

Annex D

Comments and Responses Report

Please note that in the interest of summarising all comments, the author has categorised comments by theme, and has attempted to capture the comments or issues raised in a concise manner. All comments received are included in *Annex C* in full. Should any comments have been captured incorrectly or misinterpreted please feel free to contact ERM; suggested revisions to this iterative document are welcome.

1.1 INITIAL COMMENT/NOTIFICATION PERIOD

Table D.1 Comments and Responses Table (Comments period ending August 2010)

Issues/Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
Heritage Resources			
In Terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, heritage resources including archaeological and Paleontological sites over 100 years old graves older than 60 years, structures older than 60 years and intangible aspects of heritage resources and other protected heritage resources may not be disturbed without a permit from a relevant heritage resources authority/ agency.	Mrs N Nolobochani, SAHRA	Posted: 18 August 2010	A specialist archaeology, palaeontology and cultural heritage study will be undertaken as part of the EIA phase. This study will include application for all relevant permissions from SAHRA.
ERM's application to SAHRA had no indication of a planned assessment of archaeological resources. SAHRA suggests that ERM contact an accredited specialist to conduct a phase 1 assessment which will identify sites of archaeological importance in the proposed project site.	Mrs N Nolobochani, SAHRA	Posted: 18 August 2010	The document that was submitted to SAHRA was a Background Information Document. Permit applications will be submitted to SAHRA following the completion of the specialist archaeology, palaeontology and cultural heritage study (part of the EIA phase).
Sense of Place			

Issues/Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
How will the wind turbines and an undefined " <i>associated infrastructure</i> " affect the area, in terms of noise, other pollutions, sub-stations and power lines?	Mr and Mrs TC Botha and Ms DJ Krivens	E-mailed: 01 August 2010	The proposed wind farm will include wind turbines, electrical connections (underground and potentially overhead), a substation, access roads, site fencing (where required), temporary lay-down areas and areas of hard-standing. As part of the EIA phase noise and landscape and visual specialists studies will be undertaken. The EIR will include mitigation and management measures.
Road Infrastructure			
How will traffic be managed on the roads leading to the site and main/ National roads?	Mr and Mrs TC Botha and Ms DJ Krivens	E-mailed: 01 August 2010	An assessment of traffic and transport impacts will be provided in the EIR. The South African National Roads Authority Limited (SANRAL) and the District Municipality are both project stakeholders. Further consultation will be undertaken as part of the EIA phase.
Who will be responsible for the maintenance of the roads during the project (wear and tear)?	Mr and Mrs TC Botha and Ms DJ Krivens	E-mailed: 01 August 2010	G7 will be responsible for the maintenance of all roads within the project area for the lifetime of the project. Roads outside the project area would be maintained by the District Municipality.
Project Site			
Where is the exact location of the proposed development?	Mr and Mrs TC Botha and Ms DJ Krivens	E-mailed: 01 August 2010	The site is located off the R382 approximately 20 km southeast of Alexander Bay. A map of the proposed site area is presented in the Draft Scoping Report and Non-technical Executive Summaries.
Benefactor of the National Grid			
Who in the "National" grid will benefit?	Mr and Mrs TC Botha and Ms DJ Krivens	E-mailed: 01 August 2010	The energy generated by the proposed wind farm would be fed into the national grid. Electricity from the national grid is distributed by Eskom. The project would have no direct influence over where the energy from the wind farm would be distributed to. However, as the proposed Richtersveld Wind Farm is located at the end of the national grid feeding line, it also promotes grid support and may result in a more secure energy supply for energy users in the local area.
Ecology			
How will the local indigenous plants and animals be affected by the development?	Mr and Mrs TC Botha and Ms DJ Krivens	E-mailed: 01 August 2010	A botanical specialist study will be undertaken during the EIA phase and will include the identification of appropriate mitigation and management measures.
Social Issues			

