

On Wed, 22 Jan 2025 at 08:22, ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.PP@wsp.com> wrote:

Dear Stakeholder,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN IN TERMS OF:

- Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) for submission of various applications for environmental authorisations (EAs) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended).

The proponents outlined in the table below propose to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) cluster, comprising various applications for environmental authorisation, near Verkykerskop in Free State. The proposed authorisations include the following Basic Assessment (BA) and Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes.

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process
Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF) including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Farm Names			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Portion 0 of Farm Schoonzicht No.80• Portion 0 of Farm Groothoek No. 89	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Portion 0 of Farm Puntje No. 1240• Portion 0 and 1 of Farm Aanfield No. 253	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remaining Extent of the Farm Welgelukt No. 1416Portion 0 of Farm Inzicht No. 1428	


<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 of Farm Kromdraai No. 273 • Portion 0 of Farm Kransbank No.288 • Portion 0 of Farm Kranspunt No.459 • Portion 0 of Farm Van Kope No.1319 • Portion 0 of Farm Leiden No. 2 • Portion 0 of Farm Myn-Burg No. 3 • Portion 0 of Farm Naauw Kloof No. 4 • Portion 0 of Farm Krom Hof No. 530 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0, 1, 2 and 3 of Farm Ox Hoek No. 98 • Portion 0 of Farm Christina No. 90 • Portion 0 of Farm Mooiplaats No. 391 • Portion 0 of Farm Brak Krans No. 554 • Portion 0 of Farm Rooi Koppen No. 600 • Portion 0 of Farm Goedgedacht No. 724 • Portion 0 of Farm Kruger Wens No.1062 • Portion 0 of Farm Scotland No. 1238 • Portion 0 of Farm Lusthof No.1321 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 of Farm Rooibeesberg No. 14898 • Portion 1 of Farm Johanna No. 1395 • Portion 1 and Remainder of Farm Bull Hoek No. 329 • Portion 1 of Farm Goede Hoop No. 982 • Portion 2, 3, 4, 5 and Remainder of Farm Driekoppen No. 485 • Remaining extent of Farm Johanna No. 1395 • Portion 0 of Farm Markgraaff's Rest No. 478
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WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by Mulilo Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd to manage the to manage the respective BA and S&EIR processes. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the proposed projects are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the processes.

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Scoping Report (DSR) will be made available from WSP on request and/or at the venues below for review and comment for a period of at least 30 days from **22 January 2025 to 21 February 2025**:

Name of Public Place	Address	Name of Public Place	Address	FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:	Or scan the QR code
Harrismith Library	27 Murray St, Harrismith	Zamani Library	Euufees St, Memel - 058 913 8300	Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd;	
VKB Verkykerskop	Between Harrismith & Memel on R722 Road - 058 625 0130	Newcastle Library	66 Scott St, Newcastle CBD, Newcastle -		

			034 328 7620	PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; Tel: 011 254 4800; Fax: 086 582 1561 E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com	
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents	WSP Data Free Website	https://wsp-engage.com/		

WSP contact details:

Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

Post: PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; **Tel:** 011 254 4800;

Fax: 086 582 1561;

E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com

Protection of Personal Information: WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I&AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I&AP and storing of your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP will use these details to contact you about other relevant projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



Public Participation Office

T+ 27 11 361 1300

F+ 27 86 582 1561



WSP in Africa
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park
Magwa Crescent West
Waterfall City

Midrand, 1685
P.O. Box 6001
Halfway House
1685

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WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd, Registered Office: Building C, Knightsbridge, 33 Sloane Street, Bryanston, 2191, South Africa Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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<http://www.phumelela.gov.za>



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Maharaj, Jashmika

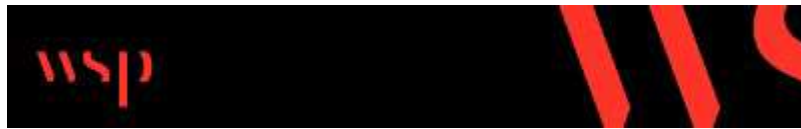
From: Maharaj, Jashmika
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2025 14:28
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Maharaj, Jashmika shared the folder "Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports" with you
Attachments: Verkykerskop_CBA Maps.pdf

Dear [REDACTED]

Please refer to the Terrestrial biodiversity scoping report – Appendix G.6 for the CBA maps. I have attached the pdfs for ease of reference.

Kind regards,
Jashmika Maharaj
Senior Consultant

[REDACTED]
M: 01 87 181 8881



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2025 14:16
To: Maharaj, [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Maharaj, Jashmika shared the folder "Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports" with you

Don't you have a CBA map and other maps of the cluster?



forestry, fisheries
and the environment
Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

From: Maharaj, Jashmika <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, 24 February 2025 12:51

Subject: RE: Maharaj, Jashmika shared the folder "Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports" with you

Thank you for your email. Please note that the commenting period for this proposed project ended on 21 February'25. However, we look forward to receiving the Department's comments.

Please find the link below to the OneDrive folder with the project information. I have given you access to the folder.

[Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports](#)

Alternatively, here is the link to the website with a link to download the reports in pdf: [Environmental Reports for Public Review | WSP](#)

Kind regards,

Jashmika Maharaj

Senior Consultant

wsp

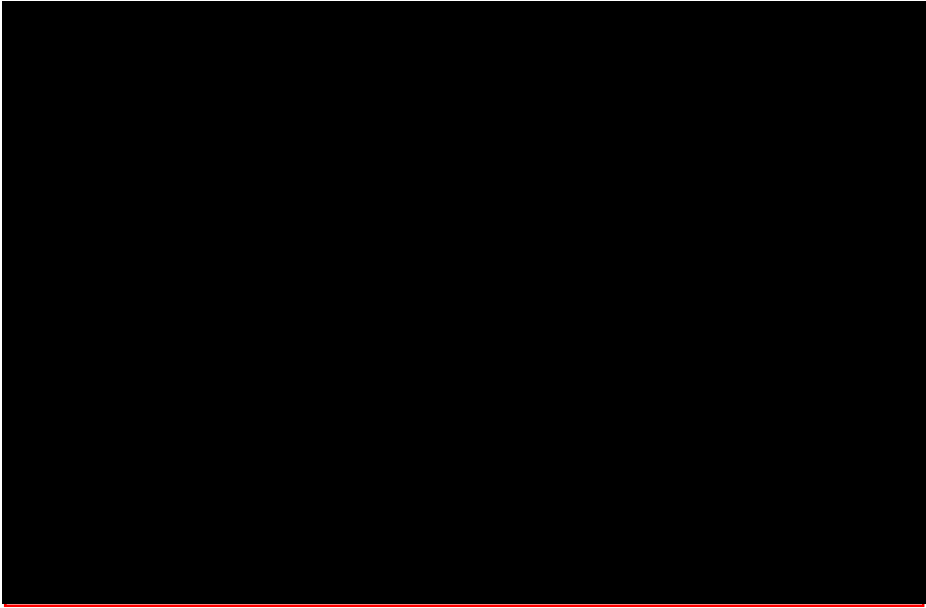
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2025 12:57

To: Maharaj, Jashmika <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Re: Maharaj, Jashmika shared the folder "Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports" with you

Good day,

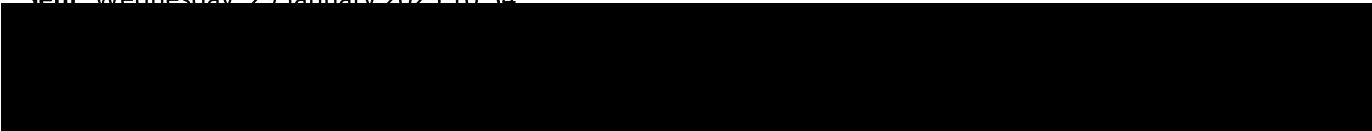
Can you please share the reports in a PDF format or weshare



forestry, fisheries
and the environment
Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

From: Maharaj, Jashmika [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 29 January 2025 10:34



Subject: RE: Maharaj, Jashmika shared the folder "Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports" with you

Good Day,

Thank you for your response. Please find the kml file for the development footprints/application site attached.

Kind regards,



Jashmika Maharaj
Senior Consultant

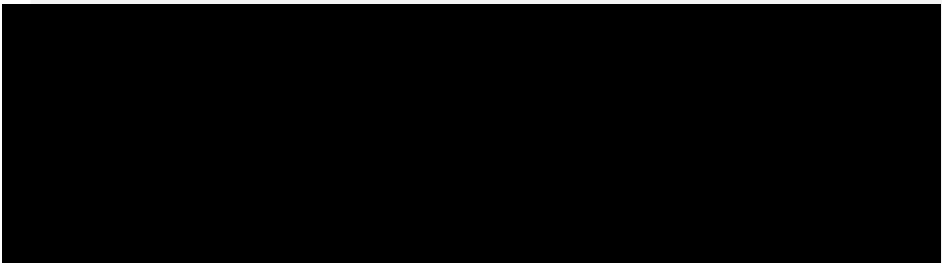


Subject: RE: Maharaj, Jashmika shared the folder "Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports" with you

Dear Sir/Madam

DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the project mentioned on the subject line. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Mrs M Rabothata and Ms Lindiwe Dlamini (Copied on this email). In addition, kindly share the shapefiles of the development footprints/application site with the Case Officers.

Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: [REDACTED] for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota



From: Maharaj, Jashmika [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 22 January 2025 10:36

To: BC Admin [REDACTED]

Subject: Maharaj, Jashmika shared the folder "Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports" with you



Maharaj, Jashmika shared a folder with you

Dear Commenting Authorities,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE
Please see link to the projects documents.

