

DRAFT NOTES FROM THE SITE MEETING

PROPOSED SUURPLAAT WIND ENERGY FACILITY, WESTERN CAPE AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES

SITE VISIT AND MEETING WITH AUTHORITIES

HELD AT THE SUUPLAAT SITE, NEAR SUTHERLAND
17 AUGUST 2010
at 09h00

PRESENT

Takalani Maswime – National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)
Conrad Geldenhuys – Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature
Conservation (DENC)
Helga van der Merwe – Botanist
David Hoare – Ecologist
Zurleka Nero – DENC
Lucille Carsten - DENC
Tommie Potgieter – Moyeng Energy
Sanjith K Mungroo - Moyeng Energy
Ravisha Ajodhapersadh – Savannah Environmental
Jo-Anne Thomas – Savannah Environmental
Francis Jackson - Windlab

APOLOGIES

Paul Hardcastle and Ieptieshaam Bekko – Western Cape Department of
Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP)

MAIN ISSUES DISCUSSED

- » The project team and authorities met at the Sutherland Hotel, at 09h00 on 17 August 2010 where project and site information was shared with those present, thereafter the group proceeded to the Suurplaat site.
- » Wind data is being collected from wind monitoring masts.

- » The project will be implemented in phases.
- » Internal access roads required and upgrade of access roads to the site will be required. Trenches will be dug to place underground cabling between the turbines, mainly to follow the internal / existing access roads within the site.
- » Topsoil stripping will be limited to the turbine foundation (15m X 15m X 4m) and the laydown areas for each turbine and associated infrastructure.
- » Internal substations (132 kV) and a 400 kV substation will be required to be built.
- » Helga van der Merwe has spent time doing research on monitoring rehabilitation of Roggeveld vegetation, and had found that this vegetation does re-establish, however the bulb species that occur here are slow colonisers and that is a concern for rehabilitation of the site. She has done a field guide, and the species list contained in this guide could be of use for the ecology study for this site.
- » David Hoare discussed his approach to the ecology study, and it was agreed that the current month/ season (August or September 2010) is an appropriate time to conduct the ecology survey. The ecology study will look at habitats for species and if there are any sensitive areas that could be avoided / how to mitigate impacts on ecology.
- » Helga van der Merwe stated that the Roggeveld vegetation is fire-prone and highly flammable and enquired if Moyeng has considered this. David added that this is due to volatile oils that the plants produce. The Environmental Management Programme will consider fire management.
- » David Hoare stated that a challenge for this area is the lack of good quality species data on the ecology of the area. Conrad added that recently there has been some new research and information for this area and references can be provided.
- » The site visit concluded at approximately 13h00.

DRAFT NOTES FROM MEETING

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS
WEST COAST ONE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED
INFRASTRUCTURE, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE
RHEBOKSFONTEIN WIND ENERGY FACILITY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE
SUURPLAAT WIND ENERGY FACILITY NEAR SUTHERLAND, WESTERN &
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES

AUTHORITIES MEETING

HELD AT WESTERN CAPE DEA&DP OFFICES, 1 DORP STREET, CAPE TOWN
19 JULY 2010
at 10h00

PRESENT

Sanjith Mungroo – Moyeng Energy
Tommie Potgieter – Moyeng Energy
Jo-Anne Thomas – Savannah Environmental
Ravisha Ajodhapersadh – Savannah Environmental
Constance Musemburi – DEA&DP
Melanese Schippers – DEA&DP
Ieptieshaam Bekko – DEA&DP
Takalani Maswime – National DEA

APOLOGIES

Paul Hardcastle – DEA&DP
A L Mabunda – Northern Cape Department of Environment & Nature Conservation

NOTES OF THE MEETING / ISSUES DISCUSSED

- » Jo-Anne Thomas and Tommie Potgieter provided an introduction to the three Wind Energy Facility EIA's that Savannah Environmental is undertaking on behalf of Moyeng Energy.