Issues/Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
Will the labour for the project be sourced from the local community?	Mr and Mrs TC Botha and Ms DJ Krivens	E-mailed: 01 August 2010	During the construction period only limited numbers of local people would be directly employed by the project; namely for site security, manual labour, transportation of goods and other similar services. The turbine assembly and testing would be undertaken by a highly-skilled team of turbine construction specialists (the majority of which would likely be from overseas as a workforce of this type is not currently available in the South African market).
Will training be provided for local unskilled labourers?	Mr and Mrs TC Botha and Ms DJ Krivens	E-mailed: 01 August 2010	As part of the project, opportunities to train South African's to be skilled wind farm construction staff will be identified.
What are the potential impacts of the project on local tourism and visual impacts?	Mr and Mrs TC Botha and Ms DJ Krivens	E-mailed: 01 August 2010	It is likely that the proposed project would be visible from the R382 and surrounding areas. A specialist landscape and visual study will be undertaken as part of the EIA phase. A specialist socio-economic study will also be undertaken as part of the EIA phase; this study will include consideration of impacts on tourism in the local area.
The project will be good for the area as it will create jobs in the local area.	Mr and Mrs TC Botha and Ms DJ Krivens	E-mailed: 01 August 2010	Noted.
Health and Safety			
Who will be in-charge of the safety, security and maintenance of the wind farm?	Mr and Mrs TC Botha and Ms DJ Krivens	E-mailed: 01 August 2010	G7 (the developer) and their contractors would be responsible for safety, security and maintenance of the wind farm. Should the project be approved by DEA, the Final EMP would include committed measures that the developer and all contractors would be required to meet in order to be compliant with the conditions of the Environmental Certificate for the project.
As far as the stakeholder knows, animals do not graze near pylons and the people of the area are pastoral (living in a semi-deserted area where every grassy patch is important to the livelihoods of their livestock). Will they (residents) be made aware of this including the possible chronic health concerns of "fallout" from living too close to power lines and noisy turbines?	Mr and Mrs TC Botha and Ms DJ Krivens	E-mailed: 01 August 2010	During the operational phase of the project it is possible for grazing to continue in parallel to the operating turbines. The EIA phase will include consideration of changes to land-use and agricultural potential, and human health and safety.

Issues/Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
Will people be made aware of the two notorious "culprits" of wind farms namely: sky-glow and "the hum" (subtle vibration and sound pollution), both of which can be carried over great distances above and vibrations below the sandy "echo chamber" soil of a deeply tranquil area?	Mr and Mrs TC Botha and Ms DJ Krivens	E-mailed: 01 August 2010	During the EIA phase a specialist landscape and visual assessment and noise study will be undertaken. These studies will include consideration of impacts related to turbine lighting (some or all of the turbines may need to be lit to meet Civil Aviation Association and health and safety requirements) and potential noise and vibration effects.
Water Resources			
How much water will be needed for the project construction and power generation of the wind farm?	Mr and Mrs TC Botha and Ms DJ Krivens	E-mailed: 01 August 2010	Wind farm power generation does not require any input. Some water may be required during operation should the site offices have running water ablutions and facilities. Water would be required during construction. If it is not possible to bring concrete to the site for construction an on-site cement batching plant may be required. The amount of water required for construction and operation has not yet been confirmed; this will be investigated as part of the EIA phase and detailed development design.
What are the expected water requirements for the development?	Mr L Snyders: Regional Head of DWAF Northern Cape	Faxed: 22 August 2010	See above.
How will the developer deal with the potential water pollution caused by the project?	Mr L Snyders: Regional Head of DWAF Northern Cape	Faxed: 22 August 2010	Measures to manage waste and prevent groundwater and surface water contamination during construction will be identified in the draft EMP developed during the EIA phase of the project.
The Department of Water Affairs is interested in water usage and authorisation process for the project.	Mr L Snyders: Regional Head of DWAF Northern Cape	Faxed: 22 August 2010	The amount of water required for construction and operation has not yet been confirmed; this will be investigated as part of the EIA phase and detailed development design. The project will apply for all required water-use related permissions where required.
The Department would be interested in seeing what the EIA will reveal about water availability in Richtersveld area.	Mr L Snyders: Regional Head of DWAF Northern Cape	Faxed: 22 August 2010	The water-used requirements of the project, and whether an on-site cement batching plant will be required, have not yet been determined. Should a water-use license be needed a specialists ground water availability study would be a requirement of the permit application. Any such permit application and the associated specialist study would be submitted to DWA and DEA.
Other Comments			

Issues/Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
The project will provide relief on Eskom and may even convince NERSA not to increase electricity rates further.	Mr A de Wet, Richtersveld Local Municipality	E-mailed: August 2010	Noted.

