

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
Water Resources			
What are the expected water requirements for the development?	Mr L Snyders: Regional Head of DWAF Northern Cape	Faxed: 22 August 2010	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.
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.

Issues/Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
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.
Fauna and Flora			
The site is covered mostly by Central Mountain Shale Renosterveld with Koedoeberge- Moordenaars Karoo vegetation being found in the southern part of the site. Both of these vegetation types are considered to be Least Threatened on a national basis. However, much of the site has been determined as Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA).	Alana Duffell-Canham, CapeNature	e-mailed: 13 August 2010	Noted. A botanical specialist study will be undertaken during the EIA phase to assess the impact on flora and protected/sensitive habitats.
CapeNature does not support the loss of endangered or critically endangered vegetation and the wind farm and its associated infrastructure should be located in areas which have already been transformed.	Alana Duffell-Canham, CapeNature	e-mailed: 13 August 2010	Noted. A botanical specialist study will be undertaken during the EIA phase and will include the identification of appropriate mitigation and management measures.
Detailed botanical and avifaunal studies must be provided during the EIA process.	Alana Duffell-Canham, CapeNature	e-mailed: 13 August 2010	A botanical specialist study and fauna specialist studies (terrestrial ecology, bats and birds) will be undertaken as part of the EIA phase.
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).
Access Roads			

Issues/Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
As a neighbouring farmer there is concern regarding the potential southern site access road which runs through his farm. He has spent hundreds of thousands of rands on infrastructure such as farm gates, pipes, and irrigation systems and wants to be sure that these will not be damaged.	JH Kriel, neighbouring land owner.	Faxed: 20 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. G7 may need to upgrade certain district roads to facilitate access to the site. G7 would 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.
General Comments			
As a farmer using natural pollination processes he is concerned that the dust and chemicals used will impact on the insects that pollinate his crops.	JH Kriel, neighbouring land owner.	Faxed: 20 August 2010	Noted. The EIA report will include an EMP including mitigation and management measures for dust control.
The visual impact of the development will be massive but it is the only way to have clean energy.	JHJ Steenkamp, neighbouring land owner	Faxed: 10 August 2010	A landscape and visual specialist study will be undertaken as part of the EIA 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.**

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

Issues/ Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
Natural Environment			
The site is covered mostly by Central Mountain Shale Renosterveld with Koedoeberge-Moordenaars Karoo vegetation being found in the southern part of the site. The site occurs within the Hantam-Roggeveld Centre of Floristic Endemism which contains a high number of endemic plant species and is considered to have high conservation value.	Alana Duffell-Canham, CapeNature	Emailed; 28 October 2010	Noted. A specialist botanical study will be undertaken in the EIA phase to assess any potential impacts from the proposed project.
The site also contains many wetlands and drainage channels and can be considered to potentially have high conservation importance from a freshwater perspective.	Alana Duffell-Canham, CapeNature	Emailed; 28 October 2010	Noted. Specialist ecological studies will be undertaken in the EIA phase to assess any potential impacts from the proposed project.
What is the impact on the ecosystem?	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	This has been identified as a potential issue in the scoping report and specialist ecological studies will be undertaken during the EIA phase to assess potential impacts from the proposed project.
Concern about further loss of Karoo vegetation as a result of the construction of roads etc. Only two percent of this type of Karoo vegetation is conserved.	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	Noted. A specialist botanical study will be undertaken during the EIA phase to assess any potential impacts from the proposed project.
The biodiversity plan for the Central Karoo District Municipality (Skowno et al., 2009), depicts most of the site as having Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) status. Turbines and associated infrastructure (including roads, powerlines, substations etc) should ideally not be located within sensitive vegetation or CBAs.	Alana Duffell-Canham, CapeNature	Emailed; 28 October 2010	Noted. Specialist ecological studies will be undertaken during the EIA phase to assess potential impacts of the proposed project. These specialist studies will be used to inform potential locations of turbines and associated infrastructure.

