



---

## Coastal & Environmental Services

Proposed Rietkloof Wind Energy Facility  
Western Cape Province

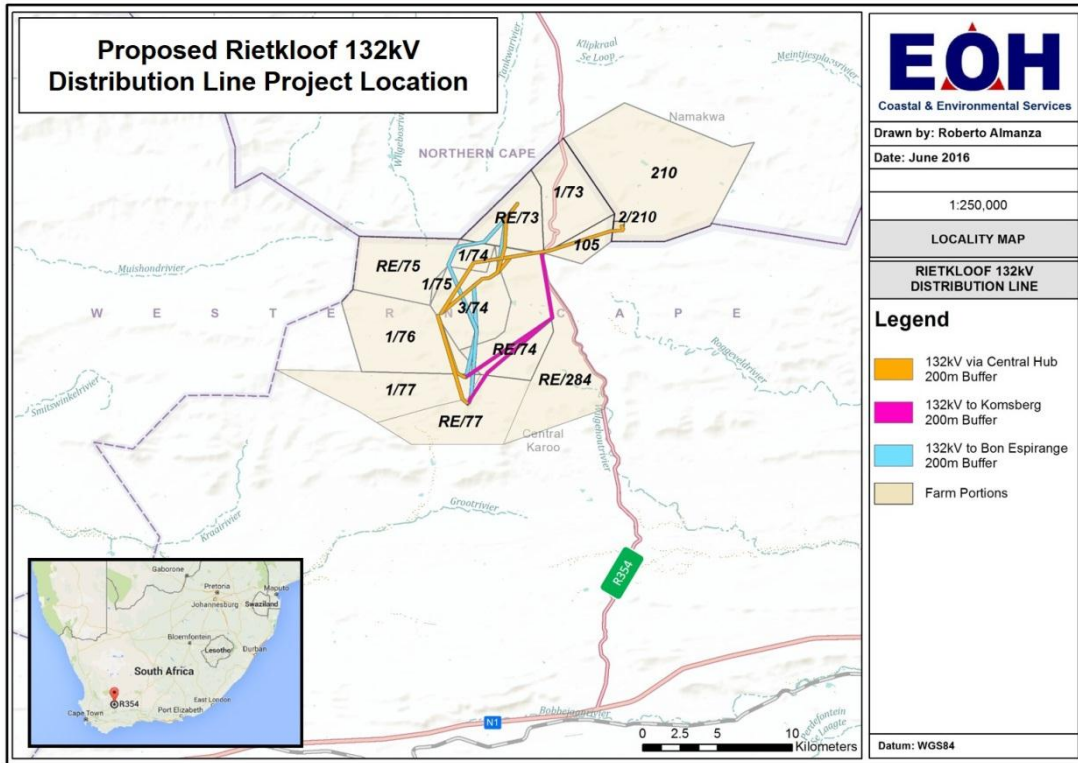
03 August 2016

### ***Introduction***

Thomas King (EOH CES) and Henry Holland (External Reviewer) were appointed to undertake a Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) for the proposed 140MW Rietkloof Wind Farm. The proposed WEF is located near Matjiesfontein and Laingsburg in the Western Cape Province of South Africa. The closest towns to the site are the small railway siding at Matjiesfontein, situated 30km south of the project area, and Laingsburg, which is located a further 30km east of Matjiesfontein, along the N1 national road. The proposed WEF is located in the Laingsburg Local Municipality, which falls within the Central Karoo District Municipality.

The VIA included an assessment of the turbines, access road alternatives, and onsite 33/132kV substation alternatives. It did not include an assessment of the 132kV power lines which would link the facility to the Eskom grid, as these were subject to a separate Basic Assessment process.

In its review of the draft Basic Assessment Report on the power line alternatives, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEADP), indicated that a Visual Impact Assessment should be undertaken on the 132 kV line options. These are shown in Figure 1.



**Figure 1: Location of 132 kV power lines for Rietkloof WEF**

Thomas King has been requested by EOH Coastal and Environmental Services to comment on the need for such a study.

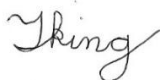
**Comment on 132kV power lines**

The proposed 132 kV power line options for the Rietkloof WEF will cross the project footprint approximately 5km from the R354. The connections to the Komsberg substation will follow the existing 400 kV and 765 kV power lines on the site. The sections where the power line does not follow existing Eskom power lines are located within the development footprint.

Due to the fact that the proposed lines will follow alongside existing Eskom infrastructure, the visual impacts of these lines will be less significant than they otherwise would have been.

Based on this information it is my opinion that a VIA is not required for the proposed 132 kV power line.

Yours sincerely,



Thomas King, Pr.Nat.Sci.