**** Please note that all comments received from stakeholders are also attached to this report as part of Annex C (Public Participation Process) in their original format.**

Table D.2 Comments and Responses Table (Comments period ending November 2010)

Issues/Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
Sense of Place			
How wind turbines and an undefined "associated infrastructure" will affect our unique area, e.g. sound and other pollution vs. grid lines and sub-station(s)	Debbie Krivens.	Emailed; 18 October 2010	Noted. Specialist studies will be undertaken during the EIA phase to assess these concerns.
The impact on tourism (as well as landscape aesthetics)?	Debbie Krivens.	Emailed; 18 October 2010	Specialist studies will be undertaken in the EIA phase. A specialist socio-economic study will include assessment of potential tourism impacts, and a specialist visual study will include potential aesthetic impacts.
Construction Site			
Where is the exactly proposed construction to be situated?	Debbie Krivens.	Emailed; 18 October 2010	See Figure 3.1 in the Final Scoping Report for the proposed site location. The exact proposed turbine layout will be provided in the EIR.
Natural Environment/Ecological Sensitivity			
Concerns over the ecological sensitivity of the Richtersveld area of the proposed site have been raised.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. Specialist ecological studies will be undertaken during the EIA phase to address these concerns.
Our small inland and coastal areas have already been greatly scarred by diamond mining.	Debbie Krivens.	Emailed; 18 October 2010	Noted. See above response.
Fauna and Flora			
How will our indigenous plant and animal (including marine and bird) life be affected.	Debbie Krivens.	Emailed; 18 October 2010	See above response.
Concern regarding potential vegetation clearance was raised.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. A specialist botanical study will be undertaken during the EIA phase to address this concern.
Concern regarding the potential impacts on fauna and flora was raised.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. See response above.
Concern regarding potential bird migration losses was raised.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. A specialist bird study will be undertaken during the EIA phase to assess potential impacts on birds from the proposed project.

Issues/Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
Will animals move away from the turbines and will the turbine area be fenced off?	I&AP	Public Meeting (Alexander Bay); 21 October 2010	The area will not be fenced and animals will be allowed to roam freely in the turbine area. It has been found that animals generally move away from the turbines initially but later, once they get used to them, move back again.
Alternative Sites/Site Selection			
How was this specific site decided on (rather than other farms in the area)?	I&AP	Public Meeting (Alexander Bay); 21 October 2010	The proposed project site was selected by G7 as a preferred site after a screening process of alternative sites. The site has been selected on the basis of factors including commercial viability and technical viability such as wind characteristics.
The wind is stronger closer to the airport, why was the site not located in the stronger wind area?	I&AP	Public Meeting (Alexander Bay); 21 October 2010	There are other factors at play besides just the wind, there was a site closer to the airport that was preferred, but due to Civil Aviation Regulations the wind farm has to be sited further away from the airport.
Concern was raised over the location of the proposed wind farm project, questioning if it was not better to locate such a facility nearer to industrial areas where energy is consumed at a higher level.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. The proposed site was selected by G7 through a screening study of several potential sites. The site has been selected on the basis of various factors including commercial viability and technical viability such as wind characteristics.
Visual			
Concerns over the potential visual impacts that may be caused by the turbines have been raised.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. A specialist visual study will be undertaken in the EIA phase to address these concerns.
In one photograph (ERM Annex C), the white blades are marked similar to an aircraft's wing-tip with two red stripes. What visual effect does this impart when the blades rotate at different speeds?	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. The photograph was used as an example of a turbine blade. The exact specifications of the turbine model still need to be selected. A specialist visual study will be undertaken during the EIA phase to assess potential visual impacts and related mitigation measures such as possible blade marking in addition to Civil Aviation Authority requirements..
Concern regarding the potential visual impacts of electrical connections associated with the proposed project were raised.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. A specialist visual study will be undertaken during the EIA phase to address these concerns regarding potential visual impacts of electrical connections.
Concerns regarding potential shadow flicker and flashes caused by the turbines were raised.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. A specialist visual study will be undertaken during the EIA phase to address the concern of potential shadow flicker and flash off the turbines.
Noise			

