## Environmental Impact Assessment Process Draft Basic Assessment Report

## PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF AN ON-SITE SUBSTATION FOR THE AUTHORISED IZIDULI EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

### DEA REF NO: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1353

### DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

February 2015

### Prepared for:

Emoyeni Wind Farm Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd Unit 3, Demar Square 45 Bell Crescent Road Westlake 7945

### Prepared by: Savannah Environmental Pty Ltd

UNIT 10, BLOCK 2 5 WOODLANDS DRIVE OFFICE PARK, CORNER WOODLANDS DRIVE & WESTERN SERVICE ROAD, WOODMEAD, GAUTENG PO BOX 148, SUNNINGHIL, 2157 TEL: +27 (0)11656 3237 FAX: +27 (0)86 684 0547 E-MAIL: INFO@SAVANNAHSA.COM WWW.SAVANNAHSA.COM





environmental affairs

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

(For official use only)

File	Reference	Number:
------	-----------	---------

-				
An	nlica	ation	Nun	nber:
· • •	P			

### **Date Received:**

Basic assessment report in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010, promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended.

### Kindly note that:

- 1. This **basic assessment report** is a standard report that may be required by a competent authority in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2010 and is meant to streamline applications. Please make sure that it is the report used by the particular competent authority for the activity that is being applied for.
- 2. This report format is current as of 1 August 2014. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the form have been published or produced by the competent authority
- 3. The report must be typed within the spaces provided in the form. The size of the spaces provided is not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided. The report is in the form of a table that can extend itself as each space is filled with typing.
- 4. Where applicable **tick** the boxes that are applicable in the report.
- 5. An incomplete report may be returned to the applicant for revision.
- 6. The use of "not applicable" in the report must be done with circumspection because if it is used in respect of material information that is required by the competent authority for assessing the application, it may result in the rejection of the application as provided for in the regulations.
- 7. This report must be handed in at offices of the relevant competent authority as determined by each authority.
- 8. No faxed or e-mailed reports will be accepted.
- 9. The signature of the EAP on the report must be an original signature.
- 10. The report must be compiled by an independent environmental assessment practitioner.
- 11. Unless protected by law, all information in the report will become public information on receipt by the competent authority. Any interested and affected party should be provided with the information contained in this report on request, during any stage of the application process.
- 12. A competent authority may require that for specified types of activities in defined situations only parts of this report need to be completed.
- 13. Should a specialist report or report on a specialised process be submitted at any stage for any part of this application, the terms of reference for such report must also be submitted.
- 14. Two (2) colour hard copies and one (1) electronic copy of the report must be submitted to the competent authority
- 15. Shape files (.shp) for maps must be included in the electronic copy of the report submitted to the competent authority.

### **PROJECT DETAILS**

Title:	:	Environmental Basic Assessment Process Construction of an on-site substation for the authorised Iziduli Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility, Eastern Cape Province
Authors:	:	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd Steven Ingle Sheila Muniongo Karen Jodas
Sub-consultants:	:	Scherman Colloty & Associates Avisense Consulting Eastern Cape Heritage Consultants
Applicant:	:	Emoyeni Wind Farm Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd
Report Status:	:	Draft Report for review
Review period:	:	06 February 2015 – 09 March 2015

**When used as a reference this report should be cited as:** Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd (2015) Draft Basic Assessment Report Construction of an on-site substation for the authorised Iziduli Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility, Eastern Cape Province.

### COPYRIGHT RESERVED

This technical report has been produced for Emoyeni Wind Farm Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd. The intellectual property contained in this report remains vested in Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd and Emoyeni Wind Farm Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd. No part of the report may be reproduced in any manner without written permission from Emoyeni Wind Farm Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd or Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

### PAGE

PROJECT DETAILS	
TABLE OF CONTENTS	i
APPENDICES	iii
1.1 summary and overview of the proposed project	.1
1.2 Requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment Process	3
1.3 Details of environmental assessment practitioner and expertise to conduct t	he
basic assessment process	
REVIEW OF the BASIC ASSESSMENT report	
SECTION A: ACTIVITY INFORMATION	
1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Describe the project associated with the listed activities applied for	
Provide a detailed description of the listed activities associated with the project as	
applied for	10
2. FEASIBLE AND REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES	12
a) Site alternatives	12
b) Layout alternatives	14
c) Technology alternatives	
d) Other alternatives (e.g. scheduling, demand, input, scale and design	
alternatives	14
e) No-go alternative	
3. PHYSICAL SIZE OF THE ACTIVITY	
	12
a) Indicate the physical size of the preferred activity/technology as well as	
alternative activities/technologies (footprints):	15
b) Indicate the size of the alternative sites or servitudes (within which the above	
footprints will occur):	
4. SITE ACCESS	-
5. LOCALITY MAP	17
6. LAYOUT/ROUTE PLAN	18
7. SENSITIVITY MAP	18
8. SITE PHOTOGRAPHS	19
9. FACILITY ILLUSTRATION	
10. ACTIVITY MOTIVATION	
11. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND/OR GUIDELINES	
12. WASTE, EFFLUENT, EMISSION AND NOISE MANAGEMENT	
a) Solid waste management	
, <b>-</b>	
c) Emissions into the atmosphere	
d) Waste permit	
e) Generation of noise	
13. WATER USE	40
14. ENERGY EFFICIENCY	40
SECTION B: SITE/AREA/PROPERTY DESCRIPTION4	
1. GRADIENT OF THE SITE	42
2. LOCATION IN LANDSCAPE	42
3. GROUNDWATER, SOIL AND GEOLOGICAL STABILITY OF THE SITE	43
4. GROUNDCOVER	
5. SURFACE WATER	
6. LAND USE CHARACTER OF SURROUNDING AREA	
7. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL FEATURES	
8. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTER	
a) Local Municipality	+/

b) Socio-economic value of the activity
9. BIODIVERSITY
a) Indicate the applicable biodiversity planning categories of all areas on site and
indicate the reason(s) provided in the biodiversity plan for the selection of the
specific area as part of the specific category) 49
b) Complete the table to indicate:
c) Please provide a description of the vegetation type and/or aquatic ecosystem
present on site, including any important biodiversity features/information identified
on site (e.g. threatened species and special habitats)
SECTION C: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
1. ADVERTISEMENT AND NOTICES
2. DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE MEASURES
3. ISSUES RAISED BY INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES
4. COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT53
5. AUTHORITY PARTICIPATION 53
6. CONSULTATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS 54
SECTION D: IMPACT ASSESSMENT55
1. IMPACTS THAT MAY RESULT FROM THE PLANNING AND DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION,
OPERATIONAL, DECOMMISSIONING AND CLOSURE PHASES AS WELL AS PROPOSED
MANAGEMENT OF IDENTIFIED IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES 55
2. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT65
SECTION E. RECOMMENDATION OF PRACTITIONER
SECTION F: APPENDICES70

### **APPENDICES**

Appendix A: Site Plan(s)Appendix B: Photographic RecordAppendix C: Facility Illustration(s)Appendix D: Specialist Reports

- » Appendix D1: Ecology Study
- » Appendix D2: Heritage Study
- » Appendix D3: Avifaunal Study

Appendix E: Record of Public Involvement Process

- » Appendix E1: Site notices and advertisements
- » Appendix E2: Key stakeholders correspondence
- » Appendix E3: Comments and responses report
- » Appendix E4: Notification to Authorities and Organs of State
- » Appendix E5: Database
- » Appendix E6: Minutes of meetings

Appendix F: Impact Assessment

Appendix G: Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

Appendix H: Details of EAP and expertise & CV

Appendix I: Specialist's declaration of interest

Appendix J: Additional information

### 1.1 SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

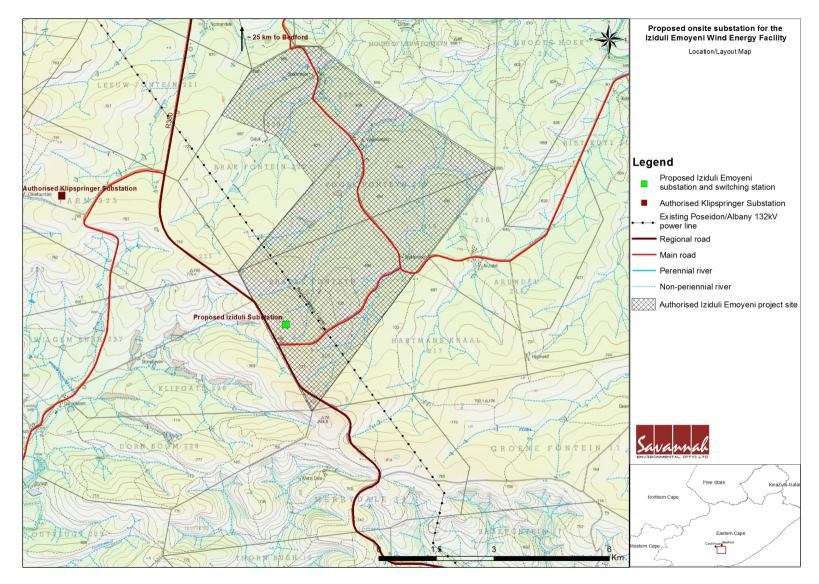
Windlab Developments South Africa Pty Ltd (Windlab) received an Environmental Authorisation for the proposed Iziduli Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility (previously known as Amakhala Emoyeni Phase 4) on 28 August 2012 from the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA Ref: 12/12/20/1754/4).

The proposed Wind Energy Facility (WEF) was previously part of the greater project concept known as the Amakhala Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility. The WEF was split into four phases in order to align with the Department of Energy's (DOE) Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) requirements restricting a WEF capacity size to 140MW (contracted capacity).

The fourth phase of the greater Amakhala Emoyeni WEF (Iziduli Emoyeni WEF) requires its own grid connection infrastructure i.e. a 33/132kV on-site substation and a grid connection power line. Emoyeni Wind Farm Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd, the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) set up by Windlab for the Iziduli Emoyeni WEF and the applicant of this Basic Assessment, is now proposing the establishment of an on-site substation (with a footprint of up to 200m by 250m) in order to connect the authorised Iziduli Emoyeni WEF to the National Grid (the Project). The proposed on-site facility substation is located on the Remainder of the Farm Brakkefonteyn 218 within the authorised Iziduli Emoyeni WEF.

Four power line alternatives are being considered to connect the on-site substation to the existing grid infrastructure as Eskom is not yet able to confirm which connection option (and associated power line route) will be utilised. These power line routes are being assessed under a separate application for Environmental Authorisation and Basic Assessment process and in summary, include the following alternatives:

- » Alternative 1: power line of up to 132kV voltage from Iziduli Emoyeni WEF on-site substation to the planned new Klipspringer Substation (on the neighbouring Msenge Emoyeni project site).
- » Alternative 2: power line of up to 132kV voltage from Iziduli Emoyeni WEF on-site substation to the Kopleegte Substation (on the nearby Amakhala Emoyeni project site (currently under construction)).
- » Alternative 3: power line of up to 132kV voltage from Iziduli Emoyeni WEF on-site substation to the existing Eskom Poseidon Substation.
- » Alternative 4: a power line of up to 132kV to from the Iziduli Emoyeni WEF on-site substation to the existing 132kV Poseidon-Albany power line (traversing the Iziduli Emoyeni wind farm project site) for a loop in/out configuration grid connection.



**Figure 1:** Location of the proposed Iziduli Onsite Substation within the authorised Iziduli Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility project site on Remainder of the Farm Brakkefonteyn 218 (32°56'23.66"S - 26° 7'42.89"E)

### **1.2 REQUIREMENT FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

In terms of the EIA Regulations published in terms of Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998), authorisation for the onsite substation is required from the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) as the competent authority, with the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development & Environmental Affairs (DEDEA) as the commenting authority. In terms of sections 24 and 24D of NEMA, as read with the EIA Regulations of GN R543 - GN R546 (as amended), a Basic Assessment process is required to be undertaken for the proposed Project. An application for authorisation has been accepted by DEA for the proposed Project under application reference number 14/12/16/3/3/1/1353.

An environmental impact assessment is an effective planning and decision-making tool for the applicant as it provides the opportunity for the applicant to be fore-warned of potential environmental issues and assess if potential environmental impacts need to be avoided, minimised or mitigated to acceptable levels. The Basic Assessment process includes certain feasibility studies for a proposed project and will inform the final design process in order to ensure that environmentally sensitive areas are avoided to an acceptable level as confirmed by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP). Comprehensive, independent environmental studies elaborated by specialists are required in accordance with the EIA Regulations to inform the EAP of its comprehensive recommendation and provide the competent authority with sufficient information in order to make an informed decision.

### 1.3 DETAILS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER AND EXPERTISE TO CONDUCT THE BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd (Savannah Environmental) was contracted by Emoyeni Wind Farm Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd as the independent environmental consultant, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner, to undertake the Basic Assessment process for the proposed Project. Neither Savannah Environmental, nor any of its specialist sub-consultants on this project are subsidiaries of, or are affiliated to Emoyeni Wind Farm Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd. Furthermore, Savannah Environmental does not have any interests in secondary developments that may arise out of the authorisation of the proposed project.

