

**ZONNEQUA WIND FARM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON A SITE LOCATED NEAR
KLEINSEE IN REDZ 8, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

PRE-APPLICATION MEETING WITH DEA: NOTES FOR THE RECORD

Meeting Date: 14 May 2018

Time: 09:30

Venue: Department of Environmental Affairs, Pretoria

Attendees (DEA attendance register attached):

NAME	ORGANISATION
Coenrad Agenbach	Department of Environmental Affairs
Adika Rambally	Department of Environmental Affairs
Mahlatse Shubane	Department of Environmental Affairs
Herman Alberts	Department of Environmental Affairs
Karen Jodas	Savannah Environmental
Lisa Opperman	Savannah Environmental
Davin Chown	Genesis Eco-Energy Developments

Both the Developer and the EAP prepared presentations to cover the items as listed in the agenda. These points were presented and included:

1. Introduction to the applicant, the project development team and the appointed EAP
2. Background to the Zonnequa Wind Farm project
3. Basic Assessment process and associated timeline, including the consideration of the REDZ
4. Way forward

These are attached to the Notes for completeness.

Notes:

The purpose of the meeting was to provide the applicant with an opportunity to provide a synopsis of the background to the proposed Zonnequa Wind Farm project to the DEA, and enable all parties to fully understand the project as well as the geographical location of the project site within the Springbok Renewable Energy Development Zone (i.e. REDZ 8). It was noted that significant work has already been undertaken and completed by some specialists for the proposed site. This includes an ecological screening assessment, as well as the 12-month bird and bat monitoring. The undertaking of specialist input prior to the lodging of an Application for Environmental Authorisation places the Developer in a unique position which enables them to already design a facility which responds to the already identified environmental constraints. Savannah Environmental outlined the EIA process that will be undertaken for the project, which in this case will be in-line with the Basic Assessment procedure as per the EIA Regulations, 2014, due to the location of the project site within a REDZ. The DEA was requested to provide input on the process and raise any specific requirements and expectations regarding the application.

The following was stated and noted for the record:

- » The DEA stated for the attention of the EAP and the Developer that the proposed Kap Vley Wind Energy Facility, which is planned to the east of the Zonnequa project site, requires a major biodiversity offset based on ecological issues associated with the area where the facility is planned. It was noted that the Zonnequa project site is largely outside of the identified sensitive habitats, but the offset requirement for the Kap Vley project was acknowledged by the EAP and the Developer, and all parties agreed that should an offset be required for the Zonnequa Wind Farm that the process will be undertaken in accordance with the regulations and legislation relevant at that time. DEA advised that should a biodiversity offset be required, that a draft agreement would be required to be submitted with the final Basic Assessment report for DEA's consideration, and that this should be factored in when considering the regulated EIA timeframes.
- » The Developer stated that a "funnel-down" approach was undertaken for the selection of the project site, which included the consideration of a larger area of 25 000ha for the development and the exclusion of certain areas due to technical and environmental constraints. Environmental constraints have been identified through the 12-month bird and bat monitoring campaigns as well as an ecological survey. The developer aims to avoid environmental sensitivities (as a primary mitigation strategy) to avoid the need for other mitigation strategies, such as biodiversity offsets.
- » The DEA confirmed that this is a preferred approach, and advised that the reporting must indicate that the mitigation hierarchy has been considered in determining the facility layout.
- » The DEA enquired if, due to the drought conditions, the bird, bat and/or ecology specialists would need to consider the impact of the facility within wetter conditions and may need to go back for follow up field work should the area receive rainfall. The EAP explained that the appointed specialists had been specifically considered to work on the project as they are familiar with the area, and have previously undertaken field work in this same area for other projects (such as the

Eskom site, and Project Blue). They therefore have completed surveys in the past in wetter conditions, and would be able to correlate their current findings accordingly. The EAP explained that this approach provides a high level of confidence in the findings of the specialist assessments. The DEA was in agreement with this approach and requested that a statement be included in the specialist reports which clarifies this.