Issues/Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
Concern regarding potential noise and vibration impacts were raised regarding the operational turbines.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. A specialist noise study will be undertaken during the EIA phase to assess potential impacts.
Employment Opportunities			
Are G7 able to identify the skills which may be required for the possible jobs during construction and operation?	I&AP	Public Meeting (Alexander Bay); 21 October 2010	Yes, in other meetings a person/people from the communities have been identified who G7 will be in touch with to provide information about the types of skills needed.
What about issues related to safety, security, and maintenance of the turbines?	Debbie Krivens.	Emailed; 18 October 2010	Security measures will be put in place by G7 for the proposed wind farm. Maintenance of the turbines would be ongoing during the operational phase, with an EMP in place to inform the operational phase as well as Operational Health and Safety measures according to OSHAct.
Concern regarding employment of local people was raised. What of local employment and training opportunities?	Debbie Krivens.	Emailed; 18 October 2010 and 28 October 2010	There will be local employment and training opportunities. It is estimated that 33 direct jobs would be created during the construction phase of the proposed project, while an estimated 24 jobs would be created in a technical maintenance function during the operational phase of the proposed project. Training would largely be once construction starts and people with the correct skills (such as electricians etc) will be trained on site to build/operate the turbines. As discussed G7 will provide the communities with a list of the types of skills required so that people can be trained in these sorts of fields. All jobs can come from the local community as long as the required skills are available.
How will the training work? Where will it happen and who will be chosen?	I&AP	Public Meeting (Alexander Bay); 21 October 2010	The training mentioned in the slides would largely be once construction starts and people with the correct skills (such as electricians etc) will be trained on site to build/operate the turbines. As discussed G7 will provide the communities with a list of the types of skills required so that people can be trained in these sorts of fields.

Issues/Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
Can you clarify what jobs will be available and the level of skills required to get these jobs?	I&AP	Public Meeting (Eksteenfontein), 20 October 2010	During the construction phase fewer skills would be required for the types of jobs available, but during the operational phase more skilled workers would be required. All jobs can come from the local community as long as the required skills are available.
Please can you send us a list of the types of jobs/skills needed and we can either see who would have those skills or make sure that people are trained in the right types of skills	I&AP	Public Meeting (Eksteenfontein), 20 October 2010	Once G7 have this information further details on the types of jobs required will be provided. For example G7 can train electricians to do the work required during operation. Training would be onsite once the wind farm is under construction/during operation. Hopefully this can create community upliftment. Jerome is to be the contact person for Eksteenfontein.
When will the project happen? We need work as soon as possible.	I&AP	Public Meeting (Lekkersing), 21 October 2010	There is currently a small project underway to erect an 80m mast to measure the wind speed at the proposed site. The project is likely to take about 5 years before it starts because of all of the licensing requirements. G7 are trying to speed up the process but it will take a while for Eskom to give permission, but they do need the power.
There is concern that it will take so long to get started, this is too far in the future. We need jobs now.	I&AP	Public Meeting (Lekkersing), 21 October 2010	This is understood however it is out of our control at this stage.
The small contract, does that have to wait for April?	I&AP	Public Meeting (Lekkersing), 21 October 2010	No, that is happening already (note that the 'small contract' refers to the installation of two 80m wind monitoring masts erected in December 2010 on site).
You have noted that the job opportunities will be small scale, will they be labour intensive? What benefit will there be to us?	I&AP	Public Meeting (Lekkersing), 21 October 2010	There will be no work available until construction starts. G7 have agreed to let the communities know what kinds of jobs will be available/ needed and the skills required for this. It will also be useful to find out what skills are available in the communities. G7 need to identify someone here who can get this information from us to feed back to the community. Note that as the community are the landowners in this case there will also be benefits due to the lease fees. Please note however that the work opportunities will be limited. The exact size of the facility and therefore the number of jobs available will change depending on the EIA and other permitting requirements