Issues/ Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
<p>The area around Matjiesfontein and indeed in the whole Klein Karoo area is best described as sensitive and fragile. Due to the structure of the land, Grootwater has a number of biomes, including those mentioned in the Draft Scoping Report. What is obvious to any person familiar with this area is the sensitivity of the environment to seemingly small variations. For example, the vegetation in areas where there are debris fields of white quartz (quartz field), is significantly different to other areas. This is due to the reduction in temperature ($\pm 1\text{C}$) due to the increased reflectivity of the area. This evidences the effect of seemingly small variations in temperature on the predominant flora.</p>	<p>Viv Crone, Grootwater Private Nature Reserve</p>	<p>Emailed; 27 October 2010</p>	<p>Noted. A specialist ecological study will be undertaken during the EIA phase to assess potential impacts of the proposed project.</p>
<p>Further, the typical annual rainfall ($\pm 250\text{mm}$) in the area is about 1/10 of the annual evaporation ($\pm 2.5\text{m}$). Grootwater averages slightly more rainfall than other areas as it lies across the dividing line between Winter and Summer rainfall areas. Small changes in the annual rainfall have been seen to significantly affect the annual vegetation (e.g. wild flowers).</p>	<p>Viv Crone, Grootwater Private Nature Reserve</p>	<p>Emailed; 27 October 2010</p>	<p>Noted. A specialist ecological study will be undertaken in the EIA phase to assess potential impacts of the proposed project. Further investigations of potential effects on rainfall and vegetation will be undertaken during the EIA phase.</p>
<p>One can surmise therefore that the environment will be severely negatively affected by the construction and operation of the wind farm in the direct area of the project and that there will be significant maintenance costs during the operation of the project.</p>	<p>Viv Crone, Grootwater Private Nature Reserve</p>	<p>Emailed; 27 October 2010</p>	<p>Noted. Specialist ecological and socio-economic studies will be undertaken during the EIA phase to assess these concerns.</p>
<p>Assuming that the project goes ahead, what allowances have been made in the business plan for continued maintenance of the environment during the operation of the project?</p>	<p>Viv Crone, Grootwater Private Nature Reserve</p>	<p>Emailed; 27 October 2010</p>	<p>Noted. As part of the EIA process an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be established, which will give guidance on environmental management during the construction and operational phases of the proposed project. The EMP constitutes a requirement for environmental authorisation of the proposed project.</p>
<p>Power lines have impacts on fauna and avifauna other than the risk of collision and electrocution. Pylons and lines provide nesting and perching sites for raptors therefore increasing the risk of predation to small animals including the endangered riverine rabbit (<i>Bunolagus monticularis</i>) which may be found on the site. These impacts should be assessed.</p>	<p>Alana Duffell-Canham, CapeNature</p>	<p>Emailed; 28 October 2010</p>	<p>Noted. Specialist bird and fauna studies will be undertaken during the EIA phase, and will include assessment of potential impacts of power lines on biodiversity.</p>
<p>Concern regarding the destruction of vegetation during construction.</p>	<p>FW Marais</p>	<p>Posted, September 2010</p>	<p>Noted. A specialist ecological study will be undertaken during the EIA phase to assess potential impacts of the proposed project. Where applicable mitigation measures will be included in the EMP.</p>