- » The DEA requested that the authority site visit be undertaken once the Basic Assessment report has been made available and submitted to DEA for review.
- » Savannah Environmental stated that the Application for Environmental Authorisation is planned to be lodged at the end of June 2018.
- » Savannah Environmental stated that the Basic Assessment and public participation process for the Zonnequa Wind Farm will run concurrently with the proposed Namas Wind Farm located directly adjacent to the south of the project site.
- » Savannah Environmental explained that the listed activities included in the pre-application meeting request have not been confirmed due to the fact that all specialist reports have not been concluded. Savannah Environmental confirmed that the Application for Environmental Authorisation will consider and include all the relevant listed activities as per the EIA Regulations, 2014, required for the Zonnequa Wind Farm.
- » The DEA recommended that when the Application for Authorisation is submitted to the Admin Department, that it is made clear in the cover letter for each project that the project is located within a REDZ, and that the REDZ process applies. In addition, DEA also stated that the cover letter should make reference to the pre-application meeting held, and state the attendees of pre-application meeting so that the case officers for the project can be appropriately assigned by the Admin Department. Therefore, either Adika Rambally and/or Herman Alberts would be allocated as the case officers.
- » The DEA stated that the Basic Assessment report must be submitted directly to the DEA: Biodiversity Directorate for comments.
- » The DEA recommended that the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) be consulted with as part of the Basic Assessment and public participation process as they have been working with SANPARKS for the negotiation of the Kap Vley project biodiversity offsets.
- » The DEA also recommended that the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (DENC) and the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) be consulted as part of the Zonnequa Wind Farm public participation process.
- » DEA indicated that Callie Nude or Deon Marais at DEA can be contacted to obtain the latest NPAES data.

It was agreed that the notes from the meeting would be available to all parties, and include the presentations which had been prepared and presented at the meeting. The way forward is for the

Savannah Environmental to engage with Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) and prepare the relevant reporting before submitting an Application for Environmental Authorisation to DEA.

Prepared by:

Lisa Opperman

lisa.o@savannahsa.com



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

VENUE: DEA, PRETORIA
DATE: 14 MAY 2018
TIME: 09:30

RE: NAMAS P ZONNEQUA WIND FARM
PRE-APPLIC MTG'S

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

NAME	ORGANISATION	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
1. ADIKA RAMBALLY	DEA	012 399 9386	ARambally@environment.gov.za	<i>A Rambally</i>
2. Karen Jodas	Savannah Env.	011 656 3237	karen@savannahsa.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
3. DAVIN CHOUN	GENESIS EcoEnergy	085 400 3898	javine@genesis-eco.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
4. Lisa Opperman	Savannah Environ	084 920 3111	lisa.o@savannahsa.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
5. Mphahlele Shubane	DEA	012 399 9417	mshubane@environment.gov.za	<i>[Signature]</i>
6. Conrad Agambodh	PIZA	012 399 9403	conrad@piza	<i>[Signature]</i>
7. HERMAN ALBERTS	DEA	012 399 9371	HALBERTS@environment.gov.za	<i>[Signature]</i>
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				

NAMAS WIND FARM AND ZONNEQUA WIND FARM NEAR KLEINSEE, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Pre-Application Meeting

14 May 2018

MEETING AGENDA

1. Introduction to the applicant, the project development team and appointed EAP
2. Background to the Namas Wind Farm and Zonnequa Wind Farm projects
 - 2.1 *Nature and extent of the proposed projects*
 - 2.2 *Rationale for the proposed projects on the site*
 - 2.3 *Consideration of findings from specialist studies already undertaken for this area – bird and bat monitoring and ecology*
3. Basic Assessment process and associated timeline, including consideration of the REDZ
4. DEA comments
 - 4.1 *DEA comments regarding the planned BA process*
 - 4.2 *Defining DEA requirements for the BA process in a REDZ for a wind farm application*
 - 4.3 *Need for a DEA site inspection and timing of this site visit*
5. Way forward and closure ○

INTRODUCTION

» Applicant:

- * Genesis Namas Wind (Pty) Ltd
- * Genesis Zonnequa Wind (Pty) Ltd
- * These companies have been established as special purpose vehicles

» Project Development Team:

- * Genesis Eco-Energy (Pty) Ltd
- * Atlantic Energy Partners (Pty) Ltd

Namas Wind Farm and Zonnequa Wind Farm, Northern Cape

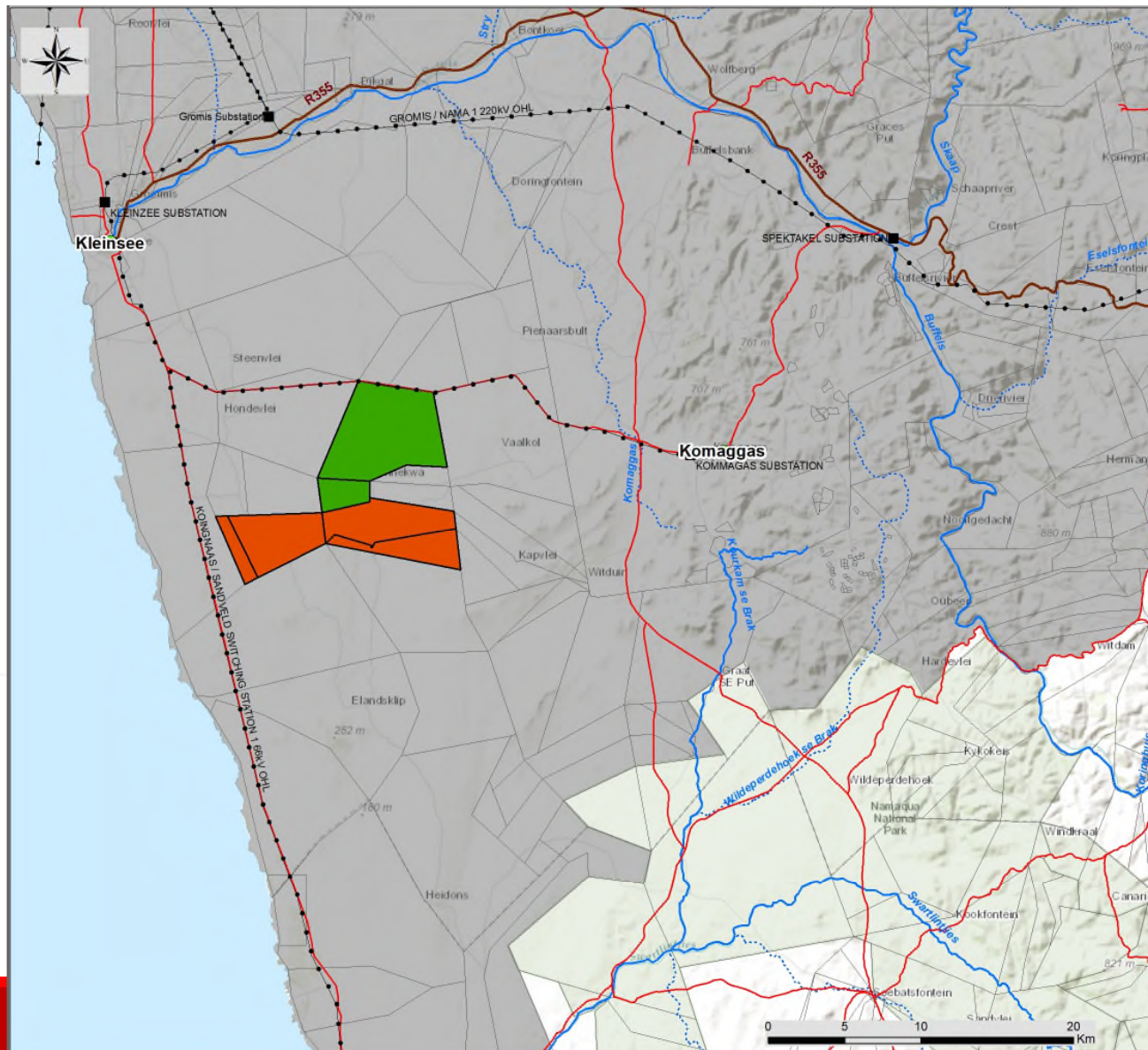
Locality Map considering the Focus Area 8 of the Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZ)

Legend

- Town
- Eskom substation
- Eskom power line
- Regional road
- Main road
- Perennial river
- - - Non-perennial river
- Farm Portions
- Zonnequa Wind Farm Project Site
- Namas Wind Farm Project Site
- REDZ 8 - Springbok

savannah
environmental

Scale: 1:240 226
Projection: LO 17
Map Ref: Namas & Zonnequa - REDZ & Locality - 19 04 18



BACKGROUND

- » Nature and extent of the proposed project
- » Rationale for the proposed projects on this site
- » Consideration of findings from specialist studies already undertaken for this area
 - * Bird and Bat Monitoring
 - * Ecology

IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- » GN113 and GN114 Gazetted on 18 February 2018
 - * “follow basic assessment procedure contemplated in Regulation 19 and 20 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, in order to obtain environmental authorisation”
- » Basic Assessment process will be undertaken:
 - * Independent specialist reports in line with Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations – ecology, birds, bats, soils and agricultural potential, heritage, visual, noise and socio-economic
 - * Submission of one impact assessment report for review by I&APs and authorities
 - * One round of public participation

IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

» Timeframes:

- * Process will run for 147 day in total – 90 days for the BA and 57 days for decision on the Application by DEA
- * 90 days include –
 - submission of an Application for Environmental Authorisation and an Impact Assessment report for 30-day review period – commencement of timeframe
 - Undertaking of public participation process including consultation with authorities, key stakeholders and I&APs
 - Submission of final Impact Assessment report for decision-making by DEA
- * 57 days include -
 - DEA decision on granting of Environmental Authorisation

Namas and Zonnequa Wind Farm Development

Atlantic Energy Partners (Pty) Ltd and
Genesis Eco-Energy Developments (Pty)
Ltd

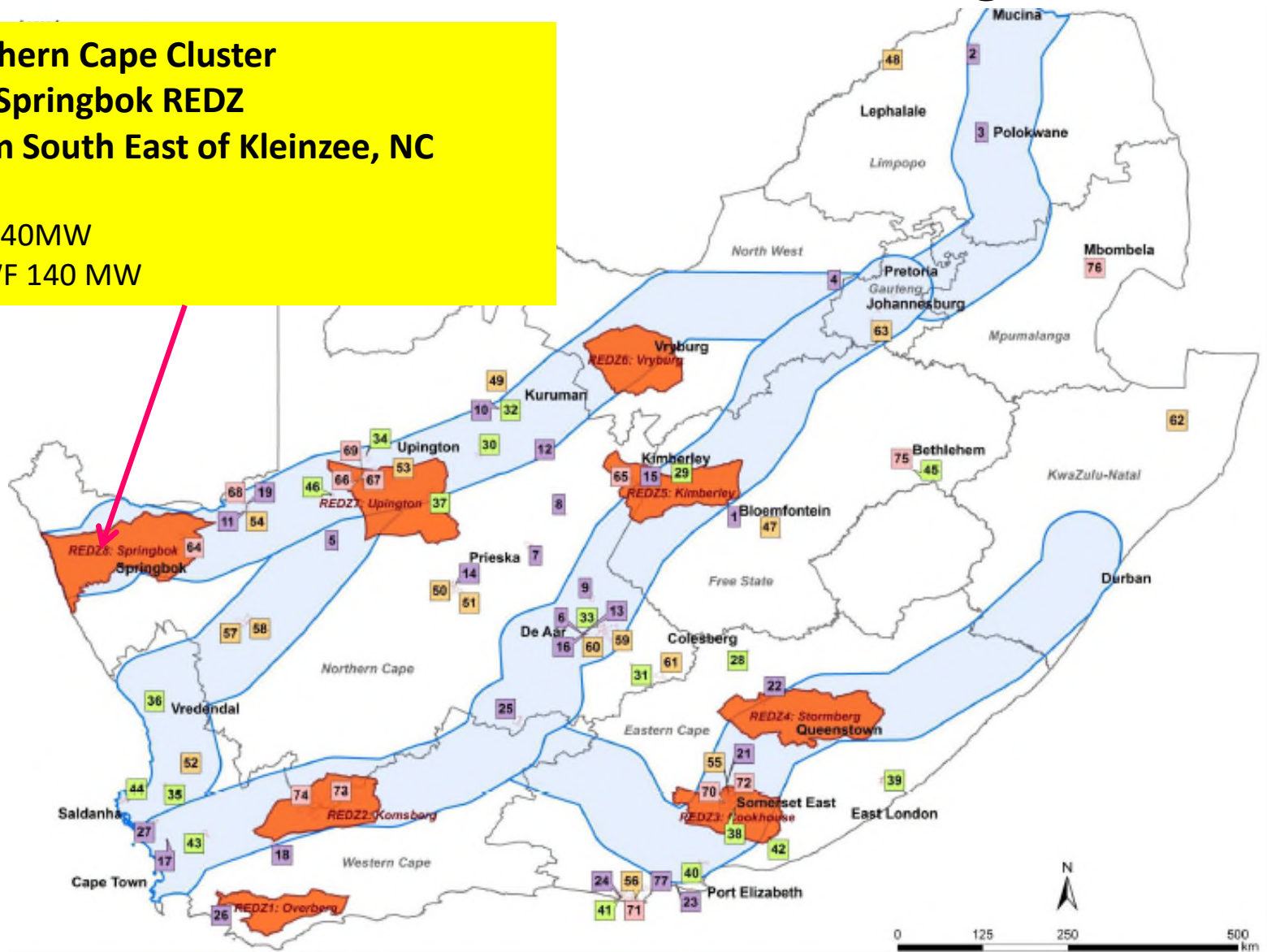
Rationale for Project Site Selection

- What makes a wind energy facility viable in the context of the RE power programme in South Africa
- As tariffs drop, projects need to find the most suited mix of development conditions to make them work
 - Good, to above average wind speed (7 to 7,5m/s +) at very least
 - Grid access nearby, grid servitude access, ROW - to reduce connection costs
 - Ease of access (national, provincial, local roads)
 - Least complex build and terrain
 - Mix of environmental/ecological factors that are not show stoppers
- Balance : Highest energy yielding wind farm, Government support, with least complex set of development constraints and permitting requirements

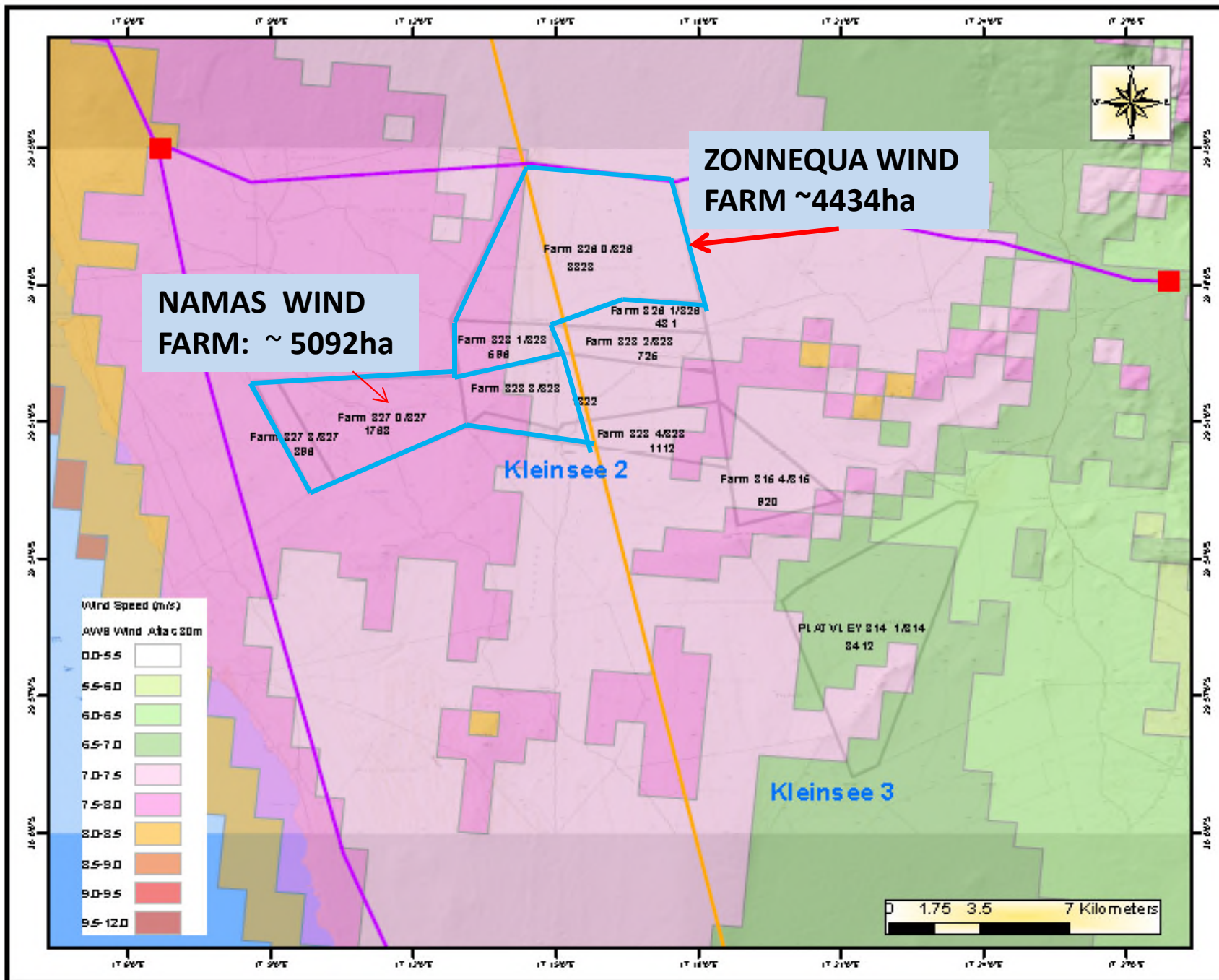
Alignment with Strategic Infrastructure Plan (Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Committee)