Issues/Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
Would it be necessary to register as a cc in order to do catering for the workforce?	I&AP	Public Meeting (Lekkersing), 21 October 2010	Not from G7's side, however you may be required to do so from a tax perspective.
Community Benefits			
How are you going to ensure that the community receives the benefit of the project? Promises like this have been made in the past and nothing has materialised.	I&AP	Public Meeting (Alexander Bay); 21 October 2010	Discussions are still being held with the CPA, which represents the community (landowners). The amount of income/rent will be specified in the contract, but it is in the region of R9million a year. This money will be directed to the community via the CPA and trusts associated with this body. G7 cannot at this stage guarantee the amount as this depends on the amount of electricity to be produced and the size of the project itself, which will be decided by the EIA and NERSA.
Who in the "National" grid will benefit?	Debbie Krivens.	Emailed; 18 October 2010	The energy produced by the proposed wind farm would be fed directly into the national grid, and Eskom will distribute the supplied power as it sees fit.
What benefits will there be to the community?	I&AP	Public Meeting (Eksteenfontein), 20 October 2010	The rent for the land will benefit the community as it will go through the CPA into a trust for projects which are intended to benefit the whole community who owns the land. There will be other benefits in potential job opportunities for the actual construction and operation, as well as other secondary benefits and development of the local economy. Other types of development may be attracted to the area.
Concern regarding the potential lack of benefits to the local community considering the potentially generated power would be fed into the national grid were raised.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. See above responses.
Concerns regarding the potential social impacts of the proposed projects in the Richtersveld area were raised.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. A specialist socio-economic study will be undertaken in the EIA phase to address these concerns.
Project Timeline			

Issues/Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
Can the proposed 5 year process be speeded up?	I&AP	Public Meeting (Alexander Bay); 21 October 2010	The 5 year process is the estimated maximum amount of time that the process will take. The long time scale is due to approval process by the environmental agencies and NERSA/Eskom, it may help to write letters to these agencies indicating that the community would like the process sped up, and for what reasons.
A concern that renewable energy projects are being rushed into instead of a methodical, cautious approach being adopted.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted.
Other Planned Developments For the Area			
There is a land development plan which was developed for the whole Richtersveld area as part of the land claim. Has this plan been looked at to ensure that this development is in line with the plan?	I&AP	Public Meeting (Alexander Bay); 21 October 2010	This will be further investigated. Thank you for pointing it out to us.
Roads and Traffic			
How will construction impact on traffic?	Debbie Krivens.	Emailed; 18 October 2010	Noted. This issue will be further investigated in the EIA phase, and addressed in the EIR.
Who will fix all the wear and tear on the roads?	Debbie Krivens.	Emailed; 18 October 2010	See above response. Permission is required from the National Roads authorities to transport the turbines to site. Internal access roads will be maintained by G7 however the local or provincial roads used will be maintained as usual by the relevant authority.
Concern regarding the potential impacts on the nearby roads surrounding the proposed site were raised.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. See response above.
Impact on Livestock			
As far as I know, animals do not graze near pylons, etc. Richtervelders are a pastoral people in a semi-desert. Will they be made aware of this?	Debbie Krivens.	Emailed; 18 October 2010	Noted. A specialist socio-economic study will be undertaken in the EIA phase, and residents of the Richtersveld will be informed of the findings in the EIA phase as far as possible. It has previously been observed (as an example at Darling wind farm) that although animals may initially move away from the turbines, they return to the area after a while.
Health and Safety			