Savannah Environmental is a specialist environmental consultancy which provides a holistic environmental management service, including environmental assessment and planning to ensure compliance with relevant environmental legislation. Savannah Environmental benefits from the pooled resources, diverse skills and experience in the environmental field held by its team that has been actively involved in undertaking environmental studies for a wide variety of projects throughout South Africa and neighbouring countries. Strong competencies have been developed in project management of environmental processes, as well as strategic environmental assessment and compliance advice, and the assessment of environmental impacts, the identification of environmental management solutions and mitigation/risk minimising measures.

The Savannah Environmental team has considerable experience in environmental impact assessments and environmental management, and have been actively involved in undertaking environmental studies for a wide variety of projects throughout South Africa, including those associated with electricity generation, specifically from renewable sources.

The following members of Savannah Environmental are responsible for this Draft Basic Assessment report are:

- Steven Ingle, the principle author of this report, holds a Bachelors degree in Environmental Management and has 8 years of experience in environmental management and has undertaken numerous EIAs for a number of proposed largescale infrastructure project and renewable energy facilities across South Africa.
- » Karen Jodas the principle Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) for this project, is a registered Professional Natural Scientist and holds a Master of Science degree. She has 16 years of experience consulting in the environmental field. Her key focus is on strategic environmental assessment and advice; management and co-ordination of environmental projects, which includes integration of environmental studies and environmental processes into larger engineering-based projects and ensuring compliance to legislation and guidelines; compliance reporting; the identification of environmental management solutions and mitigation/risk minimising measures; and strategy and guideline development. She is currently responsible for the project management of EIAs for several renewable energy projects across the country.
- Sheila Muniongo the co-author of this report holds an Honours Bachelor degree in Environmental Management and 4 years' experience in the environmental field. Her key focus is on environmental impact assessments, public participation, environmental management programmes, and mapping through ArcGIS for variety of environmental projects. She is currently involved in several EIAs for renewable energy projects EIAs across the country.

In order to adequately identify and assess potential environmental impacts, several specialists have been appointed to conduct specialist studies, as required:

Specialist Studies Undertaken	Specialists
Ecological impact assessment	Scherman Colloty & Associates
Avifaunal impact assessment	Avisense Consulting
Heritage impact assessment	Eastern Cape Heritage Consultants

Curricula vitae for the Savannah Environmental and specialist project team are included in **Appendix H**.

### **REVIEW OF THE BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT**

The Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) has been prepared by Savannah Environmental in order to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed Izuduli on-site substation. The report was made available for public review from 06 February 2015 to 09 March 2015 at the following places:

- » Bedford Library
- » www.savannahSA.com

Written notification of the draft BAR has been provided to registered I&APs, advertised in the Herald Newspaper and the report has been posted on the Savannah Environmental website.

The 30-day review period is from **<u>06 February 2015 to 09 March 2015</u>** 

In order to obtain further information, register on the project database, or submit written comment please contact:

### Gabriele Wood of Savannah Environmental

PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157 Tel: 011 656 3237 Fax: 086 684 0547 Email: gabriele@savannahsa.com

### SECTION A: ACTIVITY INFORMATION

Has a specialist been consulted to assist with the completion of this  $\,$  YES  $\checkmark$  section?

If YES, please complete the form entitled "Details of specialist and declaration of interest" for the specialist appointed and attach in **Appendix I.** 

### **1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### Describe the project associated with the listed activities applied for

Windlab received an Environmental Authorisation for the proposed Iziduli Emoyeni WEF (previously known as Amakhala Emoyeni WEF Phase 4) on 28 August 2012 from the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA Ref: 12/12/20/1754/4).

The WEF was previously part of the greater project concept known as the Amakhala Emoyeni WEF. This WEF was split into four phases in order to align with the DOE's REIPPPP requirements restricting a WEF capacity size to 140MW (contracted capacity).

The fourth phase of the greater Amakhala Emoyeni WEF (Iziduli Emoyeni WEF) requires its own grid connection infrastructure i.e. a 33/132kV onsite substation and a power line. Emoyeni Wind Farm Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd, the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) set up by Windlab for the Iziduli Emoyeni WEF and applicant of this Basic Assessment, is now proposing the establishment of an on-site substation (with a footprint of up to 200m X 250m; 50000m<sup>2</sup> or 5 ha) in order to connect the authorised Iziduli Emoyeni WEF to the National Grid (the Project). The proposed on-site substation is located on the Remainder of the Farm Brakkefonteyn 218 within the authorised Iziduli Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility.

Four power line alternatives are being considered to connect the on-site substation to the existing grid infrastructure as Eskom is not yet able to confirm which connection option (and associated power line route) will be utilised. These power line routes are being assessed under **a separate application for Environmental Authorisation and Basic Assessment process** 

The proposed Iziduli Emoyeni WEF is planned to be bid in terms of the DoE's REIPPPP in 2015, and the substation is required to be authorised to achieve bid compliance. **Location of the preferred on-site substation project site:** 

The proposed on-site substation is situated in the southern-most extent of the authorised Iziduli Emoyeni WEF site, west of the existing Poseidon–Albany 132kV power line which traverses this section of the WEF site. The Project site is situated

close (approximately 400 metres north) to the intersection of the R350 main road and the gravel road to Adelaide. This location within the authorised WEF project site presents optimal grid connection, regardless of which one of the four proposed grid connection (power line) alternatives is realised:

- » Alternative 1: power line of up to 132kV voltage from Iziduli Emoyeni on-site substation to the planned new Klipspringer Substation (on the neighbouring Msenge Emoyeni project site).
- » Alternative 2: power line of up to 132kV voltage from Iziduli Emoyeni on-site substation to the Kopleegte Substation under construction (on the nearby Amakhala Emoyeni project site (currently under construction)).
- » Alternative 3: power line of up to 132kV voltage from Iziduli Emoyeni on-site substation to the existing Eskom Poseidon Substation.
- » Alternative 4: a power line of up to 132kV to from the Iziduli Emoyeni WEF on-site substation to the existing 132kV Poseidon-Albany power line (traversing the Iziduli Emoyeni wind farm project site) for a loop in/out configuration grid connection.

≫

These power line routes are being assessed under a separate application for Environmental Authorisation) Basic Assessment process (DEA Ref No 14/12/16/3/3/1/1354).

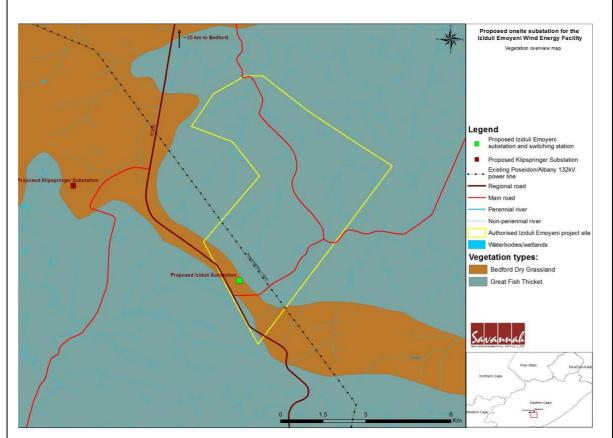
### Description of the environment of the proposed on-site substation site:

**Climate:** The climate is mild, with mean minimum and maximum temperatures 13°C and 22°C respectively, and mean annual rainfall of about 550 mm, which falls year-round but mostly in summer. The altitude of the proposed substation is 750 m above sea level.

**Land use:** Land use is predominantly stock-farming – cattle, sheep and game, with very limited areas of agriculture around the farmsteads and adjacent to watercourses. There are multiple farm houses and associated outhouses within the inclusive development area, which is crossed by a major thoroughfare – the R350 between Bedford and Grahamstown - and a network of lesser, gravel roads and farm tracks. Several major transmission and distribution power lines traverse the area, converging on Eskom's Poseidon Substation, situated to the north west. The Poseidon Substation is situated approximately 23 km northwest of the proposed Iziduli on-site substation site. The Amakhala Emoyeni (phase 1) WEF located north east of the site is currently under construction, and the Cookhouse WEF located approx.25km northeast, is already constructed and operational. There are a number of other proposed wind farms in the surrounding area, including the authorised Msenge Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility which is immediately adjacent to Iziduli Emoyeni to the west.

**Vegetation and terrestrial habitats:** The on-site substation development footprint

site falls within the Bedford Dry Grassland (refer to Figure 2), at the interface between the Albany Thicket and the Sub-escarpment Grassland Bioregions. The natural vegetation is dominated by some sloped terrain with short to tall thicket, featuring woody trees, shrubs and succulents.



**Figure 2**: Vegetation overview map for the proposed Izidluli Emoyeni on-site substation

### Aquatic habitats:

The larger area around the Project is dominated by undulating hills, found within the middle portions of the Koonap / Great Fish River catchment. Several small drainage lines are evident within the region and the WEF site where the Project is located contains a number of non-perennial drainage lines and watercourses which drain into more significant riparian areas, some of which may contain flowing water for significant parts of the year. The watercourses and riparian zones are often dry with a sandy or rocky bed, but there are also grassy watercourses and seepage areas in upper reaches. The proposed on-site substation is located ~1.5km away from the nearest wetland and ~1.6km from the nearest watercourse (Appendix D1).

### Site Alternatives:

In selecting the Project's development site, the following was considered:

» Grid connection optimisation - The proposed on-site substation is situated so as to provide optimal grid connection for either of the existing available grid connection

alternatives. Its location is within 1km from the existing 132kV power line traversing the WEF site and also located in an area optimised for the construction of new power lines in the direction of other substations outside of the WEF site.

» The approved WEF layout plan and turbine positions (the proposed on-site substation location does not interfere with the current WEF layout)

The selection of alternative sites is constrained on this basis.

### Development phases

A series of activities will need to be undertaken during the design, pre-construction, construction, operation and decommissioning phases.

### Pre-construction and Construction phase:

The construction of an on-site substation and associated infrastructure including access road, security fence etc. will be undertaken.

- Step 1: Conduct geotechnical investigations to determine founding conditions
- Step 2: Conduct site survey
- Step 3: Vegetation clearance and construction of access road
- Step 4: Site grading and levelling
- Step 5: Construction of foundations
- Step 6: Import of substation components
- Step 7: Construction of on-site substation and control buildings
- Step 8: Rehabilitation of disturbed area and protection of erosion sensitive areas
- Step 9: Testing and commissioning

### **Operation Phase:**

The proposed substation will require routine maintenance work throughout the operation period. The substation maintenance will be the responsibility of the infrastructure owner (Emoyeni Wind Farm Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd). The site will be accessed using the access road established during the construction phase.

### **Decommissioning Phase:**

The on-site substation is expected to have a lifespan of up to 25 years (with maintenance) and the infrastructure would only be decommissioned once it has reached the end of its economic life, or if no longer required. If economically feasible/desirable the decommissioning activities would comprise the disassembly of the individual components and removal from site. This phase would include the following decommissioning activities:

» <u>Site Preparation</u>: Site preparation activities will include confirming the integrity of

the access to the site to accommodate the required equipment and the mobilisation of decommissioning equipment.

- » <u>Disassemble Components</u>: The components would be disassembled, and reused and recycled (where possible), or disposed of in accordance with regulatory requirements.
- » <u>Rehabilitation</u>: Disturbed area (where infrastructure has been removed) will be rehabilitated, if required, depending on the future land-use of the area.

# Provide a detailed description of the listed activities associated with the project as applied for

Notice and Activity Number	Description	Relevance of Activity to Project
GN544, 18 June 2010 Activity 10 (i)	The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity- (i). outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kV	A 33/132kV on-site substation will be constructed in order to connect the authorised Iziduli Emoyeni WEF to the National grid.
GN544, 18 June 2010 Activity 11 (iii)(xi)	The construction of: (iii). Bridges (x). buildings exceeding 50 square metres in size; or (xi). Infrastructure or structures covering 50 square metres or more Where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse	The proposed onsite substation may impede upon watercourses or within 32 metres of a watercourse.
GN544, 18 June 2010 <b>Activity</b> <b>18 (i)</b>	The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock or more than 5	The proposed onsite substation may require infilling or depositing of materials from a watercourse.

The following listed activities are relevant to the proposed development<sup>1</sup>:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> A precautionary approach has been taken in determining the list of relevant Listed Activities (LA) such that all possible activities relevant to the project were included in the original application. During the course of the BA process some listed activities have been removed and added as per the findings of the BA process. The application has been refined, an updated application form with the relevant LA (refer to table above) has been submitted to DEA.