Issues/ Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
Environmental Impact Assessment			
The EIA report must consider alternatives – these could be alternative turbine locations and/or number of turbines as well as different locations of the associated infrastructure.	Alana Duffell-Canham, CapeNature	Emailed; 28 October 2010	Noted. Alternatives regarding turbine locations, number of turbines and associated infrastructure will be considered in the EIA phase.
Desktop studies for vegetation avifauna and fauna (including bats) are not adequate at the EIA stage. The footprint of every turbine and all associated infrastructure and the surrounding area must undergo ground-truthing.	Alana Duffell-Canham, CapeNature	Emailed; 28 October 2010	Each of the specialist studies include (flora and habitats, territorial fauna, bats and birds) both desk-based research and primary data collection (ground-truthing) on site. Secondary data will be used in particular to supplement the understanding of seasonal variations in the baseline environmental conditions of the site, as the field work has been conducted during one season only. Where additional pre-construction monitoring is required, these recommendations will be made as part of the specialist studies.
Specialist Studies			
The specialist studies should determine no-go areas for turbines and infrastructure. Specialist input should inform a final proposed layout which must be provided in the EIR. The applicant and consultants must demonstrate how all recommendations and mitigation measures proposed by the specialists have been taken into consideration. Where impacts are considered to be unavoidable, this should be clearly stated and motivated.	Alana Duffell-Canham, CapeNature	Emailed; 28 October 2010	Specialists will identify no-go areas based on the information gathered during their studies. As described above, the findings of the specialist studies will be used for a constraints mapping exercise, therefore, the final turbine layout will be informed by the information provided by the specialists. The EIR will include the initial indicative turbine layout, plus the final indicative layout which will be based on the findings of the specialist studies and subsequent changes to the development design. Each of the specialist reports will be appended to the EIR, including the proposed mitigation measures and details of all 'no-go' areas.
Avifaunal and faunal surveys should be conducted on site across several seasons (pre-authorisation and not just preconstruction) to adequately determine the birds and animals that are using the site and the important and sensitive habitats. It has already been noted that the site contains suitable habitat for foraging birds and bats.	Alana Duffell-Canham, CapeNature	Emailed; 28 October 2010	For the specialist studies, secondary data will be used in particular to supplement the understanding of seasonal variations in the baseline environmental conditions of the site, as the field work has been conducted during one season only. Where additional pre-construction monitoring is required, these recommendations will be made as part of the specialist studies.
Noise Impact			

Issues/ Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
Is there any work done on noise and vibration audible to animals?	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	A noise specialist study will be undertaken during the EIA phase, this will include an assessment of both construction and operation related potential impacts. Potential impacts from noise on fauna will be further investigated in the EIR.
The effects of noise on fauna (domestic and wild) should be assessed in addition to the impacts on human receptors	Alana Duffell-Canham, CapeNature	Emailed; 28 October 2010	See above response.
Cumulative Impacts			
We would like to note that cumulative impacts are of high concern as there are several wind energy facility applications in this area	Alana Duffell-Canham, CapeNature	Emailed; 28 October 2010	Noted. A cumulative impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the EIA phase. The findings of the cumulative impact assessment, including figures showing the location of all known wind farms in the vicinity of the proposed development, will be included in the EIR.
Borrow Pits			
Suitable locations for borrow pits and cement batching must also be identified.	Alana Duffell-Canham, CapeNature	Emailed; 28 October 2010	The indicative project layout will be provided in the EIR. This layout will include proposed locations for all associated infrastructure. The exact locations of infrastructure such as an on-site borrow pits would however be subject to confirmation following technical studies.
Tourism and Sense of Place			
What will be the impact on the tranquillity of the Karoo?	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	Specialist noise, and landscape and visual studies, will be undertaken during the EIA phase. A socio-economic study will also be undertaken and the impact on 'sense of place' assessed.
Laingsburg needs added attractions; Presently commuter based	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	Noted. A specialist socio-economic study will be undertaken in the EIA phase to assess potential impacts of the proposed project, including potential impacts on tourism.
Own attraction: "Field of waving arms"	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	Noted. A specialist socio-economic study will be undertaken in the EIA phase to assess potential impacts of the proposed project, including potential impacts on tourism.
Safety on the Roads			

