

Annex D

Comments and Responses Report

Table D.1 *Comments and Responses Report (Comments to end 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.
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.

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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 Western Cape	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 Western Cape	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			
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,	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,	Faxed: 20 August 2010	Noted. The EIA report will include an EMP including mitigation and management measures for dust control.

Issues/Comments Raised	Commentator(s)	Source	Response from Project Team
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.