Notice and Activity Number	Description	Relevance of Activity to Project
	cubic metres from: (i) a watercourse;	
GN 544, 18 June 2010 Activity 23 (ii)	The transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land to- (ii) residential, retail, commercial, recreational, industrial or institutional use, outside an urban area and where the total area to be transformed is bigger than 1 hectare but less than 20 hectares.	The area to be transformed for the proposed on-site substation is greater than 1 ha and less than 20ha in extent.
-	The clearance of an area of 5 hectares or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation (a). Eastern Cape Province (i). All areas outside urban areas	The proposed power line and associated infrastructure may require the clearance of an area of 5 hectares or more of vegetative cover where 75% or more may constitute indigenous vegetation.

### 2. FEASIBLE AND REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

"*alternatives"*, in relation to a proposed activity, means different means of meeting the general purpose and requirements of the activity, which may include alternatives to—

- (a) the property on which or location where it is proposed to undertake the activity;
- (b) the type of activity to be undertaken;
- (c) the design or layout of the activity;
- (d) the technology to be used in the activity;
- (e) the operational aspects of the activity; and
- (f) the option of not implementing the activity.

Describe alternatives that are considered in this application as required by Regulation 22(2)(h) of GN R.543. Alternatives should include a consideration of all possible means by which the purpose and need of the proposed activity (NOT PROJECT) could be accomplished in the specific instance taking account of the interest of the applicant in the activity. The no-go alternative must in all cases be included in the assessment phase as the baseline against which the impacts of the other alternatives are assessed.

The determination of whether site or activity (including different processes, etc.) or both is appropriate needs to be informed by the specific circumstances of the activity and its environment. After receipt of this report the, competent authority may also request the applicant to assess additional alternatives that could possibly accomplish the purpose and need of the proposed activity if it is clear that realistic alternatives have not been considered to a reasonable extent.

The identification of alternatives should be in line with the Integrated Environmental Assessment Guideline Series 11, published by the DEA in 2004. Should the alternatives include different locations and lay-outs, the co-ordinates of the different alternatives must be provided. The co-ordinates should be in degrees, minutes and seconds. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS84 spheroid in a national or local projection.

### a) Site alternatives

No site alternatives are applicable. In selecting the proposed on-site substation project site, the following was considered and therefore the identification of site alternatives were constrained on this basis:

- » Grid connection optimisation The proposed on-site substation is nearest to the existing available grid connection alternatives optimally located to facilitate connection to the various power line alternatives.
- » The proposed substation site does not interfere with the WEF layout.
- » The medium sensitive ecological areas were preferred to avoid the surrounding medium-high ecologically sensitive areas.

» The proposed substation site is technically suitable for the construction of a substation (topography, access and ground conditions).

	atitude	Longitude	
(5		Longitude	
	S):	(E):	
The proposed on-site substation is situated in the 32	2°56'23.66"S	26° 7'42.89"E	
southern-most extent of the authorised Iziduli Emoyeni			
WEF site, west of the existing Poseidon-Albany 132kV			
power line which traverses the WEF site. The Project			
site is situated close (approximately 400 metres north)			
to the intersection of the R350 main road and the			
gravel road to Adelaide. This location within the			
authorised WEF project site presents optimal grid			
connection, regardless of which one of the proposed			
grid connection (power line) alternatives is realised.			
The on-site substation site is located an area of			
medium ecological sensitivity and will avoid the			
surrounding medium-high ecological sensitive areas.			
Alternative 2			
Description La	atitude	Longitude	
(5	S):	(E):	
Alternative 3			
Description La	atitude	Longitude	
(9	S):	(E):	

### In the case of linear activities:

		Latitude (S):		Longitude (E):			
٠	Starting point of the activity						
٠	Middle/Additional point of						
	the activity						
٠	End point of the activity						

For route alternatives that are longer than 500m, please provide an addendum with coordinates taken every 250 meters along the route for each alternative alignment.

In the case of an area being under application, please provide the co-ordinates of the corners of the site as indicated on the lay-out map provided in Appendix A.

Coordinates of the four corners of the proposed substation development footprint site have been attached in **Appendix A.** 

### b) Layout alternatives

As with the selection of the site alternatives, the consideration of layout alternatives are constrained on the basis of the approved wind energy facility layout plan and optimised grid connection factors. The substation site is also situated outside of the identified areas of higher ecological sensitivity. Layout alternatives for substations are constrained as the area to be transformed cannot deviate significantly from the standard design for 33/132kV substations (with a dimension of up to 200m X 250m) as required by Eskom's building standards. There are therefore no layout alternatives.

Alternative 1 (preferred alternative)				
Description:		Lat (DDMMSS)	Long (DDMMSS)	
	Alternative 2			
Description		Lat (DDMMSS)	Long (DDMMSS)	
	Alternative 3			
Description		Lat (DDMMSS)	Long (DDMMSS)	

### c) Technology alternatives

No technology alternatives are applicable. The choice of technology does not (significantly) affect the environmental impact of the proposed development in any way. Facility illustrations are attached in **Appendix C**.

Alternative 1	
Alternative 2	
Alternative 3	

# d) Other alternatives (e.g. scheduling, demand, input, scale and design alternatives)

No other feasible alternatives were identified.

Alternative 1 (preferred alternative)						
Design alternatives:						
	Alternative 2					
	Alternative 3					

#### e) **No-go alternative**

The option of not constructing the proposed on-site project substation within the approved Iziduli Emoyeni WEF is assessed as the "no go alternative" in this Basic Assessment Report (refer to Appendix F).

Paragraphs 3 – 13 below should be completed for each alternative.

### 3. PHYSICAL SIZE OF THE ACTIVITY

#### a) Indicate the physical size of the preferred activity/technology as well as alternative activities/technologies (footprints):

Alternative:	Size of the activity:	
Alternative A1 <sup>2</sup> (preferred activity	200m X 250 m	
alternative)	(50,000m² or 5 ha)	
Alternative A2 (if any)	m <sup>2</sup>	
Alternative A3 (if any)	m <sup>2</sup>	

or, for linear activities:

	Length activity:	of	the
Alternative A1 (preferred activity			N/A
alternative)			
Alternative A2 (if any)			N/A
Alternative A3 (if any)			N/A

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> "Alternative A.." refer to activity, process, technology or other alternatives.

## b) Indicate the size of the alternative sites or servitudes (within which the above footprints will occur):

Alternative:	Size of the
	site/servitude:
Alternative 1	200m X 250m
Alternative 2	N/A
Alternative A3 (if any)	N/A

### 4. SITE ACCESS

Does ready access to the site exist?

If NO, what is the distance over which a new access road will be built

	NO
	$\checkmark$
500	m – 600m

Describe the type of access road planned:

A gravel access road is situated adjacent to the proposed substation site which runs parallel to and within 250m from the R350 road. The project site is within 900m from the junction of the access road and the R350 as shown in the image below. A short internal access road of approximately 500 – 600m will be required to be constructed from the gravel road to the substation site entrance.



Photograph of access point at the junction of the R350 and gravel access road (which continues behind farm gate)

Include the position of the access road on the site plan and required map, as well as an indication of the road in relation to the site. See Appendix A.

A site plan showing the position of the access roads (existing and proposed), as well as an indication of the road in relation to the site is included within **Appendix A.** 

### 5. LOCALITY MAP

An A3 locality map must be attached to the back of this document, as **Appendix A**. The scale of the locality map must be relevant to the size of the development (at least 1:50 000. For linear activities of more than 25 kilometres, a smaller scale e.g. 1:250 000 can be used. The scale must be indicated on the map.). The map must indicate the following:

- an accurate indication of the project site position as well as the positions of the alternative sites, if any;
- indication of all the alternatives identified;

- closest town(s;)
- road access from all major roads in the area;
- road names or numbers of all major roads as well as the roads that provide access to the site(s);
- all roads within a 1km radius of the site or alternative sites; and
- a north arrow;
- a legend; and
- locality GPS co-ordinates (Indicate the position of the activity using the latitude and longitude of the centre point of the site for each alternative site. The co-ordinates should be in degrees and decimal minutes. The minutes should have at least three decimals to ensure adequate accuracy. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS84 spheroid in a national or local projection).

### An A3 Locality Map is attached within Appendix A.

### 6. LAYOUT/ROUTE PLAN

A detailed site or route plan(s) must be prepared for each alternative site or alternative activity. It must be attached as **Appendix A** to this document.

The site or route plans must indicate the following:

- the property boundaries and numbers of all the properties within 50 metres of the site;
- the current land use as well as the land use zoning of the site;
- the current land use as well as the land use zoning each of the properties adjoining the site or sites;
- the exact position of each listed activity applied for (including alternatives);
- servitude(s) indicating the purpose of the servitude;
- a legend; and
- a north arrow.

### A detailed site plan(s) is attached within **Appendix A.**

### 7. SENSITIVITY MAP

The layout/route plan as indicated above must be overlain with a sensitivity map that indicates all the sensitive areas associated with the site, including, but not limited to:

- watercourses;
- the 1:100 year flood line (where available or where it is required by DWA);
- ridges;
- cultural and historical features;

- areas with indigenous vegetation (even if it is degraded or infested with alien species); and
- critical biodiversity areas.

The sensitivity map must also cover areas within 100m of the site and must be attached in **Appendix A**.

### A sensitivity map the proposed substation is attached within **Appendix A**.

### 8. SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Colour photographs from the centre of the site must be taken in at least the eight major compass directions with a description of each photograph. Photographs must be attached under **Appendix B** to this report. It must be supplemented with additional photographs of relevant features on the site, if applicable.

Colour photographs have been taken from the centre of the proposed on-site substation site. Annotated photographs are included in **Appendix B**.

### 9. FACILITY ILLUSTRATION

A detailed illustration of the activity must be provided at a scale of at least 1:200 as **Appendix C** for activities that include structures. The illustrations must be to scale and must represent a realistic image of the planned activity. The illustration must give a representative view of the activity.

A preliminary facility illustration is shown in **Appendix C.** Note that the illustration provided was prepared for another similar project but is a good example of the type of facility that will be constructed for the Iziduli Emoyeni project (similar layout, size and components).

### **10. ACTIVITY MOTIVATION**

Motivate and explain the need and desirability of the activity (including demand for the activity):

1. Is the activity permitted in terms of the property's existing land use rights?			Please
			explain
Windlab received an environmental authorisation for the prop	osed Iz	iduli Er	noyeni WEF
(previously known as Amakhala Emoyeni WEF Phase 4) on	28 Aug	ust 201	.2 from the
National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA Ref: 12/1	2/20/17	754/4).	The Iziduli
Emoyeni WEF was previously part of the greater project	conce	ept kno	wn as the
Amakhala Emoyeni WEF. This Amakhala Emoyeni WEF was	split ir	nto four	phases (in

order to align with the REIPPPP requirements restricting a project capacity size	to
140MW). The proposed on-site substation is situated on Portion Remainder of t	he
Farm Brakkefonteyn 218 which was encompassed in the Environmental Authorisati	on
for the Iziduli Emoyeni WEF.	
2. Will the activity be in line with the following?	
YES Please	•
(a) Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF)	ו
One of the key development issues within the PSDF for Eastern Cape Province is	to
address electricity supply. The PSDF aims at assisting Eskom in being able to pl	an
according to an agreed long term spatial development scenario and build capacity	in
those areas where development is to be promoted. The proposed Iziduli Emoyeni W	ΈF
on-site substation will assist to connect the electricity generated by the WEF into t	he
national grid.	
(b) Urban edge / Edge of Built environment for the Please	
area NO ✓	ı
The Project area is located between Cookhouse and Bedford within the Blue Cra	ne
Route Local Municipality approximately 10km southwest of Bedford in the Easter	
Cape. The site does not fall within the urban edge and will not impact on the urb	an
edge in any way.	
(c) Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Spatial	
Development Framework (SDF) of the Local	
Municipality (e.g. would the approval of this Yes Please	
application compromise the integrity of the 🗸 explain	า
existing approved and credible municipal IDP and	
SDF?).	
The Project will not compromise IDP objectives but will rather assist in reaching the	ese
as the IDP of the Blue Crane Route Local Municipality aims to ensure that all form	nal
households have access to reliable and affordable electricity as well as streetligh	ts,
which supports safety and access for emergency services. This Project will assist	in
supporting the local electricity supply.	
YES Please	
(d) Approved Structure Plan of the Municipality	:
The municipality is aware of the approved Iziduli Emoyeni WEF. The proposed on-s	ı
The municipality is aware of the approved Iziduli Emoyeni WEF. The proposed on-s substation which forms part of the WEF's grid connection supports this approv	n ite

project and does not compromise the structure of the municipal plan.