Issues/Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
Will people of Richtersveld be made aware of the possible chronic health concerns of "fallout" from living too near power lines and noisy turbines? That is, issues experienced globally include two notorious "culprits", namely: Skyglow vs. Dark Skies, and "The Hum" (subtle vibration and sound pollution), both of which effects can be carried over great distances above and, vibrations, below the sandy "echo chamber" soil of our deeply tranquil area.	Debbie Krivens.	Emailed; 18 October 2010	Noted. A specialist noise study will be undertaken in the EIA phase to assess potential noise impacts. This specialist report will be appended to the EIR and will inform the EIR. The EIR will be made publicly available.
Concern regarding potential Wind Turbine Syndrome was raised.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. See above response.
Concern regarding potential general health problems, including sleep disturbance, was raised.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. Specialist studies will be undertaken for potential visual and noise impacts and health related issues will be further investigated during the EIA phase.
Concerns regarding the management of potential health complaints due to the proposed wind turbines and potential lack of enactment on health complaints were raised.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. A grievance procedure will be included in the EMP, enabling health complaints to be raised with the proponent.
Concern regarding the security of the proposed project was raised, with specific reference as to how the wind farm will be protected and potential of the wind farm to become a target for criminal activity.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. Appropriate security measures would be established by G7 for the proposed wind farm.
Water Resources			
Water is a scarce resource in the area, how much of it will be lost to the erection and subsequent generation of electric power?	Debbie Krivens.	Emailed; 18 October 2010 and 28 October 2010	Noted. Specialist ecological studies will be undertaken during the EIA phase to address potential water related impacts. The issue of water use will be further investigated during the EIA phase.
What about water? Does it have something to do with this – like a windmill?	I&AP	Public Meeting (Eksteenfontein), 20 October 2010	No, the turbines do not use water at all. They produce electricity from the wind.
DWA are actively looking for development opportunities that hold potential synergies with the DWA mandate of sustainable management of our countries water resources. To this end DWA indicated that they are of the opinion that a more integrated planning approach was needed for the Richtersveld area, in order to ensure that the potential benefits to be derived from the proposed wind farm development is optimised.	Department of Water Affairs	Initial discussion between ERM and DWA prior to Public Meeting (Alexander Bay), 21 October 2010	Noted. ERM has undertaken to liaise with the developer in order to establish its possible interest in further exploring this opportunity of some benefit to be derived by the Richtersveld community from the proposed wind farm. If so, ERM has undertaken to arrange a follow up meeting with the DWA representatives.

Issues/Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
<p>DWA for example indicated that it has an existing available allocation of water for the area between Douglas and the lower Orange River (Gariiep) mouth area for irrigation of 4000 ha. However, some of the pre-requisites for qualifying for access to the above allocation of water would be that it should contribute to BEE, that water scarce areas would get preference, that the water should be used effectively and efficiently and ideally used for a product that can be marketed (eg. dates and vineyards).</p> <p>One of the key constraints in terms of the viability of accessing irrigation water is having the necessary cost effective and on site supply of electricity for the required pumping installations. It would therefore, in DWA opinion, be worth exploring as a possible spin-off of the wind farm project the potential of electricity supply specifically aimed at unlocking this potential water allocation. This may also require the involvement of NERSA.</p>	Department of Water Affairs	Initial discussion between ERM and DWA prior to Public Meeting (Alexander Bay), 21 October 2010	Noted. See above response.
<p>The DWA representatives indicated in principle that they would support any initiative that could indirectly contribute towards gaining access to the above water allocation and that they would be willing to give such support in writing. They also indicated that they would be keen to have further discussions with the project team in this regard.</p>	Department of Water Affairs	Initial discussion between ERM and DWA prior to Public Meeting (Alexander Bay), 21 October 2010	Noted. See above response.
<p>It was also noted that the DTI through its Critical Infrastructure Programme would possibly be willing to contribute financially towards such critical infrastructure required to access this water allocation.</p>	Department of Water Affairs	Initial discussion between ERM and DWA prior to Public Meeting (Alexander Bay), 21 October 2010	Noted.
Costs and Operations			
Will this farm use electricity?	I&AP	Public Meeting (Eksteenfontein), 20 October 2010	No, it does not, it produces electricity.

Issues/Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
Will energy be cheaper?	I&AP	Public Meeting (Eksteenfontein), 20 October 2010	No, it would actually be more expensive power but because of the power problems in South Africa Eskom/NERSA have agreed to pay extra for the electricity but still sell it at the same cost to the consumers. It will make sure that there are fewer blackouts and that the grid is stable.
How much does a turbine cost?	I&AP	Public Meeting (Eksteenfontein), 20 October 2010	Approx. R20 million per Megawatt. It costs more than a power station to construct per unit of electricity it produces, but the energy is cleaner and the cost of running it is less, which makes the generation of energy from wind more cost effective over time.
Land Restitution/ Land Claim			
Concern raised over the status of landownership of the relevant pieces of land. Since January 1961, the Engelbrecht's received a letter from the government allowing them full use of Witbank farm, without any financial aid. The state promised the Engelbrechts they could buy the land if they are productive in five years. However, this never happened and in 2006 the land was given to Richtersveld CPA without compensating Mrs Engelbrecht. Further enquiries from her about her compensation have been met with negative answers Additional information about this farm is included in Annex C.	Debbie Krivens.	Emailed; 17 November 2010	This information was sent to G7 (the developer) as they deal with all the landowner negotiations and agreements (this is not within the scope of our EIA study). G7 have taken the matter forward.
I strongly urge ERM to investigate the matter of land ownership. As a courtesy, I also suggest that ERM appoint an Afrikaans speaking person when (if) making enquiries with her. There is nothing wrong with her English, of course, but she should be allowed to hear and answer in her own language. I will not let the matter rest until she gets her due	Debbie Krivens.	Emailed; 17 November 2010	Both G7 and ERM have Afrikaans speaking staff for direct communication with Mrs Plaisier.
General			
Mrs Debbie Krivens submitted more comments regarding wind farms and Richtersveld (land, people and land claim disputes). These are attached as part Annex C.	Debbie Krivens.	Emailed; 15 November 2010	Comments noted.