Kind regards,
WSP: Public Participation Office



[Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports](#)



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Mathulwe, Tumelo

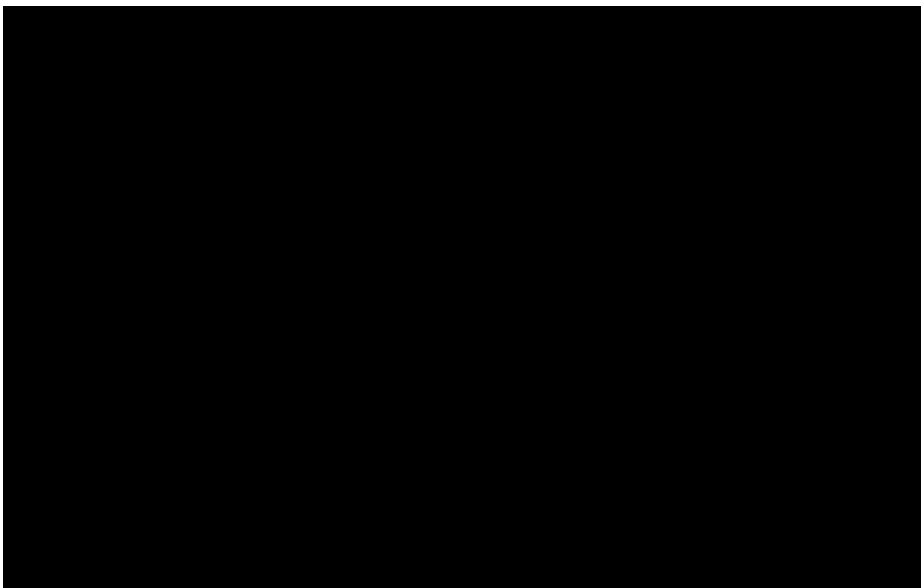
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 07 January 2025 15:28
To: Strong, Ashlea
Subject: Verkykerskop Wind Farms I&AP

Hi Ashlea,

It was good to meet you last year at the Green Hydrogen Womens event. I hope you're doing well?

Please may you add me as an I&AP for the Normandien, Groothoek and Kromhof Wind Farms and send a link to the Scoping reports? Thanks!

Kind regards,



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Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Strong, Ashlea
Subject: RE: Maharaj, Jashmika shared the folder "Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports" with you

<
Good morning Jashmika,

Thank you, links and files received. SANParks will provide comments on or before the 22nd of February 2025.

Kind regards,

Letsie

[REDACTED] cultural heritage

From: Maharaj, Jashmika <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 22 February 2025, 09:26
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Maharaj, Jashmika shared the folder "Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports" with you
Importance: High

[REDACTED]
Thank you, I appreciate your response.

[REDACTED] of the 30-day public participation
Wind Energy Cluster.

I have also included the links to the project documentation below for your convenience.

WSP Website: <https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents>

WSP Data Free Website: <https://wsp-engage.com/>

OneDrive:  [Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports](#)

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Kind regards,



Jashmika Maharaj
Senior Consultant



WSP in Africa
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand
1685 South Africa

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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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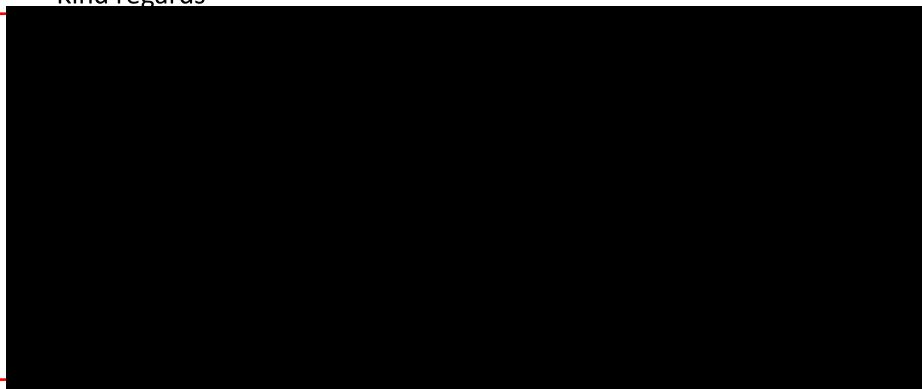
Dear Jashmika

Thank you for sharing the information with SANParks. Could you kindly share the link with my colleague Letsie Coetzee, she deals with matters of this nature in the northern region. Her email address is as follows:



I have also copied her in this email.

Kind regards



Subject: Maharaj, Jashmika shared the folder "Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports" with you



Maharaj, Jashmika shared a folder with you

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Please see link to the projects documents.

Kind regards,
WSP: Public Participation Office



[Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports](#)



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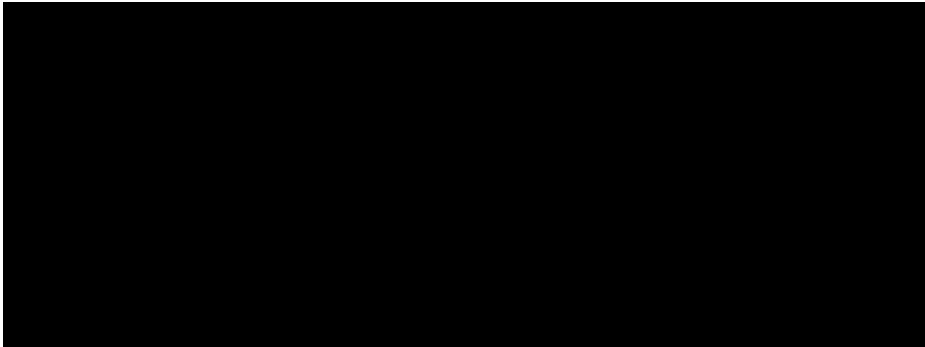
Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Strong, Ashlea
Subject: RE: Maharaj, Jashmika shared the folder "Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports" with you

<

Thank you kindly for sharing the link with Letsie.

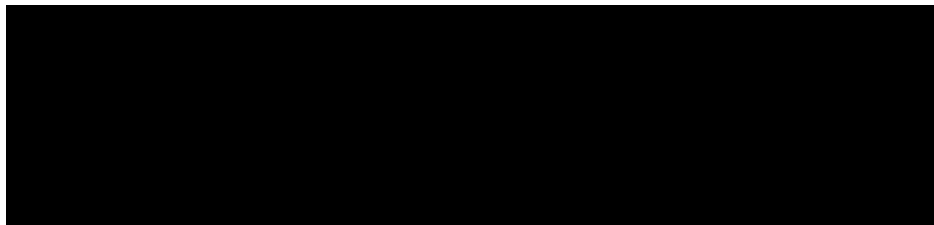
Kind regards



From: Maharaj, Jashmika [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 January 2025 09:36

Subject: RE: Maharaj, Jashmika shared the folder "Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports" with you

Importance: High



the 30-day public participation commenting period (22/01/2025 to 22/02/2025) for the Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster.

I have also included the links to the project documentation below for your convenience.

WSP Website: <https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents>

WSP Data Free Website: <https://wsp-engage.com/>

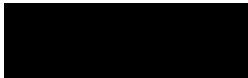
OneDrive:  [Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports](#)

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Kind regards,



Jashmika Maharaj
Senior Consultant



WSP in Africa
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City, Midrand
1685 South Africa

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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

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I have also copied her in this email.

Kind regards



From: Maharaj, Jashmika [REDACTED]

Sent: 22 January 2025 10:27

[REDACTED] cluster - Draft Scoping Reports" with you



Maharaj, Jashmika shared a folder with you

Dear Commenting Authorities,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND
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Kind regards,
WSP: Public Participation Office



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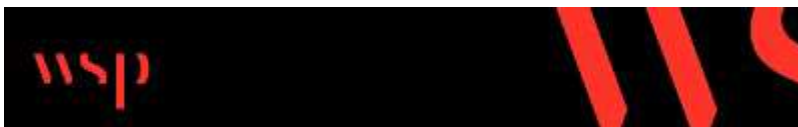
From: Strong, Ashlea
Sent: Wednesday, 12 February 2025 08:21
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email and your request for a meeting.
We have noted your request and will arrange such a meeting during the course of the EIA Phase.

Kind regards

Ashlea Strong
Principal Associate
T +27 11 361-1392



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 22 January 2025 12:55
To: ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.PP@wsp.com>
Subject: Re: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Morning all and compliments of the season thank you for your email may I please request that you arrange a date of a meeting with us normandien residents at horse shoe guest house hall or anywhere around normandien or normandien auction sale yard so we get a chance to participate meaningfully in your project and get a chance to hear from you how your project will address energy crisis in normandien I believe that would be EIA meeting

[REDACTED]

On Wed, 22 Jan 2025, 08:22 ZA - GLD - PPOffice, <gld.PP@wsp.com> wrote:

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The proponents outlined in the table below propose to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) cluster, comprising various applications for environmental authorisation, near Verkykerskop in Free State. The proposed authorisations include the following Basic Assessment (BA) and Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes.