(e) An Environmental Management Framework (EMF)			
adopted by the Department (e.g. Would the			
approval of this application compromise the			
integrity of the existing environmental		NO ✔	Please
			explain
management priorities for the area and if so, can			
it be justified in terms of sustainability			
considerations?)			
There is no EMF which encompasses the study area.			
(f) Any other Plans (e.g. Guide Plan)	YES	NO	Please
	125	NO	explain
The relevant conservation plan is the Eastern Cape Biodiversit	y Con	servati	on Plan and
the Addo Biodiversity Plan. In terms of these two plans, the	substa	ation lo	cation does
not fall within a CBA.			
3. Is the land use (associated with the activity being			
applied for) considered within the timeframe			
intended by the existing approved SDF agreed to			
by the relevant environmental authority (i.e. is the	/ES √		Please
proposed development in line with the projects and			explain
programmes identified as priorities within the			
credible IDP)?			
-	bla th		ction of the
The main purpose of the proposed on-site substation is to enal			
authorised Iziduli Emoyeni WEF to the national grid. This P	roject	is not	specifically
considered within the existing approved SDF.			
4. Does the community/area need the activity and the			
associated land use concerned (is it a societal			-
priority)? (This refers to the strategic as well as	/ES √		Please
local level (e.g. development is a national priority,			explain
but within a specific local context it could be			
inappropriate.)			
The main purpose of the proposed on-site substation is to enal	ble the	e conne	ction of the
authorised Iziduli Emoyeni WEF to the national grid. The Proj	ect wi	ll enab	e the up to
84MW WEF to connect to the electricity grid, which will have	ave a	positiv	e economic
impact at a local and regional scale as required by the competit	tive RI	EIPPPP.	
5. Are the necessary services with adequate capacity			
currently available (at the time of application), or			
must additional capacity be created to cater for the	/ES √		Please
development? (Confirmation by the relevant	(ES V		explain
Municipality in this regard must be attached to the			
final Basic Assessment Report as Appendix I.)			
All the services needed for the Project have been adequately	provid	led for	and should
any need for other services arise the relevant authority will be			
any need for other services unse the relevant authority will be	comm	ameate	

6.	Is this development provided for in the	
	infrastructure planning of the municipality, and if	
	not what will the implication be on the	
	infrastructure planning of the municipality (priority NO	Please
	and placement of services and opportunity costs)? $\checkmark$	explain
	(Comment by the relevant Municipality in this	
	regard must be attached to the final Basic	
	Assessment Report as Appendix I.)	

The proposed Project is to be developed by a private developer and not the municipality. It does not fall within the infrastructure planning of the municipality and will not have implications on the infrastructure planning for the municipality.

7.	Is this	project	t part	of a	national	programme	to		Please
	address	an	issue	of	national	concern	or	YES ✓	explain
	importa	nce?							explain

Within a policy framework, the development of renewable energy in South Africa is supported by the White Paper on Renewable Energy (November 2003). In order to meet the long-term goal of a sustainable renewable energy industry, a goal of 17,8GW of renewables by 2030 has been set by the Department of Energy (DoE) within the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) 2010. The energy will be produced mainly from wind, solar, biomass, and small-scale hydro (with wind and solar comprising the bulk of the power generation capacity). This amounts to  $\sim$ 42% of all new power generation being derived from renewable energy forms by 2030. This is however dependent on the assumed learning rates and associated cost reductions for renewable options.

In order to integrate the power generated by the Iziduli Emoyeni WEF into the national grid, the WEF is requires an on-site substation for transforming the power produced to a voltage that can be transported and exported to the national grid via one of the proposed power lines (applied for in a separate BA process).

8. Do location factors favour this land use (associated with the activity applied for) at this place? (This YES √ relates to the contextualisation of the proposed land use on this site within its broader context.)

Please

explain

The Iziduli Emoyeni WEF is authorised. The location of this WEF is therefore already determined. The proposed on-site substation site will enable this WEF to connect to the national grid. The location for the proposed on-site substation is identified as the preferred location within the authorised WEF in relation to the WEF layout and other grid connection infrastructure, and is therefore the only feasible option.

9.	Is	the	development	the	best	practicable	YES ✓	Please
	env	ironm	ental option for	this la	nd/site	?		explain

The Iziduli Emoyeni WEF is an authorised facility. The proposed substation site is considered to be the most appropriate for this infrastructure, taking technical and environmental (social and biophysical) issues into consideration. The specialist studies

undertaken as part of this Basic Assessment conclude that the development of the onsite substation will have medium - low environmental impacts. The substation will be situated in an area defined by renewable energy and is considered to be the best practicable environmental option for its function on the site. 10. Will the benefits of the proposed land Please use/development outweigh the negative impacts |YES  $\checkmark$ explain of it? The specialist studies undertaken as part of this Basic Assessment conclude that the development of the substation will have low to medium environmental impacts. The proposed project will facilitate the connection of the WEF to the national grid thereby facilitating the transport of renewable energy. This will have a positive impact at a local, regional and national level. Since the current land use is predominantly sheep farming, due to the limited footprint of the on-site substation the benefits of the Project will outweigh the negative impacts. Will the proposed land use/development set a 11. NO Please precedent for similar activities in the area (local  $\checkmark$ explain municipality)? The proposed substation is associated with the approved Iziduli Emoyeni WEF. The surrounding area is already largely impacted by electricity generation and transport infrastructure. The proposed on-site substation will not differ from the infrastructure already present in the area and will follow a precedent which has already been set. Will any person's rights be negatively affected NO Please 12. by the proposed activity/ies? explain A private landowner will be affected by the proposed Project. The landowner has been consulted by the applicant and the environmental team and is aware of the proposed Project and WEF. No person's rights will be negatively affected. 13. Will the proposed activity/ies compromise the NO Please "urban edge" as defined by the local municipality? explain The proposed Project is located approximately 25 km south of the town of Bedford. The site is outside of the urban edge and will not impact on the urban edge or edge of built environment in any way. Will the proposed activity/ies contribute to any 14. Please YES ✓ of the 17 Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPS)? explain Once a preferred bidder under the REIPPPP of the DOE, the Iziduli Emoyeni WEF of which the on-site substation will form part, will be considered a SIP under SIP8 and SIP9. The Iziduli Emoyeni WEF development will produce green energy (up to 84MW) on a national scale. The Iziduli Emoyeni WEF will also promote economic development by creating jobs and local content, enterprise development and other socio-economic development. The local community will directly benefit from the revenue of the project as shareholder of the WEF. During the construction and operation of the WEF of which the proposed on-site substation will form part, skilled and unskilled job opportunities will be available for

members of local communities.

# 15. What will the benefits be to society in general and to the<br/>local communities?Please<br/>explain

The on-site substation will form part of the Iziduli Emoyeni WEF. The REIPPPP through which the WEF will be evaluated requires economic development commitments from onshore WEF's. The main economic development beneficiaries of approved projects are currently communities living within a 50 km radius of renewable energy facilities.

WEFs in South Africa will create skilled and unskilled jobs, particularly during the construction period. Under the REIPPPP, projects are incentivised to maximise the direct job creation opportunities, particularly for people in the communities surrounding the project.

WEFs tend to be constructed in rural areas with small communities and limited infrastructure and social amenities. A wind farm would create indirect jobs in accommodation, catering and other services that would support a wind farm and cater for the material and social needs of wind farm workers.

Localisation is considered one of the major contributors to job creation and general improvement of the economy of South Africa. Localisation through the construction of new manufacturing facilities to build wind turbine towers and other turbine components in South Africa is currently progressing.

Wind energy can provide technical skills to South Africans and thus improve the technical skills profile of the country and the regions where wind energy facilities are located. Through the REIPPPP, developers' own initiatives and through support from international donor agencies, a number of young South Africans are being trained on various aspects of wind farm construction and operation.

The surrounding communities of successful projects under the REIPPPP are required to have an equity stake in the project, which are either funded by financier or by the other equity partners. Community ownership of an operating WEF is generally conducted via abroad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community development initiatives as outlined in the community trust deeds.

In this way, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in socio economic development and enterprise development, primarily in the

surrounding communities but in some cases beyond a 50 km radius of the project. A number of critical infrastructure and social programmes could be developed to support and enrich the areas in which the wind facilities are installed.

These projects, if successfully implemented, have the potential to transform for the better key development areas of South Africa and would assist South Africa meet its development goals while meeting its carbon emission reduction targets as per international protocols.

16.	Any other need and desirability considerations related to	Please
th	e proposed activity?	explain

The on-site substation forms part of the electrical infrastructure of the Iziduli Emoyeni WEF that will produce (renewable) energy. The Project will contribute to the transport of the power to the national grid once the WEF is approved and built under the REIPPPP. Due to the competitive nature of the Programme, the price of the electricity will be one of the cheapest in compared to more conventional energy production.

17.	How does the project fit into the National Development	Please
Pla	an for 2030?	explain

By 2030 South Africa aims to reduce carbon emissions, promote economic development and increase the GDP. To achieve this, the Province has aimed to improve Infrastructure and Basic Services; Socio-economic Development; Institutional Transformation; Good Governance and Public Participation; Financial viability and Management. The WEF development of which the onsite substation will form part, will assist in reducing the carbon footprint, as it will be transporting energy produced via turbines from wind and it will facilitate the infrastructure growth in the area including job creation, local content, enterprise development and other socio-economic benefits.

18. Please describe how the general objectives of Integrated Environmental Management as set out in section 23 of NEMA have been taken into account.

The general objectives of Integrated Environmental Management have been taken into account for this Basic Assessment report by means of identifying, predicting and evaluating the actual and potential impacts on the environment, socio-economic conditions and cultural heritage.

The risks, consequences, alternatives as well as options for mitigation of activities have also been considered with a view to minimise negative impacts, maximise benefits, and promote compliance with the principles of environmental management.

# **19.** Please describe how the principles of environmental management as set out in section 2 of NEMA have been taken into account.

Section 2 of NEMA states that environmental management must place people and their needs at the forefront, and serve their physical, psychological, developmental, cultural and social interests equitably. These principles of NEMA include the following:

- » Development must be sustainable;
- » Pollution must be avoided or minimised and remedied;
- » Waste must be avoided or minimised, reused or recycled;
- » Negative impacts must be minimised; and
- » Responsibility for the environmental health and safety consequences of a policy, project, product or service exists throughout its life cycle.

The principles of NEMA have been considered in this assessment through compliance with the requirements of the relevant legislation in undertaking the assessment of potential impacts, as well as through the implementation of the principle of sustainable development where appropriate mitigation measures have been recommended for impacts which cannot be avoided. In addition, the successful implementation and appropriate management of this proposed project will aid in achieving the principle of minimisation of pollution and environmental degradation.

This process has been undertaken in a transparent manner and all effort has been made to involve interested and affected parties, stakeholders and relevant Organs of State such that an informed decision regarding the project can be made by the Competent Authority.

### 11. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND/OR GUIDELINES

List all legislation, policies and/or guidelines of any sphere of government that are applicable to the application as contemplated in the EIA regulations, if applicable:

Legislation	Applicable Requirements	Relevant Authority	Compliance Requirements
		_egislation	
National Environmental Management Act (Act No 107 of 1998)		Environmental Affairs	The listed activities triggered by the proposed onsite substation have been identified and assessed in the EIA process being undertaken (i.e. Basic Assessment). This Basic Assessment report will be submitted to the competent and commenting authority in support of the application for authorisation.
National Environmental Management Act (Act No 107 of 1998)	In terms of the Duty of Care Provision in S28(1) the project proponent must ensure that reasonable measures are taken throughout the life cycle of this project to ensure that any pollution or degradation of the environment associated with this project is avoided, stopped or minimised. In terms of NEMA, it has become the legal duty of a project proponent to consider a project holistically, and to consider the cumulative effect of a variety of impacts.	Affairs	While no permitting or licensing requirements arise directly by virtue of the proposed Project, this section has found application during the Basic Assessment process through the consideration of potential impacts (cumulative, direct, and indirect). It will continue to apply throughout the life cycle of the Project.
Environment Conservation	National Noise Control Regulations (GN R154	» Department of	Noise impacts are expected to be

**Table 1:** List all legislation, policies and/or guidelines for the proposed on-site substation for the authorised Iziduli Emoyeni WEF

Legislation	Applicable Requirements	Relevant Authority	Compliance Requirements
Act (Act No 73 of 1989)	dated 10 January 1992)	Environmental Affairs » Local Authorities	associated with the construction phase of the project only and are not likely to present a significant intrusion to the local community. Therefore is no requirement for a noise permit in terms of the legislation.
National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998)	Water uses under S21 of the Act must be licensed unless such water use falls into one of the categories listed in S22 of the Act or falls under the general authorisation.	<ul> <li>» Department of Water Affairs and sanitation</li> <li>» Eastern Cape DEDEAT</li> </ul>	No Water Use License is expected to be required as the Project site is situated outside of the regulated area of watercourses.
National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998)	In terms of S19, the project proponent must ensure that reasonable measures are taken throughout the life cycle of this project to prevent and remedy the effects of pollution to water resources from occurring, continuing, or recurring.	Water and sanitation	This section of the Act will apply with respect to the potential impact on drainage lines, primarily during the construction phase (i.e. pollution from construction vehicles).
Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act No 28 of 2002)	A mining permit or mining right may be required where a mineral in question is to be mined (e.g. materials from a borrow pit) in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Requirements for Environmental Management Programmes and Environmental Management Plans are set out in S39 of the Act.	Department of Mineral Resources	As no borrow pits are expected to be required for the construction of the on-site substation, no mining permit or right is required to be obtained. Consent in terms of Section 53 of the MPRDA may be required to ensure that the proposed land use is not contrary to the provisions of the Act.
National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (Act No 39 of 2004)	S18, S19, and S20 of the Act allow certain areas to be declared and managed as "priority areas."	Department of Environmental Affairs	No permitting or licensing requirements arise from this legislation.

