
- xii. All specialist studies must be undertaken at the most appropriate time, and detailed reasons must be provided for why the study was undertaken during the said period.
- xiii. The EIAr must adhere to the all the comments issued by this Department on the draft SR dated 07 November 2018.
- xiv. The specialist studies must consider, and clearly stipulate the range of hub heights and rotor diameters considered. The EAP is to ensure that all specialists are to assess the same range in their assessments, and mitigation measures for the range between the minimum and maximum heights must be provided.
- xv. The specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of turbines that they have assessed.
- xvi. The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. It must be also noted that all specialist studies must be conducted in the correct season, and conducting a specialist study in the incorrect season and providing that as a limitation will not be accepted.
- xvii. Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
- xviii. Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads and internal cables is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.
- xix. Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Department's definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer.
- xx. The EIAr must provide a detailed description of the need and desirability, not only providing motivation on the need for clean energy in South Africa of the proposed activity. The need and desirability must also indicate if the proposed development is needed in the region and if the current proposed location is desirable for the proposed activity compared to other sites. The need and desirability must take into account cumulative impacts of the proposed development in the area.
- xxi. The EIAr must include a detailed **cumulative impact assessment** of the facility if there are other similar facilities within a 30km radius of the proposed development site. All the specialist studies e.g. biodiversity, visual, heritage etc. in the PoSEIA which is incorporated as part of the SR must also assess the facility in terms of potential cumulative impacts. The cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must indicate the following:
- Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
 - Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development must be rated with the significance rating methodology approved with the acceptance of the scoping report.
 - The cumulative impact significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
 - A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.
- xxii. Please note that information on location of renewable energy developments can be accessed from <https://www.environment.gov.za/mapsgraphics>.
- xxiii. A copy of the final site layout map. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following:
- Wind turbine positions (numbered) and its associated infrastructure;
 - Permanent laydown area 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);
 - Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used;
 - The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
 - Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;
 - Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;
 - All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads;
 - Buffer areas;
 - Buildings, including accommodation; and
 - All "no-go" areas.
- xxiv. An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the EIA process.
- xxv. A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.
- xxvi. A shapefile of the preferred development layout/footprint must be submitted to this Department. The shapefile must be created using the Hartebeesthoek 94 Datum and the data should be in Decimal Degree Format using the WGS 84 Spheroid. The shapefile must include at a minimum the following extensions i.e. .shp; .shx; .dbf; .prj; and, .xml (Metadata file). If specific symbology was assigned to the file, then the .avl and/or the .lyr file must also be included. Data must be mapped at a scale of 1:10 000 (please specify if an alternative scale was used). The metadata must include a description of the base data used for digitizing. The shapefile must be submitted in a zip file using the EIA application reference number as the title. The shape file must be submitted to:

Postal Address:

Department of Environmental Affairs
 Private Bag X447
 Pretoria
 0001

Physical address:

Environment House
 473 Steve Biko Road
 Pretoria

For Attention: Muhammad Essop
 Integrated Environmental Authorisations
 Strategic Infrastructure Developments
 Telephone Number: (012) 399 9406
 Email Address: MEssop@environment.gov.za

The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) to be submitted as part of the EIAR must include the following:

- i. All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAR and the specialist studies conducted.
- ii. The final site layout map.
- iii. Measures as dictated by the final site layout map and micro-siting.
- iv. An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the EIA process.
- v. A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.

- vi. An alien invasive management plan to be implemented during construction and operation of the facility. The plan must include mitigation measures to reduce the invasion of alien species and ensure that the continuous monitoring and removal of alien species is undertaken.
- vii. A plant rescue and protection plan which allows for the maximum transplant of conservation important species from areas to be transformed. This plan must be compiled by a vegetation specialist familiar with the site and be implemented prior to commencement of the construction phase.
- viii. An avifauna and bat monitoring and management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. This plan must be drafted according to the latest guidelines by a suitably qualified avifauna and bat specialist.
- ix. A re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. Restoration must be undertaken as soon as possible after completion of construction activities to reduce the amount of habitat converted at any one time and to speed up the recovery to natural habitats.
- x. An open space management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility.
- xi. A traffic management plan for the site access roads to ensure that no hazards would result from the increased truck traffic and that traffic flow would not be adversely impacted. This plan must include measures to minimize impacts on local commuters e.g. limiting construction vehicles travelling on public roadways during the morning and late afternoon commute time and avoid using roads through densely populated built-up areas so as not to disturb existing retail and commercial operations.
- xii. A transportation plan for the transport of components, main assembly cranes and other large pieces of equipment.
- xiii. A storm water management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. The plan must ensure compliance with applicable regulations and prevent off-site migration of contaminated storm water or increased soil erosion. The plan must include the construction of appropriate design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off.
- xiv. A fire management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility.
- xv. An erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the facility. Appropriate erosion mitigation must form part of this plan to prevent and reduce the risk of any potential erosion.
- xvi. An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water systems.
- xvii. Measures to protect hydrological features such as streams, rivers, pans, wetlands, dams and their catchments, and other environmental sensitive areas from construction impacts including the direct or indirect spillage of pollutants.