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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 of Farm Myn-Burg No. 3 • Portion 0 of Farm Naauw Kloof No. 4 • Portion 0 of Farm Krom Hof No. 530 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 of Farm Goedgedacht No. 724 • Portion 0 of Farm Kruger Wens No.1062 • Portion 0 of Farm Scotland No. 1238 • Portion 0 of Farm Lusthof No.1321 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 2, 3, 4, 5 and Remainder of Farm Driekoppen No. 485 • Remaining extent of Farm Johanna No. 1395 • Portion 0 of Farm Markgraaff's Rest No. 478
---	--	---

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Name of Public Place	Address	Name of Public Place	Address	FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:	Or scan the QR code
Harrismith Library	27 Murray St, Harrismith	Zamani Library	Euufees St, Memel - 058 913 8300	Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd; PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; Tel: 011 254 4800; Fax: 086 582 1561 E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com	
VKB Verkykerskop	Between Harrismith & Memel on R722 Road - 058 625 0130	Newcastle Library	66 Scott St, Newcastle CBD, Newcastle - 034 328 7620		
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents	WSP Data Free Website	https://wsp-engage.com/		

WSP contact details:

Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

Post: PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; **Tel:** 011 254 4800;

Fax: 086 582 1561;

E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com

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We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



Public Participation Office

T+ 27 11 361 1300

F+ 27 86 582 1561



WSP in Africa
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park
Magwa Crescent West
Waterfall City
Midrand, 1685
P.O. Box 6001
Halfway House
1685

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Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Monday, 17 February 2025 11:33
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE
Attachments: Verkykerskop Draft EIA Layout (New Turbine Footprint).kmz

[REDACTED]

Please see the project kmz attached.

Kind regards,

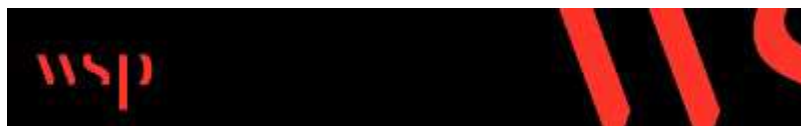
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T +27 11 254-4800

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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [C] 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Hi

Please can you provide a KMZ for the sites listed below

- Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd
- Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd

- Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd

Kind regards

Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act



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From: ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.PP@wsp.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 8:22 AM

Subject: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

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Dear Stakeholder,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN IN TERMS OF:

- Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) for submission of various applications for environmental authorisations (EAs) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended).

The proponents outlined in the table below propose to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) cluster, comprising various applications for environmental authorisation, near Verkykerskop in Free State. The proposed authorisations include the following Basic Assessment (BA) and Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes.

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process
Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF) including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Farm Names			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 of Farm Schoonzicht No.80 • Portion 0 of Farm Groothoek No. 89 • Portion 0 of Farm Kromdraai No. 273 • Portion 0 of Farm Kransbank No.288 • Portion 0 of Farm Kranspunt No.459 • Portion 0 of Farm Van Kope No.1319 • Portion 0 of Farm Leiden No. 2 • Portion 0 of Farm Myn-Burg No. 3 • Portion 0 of Farm Naauw Kloof No. 4 • Portion 0 of Farm Krom Hof No. 530 • Portion 0 of Farm Puntje No. 1240 • Portion 0 and 1 of Farm Aanfield No. 253 • Portion 0, 1, 2 and 3 of Farm Ox Hoek No. 98 • Portion 0 of Farm Christina No. 90 • Portion 0 of Farm Mooiplaats No. 391 • Portion 0 of Farm Brak Krans No. 554 • Portion 0 of Farm Rooi Koppen No. 600 • Portion 0 of Farm Goedgedacht No. 724 • Portion 0 of Farm Kruger Wens No.1062 • Portion 0 of Farm Scotland No. 1238 • Portion 0 of Farm Lusthof No.1321 • Remaining Extent of the Farm Welgelukt No. 1416 • Portion 0 of Farm Inzicht No. 1428 • Portion 0 of Farm Rooibeesberg No. 14898 • Portion 1 of Farm Johanna No. 1395 • Portion 1 and Remainder of Farm Bull Hoek No. 329 • Portion 1 of Farm Goede Hoop No. 982 • Portion 2, 3, 4, 5 and Remainder of Farm Driekoppen No. 485 • Remaining extent of Farm Johanna No. 1395 • Portion 0 of Farm Markgraaff's Rest No. 478 			

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VKB Verkykerskop	Between Harrismith & Memel on R722 Road - 058 625 0130	Newcastle Library	66 Scott St, Newcastle CBD, Newcastle - 034 328 7620	Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd; PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; Tel: 011 254 4800; Fax: 086 582 1561 E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents	WSP Data Free Website	https://wsp-engage.com/	



WSP contact details:

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We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



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=====

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Monday, 17 February 2025 11:42
To: [REDACTED]
Cc:
Subject: RE: REMINDER: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

[REDACTED]

Thank you for the update. Ms Ramunenyiwa has been removed from the project database.

Kind regards,

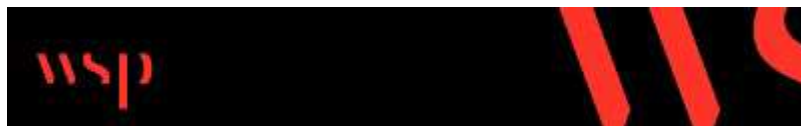
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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

Personal Details have been redacted as required by the POPI Act

[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: REMINDER: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Good day

Kindly remove Ms. Petunia Ramunenyiwa from the mailing list as she is not responsible for the function, please note that your email has been forwarded to our Provincial office in the Free State for their attention.

Regards

Sibongile Makaringe
Chief directorate: IGR Sect Trans & PC
188 Francis Baard Street
Pretoria
0001

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>

Sent: Monday, 17 February 2025 10:56

Subject: REMINDER: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

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Dear Commenting Authorities,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

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WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents	WSP Data Free Website	https://wsp-engage.com/	PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; Tel: 011 254 4800; Fax: 086 582 1561 E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com
OneDrive Link	<input type="checkbox"/> Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports			



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Post: PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; **Tel:** 011 254 4800;

Fax: 086 582 1561;

E-mail: pp@wsp.com

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-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Monday, 17 February 2025 11:46
To: Conny Dubula [MTN South Africa]; ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE
Attachments: Verkykerskop Draft EIA Layout (New Turbine Footprint).kmz

Good day Conny

WSP has previously shared the project kmz. It has been attached for ease of reference.

Please advise if this will suffice.

Kind regards,

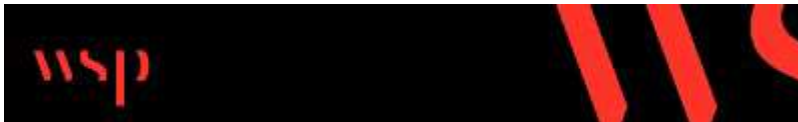
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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

From: Conny Dubula [MTN South Africa]
Sent: Thursday, 13 February 2025 14:45
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Subject: FW: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Hi

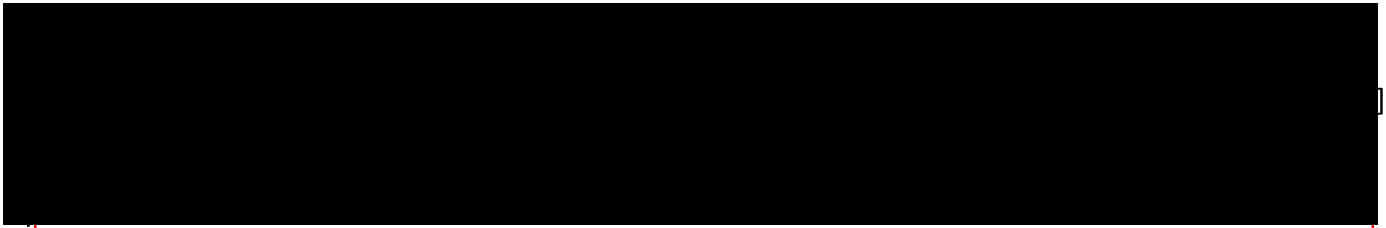
Please provide us a polygon indication the area affected.

Warm regards,



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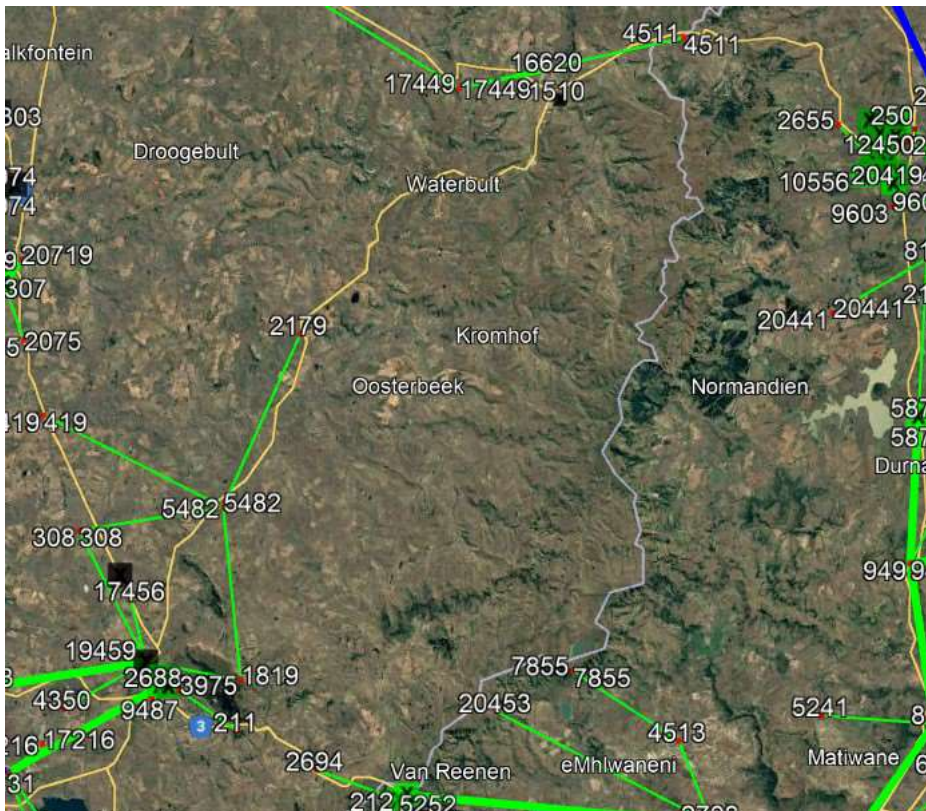
Sensitivity: MTN Internal



Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Hi Hendry,

Please provide us a polygon indication the area affected.