Legislation	Applicable Requirements	Relevant Authority	Compliance Requirements
	Declaration of controlled emitters (Part 3 of		
	Act) and controlled fuels (Part 4 of Act) with		
	relevant emission standards.		
	GN R 827 – National Dust Control Regulations		
	prescribes general measures for the control of dust in all areas	Affairs	and monitoring of dust, including penalties.
National Heritage	» S38 states that Heritage Impact	» South African Heritage	A permit may be required should
Resources Act (Act No 25 of	Assessments (HIAs) are required for	Resources Agency	identified cultural/heritage sites on
1999)	certain kinds of development including	» EC PHRA	site be required to be disturbed or
	• The construction of a road, power		destroyed as a result of the proposed
	line, pipeline, canal or other similar		development.
	linear development or barrier		
	exceeding 300 m in length;		An HIA has been undertaken as part
	Any development or other activity		of the Basic Assessment Process to
	which will change the character of a		identify potential heritage sites.
	site exceeding 5 000 m <sup>2</sup> in extent		
	» The relevant Heritage Authority must be		
	notified of developments such as linear		
	developments (i.e. roads and power		
	lines), bridges exceeding 50 m, or any development or other activity which will		
	change the character of a site exceeding		
	5 000 $m^2$ ; or the re-zoning of a site		
	exceeding 10 000 $m^2$ in extent. This		
	notification must be provided in the early		
	stages of initiating that development, and		
	details regarding the location, nature and		
	extent of the proposed development must		
	be provided.		
	» Stand alone HIAs are not required where		
	an EIA is carried out as long as the EIA		

Legislation	Applicable Requirements	Relevant Authority	Compliance Requirements
	contains an adequate HIA component that fulfils the provisions of S38. In such cases only those components not addressed by the EIA should be covered by the heritage component.		
National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No 10 of 2004)	In terms of S57, the Minister of Environmental Affairs has published a list of critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable, and protected species in GNR 151 in Government Gazette 29657 of 23 February 2007 and the regulations associated therewith in GNR 152 in GG29657 of 23 February 2007, which came into effect on 1 June 2007. In terms of GNR 152 of 23 February 2007: Regulations relating to listed threatened and protected species, the relevant specialists must be employed during the EIA Phase of the project to incorporate the legal provisions as well as the regulations associated with listed threatened and protected species (GNR 152) into specialist reports in order to identify permitting requirements at an early stage of the EIA Phase. The Act provides for listing threatened or protected ecosystems, in one of four categories: critically endangered (CR), endangered (EN), vulnerable (VU) or protected. The first national list of threatened terrestrial ecosystems has been gazetted,	Department of Environmental Affairs	As the applicant will not carry out any restricted activity, as is defined in S1 of the Act, no permit is required to be obtained in this regard.

Legislation	Applicable Requirements	Relevant Authority	Compliance Requirements
	together with supporting information on the listing process including the purpose and rationale for listing ecosystems, the criteria used to identify listed ecosystems, the implications of listing ecosystems, and summary statistics and national maps of listed ecosystems (National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act: National list of ecosystems that are threatened and in need of protection, (GG 34809, GN 1002), 9 December 2011).		
Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (Act No 43 of 1983)	Regulation 15 of GNR1048 provides for the declaration of weeds and invader plants. Weeds are described as Category 1 plants, while invader plants are described as Category 2 and Category 3 plants. These regulations provide that Category 1, 2 and 3 plants must not occur on land and that such plants must be controlled by the methods set out in Regulation 15E.	Department of Agriculture	This Act will find application throughout the life cycle of the Project. In this regard, soil erosion prevention and soil conservation strategies must be developed and implemented. In addition, a weed control and management plan must be implemented.
National Forests Act (Act No. 84 of 1998)	<ul> <li>» In terms of S5(1) no person may cut, disturb, damage or destroy any protected tree or possess, collect, remove, transport, export, purchase, sell donate or in any other manner acquire or dispose of any protected tree or any forest product derived from a protected tree, except under a license granted by the Minister to an (applicant and subject to such period and conditions as may be stipulated".</li> <li>» GN 1042 provides a list of protected tree</li> </ul>	National Department of Forestry	A permit would need to be obtained for any protected trees that are affected by the development. No such protected trees were identified along within the footprint of the on- site substation

Legislation	Applicable Requirements	Relevant Authority	Compliance Requirements
	species.		
National Veld and Forest Fire Act (Act 101 of 1998)	In terms of S21 the applicant would be obliged to burn firebreaks to ensure that should a veldfire occur on the property, that it does not spread to adjoining land. In terms of S12 the applicant must ensure that the firebreak is wide and long enough to have a reasonable chance of preventing the fire from spreading, not causing erosion, and is reasonably free of inflammable material. In terms of S17, the applicant must have such equipment, protective clothing, and trained personnel for extinguishing fires.		While no permitting or licensing requirements arise from this legislation, and this Act will find application during the construction and operational phase of the Project.
Hazardous Substances Act (Act No 15 of 1973)	This Act regulates the control of substances that may cause injury, or ill health, or death due to their toxic, corrosive, irritant, strongly sensitising or inflammable nature or the generation of pressure thereby in certain instances and for the control of certain electronic products. To provide for the rating of such substances or products in relation to the degree of danger; to provide for the prohibition and control of the importation, manufacture, sale, use, operation, modification, disposal or dumping of such substances and products.	Department of Health	It is necessary to identify and list all the Group I, II, III, and IV hazardous substances that may be on the site and in what operational context they are used, stored or handled. If applicable, a license is required to be obtained from the Department of Health.

Legislation	Applicable Requirements	Relevant Authority	Compliance Requirements
	<ul> <li>toxic, corrosive etc, nature or because it generates pressure through decomposition, heat or other means, cause extreme risk of injury etc., can be declared as Group I or Group II substance</li> <li>» Group IV: any electronic product; and</li> <li>» Group V: any radioactive material.</li> <li>The use, conveyance, or storage of any hazardous substance (such as distillate fuel) is prohibited without an appropriate license being in force.</li> </ul>		
National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008)	<ul> <li>The Minister may by notice in the <i>Gazette</i> publish a list of waste management activities that have, or are likely to have, a detrimental effect on the environment.</li> <li>The Minister may amend the list by -</li> <li>» Adding other waste management activities to the list.</li> <li>» Removing waste management activities from the list.</li> </ul>	and Environmental Affairs (hazardous waste) Eastern Cape Department of	As no waste disposal site is to be associated with the proposed project, no permit is required in this regard. Waste handling, storage and disposal during construction and operation is required to be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Act, as detailed in the EMPr (refer to Appendix G).
	<ul> <li>Making other changes to the particulars on the list.</li> <li>In terms of the Regulations published in terms of this Act (GN 921), A Basic Assessment or Environmental Impact Assessment is required to be undertaken for identified listed activities (Category A and B) while Category C Activities</li> </ul>		The volumes of waste to be generated and stored on the site during construction and operation of the facility will not require a waste license.

February 2015

Legislation	Applicable Requirements	Relevant Authority	Compliance Requirements
	<ul> <li>must be undertaken in accordance with the necessary norms and standards.</li> <li>Any person who stores waste must at least take steps, unless otherwise provided by this Act, to ensure that:</li> <li>» The containers in which any waste is stored, are intact and not corroded or in</li> <li>» any other way rendered unlit for the safe storage of waste.</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>Adequate measures are taken to prevent accidental spillage or leaking.</li> <li>The waste cannot be blown away.</li> <li>Nuisances such as odour, visual impacts and breeding of vectors do not arise; and</li> <li>Pollution of the environment and harm to health are prevented.</li> </ul>		
National Road Traffic Act (Act No 93 of 1996)	<ul> <li>The technical recommendations for highways (TRH 11): "Draft Guidelines for Granting of Exemption Permits for the Conveyance of Abnormal Loads and for other Events on Public Roads" outline the rules and conditions which apply to the transport of abnormal loads and vehicles on public roads and the detailed procedures to be followed in applying for exemption permits are described and discussed.</li> <li>Legal axle load limits and the restrictions imposed on abnormally heavy loads are</li> </ul>	Agency Limited (national roads)	may be required to transport the various components to site for

Legislation	Applicable Requirements	Relevant Authority	Compliance Requirements
	<ul> <li>discussed in relation to the damaging effect on road pavements, bridges, and culverts.</li> <li>The general conditions, limitations, and escort requirements for abnormally dimensioned loads and vehicles are also discussed and reference is made to speed restrictions, power/mass ratio, mass distribution, and general operating conditions for abnormal loads and vehicles. Provision is also made for the granting of permits for all other exemptions from the requirements of the National Road Traffic Act and the relevant Regulations.</li> </ul>		loaded, some of the substation components may not meet specified dimensional limitations (height and width).
	Dravingial Lagislation	/ Delicies / Diane	
	Provincial Legislation		
Eastern Cape Provincial Growth and Development Programme	Section 5 of the PGDP (2004-2014) identifies six strategic objective areas of the PGDP. Of these the infrastructure programme is of relevance to the study. The report notes that development of infrastructure, especially in the former homelands, is a necessary condition to eradicate poverty.	Economic Development &	Infrastructure development, in turn, must have strong growth promotion effects on the agriculture, manufacturing and tourism sectors by improving market access and by "crowding in" private investment. Poverty alleviation should also be promoted through labour-intensive and community based construction methods.
Nature Conservation Ordinance (Act No. 19 of 1974)	<ul> <li>Article 63 prohibits the picking of certain fauna (including cutting, chopping, taking, and gathering, uprooting, damaging, or destroying).</li> </ul>	» Eastern Cape DEDEAT	Permitting or licensing requirements may arise from this legislation for the proposed activities to be undertaken for the proposed project.

Legislation	Applicable Requirements	Relevant Authority	Compliance Requirements
	<ul> <li>» Schedule 3 lists endangered flora and Schedule 4 lists protected flora.</li> <li>» Articles 26 to 47 regulate the use of wild animals.</li> </ul>		
Cacadu District Municipality	The strategic priorities that are relevant to the	Cacadu District Municipality	The IDP development priorities
Integrated Development	project are as follows:		highlighted in the Cacadu IDP are as
Plan			follows:
	» Identification of Economic Opportunities		
	» Provision and Maintenance of		» Priority 1: Infrastructure
	Infrastructure		Investment
	» Enhancement of Skills and Education		» Priority 2: Capacity Building and
	Systems		Support to Local Municipalities
	» Sustainable Resource Management and		» Priority 3: Economic Development
	Use		» Priority 4: Community
			Development

## 12. WASTE, EFFLUENT, EMISSION AND NOISE MANAGEMENT

#### a) Solid waste management

Will the activity produce solid construction waste during the construction/initiation phase?

If YES, what estimated quantity will be produced per month?

How will the construction solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

It is anticipated that construction waste will be comprised mainly of spoil material from clearing activities as well as metal and cabling off-cuts. Immediately non-biodegradable waste will be trucked to the nearest registered waste disposal facility for appropriate disposal or recycling.

Where will the construction solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

In order to comply with legal requirements should there be excess solid construction waste after recycling options have been exhausted, the waste will be transported to a licenced waste disposal facility for appropriate disposal.

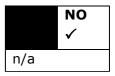
Will the activity produce solid waste during its operational phase?

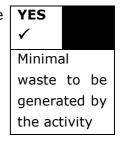
If YES, what estimated quantity will be produced per month? How will the solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

If the solid waste will be disposed of into a municipal waste stream, indicate which registered landfill site will be used.

Where will the solid waste be disposed of if it does not feed into a municipal waste stream (describe)?

If the solid waste (construction or operational phases) will not be disposed of in a registered landfill site or be taken up in a municipal waste stream, then the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.





# Can any part of the solid waste be classified as hazardous in terms of the NEM:WA?

If YES, inform the competent authority and request a change to an application for scoping and EIA. An application for a waste permit in terms of the NEM:WA must also be submitted with this application.

# Is the activity that is being applied for a solid waste handling or treatment facility?

If YES, then the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA. An application for a waste permit in terms of the NEM:WA must also be submitted with this application.

# b) Liquid effluent

Will	the	activity	produce	effluent,	other	than	normal	sewage,	that	will
be d	ispo	sed of ir	ו a munic	ipal sewa	ge sys	tem?				

If YES, what estimated quantity will be produced per month?

Will the activity produce any effluent that will be treated and/or disposed of on site?