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COMPANY REGISTRATION NO.: 2006/000127/07

VAT REGISTRATION NO.: 4780226736

- » The purpose of the meeting was to discuss comments or issues raised by the provincial departments during the Scoping phase of the three EIA projects. Furthermore, for Savannah Environmental / Moyeng Energy to seek clarity on the conditions contained in the letter of acceptance of Scoping report from DEA for the Suurplaat wind energy facility.
- » Leptieshaam Bekko requested that DEA copy DEA&DP when sending letters for acceptance of Scoping Reports for wind energy facilities so that DEA&DP receive this information.
- » Jo-Anne Thomas: One of the comments raised by DEA&DP was regarding alternatives, specifically site alternatives. The approach taken and accepted so far for these EIA's have been to consider layout alternatives and not site alternatives, as the siting of a wind energy facility is largely driven by the wind resource in an area. Moyeng Energy elaborated on the regional methodology and site identification and pre-feasibility studies that were undertaken prior to site selection. Leptieshaam Bekko stated that often in the EIA reports it is not clear on site identification and how the developer has chosen a particular site. It was agreed that the EIA reports will contain more information on site identification studies and how the developer has come to choose a particular site for wind energy facility development.
- » Takalani Maswime enquired into technology alternatives and whether this will be looked at. Jo-Anne Thomas clarified that regarding different wind energy technologies (turbines), the worst-case scenario is looked at such as the maximum height of the wind turbine. Tommie Potgieter added that the choice of a specific turbine technology is something Moyeng Energy is still considering and this is not specified in the EIA to allow the developer to choose the most appropriate wind turbine / technology.
- » Jo-Anne Thomas: Wind data is confidential / commercially sensitive and requested clarity whether authorities would need this information. Leptieshaam Bekko stated that a summary and interpretation of the wind data in an area is what will be useful for DEA&DP; however should they request this information (which can remain confidential) for external / technical review Moyeng would need to make the information available to them.
- » Jo-Anne Thomas requested clarity regarding the comments from DEA&DP regarding overlaying proposed wind energy facilities in relation to the DEA&DP's "preferred areas for wind energy development" as well as assessment of cumulative impacts. Leptieshaam clarified that this comment and the comments on these projects are directed to National DEA for their consideration during decision-making on these EIAs. She added that the EIA should still look at cumulative impacts based on the number of turbines.
- » Ravisha Ajodhapersadh added that currently it appears that the provinces' comments on the draft Scoping Report are directly incorporated into the conditions / information requested by DEA in the letters of acceptance for the Scoping Report/s. Therefore Savannah Environmental seeks clarity on this

information and have written a letter to DEA in this regard. This includes issues such as “appropriate season” for undertaking vegetation surveys amongst other issues.

- » A site visit to the Suurplaat site near Sutherland was proposed by Savannah Environmental. DEA&DP will propose a date based on availability. DEA indicated that a representative will attend this site visit.
- » DEA&DP to check for the official version of the comments on the draft Scoping Report for the Suurplaat Wind Energy Facility and forward this information to Savannah Environmental.
- » Savannah Environmental plan on commencing with the EIA phase for these projects once the letters of acceptance for the Scoping Reports for the West Coast One and Rheboksfontein projects are received from DEA.



environmental affairs

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Reference: 12/12/20/1581; 1582 and 1583

Enquiries: Mr. Takalani Maswime

Telephone: (012) 310 3780 **Fax:** (012) 320 7539 **E-mail:** TMaswime@deat.gov.za

Ms Jo-Anne Thomas
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
P.O. Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
2157

Fax: (086) 684 0547

Dear Ms Thomas

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE WEST COAST (REF: 12/12/20/1581); A SITE NEAR DARLING (REF: 12/12/20/1582); AND A SITE NEAR SUURPLAAT (REF: 12/12/20/1583); WESTERN AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES

The Department confirms having received the amended application form for environmental authorisation of the abovementioned project on 31 March 2010.

You are hereby reminded that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully

Ms Lize McCourt
Chief Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Environmental Affairs
Letter signed by: Mr Takalani Maswime
Designation: PEO: Environmental Impact Evaluation: Parastatals Projects
Date: 07/05/2010

CC: Mr Tommie Potgieter

Moyeng Energy (Pty) Ltd

Fax: (011) 286 7258



16 July 2010

DEA Ref No. 12/12/20/1583

Your Ref. No: NNO 25/19

Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation
Private Bag X16
Springbok
8240

Fax: 027 718 8814

For Attention: Director: Biodiversity Management: Mr. A.L Mabunda
CC: Conservation Directorate: Lucille Karsten and Conrad Geldenhuys

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS:
PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SUURPLAAT WIND ENERGY FACILITY
NEAR SUTHERLAND, WESTERN CAPE ANF NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
(DEA Ref No. 12/12/20/1583)**

Dear Mr Mabunda

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process is currently being undertaken by Savannah Environmental in terms of the EIA Regulations in accordance with sections 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA; No. 107 1998), for the establishment of the Suurplaat wind energy facility near Sutherland as proposed by Moyeng Energy (Pty) Ltd. The letter of acceptance of the final Scoping Report and Plan of Study for the EIA phase for the Suurplaat wind energy facility was received on 08 June 2010 from DEA.