Warm regards,
Mdunyiswa Mthembu



Engineer - Transmission Planning



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Sensitivity: MTN Internal

From:

Sent:

To: Conny

<[Wouter](#)

Cc: De

South

Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Hi Conny

This windfarm is in KZN REGION

THANK YOU



Warm regards,

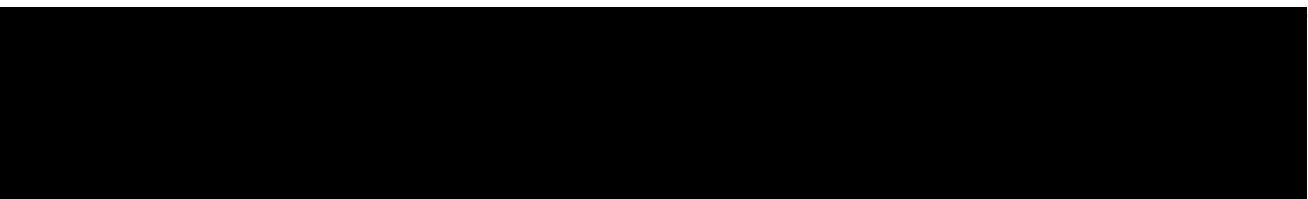
Hendry Karstel

Specialist - Transmission Planning



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Subject: FW: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY

CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Importance: High

Good day

Please see attached renewable energy application for processing, thank you.



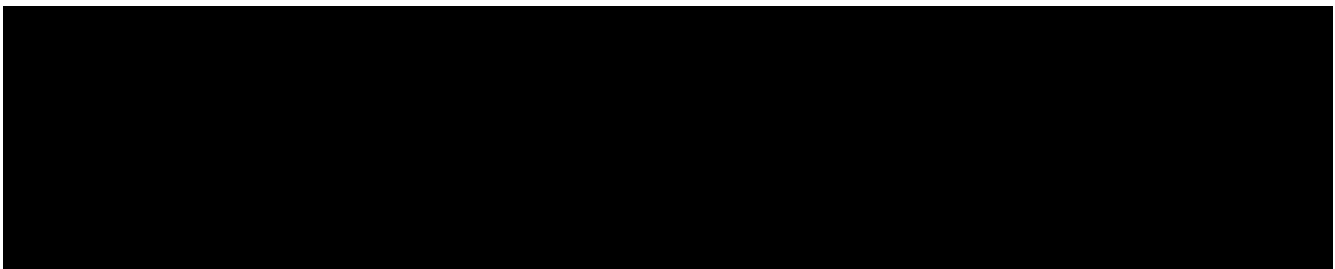
Warm regards,

Genny Dubula



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Sensitivity: MTN Internal



Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Importance: High

Hi Christopher

It seems like some communication was not send through, apologies for this

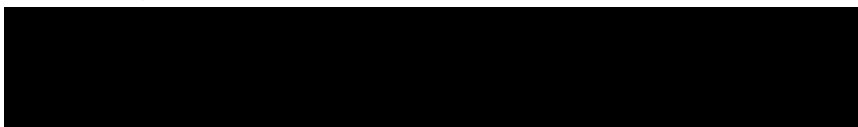
The developer must send the request to [#Renewable Energy Applications \[MTN SA\]](#) who will then forward it to the relevant parties for approval.

[@#Renewable Energy Applications \[MTN SA\]](#), please see if we ca expedite a response.



Warm regards,

Hendré Kruger



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Sensitivity: MTN Internal

From:

Sent:

To: Z

Cc: E

[<Tess](#)

Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

[@Hendré Kruger \[MTN South Africa \]](#) Hi, Please advise further.

Thanks



Warm regards,
Christopher Dobson
Supervisor - Property Supervisor

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Sensitivity: MTN Internal

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>

Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2025 12:42

Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

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Good day Christopher

Please see the project kmz attached as requested.

Kind regards,



Public Participation Office

T+ 27 11 361 1300

F+ 27 86 582 1561



WSP in Africa
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park
Magwa Crescent West
Waterfall City
Midrand, 1685
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Sensitivity: MTN Internal

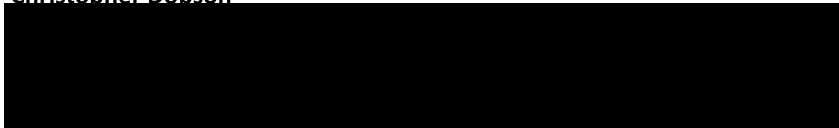
Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

[@gld.PP@wsp.com](mailto:gld.PP@wsp.com) Good day, Further to the below, please provide more information wrt the site build plans in order for our planners to identify potential network impacts.

Thanks



Warm regards,
Christopher Dobson



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Sensitivity: MTN Internal

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: [REDACTED]

To: Christopher

Africa

Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Importance: High

Hi Christopher.

It would be great if we can have the plans, you are also mentioning.

It would make it easier to identify the locations of the said developments.

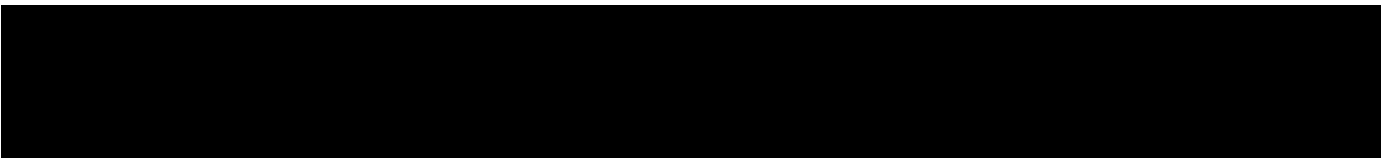


Warm regards,
Hendré Kruger
Manager - BTS Implementation



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Sensitivity: MTN Internal



Subject: RE: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

These entities usually send us their build plans and request input from our regional planning teams + [@Tessa Smith \[MTN South Africa \]](#) / [@Hendré Kruger \[MTN South Africa \]](#) Hi, Please see below fya.



Warm regards,
Christopher Dobson
Supervisor - Property Supervisor



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Sensitivity: MTN Internal

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: [REDACTED]

To: Christopher

Subject: FW: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Hi Christopher

I'm sending this as I'm not sure if any of our towers will be affected in the below.



Warm regards,

Erna Frade

Manager - CXO Administration and Communication
[REDACTED]

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Sensitivity: MTN Internal

From: ZA - GLD - PPOffice <gld.pp@wsp.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 8:22 AM

Subject: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

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Dear Stakeholder,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN IN TERMS OF:

- Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) for submission of various applications for environmental authorisations (EAs) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended).


The proponents outlined in the table below propose to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) cluster, comprising various applications for environmental authorisation, near Verkykerskop in Free State. The proposed authorisations include the following Basic Assessment (BA) and Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes.

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process
Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF) including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Farm Names			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Portion 0 of Farm Schoonzicht No.80• Portion 0 of Farm Groothoek No. 89• Portion 0 of Farm Kromdraai No. 273• Portion 0 of Farm Kransbank No.288• Portion 0 of Farm Kranspunt No.459• Portion 0 of Farm Van Kope No.1319• Portion 0 of Farm Leiden No. 2• Portion 0 of Farm Myn-Burg No. 3• Portion 0 of Farm Naauw Kloof No. 4• Portion 0 of Farm Krom Hof No. 530	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Portion 0 of Farm Puntje No. 1240• Portion 0 and 1 of Farm Aanfield No. 253• Portion 0, 1, 2 and 3 of Farm Ox Hoek No. 98• Portion 0 of Farm Christina No. 90• Portion 0 of Farm Mooiplaats No. 391• Portion 0 of Farm Brak Krans No. 554• Portion 0 of Farm Rooi Koppen No. 600• Portion 0 of Farm Goedgedacht No. 724• Portion 0 of Farm Kruger Wens No.1062• Portion 0 of Farm Scotland No. 1238• Portion 0 of Farm Lusthof No.1321	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remaining Extent of the Farm Welgelukt No. 1416• Portion 0 of Farm Inzicht No. 1428• Portion 0 of Farm Rooibeesberg No. 14898• Portion 1 of Farm Johanna No. 1395• Portion 1 and Remainder of Farm Bull Hoek No. 329• Portion 1 of Farm Goede Hoop No. 982• Portion 2, 3, 4, 5 and Remainder of Farm Driekoppen No. 485• Remaining extent of Farm Johanna No. 1395• Portion 0 of Farm Markgraaff's Rest No. 478	

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by Mulilo Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd to manage the to manage the respective BA and S&EIR processes. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the proposed projects are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the processes.

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Scoping Report (DSR) will be made available from WSP on request and/or at the venues below for review and comment for a period of at least 30 days from **22 January 2025 to 21 February 2025**:

Name of Public Place	Address	Name of Public Place	Address	FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:	Or scan the QR code
Harrismith Library	27 Murray St, Harrismith	Zamani Library	Euufes St, Memel - 058 913 8300	Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd;	
VKB Verkykerskop	Between Harrismith & Memel on R722 Road - 058 625 0130	Newcastle Library	66 Scott St, Newcastle CBD, Newcastle - 034 328 7620		

WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents	WSP Data Free Website	https://wsp-engage.com/	PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; Tel: 011 254 4800; Fax: 086 582 1561 E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com
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WSP contact details:

Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

Post: PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; **Tel:** 011 254 4800;

Fax: 086 582 1561;

E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com

Protection of Personal Information: WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an interested and affected party (I&AP) for purposes of enabling your registration as an I&AP and storing of your details on our database, if you consent for us to do so. WSP will use these details to contact you about other relevant projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I & AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,



Public Participation Office

T+ 27 11 361 1300

F+ 27 86 582 1561



WSP in Africa
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park
Magwa Crescent West
Waterfall City
Midrand, 1685
P.O. Box 6001
Halfway House
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-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From:

Sent:

Friday, 21 February 2025 15:44

To:

ZA - WSP - PPOffice

Cc:

Subject:

Re: REMINDER: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Good afternoon,

You are most welcome!