If YES, the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

Will	the	activity	produce	effluent	that	will	be	treated	and/or	disposed	of	NO√
at a	noth	er facilit	:y?									NUV

Cell:	
Fax:	
	Cell: Fax:

If YES, provide the particulars of the facility:

Describe the measures that will be taken to ensure the optimal reuse or recycling of waste water, if any:

N/A

NO√
m <sup>3</sup>
NO√

NO√

NO√

## c) Emissions into the atmosphere

Will the activity release emissions into the atmosphere other than exhaust emissions and dust associated with construction phase activities?

If YES, is it controlled by any legislation of any sphere of government?

If YES, the applicant must consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

#### If NO, describe the emissions in terms of type and concentration:

During the construction phase, it is expected that there will be dust generation and emissions from vehicles and machinery. However the dust and emissions will have a short term duration (limited to construction activities) and have limited impact in terms of extent and severity. Appropriate dust suppression measures (as recommended in the Environmental Management Programme) will be implemented to reduce the impacts. It is recommended that construction vehicles will be serviced and kept in good mechanical condition to minimise possible exhaust emissions.

#### d) Waste permit

Will any aspect of the activity produce waste that will require a waste permit in terms of the NEM:WA?

If YES, please submit evidence that an application for a waste permit has been submitted to the competent authority

## e) Generation of noise

#### Will the activity generate noise?

If YES, is it controlled by any legislation of any sphere of government? If YES, the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

## If NO, describe the noise in terms of type and level:

A limited amount of noise will be generated during the construction phase of the onsite substation due to movement of heavy machinery on site. The operation phase will not generate any significant noise and is only limited to the insignificant level of noise made when electricity is transported and/or transformed.



NO√

NO√

#### 13. WATER USE

Please indicate the source(s) of water that will be used for the activity by ticking the appropriate box(es):

Municipal 🗸	Water board	Groundwater	River, stream, dam or lake	Other	The activity will not use water
-------------	----------------	-------------	----------------------------------	-------	---------------------------------------

If water is to be extracted from groundwater, river, stream, dam, lake or any other natural feature, please indicate the volume that will be extracted per month:

Does the activity require a water use authorisation (general authorisation or water use license) from the Department of Water Affairs?

NO
NO √
NO ✓

If YES, please provide proof that the application has been submitted to the Department of Water Affairs.

#### **14. ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

Describe the design measures, if any that have been taken to ensure that the activity is energy efficient:

The proposed on-site substation will form part of the electrical infrastructure of a wind energy facility (WEF). Energy efficiency is pursued through the design of the WEF.

Describe how alternative energy sources have been taken into account or been built into the design of the activity, if any:

The on-site substation will form part of the electrical infrastructure of a wind energy facility. This facility will produce alternative energy.

#### SECTION B: SITE/AREA/PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

#### **Important notes:**

1. For linear activities (pipelines, etc) as well as activities that cover very large sites, it may be necessary to complete this section for each part of the site that has a significantly different environment. In such cases please complete copies of Section B and indicate the area, which is covered by each copy No. on the Site Plan.

Section B Copy No. (e.g. A):

- 2. Paragraphs 1 6 below must be completed for each alternative.
- 3. Has a specialist been consulted to assist with the completion of this section?

YES 1

If YES, please complete the form entitled "Details of specialist and declaration of interest" for each specialist thus appointed and attach it in Appendix I. All specialist reports must be contained in **Appendix D**.

Property	Province	Eastern Cape			
description/	District	Cacadu District Municipality			
physical	Municipality				
address:	Local	Blue Crane Route Local Municipality			
	Municipality				
	Ward	1			
	Number(s)				
	Farm name and	Remainder of the Farm Brakkefonteyn 218			
	number				
	Portion number	Portion 0			
	SG Code	C100000000021800000			
	Where a large number of properties are involved (e.g. linear				
	activities), please attach a full list to this application including the				
	same information as indicated above.				
Current land-	The property is cu	rrently zoned for agriculture and will be rezoned			

use zoning as per local municipality **IDP**/records:

for renewable energy development purposes prior to construction.

In instances where there is more than one current land-use zoning, please attach a list of current land use zonings that also indicate which portions each use pertains to, to this application.

Is a change of land-use or a consent use application required?



#### 1. GRADIENT OF THE SITE

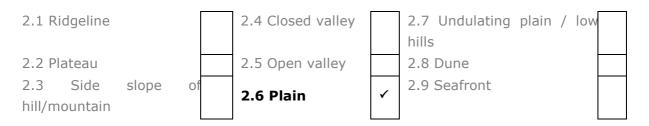
Indicate the general gradient of the site.

#### Alternative S1:

Flat√	1:50	-	1:20 -		1:15	-	1:10	-	1:7,5 -	Steeper
	1:20		1:15		1:10		1:7,5		1:5	than 1:5
Alternative	Alternative S2 (if any):									
Flat	1:50	-	1:20 -		1:15	—	1:10	-	1:7,5 -	Steeper
	1:20		1:15		1:10		1:7,5		1:5	than 1:5
Alternative	Alternative S3 (if any):									
Flat	1:50	-	1:20 -		1:15	—	1:10	-	1:7,5 -	Steeper
	1:20		1:15		1:10		1:7,5		1:5	than 1:5

#### 2. LOCATION IN LANDSCAPE

Indicate the landform(s) that best describes the site:



#### 3. GROUNDWATER, SOIL AND GEOLOGICAL STABILITY OF THE SITE

Is the site(s) located on any of the following?

	Alternative S1:	Altern S2 (if		Altern S3 (if a	
Shallow water table (less than 1.5m deep)		YES	NO	YES	NO
Dolomite, sinkhole or doline areas	NO✓	YES	NO	YES	NO
Seasonally wet soils (often close to water bodies)	NO✓	YES	NO	YES	NO
Unstable rocky slopes or steep slopes with loose soil	NO✓	YES	NO	YES	NO
Dispersive soils (soils that dissolve in water)	NO✓	YES	NO	YES	NO
Soils with high clay content (clay fraction more than 40%)	NO✓	YES	NO	YES	NO
Any other unstable soil or geological feature	NO✓	YES	NO	YES	NO
An area sensitive to erosion	NO✓	YES	NO	YES	NO

If you are unsure about any of the above or if you are concerned that any of the above aspects may be an issue of concern in the application, an appropriate specialist should be appointed to assist in the completion of this section. Information in respect of the above will often be available as part of the project information or at the planning sections of local authorities. Where it exists, the 1:50 000 scale Regional Geotechnical Maps prepared by the Council for Geo Science may also be consulted.

## 4. GROUNDCOVER

Indicate the types of groundcover present on the site. The location of all identified rare or endangered species or other elements should be accurately indicated on the site plan(s).

#### Substation site

Natural veld - good condition <sup>E</sup>	Naturalveldwithscatteredaliens <sup>E</sup> √	Natural veld with heavy alien infestation <sup>E</sup>	Veld dominated by alien species <sup>E</sup>	Gardens
Sport field	Cultivated land	Paved surface	Building or other structure	Bare soil

If any of the boxes marked with an "<sup>E</sup>" is ticked, please consult an appropriate specialist to assist in the completion of this section if the environmental assessment practitioner doesn't have the necessary expertise.

# An Ecological assessment has been completed for the proposed substation - refer to Appendix D1.

#### 5. SURFACE WATER

Indicate the surface water present on and or adjacent to the site and alternative sites?

Perennial River	NO✓	
Non-Perennial River (nearest is within 1.6km)	NO✓	
Permanent Wetland (nearest is within 1.5km)	NO✓	
Seasonal Wetland	NO✓	
Artificial Wetland	NO✓	
Estuarine / Lagoonal wetland	NO✓	

If any of the boxes marked YES or UNSURE is ticked, please provide a description of the relevant watercourse.

The nearest watercourse and wetland are situated 1.6 and 1.5km away from the substation development footprint site.

## 6. LAND USE CHARACTER OF SURROUNDING AREA

Indicate land uses and/or prominent features that currently occur within a 500m radius of the site and give description of how this influences the application or may be impacted upon by the application:

Natural area√	Dam or reservoir	Polo fields	
Low density residential	Hospital/medical centre	Filling station <sup>H</sup>	
Medium density residential	School	Landfill or waste treatment site	
High density residential	Tertiary education facility	Plantation	
Informal residential <sup>A</sup>	Church	Agriculture	
Retail commercial & warehousing	Old age home	River, stream or wetland	
Light industrial	Sewage treatment plant <sup>A</sup>	Nature conservation area	
Medium industrial <sup>AN</sup>	Train station or shunting yard <sup>N</sup>	Mountain, koppie or ridge	
Heavy industrial <sup>AN</sup>	Railway line <sup>N</sup>	Museum	

#### Proposed On-site Substation for the Authorised Iziduli Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility, Eastern Cape Province Draft Basic Assessment Report February 2015

Power station	Major road (4 lanes or more) N	Historical building
Office/consulting room	Airport <sup>N</sup>	Protected Area
Military or police base/station/compound	Harbour	Graveyard
Spoil heap or slimes dam <sup>A</sup>	Sport facilities	Archaeological site
Quarry, sand or borrow pit	Golf course	Other land uses:

If any of the boxes marked with an " $^{N}$  "are ticked, how will this impact / be impacted upon by the proposed activity?

If any of the boxes marked with an "<sup>An</sup>" are ticked, how will this impact / be impacted upon by the proposed activity? Specify and explain:

If any of the boxes marked with an "<sup>H</sup>" are ticked, how will this impact / be impacted upon by the proposed activity? Specify and explain:

Does the proposed site (including any alternative sites) fall within any of the following:

Critical Biodiversity Area (as per provincial conservation plan)	NO 🗸	
Core area of a protected area?	NO 🗸	
Buffer area of a protected area?		
Planned expansion area of an existing protected area?	NO 🗸	
Existing offset area associated with a previous Environmental	NO ✓	
Authorisation?		
Buffer area of the SKA?	NO 🗸	

Both the critical biodiversity area and the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES) site occurs well outside of the study area and do not affect the site of the proposed on-site substation.

If the answer to any of these questions was YES, a map indicating the affected area must be included in Appendix A.

## 7. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL FEATURES

Are there any signs of culturally or historically significant elements, as defined in section 2 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999, (Act No. 25 of 1999), including Archaeological or paleontological sites, on or close (within 20m) to the site? If YES, explain:

NO√

The majority of the historical built environment, graveyards and other features are concentrated at settlements along the main gravel roads and in the valleys. In general the substation development is a fair distance from these heritage features (~1km and more) and the development will not have directly impact on those features. However, these structures are an integral part of the cultural landscape and are sensitive to damage.



Image of labourers settlement occurring within 1km from the proposed on-site substation site

If uncertain, conduct a specialist investigation by a recognised specialist in the field (archaeology or palaeontology) to establish whether there is such a feature(s) present on or close to the site. Briefly explain the findings of the specialist:

Will any building or structure older than 60 years be affected in any way?

Is it necessary to apply for a permit in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999)?



If YES, please provide proof that this permit application has been submitted to SAHRA or the relevant provincial authority.

#### 8. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTER

#### a) Local Municipality

Please provide details on the socio-economic character of the local municipality in which the proposed site(s) are situated.

#### Level of unemployment:

Unemployment within the Municipality is estimated at 42.7% (2007) which is above the Eastern Cape average of ~32% (Eastern Cape State of the Environment Report, 2004), while ~42% of the population are listed as 'not economically active'. The largest sectors in terms of employment within the municipality in 2001 were Agriculture (~40%), Community Service (~27%), Households (14%), trade (5%) Construction (~3%) and Manufacturing (~3%). The 2001 Census data listed 41% as Undetermined.

#### Economic profile of local municipality:

The population the Blue Crane Route Municipality is estimated at 40 000 (Community Survey, 2007) with an annual growth rate of ~2.4% per annum (Blue Crane Route Local Municipality IDP, 2007-2012). The population constitutes approximately 9.7% of the greater Cacadu District. The population density within the Municipality is estimated at 406 people/km (Community Survey, 2007). The majority of the population (~69%) lives in the urban nodes while ~31% live in rural villages or homesteads (Blue Crane Route Local Municipality IDP, 2007-2012).

The age profile of the population reveals that approximately 44% of the population falls within the economically active age bracket 15 to 65 years of age. The dependency ratio is, however, is 1.78 which means that every working individual supports 2 non-working/unemployed individual.

These demographics are reflected in the dominant languages within the Municipality, with 45% of the population being Afrikaans speaking, 49% isiXhosa speaking and 6% English speaking.

#### Level of education:

The level of education within the Municipality is relatively low. Just over 20% of the population ( $\sim 1$  in 50) has no schooling, while 27% have some primary school, only 9.5% have finished primary school, 25.6% have some high school and 11.7% have a grade 12 qualification. Approximately 5.2% of those with a Grade 12 qualification go on to obtain an education at University/Technikon level.

