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Committed to building high trust environments

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28 February, 2019

Shaun Taylor

Savannah Environmental

PO Box 148
Sunninghill, Gauteng
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**Re: Witberg Wind Farm Environmental Authorisation Amendment: Socio-economic Short
Amendment Report**

Dear Shaun

Having considered the Witberg Wind Farm environmental authorisation amendment referred to above, I attach my impact statement herewith.

Yours sincerely,



Neville Bews

Social Impact Statement: Proposed Amendments to the Witberg Wind Energy Facility DEA ref. 12/12/20/1966

Background

Witberg Wind Power (Pty) Ltd is proposing a number of amendments for the Witberg Wind Energy Facility (WEF) the layout of which is illustrated below in **Figure 1**. The proposed amendments include the following:

- The wind turbine specifications are to change to:
 - Range of Rotor diameter: From 92 m, to up to 160 m;
 - Range of Hub height: From 116 m, to up to 135 m; and
 - Range of Wind turbine capacity: From 2 – 3 MW, to up to 5 MW.
- Wind Farm layout is to be re-positioned (turbines, substation, power lines, construction camp and associated infrastructure);
- Change in contact details of the holder of the EA;
- Correct minor spelling errors of approved listed activities;
- Extend the validity of the EA by an additional two (2) years;
- Amendment to Condition 40 of the additional conditions to be added to the EA (Ref: LSA 105-439); and
- Consolidation of all environmental authorisations and amendment appeal decisions.

This assessment is required to identify and assess any social impacts that may be associated with the proposed amendments to the wind farm layout and the wind turbine specifications as outlined above.