Kind Regards 

Pule Joseph Lenong (PJL)
Office of the Provincial Head
Department of Water and Sanitation
C/o Eastburger and Charlotte Maxeke Streets
Bloem Plaza Building, Second Floor
BLOEMFONTEIN
9301

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“WATER IS LIFE – SANITATION IS DIGNITY”



“Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better” Maya Angelou



From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>

Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 15:42

To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Letlo
Mama

Subject: RE: REMINDER: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

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Good day Pule,

The notification will be forwarded.

Thank you

Kind regards,

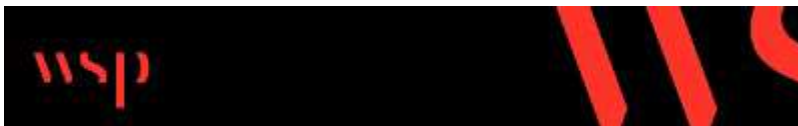
Public Participation Office

T +27 11 254-4800

WSP

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1685 South Africa

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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: ZA [REDACTED]
Cc: Ra [REDACTED]
Letloe [REDACTED]
Mama [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: REMINDER: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

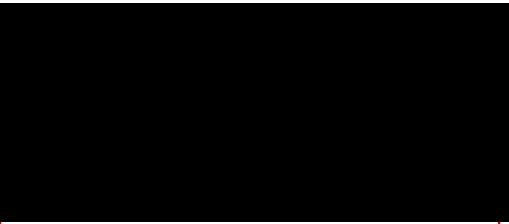
Good afternoon, WSP,

The project is within the Gauteng Provincial Operations.

Kindly send all the information to: [REDACTED]

Kind Regards 

Pule Joseph Lenong (PJL)
Office of the Provincial Head
Department of Water and Sanitation
C/o Eastburger and Charlotte Maxeke Streets
Bloem Plaza Building, Second Floor
BLOEMFONTEIN
9301



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The banner is for the UNESCO Citizen Science for Water Photo Story Competition 2024/2025. It features the South African coat of arms, the UNESCO logo, and the 'CITIZEN SCIENCE FOR WATER' logo. The main text reads 'PHOTO STORY COMPETITION ENTRIES OPEN'. Below this, it says 'Tell your story and stand a chance of winning'. There are two columns of themes to explore: 'Water & Citizen Science', 'Water & Education', 'Water & Communities' on the left, and 'Water & Partnerships', 'Water & Culture' on the right. A QR code is provided for entry, with a deadline of '26 March 2025'. A link to the website is also given: <https://www.dws.gov.za/Projects/UNESCO/cspl.aspx>. On the right side, there is a circular logo for the 'PHOTO STORY COMPETITION 2024/2025' and the text 'TELL YOUR STORY: WATER & CITIZEN SCIENCE, PARTNERSHIPS, EDUCATION, CULTURE, COMMUNITIES'.

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>

Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 15:07

To: 

Cc: 

Let: 

Subject: RE: REMINDER: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

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Good day Pule,

The project is located in the Vaal water management area.

Kind regards,

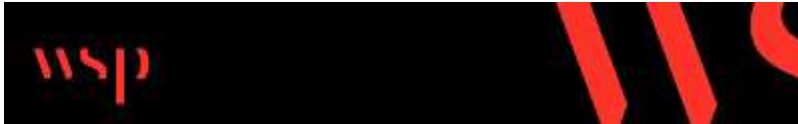
Public Participation Office

T +27 11 254-4800

WSP

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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

From:

Sent: Monday, 17 February 2025 11:54

To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>

Cc:

Letl

Subject: Re: REMINDER: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Good morning, Colleagues,

PPO, on behalf of the Provincial Head of the Department of Water and Sanitation: Free State, I hereby would like to acknowledge receipt your mail with appreciation.

I have been trying to contact your office but to no avail. Can you kindly check with me as to what town in the Free State does Verkykerskop falls. Chances are that if it falls within the Eastern Free State (Harrismith/QwaQwa), it belongs to Gauteng Regional Office. Kindly confirm that for me so that I can send this to the correct officials!

Kind Regards A hand-drawn smiley face with two eyes and a wide, open mouth, drawn in blue ink.

Pule Joseph Lenong (P JL)
Office of the Provincial Head
Department of Water and Sanitation
C/o Eastburger and Charlotte Maxeke Streets
Bloem Plaza Building, Second Floor
BLOEMFONTEIN
9301



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PHOTO STORY COMPETITION ENTRIES OPEN

Tell your story and stand a chance of winning

5 themes to explore:

- Water & Citizen Science
- Water & Education
- Water & Communities
- Water & Partnerships
- Water & Culture

Submit by **26 March 2025**

Scan to enter:

Link to website: <https://www.dws.gov.za/Projects/UNESCO/cspi.aspx>

TELL YOUR STORY: **WATER & CITIZEN SCIENCE, PARTNERSHIPS, EDUCATION, CULTURE, COMMUNITIES**

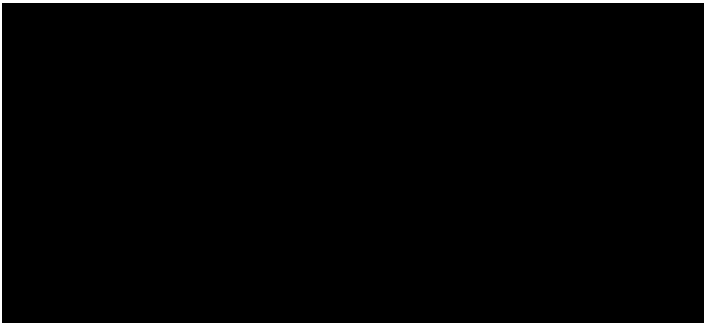
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2025 11:20
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Zod: [Redacted]

Subject: FW: REMINDER: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Dear Colleagues

Kindly find the email below for your attention and forwarding to the relevant office.

Regards



From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2025 11:03 AM
To: Makaringe Sibongile [Redacted]
Subject: FW: REMINDER: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Dear Sbo

Please forward to the relevant office

Thanks in advance

Petunia Ramunenyiwa

CD: IGR, Sector Transformation and Provincial Governance

178 Francis Baard Street

PRETORIA 0001

377 Ndinaye 3rd Floor

Ramunenyiwap@dws.gov.za

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From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>

Sent: Monday, 17 February 2025 10:56

Subject: REMINDER: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

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Dear Commenting Authorities,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN IN TERMS OF:

- Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) for submission of various applications for environmental authorisations (EAs) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended).

The proponents outlined in the table below propose to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) cluster, comprising various applications for environmental authorisation, near Verkykerskop in Free State. The proposed authorisations include the following Basic Assessment (BA) and Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes.



Proponent	Project	Technology	Process
Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF) including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR

Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Farm Names			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 of Farm Schoonzicht No.80 • Portion 0 of Farm Groothoek No. 89 • Portion 0 of Farm Kromdraai No. 273 • Portion 0 of Farm Kransbank No.288 • Portion 0 of Farm Kranspunt No.459 • Portion 0 of Farm Van Kope No.1319 • Portion 0 of Farm Leiden No. 2 • Portion 0 of Farm Myn-Burg No. 3 • Portion 0 of Farm Naauw Kloof No. 4 • Portion 0 of Farm Krom Hof No. 530 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 of Farm Puntje No. 1240 • Portion 0 and 1 of Farm Aanfield No. 253 • Portion 0, 1, 2 and 3 of Farm Ox Hoek No. 98 • Portion 0 of Farm Christina No. 90 • Portion 0 of Farm Mooiplaats No. 391 • Portion 0 of Farm Brak Krans No. 554 • Portion 0 of Farm Rooi Koppen No. 600 • Portion 0 of Farm Goedgedacht No. 724 • Portion 0 of Farm Kruger Wens No.1062 • Portion 0 of Farm Scotland No. 1238 • Portion 0 of Farm Lusthof No.1321 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining Extent of the Farm Welgelukt No. 1416Portion 0 of Farm Inzicht No. 1428 • Portion 0 of Farm Rooibeesberg No. 14898 • Portion 1 of Farm Johanna No. 1395 • Portion 1 and Remainder of Farm Bull Hoek No. 329 • Portion 1 of Farm Goede Hoop No. 982 • Portion 2, 3, 4, 5 and Remainder of Farm Driekoppen No. 485 • Remaining extent of Farm Johanna No. 1395 • Portion 0 of Farm Markgraaff's Rest No. 478 	

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by Mulilo Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd to manage the to manage the respective BA and S&EIR processes. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the proposed projects are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the processes.