## b) Socio-economic value of the activity

What is the expected capital value of the activity on	The WEF of which the on-site
completion?	substation forms part will
	result in a CAPEX of approx
	R2.5bilion
What is the expected yearly income that will be	The WEF of which the on-site
generated by or as a result of the activity?	substation forms part will
	result in an expected yearly
	income of approx R400
	million/year.
Will the activity contribute to service infrastructure?	YES ✓
Is the activity a public amenity?	NO ✓
How many new employment opportunities will be	The WEF of which the on-site
created in the development and construction phase of	substation forms part will
the activity/ies?	result in approx 230-470 and
	9-45 job opportunities during
	construction and operation
	respectively
What is the expected value of the employment	Unsure at this stage.
opportunities during the development and	
construction phase?	
What percentage of this will accrue to previously	Unsure at this stage.
disadvantaged individuals?	
How many permanent new employment opportunities	Unsure at this stage
will be created during the operational phase of the	
activity?	
What is the expected current value of the employment	Unsure at this stage.
opportunities during the first 10 years?	
What percentage of this will accrue to previously	Unsure at this stage.
disadvantaged individuals?	

# 9. **BIODIVERSITY**

Please note: The Department may request specialist input/studies depending on the nature of the biodiversity occurring on the site and potential impact(s) of the proposed activity/ies. To assist with the identification of the biodiversity occurring on site and the ecosystem status consult http://bgis.sanbi.org or BGIShelp@sanbi.org. Information is also available on compact disc (cd) from the Biodiversity-GIS Unit, Ph (021) 799 8698. This information may be updated from time to time and it is the applicant/ EAP's responsibility to ensure that the latest version is used. A map of the relevant biodiversity information (including an indication of the habitat conditions as per (b) below) and must be provided as an overlay map to the property/site plan as **Appendix D** to this report.

# a) Indicate the applicable biodiversity planning categories of all areas on site and indicate the reason(s) provided in the biodiversity plan for the selection of the specific area as part of the specific category)

Systematic	Biodiversity	Planning (	Category	If CBA or ESA, indicate the reason(s) for its selection in biodiversity plan
Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA)	Ecological Support Area (ESA) ✓	Other Natural Area (ONA)	No Natural Area Remaining (NNR)	The area proposed for the onsite substation forms part of the Addo Biodiversity Sector Plan ecological support areas (refer to Appendix A)

## b) Indicate and describe the habitat condition on site

Habitat Condition	Percentage of habitat condition class (adding up to 100%)	Description and additional Comments and Observations (including additional insight into condition, e.g. poor land management practises, presence of quarries, grazing, harvesting regimes etc).
Natural	98%	The proposed substation site is situated in an area of medium ecological sensitivity within the Bedford Dry Grassland vegetation type. The grassland is relatively short and contains a dwarf shrubby component of karroid origin.
Near Natural (includes areas with low to moderate level of alien invasive plants)	2%	The site does not currently harbour alien plants in significant densities. There are localised concentrations of Eucalyptus around homesteads and other species that occur sporadically in the landscape. Alien invasions are therefore not a major issue in the study area at the moment, but the presence of a diffuse disturbance over a wide area could lead to the spread of a number of species that are present in the area. The habitats most likely to be affected are watercourses and grasslands.
Degraded (includes areas heavily invaded by alien plants)	0%	
Transformed (includes cultivation,	0%	

Habitat Condition	Percentage of habitat condition class (adding up to 100%)	Description and additional Comments and Observations (including additional insight into condition, e.g. poor land management practises, presence of quarries, grazing, harvesting regimes etc).
dams, urban, plantation,		
roads, etc)		

#### c) Complete the table to indicate:

- (i) the type of vegetation, including its ecosystem status, present on the site; and
- (ii) whether an aquatic ecosystem is present on site.

Terrestrial Eco	osystems	Aquatic Ecosystems						
Ecosystem	Critical	Wetland (inclue	ding rivers,					
threat status as	Endangered	depressions, channelled and un-channelled wetlands, flats, seeps, pans, and artificial wetlands)		depressions, channelled and				
per the National	Vulnerable			Estuary		Coastline		
Environmental								
Management:	Least							
<b>Biodiversity Act</b>	Threatened							
(Act No. 10 of	✓	NO			NO		NO	
2004)		, v			v		, v	

d) Please provide a description of the vegetation type and/or aquatic ecosystem present on site, including any important biodiversity features/information identified on site (e.g. threatened species and special habitats)

**Terrestrial ecosystem:** The project site falls within the Albany Thicket Biome, at the interface between the Albany Thicket and the Sub-escarpment Grassland Bioregions. The natural vegetation of the substation site is dominated by Bedford Dry Grassland (undulating terrain with short, open, dry grassland with scattered Acacia Karroo woodland).

The area features open, hilly grassland (in many areas covered by a high density of termite mounds), grading into wooded and succulent-rich thicket vegetation along the drainage lines (located outside of the substation site).

**Drainage systems:** The larger wind energy facility study area is dominated by undulating hills, found within the middle portions of the Koonap / Great Fish River catchment. Several small drainage lines are evident within the region. Water resources within the study area were classified as follows:

» Upper foothill drainage lines, with no visible channels, with limited inundation,

and only contains small amounts of surface run-off during high rainfall events.

- » Lower foot hill streams, with visible channels, narrow riparian zones and small pools.
- » Depression / pan wetland types
- » Farm dams

According to the surface water study undertaken, the proposed substation site is  $\sim$ 1.5km away from the nearest wetland and  $\sim$ 1.6km from the nearest watercourse and no direct impact on water resources is anticipated.

**Red data species:** According to the Final EIA Report for the greater Amakhala Emoyeni WEF, there are four plant species recorded in the quarter degree grids that are listed on the Red List that could potentially occur in habitats that are available in the approved wind energy facility study area. There are nine mammal species of conservation concern, including one species classified as Endangered, which could occur in available habitats in the approved wind energy facility study area. Red data species are expected to be confined to the Great Fish vegetation biome and not in the Bedford Dry Grassland where the substation site occurs. A walkthrough study is required to determine the presence of endangered species at the substation site prior to construction.

#### SECTION C: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

#### **1. ADVERTISEMENT AND NOTICES**

Publication	The Herald			
name	Somerset Budget	Somerset Budget		
Date published	06 February 2015			
	05 February 2015			
Site notice	Latitude	Longitude		
position	32°56'39.13"S	26° 7'34.96"E		
Date placed	18 January 2015	·		

Include proof of the placement of the relevant advertisements and notices in **Appendix E1**.

#### 2. DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE MEASURES

Provide details of the measures taken to include all potential I&APs as required by Regulation 54(2)(e) and 54(7) of GN R.543.

- » A2 site notices were placed on a farm gate/fence of the Remainder of the Farm Brakkefonteyn 218.
- » A4 notices were placed at the public libraries and local municipality office/s.
- » A notification letter has been sent to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), stakeholders and organs of state informing them of the proposed project and inviting them to become involved in the Basic Assessment process.
- » Focus group meetings were held with affected landowners prior to releasing the Draft Basic Assessment Report for public review. (Due to the limited scale of the project and the limited number of properties affected, it has been considered that this approach would be the most appropriate to enable participation and capturing of any issues).
- » Notification letters were sent to I&APs inviting I&APs to comment on the draft Basic Assessment Report.
- » An advert was placed in one regional and one local newspaper to notify the public about the availability of the Draft Basic Assessment Report.

Include proof that the key stakeholder received written notification of the proposed activities as **Appendix E2**. This proof may include any of the following:

- » e-mail delivery reports;
- » registered mail receipts;
- » courier waybills;
- » signed acknowledgements of receipt; and/or

» or any other proof as agreed upon by the competent authority.

#### 3. ISSUES RAISED BY INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

Summary of main issues raised by I&APs	Summary of response from EAP
Storm water management and erosion control measures	An Environmental Management Programme for the proposed project will address ways to manage soil erosion and storm water effectively

#### 4. COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT

The practitioner must record all comments received from I&APs and respond to each comment before the Draft BAR is submitted. The comments and responses must be captured in a comments and response report as prescribed in the EIA regulations and be attached to the Final BAR as **Appendix E3**.

#### 5. AUTHORITY PARTICIPATION

Authorities and organs of state identified as key stakeholders:

- Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development & Environmental Affairs (DEDEA)
- Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries
- Department of Water and Sanitation
- Department of Energy
- Eastern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works
- Eastern Cape Department of Rural Development & Agrarian Reform
- Blue Crane Route Local Municipality
- Sarah Baartman District Municipality
- Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Agency
- Square Kilometre Array (SKA): South Africa
- BirdLife South Africa
- Eskom

Include proof that the Authorities and Organs of State received written notification of the proposed activities as **Appendix E4**.

In the case of renewable energy projects, Eskom and the SKA Project Office must be included in the list of Organs of State. Refer to **Appendix E4**.

#### 6. CONSULTATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Note that, for any activities (linear or other) where deviation from the public participation requirements may be appropriate, the person conducting the public participation process may deviate from the requirements of that sub-regulation to the extent and in the manner as may be agreed to by the competent authority.

Proof of any such agreement must be provided, where applicable. Application for any deviation from the regulations relating to the public participation process must be submitted prior to the commencement of the public participation process.

No deviations from the public participation process are applicable.

A list of registered I&APs is included as **Appendix E5**.

Copies of any correspondence and minutes of any meetings held are included in **Appendix E6**.

#### SECTION D: IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The assessment of impacts must adhere to the minimum requirements in the EIA Regulations, 2010, and should take applicable official guidelines into account. The issues raised by interested and affected parties should also be addressed in the assessment of impacts.

# 1. IMPACTS THAT MAY RESULT FROM THE PLANNING AND DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATIONAL, DECOMMISSIONING AND CLOSURE PHASES AS WELL AS PROPOSED MANAGEMENT OF IDENTIFIED IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

Provide a summary and anticipated significance of the potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts that are likely to occur as a result of the planning and design phase, construction phase, operational phase, decommissioning and closure phase, including impacts relating to the choice of site/activity/technology alternatives as well as the mitigation measures that may eliminate or reduce the potential impacts listed. This impact assessment must be applied to all the identified alternatives to the activities identified in Section A (2) of this report.

A summary and anticipated significance of the potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts that are likely to occur as a result of the planning and design phase, construction phase, operational phase and decommissioning phases of the proposed Iziduli Emoyeni on-site substation is provided in the table overleaf.

Activity	Impact summary	Significance	Proposed mitigation
Alternative 1 (preferre	ed alternative)		
Impact on	Direct impacts:	Medium - Low	Keep areas affected by construction activities to a minimum.
indigenous natural	The impact will be limited to		
vegetation and fauna	the substation development		Remove topsoil and redistribute that not used in rehabilitation activities
	footprint as well as the short		to mimic the micro-topography of the original vegetation to stop erosion.
	section of access road		
	required.		Remove all succulent and bulbous plants directly affected by the
			proposed development, and replant onto the redistributed topsoil.
			Prevent leakage of oil or other chemicals or pollutants.
			Monitor the establishment of alien invasive species and remove as soon as detected, whenever possible before regenerative material can be formed.
			Align the design to avoid pylon positions and road placement on slopes steeper than 20°.
			Place pylons as far as possible out of the drainage lines and their embankments.
			Do not use the drainage lines or their banks as access points for construction activities.
			After decommissioning, remove all foreign material, rip to loosen topsoil,
			aim to recreate a high surface roughness resembling the initial
			vegetation, and undertake active re-vegetation.
	Indirect impacts:	Low	Avoid or minimise clearance of natural vegetation
	Impacts on vegetation		

Activity	Impact summary	Significance	Proposed mitigation
	outside of substation		
	development area		
	Cumulative impacts:	Low-Medium	Minimise area of disturbance as far as possible.
	From a cumulative		
	perspective loss of vegetation		
	will occur, causing the		
	impacts of the activity to be		
	greater.		
Impact on Protected	Direct impacts:	Low	A permit for the clearance and destruction of protected species must be
Plants	Removal of protected plants		obtained for the project.
	identified within project site		
	Indirect impacts:	Low	Identify sensitive species within and around substation site prior to
	Unintentional impact on		construction
	protected plants outside of		
	project footprint		Avoid or minimise clearance of natural vegetation
	Cumulative impacts:	Low	Limit disturbance of vegetation as far as possible.
	Impacts due to alien		
	invasions and damage to		
	watercourses may possibly		
	cause damage to habitats		
	where protected trees could		
	grow. This may exacerbate		
	this impact.		
Impact as a result of	-	Low	Minimise size of construction area
soil loss, erosion and	Loss of topsoil due to poor		
degradation	construction practices		Keep to existing and new access road to be constructed, where practical,
			to minimise impacts on undisturbed ground and ensure erosion mitigation
			measures are to rehabilitate potential erosion.
			Separate topsoil from subsoil during storage over the construction period

Activity	Impact summary	Significance	Proposed mitigation
			Reinforce portions of access routes that are prone to erosion, create
			structures underneath where water would accumulate to allow free
			drainage where necessary, create structures or low banks to drain the
			access road rapidly during rainfall events, yet preventing erosion of the
			track and surrounding areas
			Develop and implement soil erosion management plan
	Indirect impacts:	Low	Rehabilitate soil and vegetation in construction areas as soon as
	Erosion of adjacent areas		construction is completed in an area.
	Cumulative impacts:	Low	Develop and implement soil erosion management plan and integrate with
	The cumulative impact of soil		WEF Environmental Management Plan.
	degradation over the greater		
	area is not significant as the		
	area is largely untouched but		
	could progress if not		
	managed correctly		
Impact on surface	Direct impacts:	Low	Ensure that all substation construction activities including access roads
water resources	Construction activities within		avoid watercourses within the authorised WEF site
	regulated area of a		
	watercourse or water		
	resource		
	Indirect impacts:	N/A	Compile a comprehensive storm-water management plan
	Sedimentation of		
	watercourses due to erosion		Rehabilitate any disturbed areas immediately to stabilise landscapes
			Water velocity must be reduced and diffused before water is returned to
			natural systems
			Erosion features must be immediately stabilised, if they develop.