Issues/ Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
Wind turbines could be a possible driver distraction	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	Noted. A specialist visual study will be undertaken in the EIA phase to assess potential visual impacts of the proposed project, and will include potential visual impacts on nearby roads to the proposed project site.
Employment			
The development could be a work opportunity for Boland College Students.	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	Noted. A specialist socio-economic study will be undertaken to assess the potential impacts of the proposed project, including potential impacts on the labour market.
The majority of the Laingsburg community is dependent on state grants; there is a need for jobs.	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	Noted. See above response.
Climate Change			
What will the impact on be on the micro-climate (temperature, wind, rainfall/climate)?	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 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.
Visual Impacts			
There are several references to options that are being considered as far as the project implementation is concerned. For example, the electrical interconnections between turbines have the option of being above or below ground. Anyone familiar with the area will quickly come to the conclusion that the above ground connection will be easier and cheaper than buried cables due to the rocky areas, hard soil, etc. However the visual impact of above ground connections will be significantly greater than buried cables.	Viv Crone, Grootwater Private Nature Reserve	Emailed; 27 October 2010	Noted. See above response.
Property Values			
What will the impact be on property values?	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	Noted. A specialist socio-economic study will be undertaken in the EIA phase, which will include an assessment on the potential impacts on property in the area of the proposed project.
Risk Management Plan			
There should be a risk reduction management plan. In the event of a flood.	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	Noted. As part of the EIA process, an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be established considering the construction and operational phases of the proposed project. Potential risks will be investigated and addressed in the EIR and EMP.
Access Roads			

Issues/ Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
Concern about the width of the proposed roads. Suggestion to make it 4m wide and make provision for turning that is 6m wide.	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	Noted. The construction vehicles that would be used to transport the parts of the turbines would need roads that are 6m wide.
Site and Position of Turbines			
Why are the G7 turbines located on the ridges and not in the valleys?	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	Wind speeds tend to increase toward the top of the ridge. The highest wind speeds are therefore on the top of the ridges. The ridges also have minimum turbulence at the top. Valleys have less wind and greater turbulence in lee of the ridge. The affect of the turbulence can decrease the life-span of the turbines. Thus erecting turbines on the ridges pose the least risk to equipment damage and have the highest wind speeds. Alternatives regarding turbine locations and number of turbines will be considered during the EIA phase. The EIR will include the initial indicative turbine layout, plus the final indicative layout which will be based on the findings of the specialist studies and subsequent changes to the development design.
Impact on Aviation			
How will the proposed development affect low flying planes?	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	There are existing laws in terms of civil aviation that would apply. 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.
Fire Hazard			
What about the impact of lightning?	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	The potential of increased fire events, especially due to lightning will be addressed by a specialist ecological study undertaken during the EIA phase. The turbines are protected against lightning. Should the turbines be struck by lightning there will be very little to no impact.
The regulation is such that you can not burn the veld at present. This has resulted in a lot of plant growth and will assist in dealing with erosion; however, the thick plant growth is also a fire hazard.	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	Noted. See above response.
Soil Erosion			

Issues/ Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
Erosion control. It is important to stress and prioritise avoidance of erosion. The area is very sensitive to erosion. The run-off on a 5m x 5m foundation can cause scouring around the towers. G7 need to implement measures to avoid erosion.	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	Noted. Controlling erosion is important and measures such as stone drainage would need to be implemented. A specialist ecological study undertaken in the EIA phase will address potential impacts of the proposed project, including potential impacts of erosion. The specialist study will inform an EMP for the proposed construction and operation phases of the project.
Although some reference is made to the dust during construction, we believe that there will be a more serious long-term effect due to wide scale disturbance of the surface of the area. It is apparent on close examination of the veld that the surface is held together by a fine structure that binds the sand grains together and minimises soil loss due to wind and runoff. Disturbing this surface 'skin' allows the soil to blow away, resulting in erosion and loss of the flora supporting environment.	Viv Crone, Grootwater Private Nature Reserve	Emailed; 27 October 2010	Noted. See response above.
What will the effect of enhanced soil erosion be on the directly impacted area and the surrounding areas of the wind farm? How will this be exacerbated by the additional air turbulence created by the wind farm?	Viv Crone, Grootwater Private Nature Reserve	Emailed; 27 October 2010	Noted. See response above.
Mention is also made of an interconnecting network of roads between turbines. These roads will have to be carefully maintained to minimise local and sheet erosion of the surrounding areas. In addition, as examination of any of the local roads in the area will show, there are significant effects on the areas some distance from the actual roadway.	Viv Crone, Grootwater Private Nature Reserve	Emailed; 27 October 2010	Noted. See response above. As far as possible existing roads will be used for access to the site and a minimum number of new roads will be developed. Impacts associated with dust and erosion will be assessed in the EIR and where appropriate mitigation measures included in the EMP.
Impact on Birds			