The EAP must provide detailed motivation if any of the above requirements is not required by the proposed development and not included in the EMPr.

The EAP must provide the final detailed Site Layout Plan as well as the final EMPr for approval with the final EiAr as this Department needs to make a decision on the EA, EMPr and Layout Plan.

Please ensure that all the relevant Listing Notice activities are applied for, that the Listing Notice activities applied for are specific and that they can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure in the project description.

You are hereby reminded that should the EiAr fail to comply with the requirements of this acceptance letter, the project will be refused in accordance with Regulation 24(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations, and Regulations 43 and 44 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 43(1).

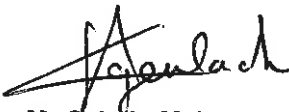
Furthermore, it must be reiterated that, should an application for Environmental Authorisation be subject to the provisions of Chapter II, Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, then this Department will not be able to make nor issue a decision in terms of your application 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. Comments from SAHRA and/or the provincial department of heritage must be provided in the EIAr.

You are requested to submit two (2) electronic copies (1 CD/DVD and 1 USB) and one (1) hard copy of the EIAr to the Department as per Regulation 23(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.

Please also find attached information that must be used in the preparation of the EIAr. This will enable the Department to speedily review the EIAr and make a decision on the application.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, which stipulates that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs

Letter Signed by: Mr Coenrad Agenbach

Designation: Deputy Director: Strategic Infrastructure Developments

Date: 25/01/2019

cc:	L Blaine	Red Cap Impofu (Pty) Ltd	Email: Lance@red-cap.co.za
-----	----------	--------------------------	----------------------------

A. EIA INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR WIND ENERGY FACILITIES

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.)
- Facility design specifications including:
 - Type of technology
 - Structure height
 - Surface area to be covered (including associated infrastructure such as roads)
 - Structure orientation
 - Laydown area dimensions (construction period and thereafter)
 - Generation capacity
- Generation capacity of the facility as a whole at delivery points

This information must be indicated on the first page of the EIAr. 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. Sample of technical details for the proposed facility:

Component	Description/ Dimensions
Location of the site	
Facility area	
SG Codes	
Site access	
Export capacity	
Proposed technology	
Hub height from ground level	
Rotor diameter	
Area occupied by substations	
Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas	
Area occupied by buildings	
Width and length of internal roads	
Proximity to grid connection	
Type and height of fencing	

3. 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 WIND TURBINE and infrastructure)
 - between 8% and 12% slope (potentially sensitive to WIND TURBINE and infrastructure)
 - between 12% and 14% slope (highly sensitive to WIND TURBINE and infrastructure)
 - steeper than 18 % slope (unsuitable for WIND TURBINE and infrastructure)
- A site development proposal map(s)/layer(s) that indicate:
 - 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 WIND 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.

4. 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
 - Waters sources to be utilised during the construction and operational phases
 - 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

5. Important stakeholders

Amongst other important stakeholders, comments from the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries must be obtained and submitted to the Department. Any application, documentation, notification etc. should be forwarded to the following officials:

Ms Mashudu Marubini
Delegate of the Minister (Act 70 of 1970)
E-mail: MashuduMa@daff.gov.za
Tel 012- 319 7619

Ms Thoko Buthelezi
AgriLand Liaison office
E-mail: ThokoB@daff.gov.za
Tel 012- 319 7634

All hardcopy applications / documentation should be forwarded to the following address:

Physical address:

Delpen Building
Cnr Annie Botha and Union Street
Office 270
Attention: Delegate of the Minister Act 70 of 1970

Postal Address:

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Private Bag X120
Pretoria
0001
Attention: Delegate of the Minister Act 70 of 1970

In addition, comments must be requested from Eskom regarding grid connectivity and capacity. Request for comment must be submitted to:

Mr John Geeringh
Eskom Transmission
Megawatt Park D1Y38
PO Box 1091
JOHANNESBURG
2000

Tel: 011 516 7233
Fax: 086 661 4064
John.geeringh@eskom.co.za

B. AGRICULTURE STUDY REQUIREMENTS

- Detailed soil assessment of the site in question, incorporating a radius of 50 m surrounding the site, on a scale of 1:10 000 or finer. The soil assessment should include the following:
 - Identification of the soil forms present on site
 - The size of the area where a particular soil form is found
 - GPS readings of soil survey points
 - The depth of the soil at each survey point
 - Soil colour
 - Limiting factors
 - Clay content
 - Slope of the site
 - A detailed map indicating the locality of the soil forms within the specified area,
 - Size of the site
- Exact locality of the site
- Current activities on the site, developments, buildings
- Surrounding developments / land uses and activities in a radius of 500 m of the site
- Access routes and the condition thereof
- Current status of the land (including erosion, vegetation and a degradation assessment)
- Possible land use options for the site
- Water availability, source and quality (if available)
- Detailed descriptions of why agriculture should or should not be the land use of choice
- Impact of the change of land use on the surrounding area
- A shape file containing the soil forms and relevant attribute data as depicted on the map.

Appendix B3

Extension

Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd
1977/003711/07

Aurecon Centre
1 Century City Drive
Waterford Precinct
Century City
Cape Town
7441

PO Box 494
Cape Town
8000
South Africa

T +27 21 526 9400
F +27 21 526 9500
E capetown@aurecongroup.com
W aurecongroup.com



29 January 2019

Ms Thabile Sangweni
Department of Environmental Affairs
Directorate: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
Arcadia
Pretoria
0001

Dear Thabile

REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION IN TERMS OF REGULATION 3(7) OF THE 2014 EIA REGULATIONS (AS AMENDED), FOR THE PROPOSED IMPOFU WEST WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN OYSTER BAY IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

DEA Ref. No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1103

The acceptance of the Final Scoping Report (dated 20 November 2018) for the above referenced project on 25 January 2019 by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) has reference. In terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations, the deadline for submitting the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report is 16 May 2019.

The purpose of this letter is to request an extension on the submission of the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (GN R982 of December 2014, as amended).

Background

Red Cap Impofu West (Pty) Ltd (the client) is proposing to construct a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and associated infrastructure in Oyster Bay in the Eastern Cape Province. Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Aurecon) has been appointed to undertake the requisite EIA processes.

During the pre-application period, a proactive approach was undertaken to commence with specialist studies, specifically the bird and bat pre-construction monitoring surveys, which are undertaken over a 12-month period. The bat pre-construction monitoring period commenced in November 2017 and ended in October 2018. Therefore, the bat sensitivity layers within the Final Scoping Report were initial findings, based on five months of monitoring. Based on the final pre-construction bat data, as well as consultation with the South African Bat Assessment Association (SABAA), it was decided to include more stringent bat buffers around potentially sensitive areas than those that were used in the Final Scoping Report. The implication of these new sensitivity layers is that the potential developable area has now significantly decreased, and the wind farm layout that had already been assessed by the specialist during the Scoping Phase has had to be completely redesigned.

Motivation for extension

As the new layout needed to be developed in a more restricted area (given the larger bat buffers), the turbines must be placed closer together and the potential operational impact of one turbine on the other has now become a significant constraint. Therefore, detailed input was required from wind engineers as well as from wind turbine manufacturers themselves to ensure the new layout was technically feasible. At the same time this new layout had to be discussed with the landowners to ensure it did not unduly impact on their farming or other activities.

Only after an iterative process including the engineers, wind turbine manufacturers and landowners could a layout be finalised that is technically feasible, and which does not unduly impact the landowners. Only once this was done could the engineers start to design the new road layout to link up all the turbines, and to finalise this with input from the landowners.

This process was undertaken over the 2018 December break to attempt to meet the legislated timeframes. However, whilst the revised layout is almost finalised, it will need to be sent to all the specialists to reassess (as it differs to the layout assessed during the Scoping Phase). Unfortunately, due to the existing timeframes the specialists will not have sufficient time to undertake the detailed assessment and modelling of the new layout, for Aurecon to compile a Draft EIAr and for this to be circulated for a 30-day public comment period.