Activity	Impact summary	Significance	Proposed mitigation
	Cumulative impacts:	N/A	None required.
	Sedimentation of		
	watercourses due to erosion		
Establishment/	Direct impacts:	Medium to	Control any alien plant species on site immediately to avoid
spread of declared	There is a weak potential for	high	establishment of soil seed bank that would take decades to remove.
weeds and alien	alien plants to spread or		Remove all alien plants in the project development area.
invader plants	become established following		
	disturbance on site. The		Develop and implement an alien invasive management plan.
	presence of a diffuse		
	disturbance over a wide area		
	could, however, lead to the		
	spread of species that are		
	present in the area.		
	Indirect impacts:	Low	Establish an on-going monitoring programme to detect and quantify any
	Spread of alien invasives		aliens that may become established
	outside of site		
	Cumulative impacts:	Low	Develop and implement an alien invasive management plan.
	Soil erosion, habitat loss and		
	increased frequency of veld		
	fires may lead to additional		
	disturbance that will result in		
	alien species becoming		
	established.		

Activity	Impact summary	Significance	Proposed mitigation
Impact on Birds	<b>Direct impacts</b> Noise generated by maintenance activities may disturb priority species, causing behavioural changes or otherwise affecting nesting success or foraging efficiency.	Low	No mitigation available.
	<b>Indirect impacts</b> Disturbance of species in the broader area.	Low	No mitigation available.
	<i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Minimal cumulative impacts	Low	No mitigation available.
Visual impact	<b>Direct</b> Visual disturbance in the landscape	Low to none as the existing and planned infrastructure (wind energy facilitis and accompanied infrastructure)	Impacts relating to construction can be minimised through limiting vegetation clearance and appropriate management of activities on the site.

February 2015

Activity	Impact summary	Significance	Proposed mitigation
		in the area will	
		be more	
		significant	
		visually	
	Indirect	None	None
	Cumulative Impacts:	Low	None possible.
	The substation could		
	potentially be seen by users		
	of the R350 but the view will		
	be distracted by the wind		
	turbines in the area.		
Social Impacts	Direct	Low	Social enhancement measures as per the Social and Economic
	Increase skills		Development and Enterprise Development commitments of the Iziduli
			Emoyeni WEF of which the on-site substation forms part.
	Indirect impacts	N/A	N/A
	Cumulative Impacts	N/A	N/A
Safety and security	Direct	Low	The health and safety plan for the Iziduli Emoyeni WEF should be
of people	<ul> <li>Increased fire risk</li> </ul>		observed and all management measures in terms thereof observed for
	» Intrusions of strangers to		the construction of the substation
	the area		
	Indirect	N/A	
	Cumulative Impacts	Increase of	Increased security
		theft in the	
		area	
Alternative 2: N/A	•		
	Direct impacts:		
	Indirect impacts:		
	Cumulative impacts:		

Activity	Impact summary	Significance	Proposed mitigation
	Direct impacts:		
	Tu dive et inche etc.		
	Indirect impacts:		
	Cumulative impacts:		
Alternative 3: N/A			
	Direct impacts:		
	Indirect impacts:		
	Cumulative impacts:		
	Direct impacts:		
	Indirect impacts:		
	Cumulative impacts:		

#### No-go alternative:

This is the option of not constructing the proposed substation. This option will result in no impacts occurring on the biophysical environment (i.e. biodiversity, soils), and will result in no visual impact. However, this will result in the situation where the authorised Iziduli Emoyeni WEF cannot be connected to the electricity grid. This will result in a lost opportunity for renewable energy production within the country, and will impact on the local community ie loss in job opportunities creation, revenue benefits and other socio-economic benefits that would stimulate the local economic development.

Impacts on biodiversity	Direct impacts:	Low	None.
	No development will imply		
	that no vegetation will be		
	cleared for development		

Activity	Impact summary	Significance	Proposed mitigation
	purposes. The project site is		
	however not situated within a		
	vegetation type of		
	conservation concern.		
	Indirect impacts:	None	None required
	As vegetation will be avoided		
	there will be no indirect		
	impacts		
	Cumulative impacts:	N/A	None required
	As vegetation clearing will be		
	avoided there will be no		
	cumulative impacts		
Impacts on the social	Direct impacts:	High	Implement project to enable connection of the authorized Iziduli Emoyeni
environment	Lost opportunity for		WEF to the national grid.
	renewable energy		
	The no-development option		
	would result in the lost		
	opportunity for South Africa		
	to produce more renewable		
	energy.		
	Impact on local		
	community		
	The No-Development option		
	would also result in the loss		
	of economic development		
	benefits for both the local and		
	the national community		
	Indirect impacts:	N/A	N/A

Activity	Impact summary	Significance	Proposed mitigation
	Cumulative impacts:	N/A	N/A

A complete impact assessment in terms of Regulation 22(2)(i) of GN R.543 is included as **Appendix F**.

#### 2. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Taking the assessment of potential impacts into account, please provide an environmental impact statement that summarises the impact that the proposed activity and its alternatives may have on the environment <u>after</u> the management and mitigation of impacts have been taken into account, with specific reference to types of impact, duration of impacts, likelihood of potential impacts actually occurring and the significance of impacts.

#### Alternative 1 (preferred alternative)

This section provides a summary of the environmental assessment and conclusions drawn for the proposed Iziduli Emoyeni on-site substation within the authorised Iziduli Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility. In doing so, it draws on the information gathered as part of the Basic Assessment process and the knowledge gained by the environmental consultants during the course of the process (and from the previous assessments and studies in the area) and presents an informed conclusion regarding the environmental impacts associated with the proposed substation. The following conclusions can be drawn from the specialist studies undertaken within this Basic Assessment:

**Ecology:** The overall impact on ecological processes and functioning as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed substation is likely to be of low significance.

**Avifauna:** The proposed construction of the proposed substation will have a low impact on avifauna.

**Heritage:** The impacts to heritage resources by the proposed substation are considered to be of low significance as the heritage sites identified are located well outside of the proposed impact area.

**Visual:** The visual impact will be negligible in comparison to the authorised wind turbines, power lines and other associated infrastructure of the WEF's in the area.

**Cumulative Impacts:** Cumulative impacts from substations will result from the 3 authorised substations added to this proposed substation. As the area is already characterised by the wind energy facility (in respective phases), the cumulative impact is not expected to be significant.

Based on the findings of current and past studies undertaken, in terms of environmental constraints and opportunities identified through the various EIA and Basic Assessment processes, no environmental fatal flaws were identified to be associated with the wind energy facility or grid connection infrastructure.

The significance levels of the majority of identified negative impacts for all alternatives

investigated can generally be reduced to acceptable levels by implementing the recommended mitigation measures. With reference to the information available at this planning approval stage in the project cycle, the confidence in the environmental assessment undertaken is regarded as acceptable.

A number of issues requiring mitigation have been highlighted in the impact assessment (Appendix F). In response to these potential environmental impacts, environmental specifications for the management of these issues / impacts are detailed within the draft Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) included within Appendix G.

## No Go Alternative (Compulsory)

Also referred to as the 'Do nothing' option, this refers to the applicant not constructing the proposed substation. In this scenario the potential positive and negative environmental and social impacts as described in this Basic Assessment Report will not occur and the status quo will be maintained.

Should the project not proceed, the land use of the area will change regardless, as the Iziduli Emoyeni WEF has already been authorised. Should the project not proceed, the authorised WEF will not be able to connect to the electricity grid which would result in a lost opportunity in terms of the contribution of renewable energy from this WEF for the country. The proposed substation is directly related to the technical viability of this WEF. As a result the potential local and regional socio-economic and environmental benefits expected to be associated with the Authorised Iziduli Emoyeni WEF would not be realised. These include:

- Increased energy security: The current electricity crisis in South Africa highlights the significant role that renewable energy can play in terms of power supplementation. In addition, given that renewables can often be deployed in a decentralised manner close to consumers, they offer the opportunity for improving grid strength and supply quality, while reducing expensive transmission and distribution losses.
- Exploitation of South Africa's significant renewable energy resource: At present, valuable national resources including biomass by-products, solar radiation and wind power remain largely unexploited. The use of these energy flows will strengthen energy security through the development of a diverse energy portfolio.

The no-development option will therefore not be beneficial to the landowner or the broader community.

The 'Do nothing' alternative is, therefore, not a preferred alternative.

#### SECTION E. RECOMMENDATION OF PRACTITIONER

Is the information contained in this report and the documentation attached hereto sufficient to make a decision in respect of the activity applied for (in the view of the environmental assessment practitioner)?



If "NO", indicate the aspects that should be assessed further as part of a Scoping and EIA process before a decision can be made (list the aspects that require further assessment).

If "YES", please list any recommended conditions, including mitigation measures that should be considered for inclusion in any authorisation that may be granted by the competent authority in respect of the application.

There are no insurmountable environmental or social constraints that prevent the establishment of the proposed construction of the on-site substation for the authorised Iziduli Emoyeni WEF.

The construction of the proposed substation should be implemented according to the EMPr to adequately mitigate and manage potential impacts associated with construction activities. The construction activities and relevant rehabilitation of disturbed areas should be monitored against the approved EMPr, the Environmental Authorisation and all other relevant environmental legislation. Relevant conditions to be adhered to include:

## Mitigation - Design, Construction, and Decommissioning Phases:

- » An independent Environmental Control Officer (ECO) should be appointed to monitor compliance with the specifications of the EMPr for the duration of the construction period.
- » If concentrations of archaeological heritage material, human remains or fossil material are uncovered, all work must cease immediately and be reported to SAHRA so that systematic and professional investigation/ excavation can be undertaken.
- » Existing tracks/roads should be used as far as possible, and construction activities should be limited to the authorised site. Any new access roads required to be carefully planned and constructed to minimise the impacted area and prevent unnecessary degradation of soil.
- » Unnecessary disturbance to habitats should be strictly controlled and the footprint of the impact should be kept to a minimum.
- » An on-going monitoring programme should be established to detect, quantify and eradicate any alien species.
- » Restrict the activities and movement of construction workers and vehicles to the

immediate construction site and existing access roads.

- » Reduce and control construction dust through the use of approved dust suppression techniques as and when required (i.e. whenever dust becomes apparent).
- » Rehabilitate all disturbed areas, construction areas, roads, slopes etc. immediately after the completion of construction works. If necessary, an ecologist should be consulted to assist or give input into rehabilitation specifications.
- » Social benefits in terms of training, skills development and the use of local labour. These skills can be transferable to other employment sectors and would result in further sustainable benefits.
- The Local Municipality and community representatives and affected and neighbouring property owners should be kept informed of the progress, decisions taken with regards to the development and construction schedules.

## Mitigation - Operation Phase:

The mitigation and management measures previously listed in this Basic Assessment Report should be implemented in order to minimise potential environmental impacts. The following mitigation measures should also be implemented:

- » Maintain roads to forego erosion and to suppress dust.
- » Monitor rehabilitated areas, and implement remedial action as and when required.
- » Restrict maintenance activities to the substation.

Is an EMPr attached?

YES√

The EMPr must be attached as **Appendix G.** 

The details of the EAP who compiled the BAR and the expertise of the EAP to perform the Basic Assessment process must be included as **Appendix H**.

If any specialist reports were used during the compilation of this BAR, please attach the declaration of interest for each specialist in **Appendix I**.

Any other information relevant to this application and not previously included must be attached in **Appendix J**.

Karen Jodas

NAME OF EAP

SIGNATURE OF EAP

DATE

#### **SECTION F: APPENDICES**

The following appendixes must be attached:

Appendix A: Maps

- Appendix B: Photographs
- Appendix C: Facility illustration(s)
- Appendix D: Specialist reports
- Appendix E: Public Participation
- Appendix F: Impact Assessment
- Appendix G: Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)
- Appendix H: Details of EAP and expertise and CVs
- Appendix I: Specialist's declaration of interest
- Appendix J: Additional information