Wind Northern Cape Cluster
Location - Springbok REDZ
Site – 20km South East of Kleinzee, NC

Namas WF 140MW
Zonnequa WF 140 MW



Location – Kleinsee REDZ, Northern Cape



KLEINSEE LOCATION & WIND ATLAS

Country	South Africa
Province	Northern Cape
District Municipality	Namaqualand
Local Municipality	Namaqualand

Farm Area	ha	km ²
Farm 328 0/328	2228	0.87
Farm 328 1/328	481	0.19
Farm 328 2/328	726	0.28
Farm 328 3/328	322	0.12
Farm 327 0/327	1782	0.69
Farm 327 3/327	388	0.15
Farm 328 4/328	1112	0.43
Farm 316 4/316	920	0.36
PLAT VLEI 314 1/314	2412	0.93

Legend

- HV Station
- 132kV Line
- 400kV Line
- 275kV Line
- 66kV Line
- Other Road
- Non-Perennial River
- Water Bodies

Projection: GCS, WGS84
 Date: 20 February 2016

genesis
eco-energy
DEVELOPMENTS

www.glsreco.za

Extent of the Project

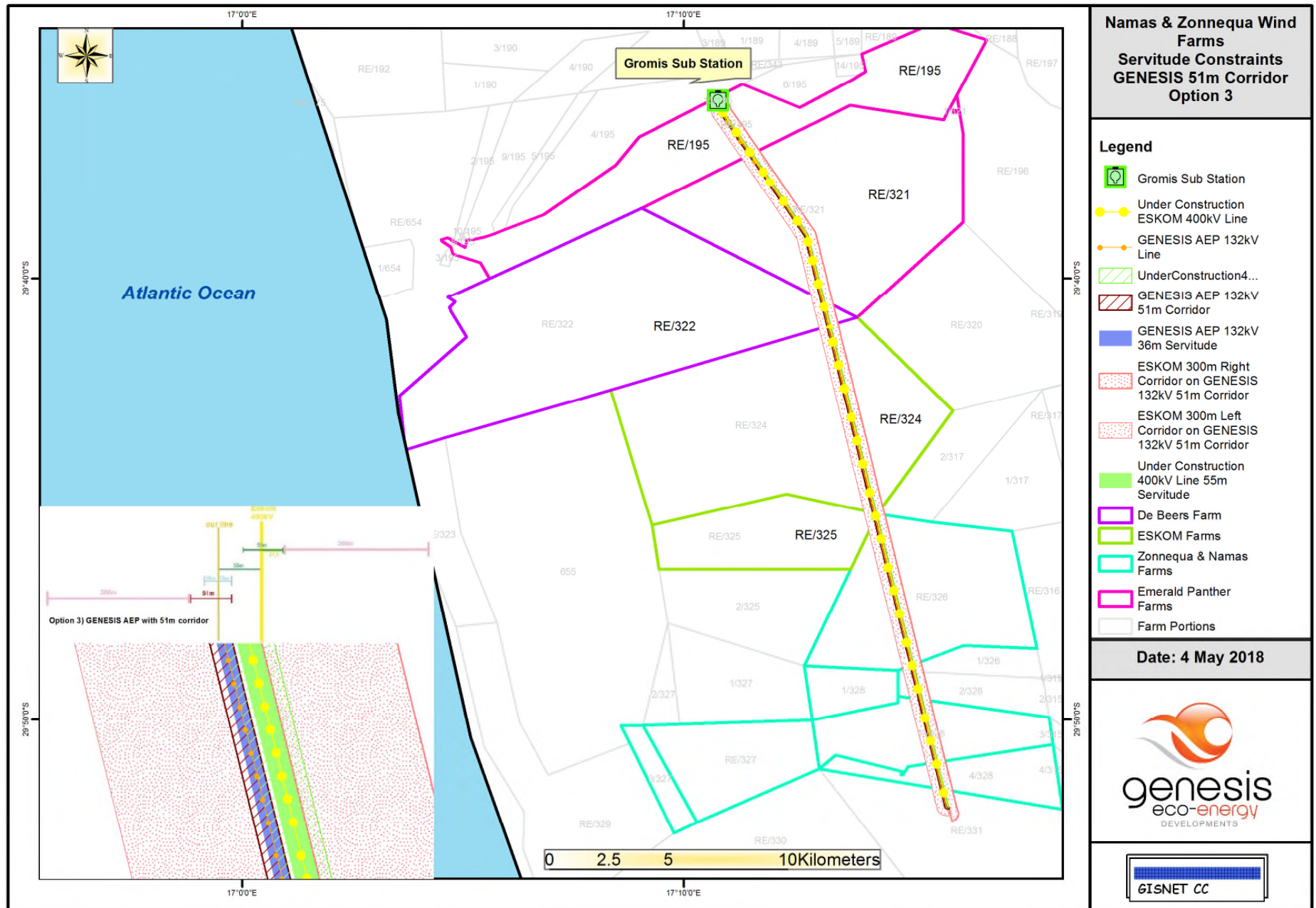
- Project extent

- Namas : 4 land parcels totalling ~5092ha
- Zonnequa: 2 land parcels totalling ~4434ha
- Each project site to accommodate up to 47 turbines, with maximum hub height of 130m, 205m tip height (blade length of 72m)

- Infrastructure

- Concrete turbine foundations and turbine hardstands;
- Temporary laydown areas which will accommodate the boom erection, storage and assembly area;
- Cabling between the turbines, to be laid underground where practical;
- An on-site substation of up to 100m x 100m (1ha) - connection between the wind farm and the electricity grid;
- An overhead 132kV power line, with a servitude of 32m, to connect the wind farm to the existing Gromis Substation;
- Access roads to the site and between project components with a width of approximately 8m;
- A temporary concrete batching plant; and
- Operation and Maintenance buildings including a gate house, security building, control centre, offices, warehouses, a workshop and visitors centre

Extent – Grid Line Access



Consideration from Specialist Studies

Ecologists Screening study

- CBA area to south of site, but not clear why as there are no obvious biodiversity areas/ factors of significance
 - Need to consult NCEC on CBA's
 - Namaqualand Salt Pan area to be avoided