Issues/Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
SAHRA requested a change in the stakeholder database for the replacement of Mr Mary Leslie with that of Mrs Nonofho Ndobochani who is the new SAHRA APM Unit manager.	Mrs Nonofho Ndobochani, SAHRA APM Unit Manager.	Posted; 15 November 2010	Noted. This change has been made to the database.
SAHRA Northern Cape further requested the inclusion of Mr Andrew Hall of Heritage Northern Cape	Mrs Nonofho Ndobochani, SAHRA APM Unit Manager.	Posted; 15 November 2010	Noted. Mr Hall has been included in the stakeholder database.
The Department of Environment and Nature Conservation Northern Cape acknowledged the receipt of the Draft Scoping Report and advised that G7 should not undertake any activities in the project site until the receipt of authorisation from the Department.	AT Makandi, Provincial Department of Environment and nature Conservation Northern Cape	Faxed; 22 October 2010	Noted.
The Permit Committee of Heritage Northern Cape looked at the above-mentioned report during the recently held meeting. The Committee wish to see the Heritage Impact Assessment Study done by the relevant specialist in future. Since we are not yet capable to comment on archaeological matters, the report should be submitted SAHRA Head Office for comments.	M J Sinthumule; Assistant Manager: Heritage Resources	Emailed; 8 October 2010	Noted. A heritage impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the EIA and will be sent to SAHRA for consideration.
Perhaps the CPA reps can be taken to see an existing wind farm in order to understand what such a development will be like, it is hard to picture given that few people have seen one.	I&AP	Public Meeting (Alexander Bay); 21 October 2010	This will be investigated, but there are no bigger wind farms in South Africa – only the test sites at Darling. It may be possible to take people to see this.
How were the projects mentioned in the slides for the use of the communities' income chosen? What projects are most likely?	I&AP	Public Meeting (Alexander Bay); 21 October 2010	This is entirely up to the community. The projects in the slides are just suggested possibilities, but the CPA which has been elected by the people must decide what happens to the money. As far as G7 understand it will be put into a trust to be used for community development projects such as those proposed in the slides. If you want to input into the decision you need to communicate with the CPA
Our support for the project should not underplay the concern/interest we have in our unique plants and animals.	I&AP	Public Meeting (Lekkersing), 21 October 2010	This is understood. Ecology, bird and bat specialist studies are all being done to ensure that the plants and animals are protected.