Issues/ Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
It is important to consider birds especially in terms of migration.	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	Noted. A specialist faunal study undertaken in the EIA phase will address potential impacts of the proposed project on avifauna, including avifaunal migration. The potential impacts on bird include, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collisions; • Disturbance to breeding habitat; • Loss of habitat; and • Disturbance of bird movements (flight paths). The larger birds are more at risk and the noise created by the turbines may also impact the birds especially during breeding times.
What is the effect on bird life?	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	See above response.
Rehabilitation			
How does G7 propose to rehabilitate the land in the Karoo climate?	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	A specialist botanical study will be undertaken in the EIA phase. The results of this study inform the Environmental Management Plan for the proposed project, which will include rehabilitation guidelines where required. G7 will appoint a specialist to assist with rehabilitation. Rehabilitation will start after commissioning and continue over the lifespan of the project.
Will sufficient funds be set aside on an ongoing basis to properly restore the area at the end of the project?	Viv Crone, Grootwater Private Nature Reserve	Emailed; 27 October 2010	See above response. Further information regarding decommissioning will be included in the EIR and EMP.
What guarantees are there to support this? (Note that the whole Acid Mine Drainage debacle in the Witwatersrand is due to inadequate planning at the beginning of the mine planning. Now we sit with a huge problem with the players pointing fingers at each other and hoping that this problem will just go away!!!).	Viv Crone, Grootwater Private Nature Reserve	Emailed; 27 October 2010	See above responses.
Construction			
Why does G7 only consider the project to have a lifespan of 20 years? Is it not possible to harness wind energy for 40 years?	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	The turbines are designed to have a life-span of 20 years. But there is a choice after 20 years to either continue or replace with more efficient turbines or to decommission the wind turbines.
When will construction start?	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	G7 is still in a process of negotiations with Eskom. Eskom has agreed to buy the power from G7, but how much is still to be determined. A realistic time frame would be in 5 years time.

Issues/ Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
It is important the construction does not take place in the winter months (June and July). The habitats are very sensitive and it can also get very cold.	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	Noted.
Concerned about strangers being in the area during the construction phase.	FW Marais	Posted, September 2010	Noted. In order to reduce any potential issues, construction workers will not live on site and the focus will be on engaging local contractors as far as possible (possibly excluding highly skilled imported labour). Provisions for contractors will include control of worker migration. Should there be any concerns a Grievance Procedure will be included in the EMP. A socio-economic specialist study will be undertaken during the EIA phase and will consider this issue.
Project Financials			
Would the cost of the development be too expensive if the German utility would not invest?	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	The refit fund, which is a tariff Eskom, is willing to pay for clean energy. The project is most likely to need carbon credits in order to secure its financial viability. Carbon credits are attractive for investors.
What percentage generation is required for the proposed project to be financially viable?	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	The internal target for G7 is 30 percent of full power output per annum. However the financial viability of a project depends on the electricity tariff, the equipment and operation costs as well as various other parameters.
No reference is made to the financial viability of the project in the Draft Scoping Report. There are credible sources of information that claim that energy generated by wind power is significantly more expensive than other methods such as nuclear and hydro energy. It is not clear to us that the area under consideration has sufficient wind to make this project economically viable.	Viv Crone, Grootwater Private Nature Reserve	Emailed; 27 October 2010	Noted. G7 is confident there is enough wind. G7 is currently busy recording wind measurements on site over a period of 10 – 12 months at hub height. Should the project be approved and the wind farm built it will be a sign of an expected long term viability of the project. Financial institutions would not support such large projects otherwise.
What is the probability that we will be left with an array of unmaintained, broken down turbines in the future because the project failed financially?	Viv Crone, Grootwater Private Nature Reserve	Emailed; 27 October 2010	Noted. See response above.
EIA Regulations			
Have the new EIA regulations been taken into consideration?	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	The new regulations make provisions for a transitional period. This project will be assessed according to the old regulations. No additional listed activities have been identified in the new regulations; please see a list of both the old and new listed activities in Annex A to the Final Scoping Report.