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Scoping Report (DSR) will be made available from WSP on request and/or at the venues below for review and comment for a period of at least 30 days from **22 January 2025 to 21 February 2025**:

Name of Public Place	Address	Name of Public Place	Address	FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd; PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; Tel: 011 254 4800; Fax: 086 582 1561 E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com	Or scan the QR code
Harrismith Library	27 Murray St, Harrismith	Zamani Library	Eeufees St, Memel - 058 913 8300		
VKB Verkyerskop	Between Harrismith & Memel on R722 Road - 058 625 0130	Newcastle Library	66 Scott St, Newcastle CBD, Newcastle - 034 328 7620		
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents	WSP Data Free Website	https://wsp-engage.com/		
OneDrive Link	 Verkyerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports				

WSP contact details:

Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

Post: PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; **Tel:** 011 254 4800;

Fax: 086 582 1561;

E-mail: pp@wsp.com

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We look forward to your participation in this process.

Kind regards,

**Public Participation Office**

T+ 27 11 361 1300

F+ 27 86 582 1561



WSP in Africa
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park
Magwa Crescent West
Waterfall City
Midrand, 1685
P.O. Box 6001
Halfway House
1685

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-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Tuesday, 18 February 2025 09:37
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Subject: RE: REMINDER: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Good day,

Received, thank you.

Kind regards,

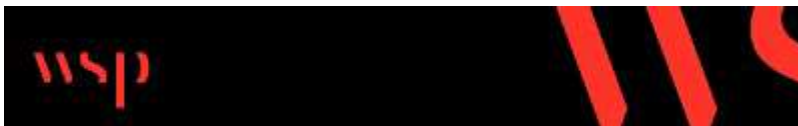
Public Participation Office

T +27 11 254-4800

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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 18 February 2025 08:19

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Wentz (bny) <Danieel@dw.gov.za>

Subject: RE: REMINDER: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Good day

On behalf of d Ntli, I would like to acknowledge receipt of your email.

Mr Dywili

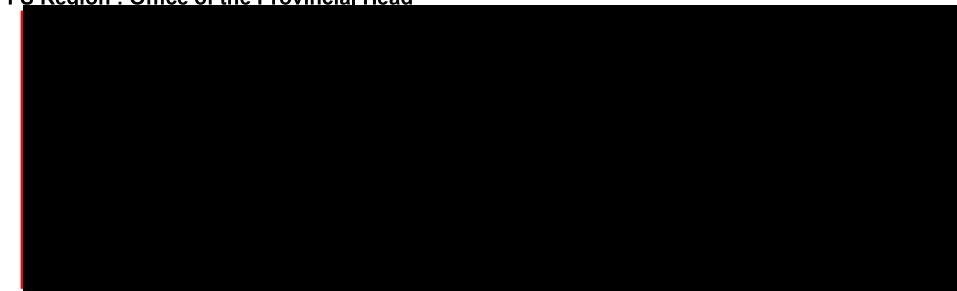
Below, please receive email for your information and attention.

Kind Regards,
Zodwa Kumalo



water & sanitation
Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

FS Region : Office of the Provincial Head



From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>

Sent: Monday, 17 February 2025 10:56

Subject: REMINDER: 41106427 - NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

Some people who received this message don't often get email from pp@wsp.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Commenting Authorities,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN IN TERMS OF:

- Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982 (as amended) published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) for submission of various applications for environmental authorisations (EAs) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (as amended).

The proponents outlined in the table below propose to establish a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) cluster, comprising various applications for environmental authorisation, near Verkykerskop in Free State. The proposed authorisations include the following Basic Assessment (BA) and Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) processes.

Proponent	Project	Technology	Process
Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF) including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA

Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd	Up to 300MW WEF including associated infrastructure	Wind	S&EIR
	Up to 132kV Powerline, substation, and associated infrastructure	Transmission Line and Substation	BA
Farm Names			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 of Farm Schoonzicht No.80 • Portion 0 of Farm Groothoek No. 89 • Portion 0 of Farm Kromdraai No. 273 • Portion 0 of Farm Kransbank No.288 • Portion 0 of Farm Kranspunt No.459 • Portion 0 of Farm Van Kope No.1319 • Portion 0 of Farm Leiden No. 2 • Portion 0 of Farm Myn-Burg No. 3 • Portion 0 of Farm Naauw Kloof No. 4 • Portion 0 of Farm Krom Hof No. 530 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 of Farm Puntje No. 1240 • Portion 0 and 1 of Farm Aanfield No. 253 • Portion 0, 1, 2 and 3 of Farm Ox Hoek No. 98 • Portion 0 of Farm Christina No. 90 • Portion 0 of Farm Mooiplaats No. 391 • Portion 0 of Farm Brak Krans No. 554 • Portion 0 of Farm Rooi Koppen No. 600 • Portion 0 of Farm Goedgedacht No. 724 • Portion 0 of Farm Kruger Wens No.1062 • Portion 0 of Farm Scotland No. 1238 • Portion 0 of Farm Lusthof No.1321 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining Extent of the Farm Welgelukt No. 1416 • Portion 0 of Farm Inzicht No. 1428 • Portion 0 of Farm Rooibeesberg No. 14898 • Portion 1 of Farm Johanna No. 1395 • Portion 1 and Remainder of Farm Bull Hoek No. 329 • Portion 1 of Farm Goede Hoop No. 982 • Portion 2, 3, 4, 5 and Remainder of Farm Driekoppen No. 485 • Remaining extent of Farm Johanna No. 1395 • Portion 0 of Farm Markgraaff's Rest No. 478 	

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by Mulilo Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd to manage the to manage the respective BA and S&EIR processes. Parties wishing to formally register as stakeholders in order to offer their comment on the proposed projects are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP at the details provided below. Registered stakeholders will be forwarded all future correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the processes.

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WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents	WSP Data Free Website	https://wsp-engage.com/	PO Box 6001, Halfway House, 1685; Tel: 011 254 4800; Fax: 086 582 1561 E-mail: gld.pp@wsp.com
OneDrive Link	<input type="checkbox"/> Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports			



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-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 February 2025 13:29
To: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Cc: EWT EIA Applications
Subject: RE: Register as an interested and affected party for wind energy facilities in the northeastern Free State

Thank you for your email

Regards
Bradley

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 11:02
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Register as an interested and affected party for wind energy facilities in the northeastern Free State

Good day Bradley,

We note your email registering as a stakeholder on the project.

The initial announcement of the project was shared with multiple email addresses from the EWT, including [REDACTED] which you provided on 22 January 2025, namely:

Kindly note that we are currently in the Scoping phase of the project, and you will receive all further communication related to the project.

The notification sent out can be seen below:

Dear Stakeholder,

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE STATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN IN TERMS OF:

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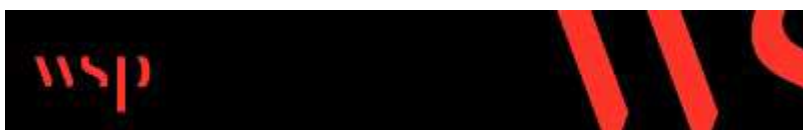
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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: [REDACTED]

To: ZA [REDACTED]

Cc: EW [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Register as an interested and affected party for wind energy facilities in the northeastern Free State

I heard today from someone working in the Free State that the comment period for this application will **end** on 21 February 2024.

Is there any particular reason why I have **not** received any emails notifying me about this comment period? I sent an email on 22 January 2024 requesting to be an interested and affected party.

I have also **not** received a single document and have therefore not been given the opportunity to comment on this application.

According to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2014), the procedures for notifying interested and affected parties during the environmental impact assessment process is a critical part of the process. These are discussed in Chapter 6 and this further provides details about the fact that the person conducting the public participation process **must** give interested and affected parties the opportunity to comment. Section 56 (1) of the EIA Regulations says the following:

"A registered interested and affected party is entitled to comment, in writing, on all written submissions, including draft reports made to the competent authority by the applicant or the EAP managing an application, and to bring to the attention of the competent authority any issues which that party believes may be of significance to the consideration of the application"

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 15:02

To: Bradley Gibbons [REDACTED]; ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>

Cc: EWT EIA Applications [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Register as an interested and affected party for wind energy facilities in the northeastern Free State

Good day Bradley

Kindly note that you have been added to the project stakeholder database.

We look forward to your participation in the process.

Kind regards,



Public Participation Office

T+ 27 11 361 1300

F+ 27 86 582 1561



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From:

Sent:

To: ZA

Cc: EV

Subject: Register as an interested and affected party for wind energy facilities in the northeastern Free State

I would like to register as an interested and affected party for the following wind energy facilities in the northeastern Free State:

Groothoek Wind Power (Pty) Ltd

Kromhof Wind Power (Pty) Ltd

Normandien Wind Power (Pty) Ltd

My email address is: [REDACTED] and the email address for the Endangered Wildlife Trust is [REDACTED]

**DON'T
LET THEM
DISAPPEAR**



In
partnership
with



Bradley Gibbons
Senior Field Officer, African Crane
Conservation Programme
Sungazer Working Group Chairperson

DONATE

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777 NPO number: 015-502 NPO IT number: IT 6247

Physical Address: 27 and 28 Austin Road, Glen Austin AH, Midrand, 1685, Gauteng, South Africa

Postal Address: Postnet Suite # 027, Postnet Suite 002, Private Bag X08, Wierda Park 0149, Gauteng, South Africa

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Maharaj, Jashmika

From: Maharaj, Jashmika
Sent: Friday, 21 February 2025 14:43
To: Letsie Coetzee; Strong, Ashlea
Cc: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Subject: RE: SANParks comments: "Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports"

Dear Letsie,

The comments are well received, thank you.

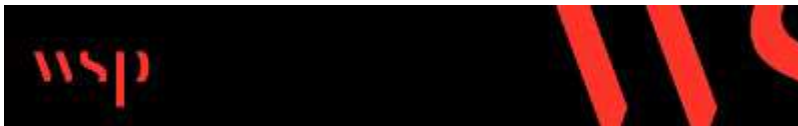
Kind regards,

Jashmika Maharaj

Senior Consultant

T +27 11 254 4874

M +27 81 401-8337



From: [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, 21 February 2025 14:36
To: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>
Cc: Maharaj, Jashmika [Redacted] ZA - WSP - PPOffice <PP@wsp.com>
Subject: SANParks comments: "Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports"

<

Dear Ms Strong,

Please find attached SANParks comments on the above-mentioned proposed development.

