

Holland & Associates Environmental Consultants  
PO Box 31108  
Tokai  
Cape Town  
7966



28 May 2021

RE: AVIFAUNAL PEER REVIEW OF THE ADDENDUM AVIFAUNAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE HIGHLANDS CENTRAL WIND FARM.

To whom it may concern,

WildSkies Ecological Services (Pty) Ltd was appointed in 2018 by Arcus Consulting to conduct a peer review of the study entitled: "Highlands Wind Farm Pre-construction Bird Monitoring: Impact Assessment Report". Subsequently the avifaunal studies conducted by Arcus were updated to include additional aspects at the request of the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). Arcus therefore asked WildSkies to review the updated work, and with specific consideration of the actions highlighted by DEA. This was done in October 2019. In May 2021 WildSkies was again asked to review the addendum reports for the three wind farms, this time by Holland & Associates Environmental Consultants, who had been appointed to undertake the Application for Amendment of the Environmental Authorisation for the project.

WildSkies was sent the report entitled 'Proposed Highlands Central Wind Energy Facility near Somerset East, Eastern Cape province: Application for Amendment of the Environmental Authorisation (14/12/16/3/3/1/1958): Addendum to the Avifaunal Specialist Impact Assessment'. The report has been reviewed and we conclude (as with our previous reviews) that the study and its findings are reasonable and based on sound data. The proposed amendments, including proposed amendments to the turbine specifications and number of turbines, will not change the original impact assessment findings.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Smallie', is written over a light grey, textured rectangular background.

Jon Smallie



## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### DETAILS OF THE SPECIALIST, DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH

File Reference Number:	(For official use only)
NEAS Reference Number:	DEA/EIA/
Date Received:	

Application for authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended (the Regulations)

#### PROJECT TITLE

PROPOSED HIGHLANDS CENTRAL WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR SOMERSET EAST IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE: APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

#### Kindly note the following:

1. This form must always be used for applications that must be subjected to Basic Assessment or Scoping & Environmental Impact Reporting where this Department is the Competent Authority.
2. This form is current as of 01 September 2018. It is the responsibility of the Applicant / Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the form have been published or produced by the Competent Authority. The latest available Departmental templates are available at <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.
3. A copy of this form containing original signatures must be appended to all Draft and Final Reports submitted to the department for consideration.
4. All documentation delivered to the physical address contained in this form must be delivered during the official Departmental Officer Hours which is visible on the Departmental gate.
5. All 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, only hardcopy submissions are accepted.

#### Departmental Details

##### Postal address:

Department of Environmental Affairs  
Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Private Bag X447  
Pretoria  
0001

##### Physical address:

Department of Environmental Affairs  
Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Road  
Arcadia

Queries must be directed to the Directorate: Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support at:  
Email: [EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za](mailto:EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za)

**1. SPECIALIST INFORMATION**

Specialist Company Name:	WILDSKIES ECOLOGICAL SERVICES (PTY) LTD			
B-BBEE	Contribution level (indicate 1 to 8 or non-compliant)	4	Percentage Procurement recognition	100
Specialist name:	J SMALLIE			
Specialist Qualifications:	BSC MSC			
Professional affiliation/registration:	SACNASP 400020/06			
Physical address:	36 UTRECHT AVENUE, EAST LONDON			
Postal address:				
Postal code:	5241	Cell:	0824448919	
Telephone:		Fax:		
E-mail:	JON@WILDSKIES.CO.ZA			

**2. DECLARATION BY THE SPECIALIST**

I, J SMALLIE, declare that –

- I act as the independent specialist in this application;
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting the specialist report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;
- all the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and
- I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the Act.



Signature of the Specialist

WILDSKIES ECOLOGICAL SERVICES (PTY) LTD

Name of Company:

17 JUNE 2021

Date

Details of Specialist, Declaration and Undertaking Under Oath

3. UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH/ AFFIRMATION

I, J. SMALLIE, swear under oath / affirm that all the information submitted or to be submitted for the purposes of this application is true and correct.



Signature of the Specialist

WILDSKIPS ECOLOGICAL SERVICES (PTY) LTD

Name of Company

17/6/2021

Date



Signature of the Commissioner of Oaths

17 JUNE 2021

Date



**KIM SMALLIE**  
Commissioner of Oaths  
HR Professional (HRP)  
Member number: 6404  
3 Pearce Street  
Berea, East London  
5201