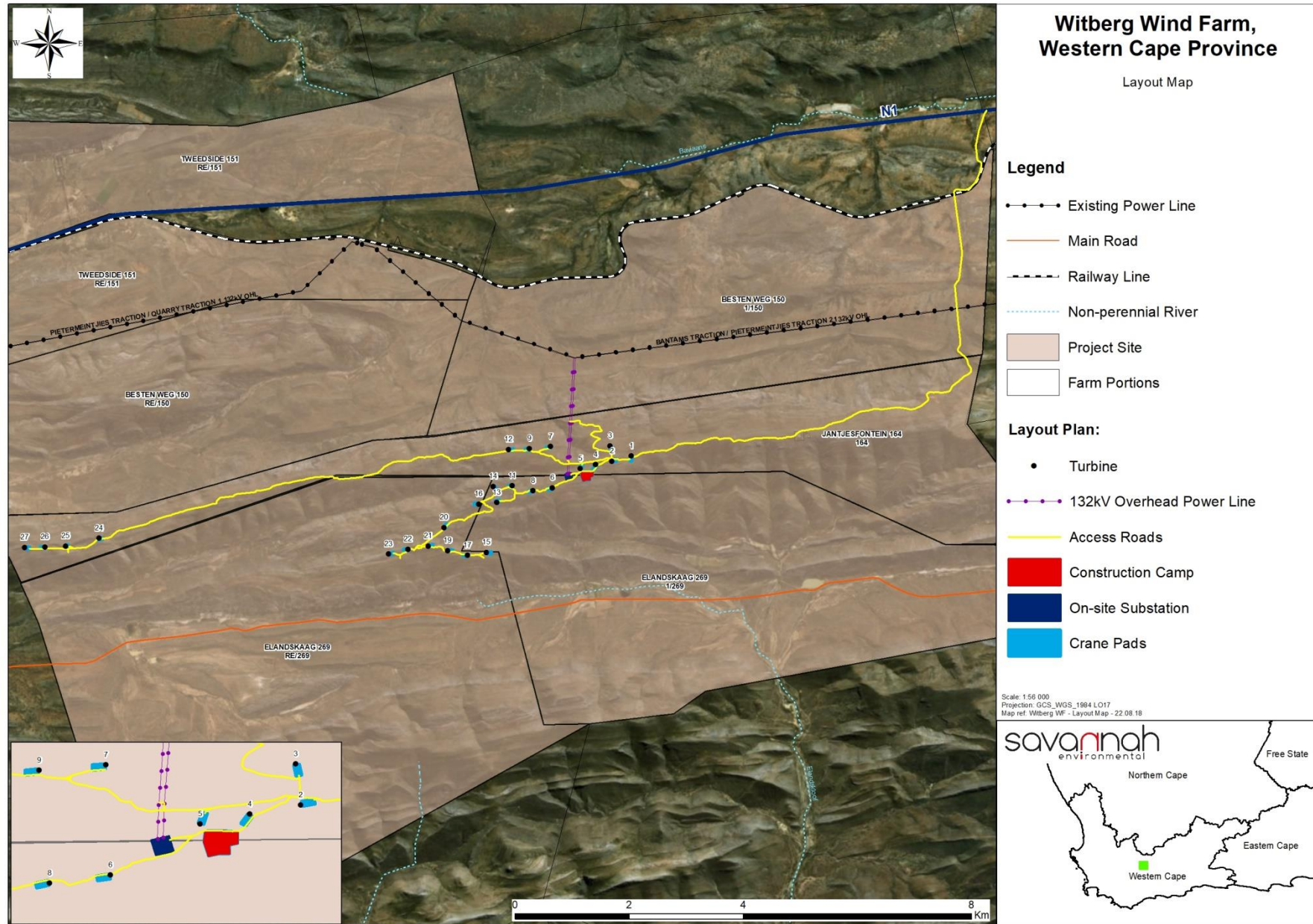
Methodology

The proposed amendments are of a technical nature and are considered on the basis of a desktop study, having taken into account the original socio-economic assessment undertaken by Environmental Resources Management.

Limitations

This statement only takes into account the proposed technical changes as outlined above, which are site specific. Demographic data is based on Statistics South Africa's Census 2011 and is consequently somewhat outdated but remains the official source of such data.

Figure 1: Site layout map



Socio-economic characteristics of the area

The Witberg WEF is situated within the Western Cape Province in the Central Karoo District Municipality and the Laingsburg Local Municipality as illustrated in **Figure 2**.

According to Census, 2011 the demographics of the Laingsburg Local Municipality are as follows:

Geographic area = 8 784.48 km²

Population = 8 289 people

Population density = 0.94/km²

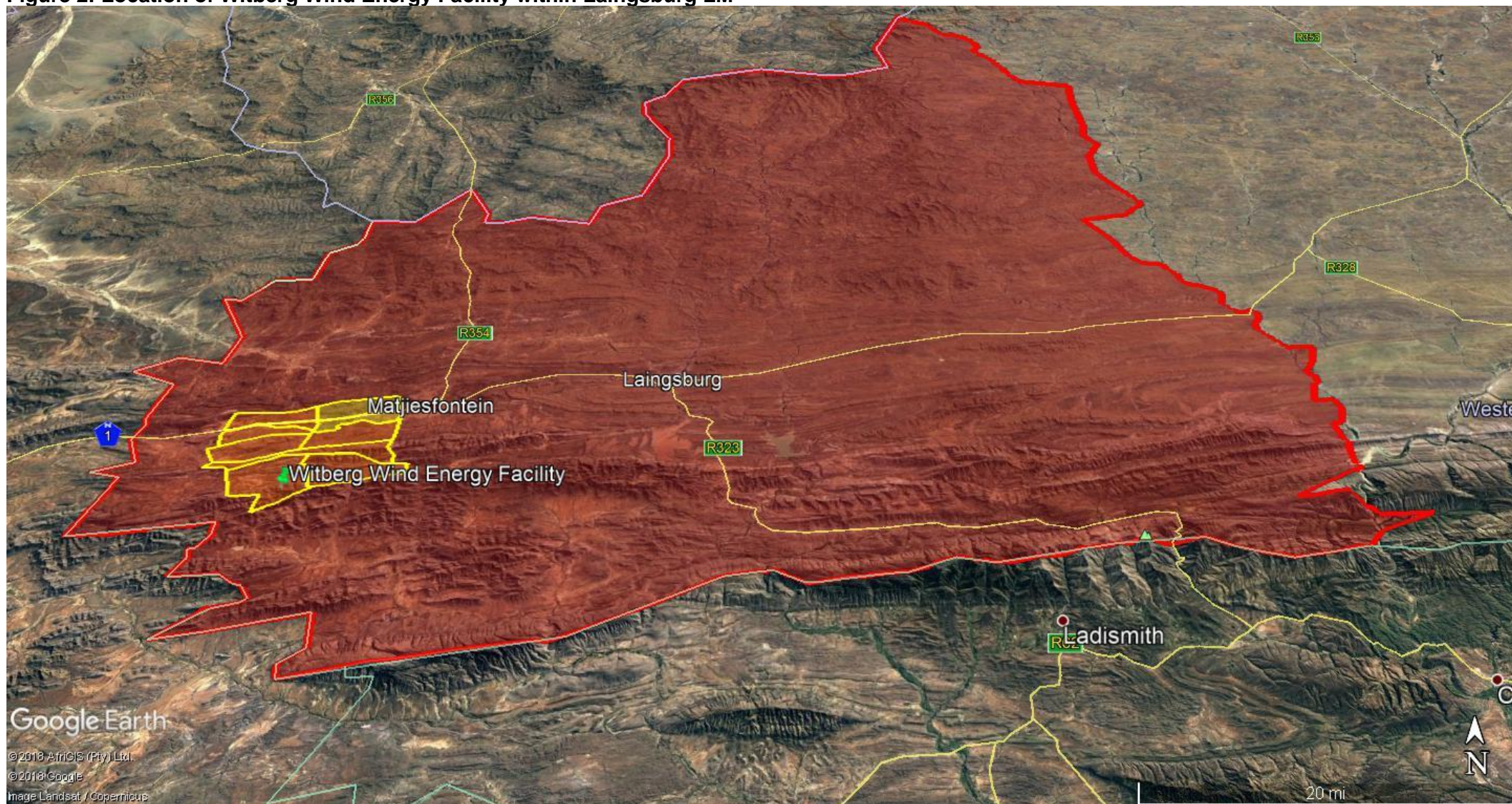
Households = 2 408

Household density = 0.27/km²

Gender	People	Percentage
Female	4 155	50.13%
Male	4 134	49.87%
Population group	People	Percentage
Coloured	6 546	78.97%
White	1 103	13.31%
Black African	578	6.97%
Other	42	0.51%
First language	People	Percentage
Afrikaans	7 467	94.33%
English	134	1.69%
isiXhosa	96	1.21%
Setswana	56	0.71%
isiZulu	35	0.44%
Sesotho	34	0.43%
Other	29	0.37%
Sign language	29	0.37%
Tshivenda	9	0.11%
Xitsonga	9	0.11%
Sepedi	7	0.09%
isiNdebele	7	0.09%
SiSwati	5	0.06%
Not applicable	373	

In 2011 the area had a dependency ratio of 52,6 and, between 2001 and 2011, a population growth rate of 1,79%. There was an official unemployment rate of 17,9% and an official youth unemployment rate of 22% in the area in 2011.

Figure 2: Location of Witberg Wind Energy Facility within Laingsburg LM



Socio-economic impacts

Considering the nature of the proposed amendments in association with the original SIA undertaken for the project, it is unlikely that the proposed amendments will have any significant effect in respect of the social impacts associated with the project. The only areas of some relevance would be associated with;

- Noise
- Visual
- Shadow flicker
- Blade throw and
- Fire linked

Although these issues could result in social impacts in the sense that they may overlap with the social in respect of health and safety and a sense of place, they actually fall within the domain of other areas of specialisation and would best be addressed by the relevant specialist.

As the proposed amendments to the project are largely of a technical nature, apart from the proposal to extend the validity period of the environmental authorisation by an additional 2 years, it is unlikely that these amendments will result in any socially based advantages and disadvantages.

Cumulative impacts

In respect of the proposed site specific technical amendments to the wind farm layout and the wind turbine specifications as outlined above no obvious social cumulative impacts are identified. Consequently, on a cumulative basis, there is no obvious reason to prevent the project from proceeding.

Conclusion

On this basis it is feasible to accept that if there are any health hazards and/or visual effects associated with the proposed amendments to the project that these can be acceptably mitigated in terms of the recommendations of the appropriate specialist. From a social perspective, no changes to the originally identified social impacts have been identified as a result of the proposed amendments. Moreover, no new or additional impacts have been identified. The proposed changes will therefore result in no (zero) changes to the significance rating within the original social impact assessment report (dated 2011) that was used to inform the approved EIA. In addition to this, no new mitigation measures are required. Lastly, the proposed amendments will not have any socially based advantages or disadvantages.

The proposed amendments can therefore be supported provided that the recommended mitigation measures, as per the original social impact report (dated 2011) are adhered to.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

I, Neville Bews, as authorised representative of Dr Neville Bews & Associates hereby confirm my independence as a specialist and declare that neither I nor Dr Neville Bews & Associates have any interest, be it business, financial, personal or other, in any proposed activity, application or appeal in respect of which Dr Neville Bews & Associates was appointed, other than fair remuneration for work performed. In this instance this specifically applies in respect of the Witberg Wind Energy Facility EIA undertaken by Savannah Environmental on behalf of Witberg Wind Power (Pty) Ltd.

Signed:



Date: 28 February 2019