



PROPOSED WIND ENERGY FACILITY NEAR KOINGNAAS, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

FOCUS GROUP MEETING

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

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NOTES OF MEETING HELD AT KAMIESBERG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Held on
Monday, 7 March 2011

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Savannah Environmental

Please address any comments to Alicia Govender at the above address.

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOCUS GROUP MEETING: PROPOSED WIND ENERGY FACILITY NEAR KOINGNAAS

Venue: Kamiesberg Local Municipality
Date: Monday, 07 March 2011
Time: 15h30 – 16h00

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Organisation & Position
Alicia Govender (AG)	Savannah Environmental
Tammy Kruger (TK)	Savannah Environmental
Sarah Cloete (SC)	Kamiesberg Local Municipality
John (J)	Kamiesberg Local Municipality

APOLOGIES

The municipal manager was not available to attend the meeting.

BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Tammy Kruger gave a brief explanation of the location for the proposed Wind Energy Facility, and explained that a Basic Assessment Process will be undertaken for this project.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
TK: Who is the contact person from the Municipality to receive all EIA documents for review purposes?	SC confirmed that all documentation can be sent to her, and she will submit it to the Municipal manager.
TK explained the difference between an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and a Basic Assessment (BA) Process.	Comment noted
EIA Process entails the following: 1. Identify and contact Interested and Affected parties 2. Scoping Study- use specialists	Comment noted

Question / Comment	Response
<p>studies (i.e. ecology; noise; heritage etc)</p> <p>3. 30 day Public review period</p> <p>4. Submit to finalised report to Department of Environment Affairs</p> <p>5. Impact assessment phase- use specialists studies</p> <p>6. 30 day Public review period</p> <p>7. Submit finalised report to Department of Environment Affairs</p> <p>8. Await environmental Authorisation</p> <p>9. Continuous public participation throughout process</p>	
<p>BAR process entails:</p> <p>1. Identify and contact Interested and Affected parties</p> <p>2. Write one Report (Basic Assessment)</p> <p>3. 30 day Public review period</p> <p>4. 30 day Public review period</p> <p>5. Submit finalised report to Department of Environment Affairs</p> <p>6. Await environmental Authorisation</p> <p>7. Continuous public participation throughout process</p>	<p>Comment noted. TK stated that the BA reports will be submitted to the municipality for comment, and also explained the importance of the Social Impact Assessment.</p>
<p>SC: where will the public meeting be held?</p>	<p>The public meetings are normally held in the vicinity of the proposed development with the closed affected communities. This will be discussed and confirmed at a later stage of the project.</p>
<p>SC: How would the Wind Energy Facility (WEF) connect to the Eskom grid?</p>	<p>TK explained that the WEF has various components such as turbines, underground cabling and a substation, over head powerlines, that connects to the Eskom Grid.</p>
<p>SC: How would the community benefit?</p>	<p>TK: Communities can mostly benefit from the construction phase with the increase in jobs. They would not benefit in terms of getting electricity at a cheaper rate.</p>
<p>SC: What is meant by a rebate? How</p>	<p>TK: Electricity generated by the WEF is put back</p>

Question / Comment	Response
does it work?	into the national grid, and Eskom buys back this electricity at a certain tariff according to REFIT (Renewable Energy Feed in tariff).
J: are there any benefits for the municipality?	TK: this cannot be confirmed at this stage, and will have to be assessed during the EIA process.

CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 16:00.



**SUSTAINABLE
FUTURES ZA**

PROPOSED PROJECT KOINGNAAS WIND ENERGY FACILITY BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC MEETING

NOTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Held on
Tuesday, 11 October 2011,
Koingnaas Community Church

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

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Notes for the Record prepared by:

Sustainable Futures ZA & Savannah Environmental

Please address any comments to Shawn Johnston at the above address.

BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS: PROPOSED KOINGNAAS WIND ENERGY FACILITY

Venue: Koingnaas Community Church
Date: Tuesday, 11 October 2011
Time: 18h00 – 19h00

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Shawn Johnston, the process facilitator welcomed all the stakeholders present for the opportunity to meet and clarify the Koingnaas Wind Energy Facility project. He introduced the Savannah Environmental team members. Shawn Johnston then requested all the interested and affected parties present to introduce themselves and state their interest.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Organisation & Position
Shawn Johnston	Sustainable Futures ZA- Public Participation Specialist
J.P. Maritz	De Beers
Alicia Govender	Savannah Environmental
Tammy Kruger	Savannah Environmental
Richard Burden	Resident
R.J. Swartbooi	Resident
A.E. Wessels	NM Restoration
D.B. Wessels	Resident
Floris Brand	Resident

APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Shawn Johnston from Sustainable Futures ZA introduced the proposed Koingnaas Wind Energy Facility project. Alicia Govender from Savannah Environmental then clarified the findings of the basic assessment report.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
Dudley Wessels: Are you aware of how difficult it is to rehabilitate this area after disturbing it?	Alicia Govender: Yes, and we are aware of the techniques needed to do rehabilitation. Our environmental management plan clarifies it. We would appreciate it if you can comment on the draft basic assessment report and the environmental management plan.
Dudley Wessels: The area have many vulnerable plant species.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
Dudley Wessels: Are you aware of the many heritage sites in the area? Have your study looked at heritage sites in the area?	Alicia Govender: We are aware of the heritage sites in the area. The draft basic assessment report clarifies all heritage sites and sensitivity on the site. Please review the draft basic assessment report.
Dudley Wessels: Was there any geotechnical studies done for this area.	Alicia Govender: The developer would be doing their geotechnical studies in conjunction with De Beers.
Dudley Wessels: I just wish to stress the importance of using local specialist for rehabilitation. You need to use specialist that know the Namakwaland West Coast Region and how the systems work.	Shawn Johnston: We welcome your comments. Please mention this in your comments on the basic assessment report.
Richard Burden: Will the developer use local contractors?	Shawn Johnston: The developer would need to use some local contractors to assist with different aspects of the project.
Richard Burden: I have a transport and registered sand and gravel quarry and would be able to be a supplier.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
Floris Brand: We are keen to know how many jobs a project like this would create.	Shawn Johnston: A project of this size would not create a large volume of jobs. However it would provide a small amount of jobs during the construction and operational phase. The would be dependable on the developer becoming a successful bidder.
J.P. Maritz: What is the size of this project?	Alicia Govender: The project is looking at 7.2 mega watt.
J.P. Maritz: What is is the proposed hight of the wind turbines?	Alicia Govender: It would be close to thirty two meters.

Question / Comment	Response
J.P. Maritz: Were will the turbines be made?	<p>Alicia Govender: It would be made in South Africa.</p> <p>J.P. Maritz: So it would have a strong local content component.</p>
J.P. Maritz: Were will the project integrate it's the power generated?	Alicia Govender: The project will supply its power to Eskom and hope to connect it at the Koingnaas substation.
Dudley Wessels: Will the project use the lattice tower structures?	Alicia Govender: Yes with mitigation measures for birds.
Dudley Wessels: The tower structure need to be protected against the local climate.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
Floris Brand: We would be keen to know more about the job creation on the project. A large number of skilled artisans have been retrenched and these people can be used for maintenance staff.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
Floris Brand: When will the project hope to start construction?	Shawn Johnston: A number of applications including the basic assessment and bidding process need to be completed. This could take up to two years or it could be less. The developer would clarify this when all approvals have been received.
Dudley Wessels: Please ensure you use specialsit who know the area to do your bird and bat monitoring programme and your rehabilitation ion the post construction and operational phase.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.

WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

Shawn Johnston thanked all for the opportunity to clarify their concerns and encourage all to review the draft basic assessment report and provide the team with their inputs.

The meeting ended at 19h00.



**SUSTAINABLE
FUTURES ZA**

PROPOSED PROJECT KOINGNAAS WIND ENERGY FACILITY ENVIRONMENTAL BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

FOCUS GROUP MEETING

NOTES OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING

Held on
Tuesday, 11 October 2011,

Namakwa National Park - Skilpad

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

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Notes for the Record prepared by:

Sustainable Futures ZA & Savannah Environmental

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BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS: PROPOSED KOINGNAAS WIND ENERGY FACILITY

Venue: Namakwa National Park - Skilpad
Date: Tuesday, 11 October 2011
Time: 11h00 – 11h30

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Shawn Johnston, the process facilitator welcomed and thanked Priscilla Magerman from the People and Parks Office at the Namakwa National Park for receiving the team to clarify the proposed Koingnaas Wind Energy Facility project. He introduced the Savannah Environmental team members. Shawn Johnston then introduced the findings of the basic assessment study.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Organisation & Position
Shawn Johnston	Sustainable Futures ZA- Public Participation Specialist
Priscilla Magerman	Namakwa National Park
Alicia Govender	Savannah Environmental
Tammy Kruger	Savannah Environmental

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Bernard van Lente, Park Manager for Namakwa National Park.

BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Shawn Johnston from Sustainable Futures ZA introduced the proposed Koingnaas Wind Energy Facility project. Alicia Govender from Savannah Environmental helped clarify the findings of the basic assessment report.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
Priscilla Magerman: I will pass all information received from Savannah Environmental onto the park manager and senior staff.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
Priscilla Magerman: Will the project provide jobs for the local communities of Soebatsfontein and Kommagas?	Shawn Johnston: The developer is working on a social responsibility plan that would cover towns in the Kamiesberg Municipal area.
Priscilla Magerman: You need to understand that unemployment is extremely high in the area after the closure of the mines in the Koingnaas area.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
Priscilla Magerman: Let our team study the Koingnaas basic assessment report for the proposed wind energy facility. We can then comment once we have reviewed the report. We might have to send it onto senior planners like Sarel Yssel in South African National Parks.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
Priscilla Magerman: Are you meeting with Elsabe Steenkamp the ward councilor for this area?	Alicia Govender: Yes we have a two o'clock meeting Elsabe Steenkamp and Piet Claasen one of the ward committee members.

WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

Shawn Johnston thanked all for the opportunity to clarify their concerns and encourage all to review the draft basic assessment report and provide the team with their inputs.

The meeting ended at 19h00.



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PROPOSED PROJECT KOINGNAAS WIND ENERGY FACILITY ENVIRONMENTAL BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

FOCUS GROUP MEETING

NOTES OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING

Held on
Tuesday, 11 October 2011,

Soebatsfontein Service Point Office

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Notes for the Record prepared by:

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BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS: PROPOSED KOINGNAAS WIND ENERGY FACILITY

Venue: Soebatsfontein Service Point Office
Date: Tuesday, 11 October 2011
Time: 14h00 – 14h45

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Shawn Johnston, the process facilitator welcomed Elsabe Steenkamp and Piet Claasen and thanked them for the opportunity to clarify the Koingnaas Wind Energy Facility project. He introduced the Savannah Environmental team members.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Organisation & Position
Shawn Johnston	Sustainable Futures ZA- Public Participation Specialist
Elsabe Steenkamp	Ward Councillor Soebatsfontein – Kamiesberg Municipality
Alicia Govender	Savannah Environmental
Tammy Kruger	Savannah Environmental
Piet Claasen	Ward Committee Soebatsfontein – Kamiesberg Municipality

APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Shawn Johnston from Sustainable Futures ZA introduced the proposed Koingnaas Wind Energy Facility project. Alicia Govender from Savannah Environmental then clarified the findings of the basic assessment report.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
Elsabe Steenkamp: We welcome the opportunity to meet with you and clarify the project.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
Elsabe Steenkamp: We are keen to hear more about the benefits of this project to the area. As you know unemployment is extremely high throughout this ward.	Shawn Johnston: The developer is currently looking at a social responsibility programme for its project and this will be clarified with the surrounding communities as the project develops.
Elsabe Steenkamp: We would like to meet with the developers of the Koingnaas wind energy facility in the near future to understand what benefits would be made available to the people of Soenbatsfontein.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
Piet Claasen: We have large-scale unemployment, social problems and we need to ensure that our youth are educated. Our community needs to be part of the project.	Shawn Johnston: We are aware of the social needs of the area and would flag these with the project developer.
Piet Claasen: Other concerns for the community is access. We have extremely bad gravel roads. Will the developer upgrade roads for transporting their wind turbines?	Shawn Johnston: All access routes to the proposed Koingnaas site will be investigated. The project intends to use existing roads to the site.
Piet Claasen: We would like to understand how many jobs would be created for local stakeholders in surrounding towns like Soebatsfontein?	Shawn Johnston: The number of jobs for this project need to be clarified and depends on a successful bid to build and operate the proposed facility.
Piet Claasen: We would be keen to see a process of youth development and assisting youth to attend tertiary education qualifications.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.

WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

Shawn Johnston thanked all for the opportunity to clarify their concerns and encourage all to review the draft basic assessment report and provide the team with their inputs.

The meeting ended at 14h45.