Kind regards,

Letsie

Ms. Letsie Coetzee

EIA C

South

Mapu

North

e-mail

From: [Redacted]
Sent: [Redacted]
To: M [Redacted]
Cc: Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>

Subject: RE: Maharaj, Jashmika shared the folder "Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports" with you

Good morning Jashmika,

Thank you, links and files received. SANParks will provide comments on or before the 22nd of February 2025.

Kind regards,

Letsie

Ms. Letsie Coetzee

From: Maharaj, Jashmika [REDACTED]

Sent: 23 January 2025 09:36

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Maharaj, Jashmika shared the folder "Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports" with you

Importance: High

Dear Esther,

Thank you, I appreciate your response.

@Letsie Coetzee please find the attached notification email in respect of the 30-day public participation commenting period (22/01/2025 to 22/02/2025) for the Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster.

I have also included the links to the project documentation below for your convenience.

WSP Website: <https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents>

WSP Data Free Website: <https://wsp-engage.com/>

OneDrive:  [Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports](#)

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Kind regards,



Jashmika Maharaj
Senior Consultant



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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: T [REDACTED]
To: Ma [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Maharaj, Jashmika shared the folder "Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports" with you

<

Dear Jashmika

Thank you for sharing the information with SANParks. Could you kindly share the link with my colleague Letsie Coetzee, she deals with matters of this nature in the northern region. Her email address is as follows:

[REDACTED]

I have also copied her in this email.

Kind regards
Esther

Esther Howard
Environmental Officer (Acting SCM Practitioner)

[REDACTED]



From: Maharaj, Jashmika [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 January 2025 10:37
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Maharaj, Jashmika shared the folder "Verkykerskop Wind Energy Cluster - Draft Scoping Reports" with you



Maharaj, Jashmika shared a folder with you

Dear Commenting Authorities,

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Please see link to the projects documents.

Kind regards,
WSP: Public Participation Office



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Golden Gate Highlands National Park

to: Ms. Ashlea Strong
WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park
Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City
MIDRAND
1685

e-mail: ashlea.strong@wsp.com

cc: gld.pp@wsp.com

Ref: GGHNP/16/1/4-2025.01

21 February 2025

Dear Ms Strong,

*DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITY CLUSTER, COMPRISING
VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES, FREE
STATE PROVINCE*

South African National Parks (SANParks) was made aware of the draft Scoping Reports (dSR) for the Verkykerskop Wind Energy Facility (WEF) Cluster (comprising of the Groothoek, Kromhof and Normandien WEFs) on the 22nd of January 2025, by means of emails to various SANParks Officials.

SANParks is the appointed Management Authority of the Golden Gate Highlands National Park (GGHNP), as per the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act 57 of 2003 (NEM: PAA), as amended.

Among other functions conferred on the Organisation by the said Act, SANParks must manage all existing national parks and any kind of protected area listed in section 9, assigned to it by the Minister in terms of Chapter 4 and section 92, in accordance with the Act and any specific environmental management Act referred to in the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA), as amended.

The proposed site for the Verkykerskop WEF is situated in excess of 85 kilometres (km) from the eastern boundary of the GGHNP and therefore no direct impacts due to the proposed development are foreseen on the Park or its buffer zone.

After analysis of the applicable dSRs and associated reports, there are no pertinent matters of concern which SANParks wish to raise, pending the outcomes of the dSR stakeholder participation process and further review of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report, when available. However, below follows some points for consideration.

|ai-|ais/richtersveld transfrontier

addo elephant

agulhas

augrabies falls

bontebok

camdeboo

golden gate highlands

karoo

kgalagadi transfrontier

knysna

kruger

mapungubwe

marakele

meerkat

mokala

mountain zebra

namaqua

table mountain

tankwa karoo

tsitsikamma

west coast

wilderness

National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (2018)

It is noted from the dSR that the proposed development area falls within National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES) areas. As per the dSR, it is agreed that the NPAES areas were identified through a systematic biodiversity planning process; present the best opportunities for meeting the ecosystem-specific protected area targets set in the NPAES; were designed with strong emphasis on climate change resilience and requirements for protecting freshwater ecosystems; and that these areas should not be seen as future boundaries of protected areas. However, the importance of these areas in South Africa's *30 by 30 target* (as per the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework) should not be overlooked.

SANParks do not currently have any NPAES focus areas for the Verkykerskop WEF study area. However, it is expected that the relevant conservation entities for the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal Provinces, due to the proximity of the proposed development areas (especially Normandien) to the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial border, will provide informed feedback on their respective views for the proposed development areas.

Clarification required

Various documents (e.g. 21 *Appendix H_DFFE Pre-App Meeting Minutes*; 18 *Appendix G.9_Traffic Assessment_Normandien*; 16 *Appendix G.7_Avifauna Assessment_Normandien*; 06 *Appendix C_Stakeholder Engagement Report_Public*) refers to the **Markgraaff WEF**. However, no dSR and associated specialist studies for this area was included in the documents as supplied on the 22nd of January 2025.

Please clarify whether Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) should still expect a further dSR for a fourth WEF area.

General

Please kindly review the dSRs and associated documents for reference to the *Mpumalanga Protected Area Expansion – 20 Year Plan*, which seems to be an incorrect reference for the applicable projects.

A review of all documents, to ensure correct reference is made to the applicable proposed project (whether the name or activities), is furthermore advised. As per the attached screenshots below, some incorrect referencing was noted.

Although it is to be expected that the same format will be used for the dSRs and/or specialist studies, incorrect names and/or activities in the applicable studies cause I&APs to doubt whether the relevant document does indeed reflect on the specific impacts at hand, for any one of the proposed developments.

9.5.3.2 Schedule and Deliverables

Scoping fieldwork and site set-up have been completed. Scoping fieldwork involved an eight-day reconnaissance survey from 18-25 July 2022 (two days per WEF). Building on the findings of the scoping survey, the first year of pre-construction monitoring has been completed. Due to the scale of the project, there are six surveys in a year as opposed to the conventional four. Each survey for the VWC is run over two 22-day periods (which translates to ca. 5-6 days for Groothoek WEF per survey). Based on the two-year monitoring requirement, fieldwork sessions are were thus planned to end in September / Octoberlate 2024, assuming no unforeseen catastrophic events or pandemic restrictions. The scoping reports are set to be submitted in January 2025. Then, allowing for data processing and reporting, the first draft submission deadline for all four WEF reports (one for each WEF) would be the end o November 2024April 2025 (with progress reports after each sampling season). The following plan and scope of work is anticipated.

For the Groothoek WEF project, compliance with the EPs is not a requirement during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process under South African regulations. However, alignment with the EPs will be required before financial close to meet the internal standards set by Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP), as the majority shareholder in Mulilo.

NORMANDIEN WIND ENERGY FARM, LOCATED NEAR VERKYKERSKOP IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE
Project No.: 41106427
Normandien Wind Energy Farm (Pty) Ltd

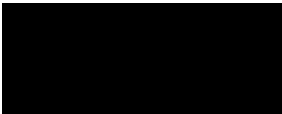
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Page 63 of 237

Aquatic Biodiversity				
Water Quality deterioration	Vegetation clearing and soil disturbances may result in bare land which increase surface runoff, soil erosion and subsequently, the amount contaminants from the construction site as well as adjacent agricultural activities entering the associated watercourses.	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limit vegetation removal to the infrastructure and mining footprint area only. Where removed or damaged, vegetation areas (riparian or aquatic related) should be revegetated as soon as possible.

Examples of incorrect WEF study area names or identified activities found in the dSRs.

SANParks reserves the right to revise initial comments, if additional information should become available.

Sincerely Yours,



Ms. Letsie Coetzee



Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2025 04:17
To: Strong, Ashlea
Cc: Maharaj, Jashmika; Mathulwe, Tumelo
Subject: Re: FW: VulPro Comment: Verkykerskop WEF Cluster DSRs
Attachments: VulProVerkykerskopWEFsComment_Feb2025.pdf

Dear Andrea

My sincere apologies, I did not see your email on Wednesday indicating as such.

Please find attached

Kind Regards,
Meagan Bromfield
[REDACTED]

On Sun, Feb 23, 2025 at 10:03 AM Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com> wrote:

Hi Meagan

Please could you send us your comments for the Verkykerskop WEF cluster.. the ones received (as attached are for the Dwaalboom Project – which is not one of ours.

If you could send us the correct comments ASAP that would be great..

Thanks so much

Kind regards

Ashlea Strong
Principal Associate

T +27 11 361-1392
[REDACTED]



From: Strong, Ashlea

Sent: Wednesday, 19 February 2025 09:19

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Maharaj, Jashmika [REDACTED]; Mathulwe, Tumelo [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: VulPro Comment: Verkykerskop WEF Cluster DSRs

Hi Megan

On second look it seems that you sent us the Dwaalboom Comments – not your comments for Verkykerskop WEF cluster..

If you could send us the correct comments that would be great..

Thanks so much

Kind regards

Ashlea Strong

Principal Associate

T +27 11 361-1392
[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 19 February 2025 09:00
To: Maharaj, Jashmika <[REDACTED]>; Strong, Ashlea <Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com>
Subject: VulPro Comment: Verkykerskop WEF Cluster DSRs

Dear Jashmika and Ashlea

WSP

Please find attached, VulPro's Comments on the Draft Scoping Reports for the Verkykerskop WEF Cluster that includes Groothoek WEF, Kromhof WEF and Normandien WEF north of Harrismith, Free State Province.

