

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:  
PROPOSED WIND ENERGY FACILITY NEAR COPPERTON,  
NORTHERN CAPE**



MAY 2010  
DEA REF. NO. 12/12/20/2099



**UPDATE OF DRAFT TO FINAL SCOPING REPORT**

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This Update Page describes the process followed since the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) was made available to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) for a 40-day comment period from 17 February 2011. It also highlights the changes that have been made to the DSR in response to the public participation process, and briefly reiterates the next steps in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

**Process since the lodging of the DSR**

The process since the lodging of the DSR has been as follows:

- The DSR was made available to the public at the the Elizabeth Vermeulen Library in Prieska and on Aurecon's website ([www.aurecongroup.com](http://www.aurecongroup.com)) follow public participation link from 17 February 2011.
- All registered I&APs were informed of the lodging of the DSR for public comment and invited to a public meeting, by means of a letter in English and Afrikaans which was posted on 17 February 2011 and e-mailed on 22 February 2011 (see **Annexure F**).
- A public meeting took place on 10 March 2011 at the Ietzniets Conference Room, Copperton and was attended by three I&APs. Notes of the meeting are included in **Annexure F**.
- The comment period ended on 30 March 2011 and a total of three written comments were received on the DSR. These are contained in **Annexure D** of the Final Scoping Report (FSR).
- All issues raised are summarised in the Comments and Response Report (CRR) Version 2 and responses to queries raised compiled by the project team (refer to **Annexure E** of the FSR).

**Updating of the DSR to the FSR**

A limited number of changes were made to the DSR and the associated Plan of Study for EIA as a result of comments raised by I&APs. Information that has been added has been underlined, while removed/ deleted information is indicated by a '~~strike through~~'. To assist readers, the most significant changes are outlined below.

**General changes to the FSR:**

A number of minor changes were made to the Report that have not been highlighted in the text and include:

- The DSR has been updated and is now called: "Proposed Wind Energy Facility near Copperton, Northern Cape: Final Scoping Report"; and
- Grammatical and typographic changes.

Annexures have been updated and include:

- The I&AP database has been updated in **Annexure C** of the FSR;
- Comments on the DSR have been included in **Annexure D**.
- Comments on the DSR have been responded to in the CRR Version 2 in **Annexure E**.

Additional information included in a new annexure (**Annexure F**) includes:

- Notification of the availability of the DSR and an invitation to the public meeting sent to all I&APs on 17 February 2011; and
- Meeting notes (including the presentation) from the public meeting on the DSR on 10 March 2011. The meeting notes were sent to all attendees via e-mail on 30 March 2011.

Furthermore, the Table of Contents page that lists the annexures/ documents in the FSR has also been amended.

The DSR has been updated to the FSR via the inclusion of this Update Page. Additional information has been included in Annexures C-E. A new annexure, Annexure F, consisting of the second round of public participation information, has also been added.

### Updating of the Plan of Study for the EIA

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the visual study were amended and are as follows:

Visual Impact Assessment ToR:

- Source and review baseline information and participate in the finalisation of these ToR.
- Undertake a level 3 impact assessment to include the following areas of study for the preferred layout, Alternatives, and the 'No-go' Alternative in a Visual Impact Assessment report:
  - Identification of issues raised relating to visual, aesthetic and scenic resources through any existing reports, baseline studies and framework plans, any public scoping phase, and site visits. The study must take into account the expected community response as well as the applicable South African standards.
  - Description of the receiving environment and the proposed project in terms of landscape types, landscape character and land use patterns.
  - A description of the sense of place and contributing factors, (spatial and non-spatial).
  - Establish the view catchment area, view corridors, viewpoints and receptors
  - Determine the relative visibility or visual intrusion of the proposed project
  - Determine the relative compatibility or conflict of the project with the surrounding land uses in terms of visibility.
  - Determine significant/sensitive receptors.
  - Indicate potential visual impacts using established criteria and including:
    - Potential lighting impacts at night
    - Consideration of impacts at the construction phase
    - Consideration of the implications of the phased development
  - Describe alternatives, mitigation measures and monitoring programs
  - Describe the opportunities and constraints of the alternatives

- Use mapping and photo-montage techniques as appropriate.
- In terms of evaluation criteria, use the criteria specific for Visual Impact Assessments listed in the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning guideline document “Guideline for involving visual and aesthetic specialists in EIA processes”<sup>14</sup>.

### Way forward

- This Update Page has been sent to all registered I&APs on the database.
- The CRR Version 2 have been sent to all I&APs who provided comment on the DSR.
- The FSR has been made available to the public at the same venues as the DSR, as well as on Aurecon’s websites from 10 May 2011.
- The FSR was submitted to the competent authority, namely the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for their consideration and review on 10 May 2011.
- DEA will review the FSR including the Plan of Study for EIA (together with the CRR Version 2) and issue a letter, either:
  - (i) Accepting the FSR including Plan of Study for EIA and advise the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to proceed with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for EIA;
  - (ii) Request the EAP to make such amendments to the Report or the Plan of Study for EIA as the competent authority may require; or
  - (iii) Reject the scoping report if it does not contain material information required in terms of the EIA Regulations; or has not taken into account guidelines applicable in respect of Scoping Reports and Plans of study for EIA.
- The Draft EIA Report (EIAR), which is in the process of being compiled and will include the findings of the specialist studies, will be available for public review in August 2011. All registered I&AP’s will be timeously informed of their opportunity to provide further input.

Aurecon would like to thank all those who have participated in this EIA process thus far.