

**Environmental Impact Assessment for the  
proposed Ubuntu Wind Energy Project near  
Jeffrey's Bay, Eastern Cape:  
Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report**

**APPENDIX B:**

**DEA's Acceptance letter of  
the Final Scoping Report  
and Plan of Study for EIA**



## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Mr Paul Lochner  
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)  
PO Box 320  
**STELLENBOSCH**  
7599

Fax no: 021-888-2693

### PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Mr Lochner

#### APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT AND PLAN OF STUDY (12/12/20/1752) FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE UBUNTU WIND ENERGY PROJECT, JEFFREY'S BAY, EASTERN CAPE

The final scoping report (FSR) and plan of study for the environmental impact assessment dated April 2011 and received by the Department on 14 April 2011 refers.

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

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the plan of study for environmental impact assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2006. In addition, the impact of the wind farm on the agricultural potential of the proposed site must also be determined and reported on within the EIR. Please find attached information regarding the format of this study.

Please ensure that comments from all relevant authorities are submitted to the Department with the Final Environmental Impact Report. This includes but is not limited to the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), relevant provincial departments and the Department of Water Affairs (DWA). Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final EIR.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of GN R.385 (77) with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations, and GN R. 385 (58) and (59) with regard to the allowance of a comment period for interested and affected parties on all

reports submitted to the competent authority for decision-making. The reports referred to are listed in GN R. 385 (58) (3a-3g).

Please ensure that the Final EIR includes at least one A3 regional map of the area and the locality maps included in the Final EIR illustrate the different proposed alignments and above ground storage of fuel. The maps must be of acceptable quality and as a minimum, have the following attributes:

- Maps are relatable to one another;
- Cardinal points;
- Co-ordinates;
- Legible legends;
- Indicate alternatives;
- Latest land cover;
- Vegetation types of the study area;
- A3 size locality map; and
- A3 size layout plan

The locality map must indicate the route of the overhead line from the wind farm to the off-site Eskom substation.

The layout plan must include the final positions of the turbines as well as the roads, hard standing areas, substation and the operations and maintenance building on site.

Further, it must be reiterated that, should an application for Environmental Authorisation be subject to the provisions of Chapter II, Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, then this Department will not be able to make nor issue a decision in terms of your application for Environmental Authorisation pending a letter from the pertinent heritage authority categorically stating that the application fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority as described in Chapter II, Section 38 (8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999.

Please find attached information that should be used in the compilation of the EIR. This will ensure that a decision on the application can be made speedily.

Please submit at least one electronic copy (CD/DVD) of the complete final report with the hard copy documents.

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

Yours sincerely



**Mr Ishaam Abader**  
Deputy Director General: Environmental Quality and Protection  
Department of Environmental Affairs  
Letter signed by: Mr Dumisani Mthembu  
Designation: Director: Environmental Impact Evaluation  
Date: 7/07/2011

CC: Mr Allan Wolfromm

(WindCurrent SA)

866 102 779

## EIA INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR WIND FARM APPLICATIONS

### 1. General site information

The following general site information is required:

- Descriptions of all affected farm portions
- 21 digit Surveyor General codes of all affected farm portions
- Copies of deeds of all affected farm portions
- Photos of areas that give a visual perspective of all parts of the site
- Photographs from sensitive visual receptors (tourism routes, tourism facilities, etc.)
- Turbine design specifications including:
  - Nacelle height
  - Blade length
  - Turbine shaft dimensions
  - Foundation dimensions
  - Laydown area dimensions (construction period and thereafter)
  - Blade rotation direction
  - Generation capacity
- Onsite measured wind parameters (speed, variability, etc.)
- Generation capacity of the facility as a whole at delivery points

This information must be indicated on the first page of any Scoping or EIA document. It is also advised that it be double checked as there are too many mistakes in the applications that have been received that take too much time from authorities to correct.

### 2. Site maps and GIS information

Site maps and GIS information should include at least the following:

- All maps/information layers must also be provided in ESRI Shapefile format
- All affected farm portions must be indicated
- The exact site of the application must be indicated (the areas that will be occupied by the application)
- A status quo map/layer must be provided that includes the following:
  - Current use of land on the site including:
    - Buildings and other structures
    - Agricultural fields
    - Grazing areas
    - Natural vegetation areas (natural veld not cultivated for the preceding 10 years) with an indication of the vegetation quality as well as fine scale mapping in respect of Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas
    - Critically endangered and endangered vegetation areas that occur on the site
    - Bare areas which may be susceptible to soil erosion
    - Cultural historical sites and elements
  - Rivers, streams and water courses
  - Ridgelines and 20m continuous contours with height references in the GIS database
  - Fountains, boreholes, dams (in-stream as well as off-stream) and reservoirs
  - High potential agricultural areas as defined by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
  - Buffer zones (also where it is dictated by elements outside the site):

- 500m from any irrigated agricultural land
- 1km from residential areas
- Indicate isolated residential, tourism facilities on or within 1km of the site
- A slope analysis map/layer that include the following slope ranges:
  - Less than 8% slope (preferred areas for turbines and infrastructure)
  - between 8% and 12% slope (potentially sensitive to turbines and infrastructure)
  - between 12% and 14% slope (highly sensitive to turbines and infrastructure)
  - steeper than 18 % slope (unsuitable for turbines and infrastructure)
- A map/layer that indicate locations of birds and bats including roosting and foraging areas (specialist input required)
- A site development proposal map(s)/layer(s) that indicate:
  - Turbine positions
  - Foundation footprint
  - Permanent laydown area footprint
  - Construction period laydown footprint
  - Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible)
  - River, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used
  - Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint.
  - Cable routes and trench dimensions (where they are not along internal roads)
  - Connection routes to the distribution/transmission network (the connection must form part of the EIA even if the construction and maintenance thereof will be done by another entity such as ESKOM)
  - Cut and fill areas at turbine sites along roads and at substation/transformer sites indicating the expected volume of each cut and fill
  - Borrow pits
  - Spoil heaps (temporary for topsoil and subsoil and permanently for excess material)
  - Buildings including accommodation

With the above information authorities will be able to assess the strategic and site impacts of the application.

### 3. Regional map and GIS information

The regional map and GIS information should include at least the following:

- All maps/information layers must also be provided in ESRI Shapefile format
- The map/layer must cover an area of 20km around the site
- Indicate the following:
  - roads including their types (tarred or gravel) and category (national, provincial, local or private)
  - Railway lines and stations
  - Industrial areas
  - Harbours and airports
  - Electricity transmission and distribution lines and substations
  - Pipelines
  - A visibility assessment of the areas from where the facility will be visible
  - Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas
  - Critically Endangered and Endangered vegetation areas
  - Agricultural fields

- Irrigated areas
- An indication of new road or changes and upgrades that must be done to existing roads in order to get equipment onto the site including cut and fill areas and crossings of rivers and streams.

#### 4. Important stakeholders

Amongst other important stakeholders, comments from the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries must be obtained and submitted to the Department. Request for comment must be submitted to:

Mrs. Anneliza Collett  
Directorate: Land Use & Soil Management  
Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries  
Tel: 012 - 319 7508  
Fax: 012 - 329 5938  
e-mail: AnnelizaC@nda.agric.za  
www.agis.agric.za

In addition, comments must be requested from Eskom (Mr Kevin Leask or Mr Ronald Marais (011) 8008111) regarding grid connectivity and capacity.

## Agricultural study

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