With reference to your letter dated 30 April 2010 with comments on the Scoping Report Savannah Environmental and Moyeng Energy hereby requests clarity and for the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (NC DENC) to elaborate on the following comments that has been raised in the above-mentioned letter:

- o Page 2: Point 7 states that "*Botanical surveys on site shall have to occur during the appropriate season (-s) in order to improve the review of local flora, especially with regard to geophytic and annual species and possible RDL species*".

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- o *Page 4: Point 18 states that "...financial implications to tourism and the astronomical activities of this area will have to be investigated thoroughly."*

In this regard, our responses / queries are as follows:

- » Please advise on what is the appropriate season/s to undertake the Botanical surveys. It is unclear from existing information when these surveys are to be undertaken. Also please advise whether a habitat approach would be acceptable for this survey should a seasonal survey not be possible due to timing constraints for the development.
- » Please advise regarding the requirement for an assessment of the financial implications of the project on tourism and the astronomy industry. While social issues would be addressed within the social impact assessment, a financial analysis of this impact will not be undertaken as part of this study.
- » Information regarding the economic viability of the project will be considered by the project proponent as part of their feasibility study. This information is considered commercially sensitive and confidential and therefore cannot form part of the EIA process. It should be noted that the developer would not pursue the project should it prove not to be economically viable.
- » With regards to the benefits of the proposed project at a local, regional and national level would be assessed within the social impact assessment.

Please confirm that the above approach is acceptable and would address the comments raised by the NC DENC in this regard.

Please note that subsequent to comments received from the provincial environmental authorities (Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning and the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation) and DEA an authorities meeting is planned to discuss these comments further on order to inform the approach taken for the EIA phase.

The details are as follows:

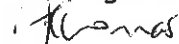
Date: 19 July 2010

Proposed Time: 10h00- 12h00

Venue: DEA&DP Offices, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town

We have been informed that a representative from NC DENC will not be able to attend this meeting and have therefore submitted this letter as formal correspondence to this Department. We look forward to discussing the matter further with you and await your response.

Kind regards



Jo-Anne Thomas

16 July 2010

DEA Ref No. 12/12/20/1583

National Department of Environmental Affairs
Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

For Attention: Mr. Takalani Maswime

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS:
PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SUURPLAAT WIND ENERGY FACILITY
NEAR SUTHERLAND, WESTERN CAPE ANF NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
(DEA Ref No. 12/12/20/1583)**

Dear Takalani

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process is currently being undertaken by Savannah Environmental in terms of the EIA Regulations in accordance with sections 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA; No. 107 1998), for the establishment of the Suurplaat wind energy facility near Sutherland as proposed by Moyeng Energy (Pty) Ltd.

The letter of acceptance of the final Scoping Report and Plan of Study for the EIA phase for the Suurplaat wind energy facility was received on 08 June 2010 from DEA. Savannah Environmental and Moyeng Energy hereby requests clarity and for DEA to elaborate on the following information that has been requested by DEA in the above-mentioned letter:

- » Page 2: Point 9 states that *"The EIR should include information on the following:*
 - o *Environmental costs vs benefits of the wind farm activity;*
 - o *Financial Implications to tourism and astronomical activities in the area;*
 - o *Economic viability of the facility to the surrounding area and how the local community will benefit".*

In this regard, the following:

- » Please advise regarding the requirement for an assessment of the financial implications of the project on tourism and the astronomy industry. While these

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COMPANY REGISTRATION NO.: 2006/000127/07
VAT REGISTRATION NO.: 4780226736

- » issues would be addressed within the social impact assessment, a financial analysis of this impact will not be undertaken as part of this study.
- » Information regarding the economic viability of the project will be considered by the project proponent as part of their feasibility study. This information is considered commercially sensitive and confidential and therefore cannot form part of the EIA process. It should be noted that the developer would not pursue the project should it prove not to be economically viable.
- » With regards to the benefits of the proposed project at a local, regional and national level would be assessed within the social impact assessment.

Please confirm that the above approach is acceptable and would address the comments raised by the Department in this regard.

Please note that subsequent to comments received from the provincial environmental authorities (Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning and the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation) and DEA an authorities meeting is planned to discuss these comments further on order to inform the approach taken for the EIA phase.

