

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



MARCH 2012
DEA REF. NO. 12/12/20/2099



**UPDATE PAGE:
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**Updating of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)
to the Final EIAR**

A number of changes were made to the Draft EIAR in response to the comments raised by I&APs. Information that has been added has been underlined, while removed/ deleted information is indicated as a '~~strike through~~'. To assist readers, the most significant changes are outlined below.

General changes to the Final EIAR:

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

- The Draft EIAR has been updated and is now called: "Proposed Wind Energy Facility near Copperton, Northern Cape: Final EIAR"; and
- Grammatical and typographic corrections.

Other additions have been made to the Final EIAR, which are bulleted below:

- The alignment of the proposed airfield has been corrected. The corrected alignment of the airfield runs north-south. Maps have been updated to correctly reflect this change. Specialists confirmed that no change in their assessments would result from this correction.
- A new image of the typical components of a horizontal axis wind turbine has been included in Chapter 3.
- More detail has been provided of hardstandings, which are required for each turbine, in Chapter 3.
- The Public Participation Process undertaken was updated and list of key issues raised during the Draft EIAR comment period.

Annexures have been updated and include:

Annexure B: Final EIAR Public Participation Process

- The I&AP database has been updated;
- Comments on the Draft EIAR have been included; and
- The letter to I&APs regarding availability of the Draft EIAR and invitation to the public meeting has been included.

Annexure C: CRR

Comments on the Draft EIAR have been responded to in the CRR 4.

Annexure L: Specific information required by DEA

Information requested by DEA, including shapefiles etc, has been included on a CD for DEA's consideration.

Additional information included in a new annexure (**Annexure M**) is a letter from Plan 8 stating their preferred alternatives and the mitigation measures they commit to implementing.

The Table of Contents page that lists the pages, annexures/ documents in the Final EIAR has also been amended.

The Draft EIAR has been updated to the Final EIAR via the inclusion of this Update Page. Additional information has been included in Chapters 1, 3, 4, and 5. Annexures B, C and L have been updated. A new Annexure M has also been added.

Way forward

- This Update Page has been sent to all registered I&APs on the database.
 - The CRR 4 has been sent to all I&APs who have provided written comment on the Draft EIAR.
 - The Final EIAR has been made available to the public at the same venues as the Draft EIAR, as well as on Aurecon's website from until 13 April 2012. I&APs have 21 days to consider the Final EIAR and submit any additional comment they believe should be considered by the authorities in assessing the EIA process.
 - The Final EIAR will be submitted to the Northern Cape DEANC and DEA for their review and decision making respectively.
 - The DEA will review the Final EIAR (together with the CRR Version 4) within 60 days and will then either:
 - Accept the report;
 - Notify the applicant that the report has been referred for specialist review;
 - Request amendments to the report; or
 - Reject the report if it does not materially comply with regulations.
- If the report is accepted, the DEA must within 45 days:
- Grant authorisation in respect of all or part of the activity applied for; or
 - Refuse authorisation in respect of all or part of the activity.

Once DEA issues their decision on the proposed project, all registered I&APs on the project database will be notified of the outcome of the decision within 12 calendar days of the Environmental Authorisation having been issued. Should anyone (a member of public, registered I&AP or the Applicant) wish to appeal DEA's decision, a Notice of Intention to Appeal in terms of Chapter 7 of the EIA Regulations (Government Notice No. 543) in terms of NEMA must be lodged with the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs within 20 calendar days of the decision being issued and the substantive Appeal must be lodged within 30 days of the Notice.

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