Issues/ Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
Power-lines			
Will power lines be constructed from the turbines to the grid?	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	The Roggeveld site has two grid connection points. More overhead power lines would be used because of the ridges.
General			
Concern regarding the closing of farm gates and general disruption to farming.	FW Marais	Posted, September 2010	The requirement for closing of farm gates will be included in the EMP and will be included in all contracts. Where applicable mitigation measures will be included in the EMP to minimise the disruption to farmers.
For the project as the running costs for generating electricity will be cheaper. The project will also help to reduce pollution associated with electricity generation as well as global warming.	FW Marais	Posted, September 2010	Noted.
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.
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.
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.
How will the development affect the introduction of electric cars and trains? (DoT)	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	A specialist socio-economic study will be undertaken in the EIA phase to assess any potential impacts of the proposed project.
There is nothing in it for us, yet the development impacts on us. The benefits should be spread as only the few farmers that let their property benefit.	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	Noted. A specialist socio-economic study will be undertaken in the EIA phase to assess any potential impacts of the proposed project.
The development is a thing for the future; if it is not here then it will be next door. Adjacent/ affected landowners support the development.	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	Noted.

Issues/ Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
Local people (those making a living out of the area) should decide on what happens to the percentage of income earmarked for local development. This could include addressing local social ills or the re-activation of farm school.	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	Noted.
Is there sufficient wind?	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	G7 is confident there is enough wind. G7 is currently busy recording wind measurements on site over a period of 10 – 12 months at hub height.
What is the possibility that the project will not be approved?	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	G7 state that there is will always be that risk, but it is important to prepare.
There was a letter in one of the newspapers that states it is not economically viable more than 40 km the coast.	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	The rule of thumb is that it is not economically viable to build turbines more than 40km from existing power lines and not from the coast.
From the CDM perspective, what is the return on investment in relation to the cost of the project?	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	The investment by the German utility is dependant on the carbon credits gained from the CDM. All the carbon credits will therefore go to the German utility.
What is the size of the concrete foundation?	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	The foundation will be 15m x 15m but will be filled in so that exposed area of the foundation will be 5m x 5m.
Please explain the technical working of the turbines. At what wind speeds will it stop?	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	The modern wind turbines will start to generate electricity at wind speeds approximately 3 – 4 metres per second, roughly 10kph. At increased wind speeds more electricity is generated. At very high wind speeds, approximately 80kph, the turbines will shut down.
The wind is plentiful, why should it not be used? What about the possibility of combining it with Solar Energy?	I&AP	Public Meeting; 27 October 2010	Noted. While solar and wind energy projects can be combined, for this particular project only a wind energy facility is being considered.
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 during the EIA phase and will be submitted to Heritage Northern Cape and SAHRA for consideration.

Issues/ Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
<p>The SA Air Force has no objection to the establishment of the proposed wind farm, as the 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.</p>	<p>Lieutenant Colonel S.J. Nel General Officer Commanding Air Command: Major General South African Air Force</p>	<p>By post; 6 September 2010</p>	<p>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.</p>

**** 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.**