 - Namaqualand coastal plain suitable for development
 - No intrinsic fatal flaws for the WEF's
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- Turbine footprints have been moved away from the areas flagged by ecological study even though some are questioned
-
- The further studies during BA will confirm what has been found and further necessary adaptations made based on recommendations

Consideration from Specialist Studies

Bird study

- Namas has 3 Red Data species, but with very low passage rates
 - Report concludes the proposed site is low to medium-rich in threatened species
 - One area of High Sensitivity identified – Secretary Bird nest – may be impacted if turbines are erected nearby – buffer of 1km around nest
 - Over grazed landscape also considered as factor in limiting bird passage rates
- Zonnequa regarded as medium-rich in threatened species
 - Passage rates very low; risk to birds rated as very low in the report
 - Secretary bird nest (same pair from Namas); mitigation recommended
 - Mitigation recommended in medium risk areas – blade marking
 - Development can take place in medium-low risk in east of the site
- Turbine footprints have been moved away from the areas flagged as High Sensitivity or High Risk, as per the reports
- Staggered pylons and bird diverters to be used to mitigate collision with grid infrastructure

Consideration from Specialist Studies

Bat study

- 1st to 4th site visits concluded
 - Monitoring from 4 masts – met mast plus 3 x short masts
 - All prevalent species identified – 5
 - Preliminary High, Medium, Low sensitivity areas flagged
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- Preliminary High Sensitivity areas have been identified and affected turbines moved out of these areas pending final report and recommendations.
 - In the Moderate Sensitivity areas other mitigation measures as recommended in final report will be implemented
 - Final report to be completed in late May – turbine positions will then be further adjusted to accommodate the recommendations from the completed studies