Issues/Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
It is good that there will be green power – this is protecting our children and grandchildren’s futures. There is no problem with this project, we should use the wind we have. We do have a concern that it will take so long to start though.	I&AP	Public Meeting (Lekkersing), 21 October 2010	Noted.
Is wind energy the best option for renewable electricity generation?	I&AP	Public Meeting (Alexander Bay); 21 October 2010	The main options at this stage are wind and solar. Although G7 have looked at the solar option they have decided to go for wind as solar; uses more water, are more expensive to set up, and uses a larger area of land.
What is the lowest wind speed at which the turbines can work?	I&AP	Public Meeting (Alexander Bay); 21 October 2010	Lowest is approx 3m/sec and the highest is approx 28m/sec. However that does not mean the turbine will break with faster wind speeds, it just stops and goes on stand-by, and won’t generate any more electricity even if the wind goes over this maximum speed.
Concern was noted regarding the accessibility of the files located on ERM’s website, with specific reference to the size of the files to be downloaded.	Debbie Krivens	Emailed; 28 October 2010	Noted. Public Participation information has been made available on the ERM website and in the Port Nolloth and Alexander Bay Libraries. Additionally, Background Information Documents and Executive Summaries were distributed to I&APs.
Debbie Krivens has stated that she is not in favour of the proposed Richtersveld Wind farm project.	Debbie Krivens	Emailed; 28 October 2010	Noted.
Debbie Krivens noted that she would like the whole of the Richtersveld notified regarding the proposed project, but that time had run out to disseminate all relevant data over a wider range of potentially Affected Parties. Additionally, it has been stated that the greater community were ill-informed.	Debbie Krivens	Emailed; 28 October 2010	Noted. The Richtersveld public has been notified as widely as possible, this includes the publication of adverts in the Cape Time, Die Burger and Die Plattelander; the erection of a notice on site, in the Spars in both Port Nolloth and Alexander Bay and in the Port Nolloth Library. Stakeholders identified were sent copies of the Background Information Document and subsequently notified of the release of the draft Scoping Report for public comment. The report was made available on the project website as well as in both the Alexander Bay and Port Nolloth libraries.
Concerns over the governance of the RMPN were raised and how this may affect the proposed project, with concern that the Municipal Manager and Mayor did not comment in the public participation process.	Debbie Krivens	Emailed; 28 October 2010	Noted. The municipality have been notified of the proposed project and are included on our stakeholder database. Discussions have also been held between the project team and the municipality.

Issues/Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
What blades are proposed for the Richtersveld, typical or “non-typical”, is unspecified; if the latter, what are these?	Debbie Krivens	Emailed; 28 October 2010	The exact turbine models that would be used have not as yet been confirmed.
Concern regarding the durability of the turbines was raised, referencing the Richtersveld environment where they would be located.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. The exact turbine models that would be used have not as yet been decided upon. The appropriate turbine model for the environment would be selected. There would be a comprehensive maintenance operation undertaken during the lifespan of the proposed wind farm.
Concern regarding the rehabilitation of the area if the project is decommissioned was raised, and in particular the financing of the rehabilitation.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	G7 will appoint a specialist to assist with rehabilitation. Rehabilitation will start after commissioning and continue over the lifespan of the project.
Concern regarding potential climatic impacts due to the proposed project were raised.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. The issue of potential wind farm impacts on regional scale and micro climate will be further investigated during the EIA phase, and addressed in the EIR.
Concern regarding the potential impact of ground light pollution was raised.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. The issue of potential light pollution will be further investigated in the EIA phase, and addressed in the EIR.
Concern regarding the potential impacts on tourism in the area of the proposed project was raised.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. A specialist socio-economic study will be undertaken in the EIA phase, which will assess potential impacts on tourism.
Concern regarding the potential fire hazards of the proposed project were raised, with specific concern of how fires would be dealt with.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. The specialist botanical study to be undertaken during the EIA phase will address the issue of potential fire hazards.
Concern that the landowners of the proposed site would not be able to remain on the site and will leave.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted.
Concern regarding the potential macro-economic impacts of the proposed project was raised.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. A socio-economic study will be undertaken during the EIA process to address this concern.
Concern that the proposed project is treated as an experiment in the Richtersveld was raised.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. G7 view this project as a long term venture, and are confident that there is sufficient wind for the project to be viable.
General concerns regarding the sustainability of the proposed project were raised.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. See response above.
Debbie Krivens states that she prefers solar power renewable energy projects compared to wind turbine facilities.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted.

Issues/Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
Concern regarding the potential cumulative impacts associated with wind energy facilities in the West Coast region was raised.	Debbie Krivens	Email; 28 October 2010	Noted. The issue of cumulative impacts will be investigated by specialist studies undertaken in the EIA phase, and addressed in the EIR.
The SA Air Force has no objection to the establishment of the proposed wind farm, as the proposed development is not in close proximity to any Air Force facilities or airspace and should not impact on Air Force flying activities. The developer must however obtain prior approval from SA Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) before erecting any structure that may constitute an obstruction or potential hazard to aircraft.	Lieutenant Colonel S.J. Nel General Officer Commanding Air Command: Major General	By post; 6 September 2010	Noted. G7 is currently engaging with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to ensure that they abide by the CAA regulations. The CAA is also providing input in the planning phase.

**** Please note that all comments received from stakeholders are also attached to this report as part of Annex C (Public Participation Process) in their original format.**