The details are as follows:

Date: 19 July 2010

Proposed Time: 10h00- 12h00

Venue: DEA&DP Offices, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town

We look forward to discussing the matter further at this meeting and await a formal response from DEA.

Kind regards

Jo-Anne Thomas



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FAX COVER SHEET

DATE :

08 Jun. 2010

TO :	Ms Jo-Anne Thomas
ORGANISATION :	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
FAX :	(086) 684 0547
FROM :	Mr. Takalani Maswime
TEL :	(012) 310 3780
FAX :	(012) 320 7539
NO. PAGES :	4 (Include cover page)
SUBJECT :	

Dear Ms Thomas

Please receive herein the attached Documents for your attention.

Regards,

Cc: Tommie Potgieter

Moyeng Energy

Fax: 011 286 7258



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Ms Jo-Anne Thomas
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
P O Box 148
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Fax no.: 086 684 0547

PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Ms Thomas

ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT AND THE PLAN OF STUDY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN TERMS OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION R. 387: PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON A SITE CALLED SUURPLAAT NEAR SUTHERLAND, WESTERN AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES

The above documents dated May 2010 and received by the Department on 14 May 2010 refers.

The Department has evaluated the submitted Final Scoping Report (FSR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA), dated May 2010 and is satisfied that the documents complies with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2006. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of GN R.385 (31) (1) (a) of the EIA Regulations, 2006.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the plan of study for environmental impact assessment. You are requested to submit **two (2) copies** of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to the Department.

Please ensure that comments from all relevant authorities are submitted to the Department with the final EIR. This includes but is not limited to the following:-

- Western Cape Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEADP);
- Western Cape Department of Agriculture;
- Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (DEA&NC);
- Department of Water Affairs;

- Cape Nature;
- Civil Aviation Authority;
- Eskom; and
- South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO).

Should the consultant be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the EIR:

1. Details of the future plans for the site and infrastructure after decommissioning in 20-30 years and the possibility of upgrading the proposed infrastructure to more advanced technologies.
2. The total footprint of the proposed development should be indicated. Exact locations of the turbines, power lines, substations and associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale. Sensitive areas such as rivers and wetland areas should be shown clearly.
3. Consideration of the Astronomy Geographic Advantage Act (AGA) Regulations, if applicable.
4. Should a Water Use License be required, proof of application for a license needs to be submitted.
5. Ecological surveys should be undertaken during the appropriate season and the relevant Biodiversity Sector Plan should be considered.
6. Possible impacts and effects of the development on the vegetation ecology with regard to lowland-highland interface in the locality should be indicated.
7. Possible impacts and effects of the development on the livestock farming in the area.
8. Possible impacts and effects of the development on the eco-tourism in the area.
9. The EIR should include information on the following:-
 - Environmental costs vs benefits of the wind farm activity;
 - Financial implications to tourism and astronomical activities in the area;
 - Economic viability of the facility to the surrounding area and how the local community will benefit; and
10. Possible light pollution and risks of fire.
11. Cumulative impacts relating to having a wind farm of 400 wind turbines.
12. Information on services required on the site; e.g. sewage, refuse removal, water and electricity. Who will supply these services and has an agreement and confirmation of capacity been obtained?
13. A construction and operational phase EMP to include mitigation and monitoring measures.
14. Should blasting be required, appropriate mitigation measures should be provided.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of GN R.385 (77) with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations, and GN R. 385 (58) and (59) with regard to the allowance of a comment period for interested and affected parties on all reports submitted to the competent authority for decision-making. The reports referred to are listed in GN R. 385 (58) (3a-3g).

You are hereby reminded that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully



Ms Lize McCourt

CHIEF DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT

Department of Environmental Affairs

Letter signed by: Mr Dumisane Mthembu

Designation: Director: Environmental Impact Evaluation

Date: 8/06/2010

CC: Tommie Potgieter

Moyeng Energy

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Ms Ravisha Ajodhapersadh
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
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PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Ms Ajodhapersadh

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT:
PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SUURPLAAT WIND ENERGY FACILITY NEAR SUTHERLAND, WESTERN
CAPE AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES**

The Department confirms having received the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report dated September 2010 for the above-mentioned project on 14 September 2010.

Please note that the Department will start reviewing once the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report is received.

Yours sincerely

Ms Lize McCourt
Chief Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
Letter signed by: Hilda Bezuidenhout
Designation: Assistant Director: Environmental Impact Evaluation
Date: 28/09/2010