In terms of Regulation 43 of the 2014 EIA Regulations (as amended), the Draft EIAr (inclusive of all specialist reports) must be circulated for a 30-day public comment period to allow for registered interested and affected parties to comment on the report. Given the knock-on effect of the changes in the wind farm layout, Aurecon will be unable to meet the deadline submission for the Final EIAr by 16 May 2019. Aurecon therefore requests a 60-day extension for the submission of the Final EIAr until 17 July 2019. This will enable specialists sufficient time to accurately assess the impacts and update their studies and for Aurecon to incorporate the findings into the Draft EIAr and circulate the report for a 30-day public comment period. We commit to submitting the Final EIAr before 17 July 2019.

Please do not hesitate to contact Aurecon should you require clarity or any additional information in support of this request for extension.

Yours sincerely,



Kirsten Jones
Senior Environmental Consultant
Aurecon: Environmental Advisory Unit

Copies: Zoë Palmer (Aurecon)
Lance Blaine (Red Cap Impofu)
Muhammad Essop (DEA – Strategic Infrastructure Developments)



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA · 0001· Environment House · 473 Steve Biko, Arcadia· PRETORIA

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1102

14/12/16/3/3/2/1103

14/12/16/3/3/2/1104

Enquiries: Ms Thabile Sangweni

Telephone: (012) 399 9409 **E-mail:** TSangweni@environment.gov.za

Ms Kirsten Jones
Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 494
CAPE TOWN
8000

Telephone Number: (021) 526 6025
Email Address: Kirsten.Jones@aurecongroup.com

PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Ms Jones

APPROVAL OF THE REQUEST IN TERMS OF REGULATION 3(7) OF THE EIA REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED) FOR THE PROPOSED IMPOFU NORTH, EAST AND WEST WIND ENERGY FACILITIES AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR OYSTER BAY IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The applications for Environmental Authorisation (14/12/16/3/3/2/1102, 14/12/16/3/3/2/1103, 14/12/16/3/3/2/1104) received by this Department on 10 October 2018, the draft Scoping Reports (SRs) received on 10 October 2018, the comments on the draft SRs dated 07 November 2018, the final SRs received on 23 November 2018, the acceptance of the SRs dated 25 January 2019 and your requests for extension in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) dated 29 January 2019, refer.

This Department accepted the final SRs on 25 January 2019 and is awaiting the final Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR's) in terms of Regulation 23(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

This Department received correspondence in the form of letters from Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd dated 25 January 2019 requesting an extension of the prescribed one hundred and six (106) day timeframe within which the final EIARs are to be submitted to the Department.

The motivation provided is that, based on the final pre-construction bat data, as well as consultations with the South African Bat Assessment Association (SABAA), it was decided to include more stringent bat buffers around potentially sensitive areas than those that were used in the final SRs. The implication of these new sensitivity layers is that the potential developable area has now significantly decreased, and the wind farm layouts that had already been assessed by the specialist during the scoping phase have had to be completely redesigned. Only after an iterative process including the engineers, wind turbine manufacturers and landowners could the layouts be finalised that are technically feasible and which do not unduly impact the landowners.

As the specialists will not have sufficient time to undertake the detailed assessment and modelling of the new layouts, for the EAP to compile draft EIAR's on time and for these to be circulated for a 30-day public comment period, the Applicant formally requests the consideration of an extension of the prescribed timeframes by the Department for the Impofu Wind Energy Facilities.

MS

Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) states that *"In the event where the scope of work must be expanded based on the outcome of an assessment done in accordance with these Regulations, which outcome could not be anticipated prior to the undertaking of the assessment, or in the event where exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated, the competent authority may, prior to the lapsing of the relevant prescribed timeframe, in writing, extend the relevant prescribed timeframe and agree with the applicant on the length of such extension."*

The EAP requested an extension in the timeframe to submit the final EIA's by 17 July 2019 instead of 16 May 2019, which the EAP deems to be sufficient time to enable specialists to accurately assess the impacts and update their studies as well as conduct a public participation process on the draft EIA's before submitting the final EIA's to the Department.

Based on the motivation provided by the EAP, this Department has decided to grant the extension of the timeframes to submit the final EIAs on or before 17 July 2019.

Failure to submit the final EIAs on or before 17 July 2019, will result in the applications lapsing in terms of Regulation 45.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Should you have any queries or wish to discuss the points raised above, please do not hesitate to contact our offices.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs

Letter signed by: Ms Milicent Solomons

Designation: Director: Strategic Infrastructure Developments

Date: 05/03/2019.

cc:	L Blaine	Red Cap Impofu (Pty) Ltd	Email: Lance@red-cap.co.za
-----	----------	--------------------------	----------------------------