Please acknowledge that comments for the following projects have been received.

Kind regards,

Meagan Bromfield



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WSP

Building 1, Maxwell Office Park

Magwa Crescent West,

Waterfall City

Midrand,

1685

By email: Jashmika.Maharaj@wsp.com and Ashlea.Strong@wsp.com

19 February 2025

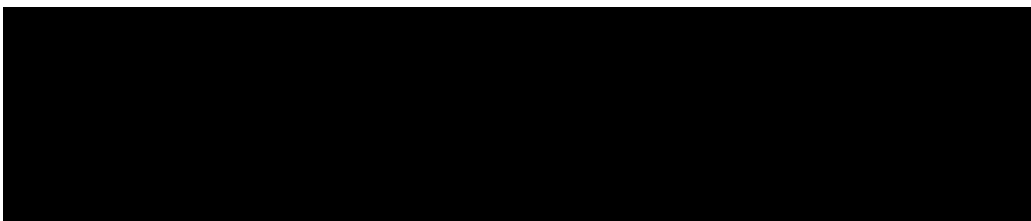
Dear Jashmika Maharaj and Ashlea Strong

COMMENT: DRAFT SCOPING REPORTS (DSR) FOR THE VERKYKERSKOP WIND ENERGY FACILITIES CLUSTER (DFFE Reference Nos: unknown)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Scoping Reports (DSR) for the Verkykerskop Wind Energy Facilities (WEFs) Cluster (Groothoek WEF, Kromhof WEF and Normandien WEF), located north of Harrismith in the Thabo Mofutsanyane District Municipality and Phumelela Local Municipality, Free State Province, South Africa. Our comments apply to all facilities.

VulPro's vulture tracking data, which was partially incorporated into the avifaunal assessment, supports the specialists' findings regarding the high presence of Cape Vultures (*Gyps coprotheres*). Our data confirms the presence of four (4) Cape Vulture cliff roosts and the Nelson's Kop colony, as documented by the avifaunal specialists. Additionally, VulPro's tracking data identifies another roost(s) (not included in the assessment) approximately 50 km southwest of the proposed development near Manyenyeza Peak and the Love Alive Lions Sanctuary (Rensburgskop). The data also corroborates the avifaunal specialists' observations that Cape Vultures frequently use Eskom transmission lines cutting through the project area as overnight roosting sites. Furthermore, VulPro's tracking data indicates that White-backed Vultures (*Gyps africanus*) are occasional visitors to the area. Although VulPro does not have tracking data for Bearded Vultures (*Gypaetus barbatus*), we are aware of their presence and breeding activity in the region. While VulPro has extensive Cape Vulture tracking information, it is important to note that our data reflects regional philopatry, which may result in certain areas—such as the Eastern Free State—being underrepresented.

VulPro met with Mulilo and avifaunal specialists from The Biodiversity Company on 24 October 2024 to briefly discuss these findings. During this meeting, VulPro expressed serious concerns about the impact these WEFs will have on vultures. Additionally, VulPro highlighted the ongoing vulture





mortalities at operational WEFs within the Cookhouse REDZ, where vulture-specific mitigation measures—particularly vulture food management programmes—have failed to prevent fatalities.

VulPro acknowledges the stated efforts in developing and prioritising a 'Vulture and Raptor Action Management Plan', which is intended to be informed, in part, by the Multi-species Biodiversity Management Plan for Vultures in South Africa. This initiative's strategies for vultures should extend beyond managing food availability to encompass the broader ecological and behavioural factors influencing vulture movement. It must account for other critical attractants, including water sources, roosting sites, and key landscape features that vultures rely on for lift while soaring. Without addressing these factors comprehensively, the plan fails to reduce collision risks to the critical threshold—near zero—for vulture fatalities.

The Verkykerskop WEF Cluster will cumulatively comprise up to 170 turbines across approximately 19,506 ha—a vast area that will effectively be neutralised as a safe foraging habitat for vultures and other birds. As a mitigation measure, the DSR proposes a vulture food management programme, relocating available food to designated feeding sites further from the turbines. However, unlike in the Cookhouse REDZ—where such measures could theoretically be implemented due to the presence of only the Agieskloof Cliff Roost north of the developments, this site lies between multiple vulture roosts and, as noted by avifaunal specialists, falls within a movement corridor between the Northwest and KwaZulu-Natal provinces. Given these limitations and the ongoing failures observed in similar programmes, VulPro is doubtful that such a measure can be effectively implemented in high-risk areas such as this. Furthermore, the DSR references a contingency mitigation budget to address significant mortality events through '*habitat alteration*', yet it is unclear what this entails. We strongly oppose any form of habitat alteration that compromises vulture foraging behaviour under the guise of mitigation, as such actions prioritise development over conservation. Similarly, VulPro does not condone the practice of biodiversity offsetting in areas of high avifaunal sensitivity, as offsets cannot adequately compensate for the direct and cumulative risks posed by WEF developments.

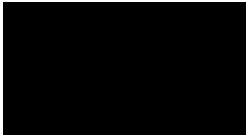
Global bird conservation experts agree that the most effective way to reduce bird mortality from wind energy is to site turbines away from areas of high bird activity. In areas of high sensitivity, where risks are particularly pronounced, mitigation measures cannot fully address these threats. The Cape Vulture, a regionally endangered species, legally requires the highest level of protection. Based on our experience with Mulilo—both in this project and in others within the Stormberg REDZ—we have serious reservations about the developer's true commitment to vulture conservation. We remain concerned that the consultation process is being treated as a procedural formality rather than as a genuinely inclusive and transparent engagement with informed and experienced stakeholders.



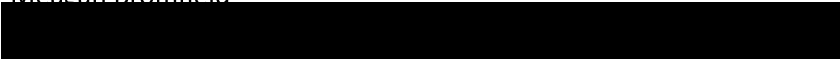
Given the high sensitivity of this area for Cape Vultures and Bearded Vultures, we maintain that any proposed mitigation measures are unlikely to reduce the risk to medium or low levels. Therefore, VulPro strongly objects to the Verkykerskop WEF Cluster.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely



Meagan Bromfield



Mathulwe, Tumelo

From: ZA - WSP - PPOffice
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2025 09:55
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 3224 IWS concerns re. the impact on avifauna from the proposed Verkykerskop cluster of WEFs

Good day Caroline

Thank you for the comments received.

Kind regards,

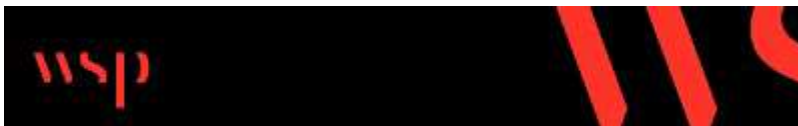
Public Participation Office

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Registered Number: 1999/008928/07 South Africa

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: ZA [REDACTED]
Cc: Ja [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Swane [REDACTED]
Subject: 3224 IWS concerns re. the impact on avifauna from the proposed Verkykerskop cluster of WEFs
Importance: High

Good day WSP

Attached please find a letter stating IWS' concerns regarding the impact on avifauna from the proposed Groothoek, Kromhof and Normandien wind farms comprising the Verkykerskop project cluster.

Please kindly confirm receipt hereof; thanks.

Kind regards
Caroline

[Redacted signature]

Inkululeko Wildlife Services (Pty) Ltd



[Redacted contact information]

21 February 2025

To whom it may concern

IMPACT ON AVIFAUNA FROM THE PROPOSED GROOTHOF, KROMHOF, AND NORMANDIEN WIND FARMS NEAR MEMEL IN THE FREE STATE

Having undertaken a number of field surveys as the appointed bat specialist company for the proposed Verkykerskop wind energy facility (WEF) cluster, having carefully reviewed the Avifaunal Scoping Reports for the proposed Groothoek, Kromhof, and Normandien WEFs, and having worked at 10 operational wind farms in South Africa since 2014, Inkululeko Wildlife Services (IWS) can only conclude that each of the three WEFs comprising the proposed Verkykerskop WEF cluster are fatally flawed from a bird impact perspective.

Specific points of concern, upon which this conclusion is based, include the following:

- **The clearly documented local high diversity and high activity (including breeding activity, and foraging/commuting activity within turbine rotor sweep height) of various highly threatened, endemic, and/or High-risk bird species** – as further supported by IWS' independent observations which include:
 - Most significantly, the observation of an estimated **200 Cape Vultures** at 28,04783 S, 29,52242 E within the Cluster. During IWS site visits, vultures were observed utilising a variety of habitats and flying in and out of rotor sweep whilst flying above ridges, between ridges, and down from ridges into the central valleys.
 - More than 25 Cape Vultures were observed near Biggs' Farm at 28,04455 S, 29,54404 E, soaring above the ridge, utilising updraughts/thermals, and moving continually within turbine rotor sweep height.
 - A Secretarybird at 27,97152 S, 29,57472 E.
 - Two Blue Cranes at 27,97845 S, 29,47735 E, among other locations. Blue Crane were observed utilising the various wetland ecosystems, and also sections of agricultural land in the study area.
 - Lanner Falcon at 27,951201 S, 29,603619 E, flying down from the ridges across the valleys and onto the adjacent ridges. This species is a known predator of doves/pigeons and game birds, which were observed in large numbers in local agricultural fields. With a potential reduction in Lanner Falcon, there may be a reduction in the ecosystem services provided by these, resulting in increased damage to crops.
 - Southern Bald Ibis were seen scattered throughout the study area at various locations.
 - Grey Crowned Crane were observed on a few occasions near wetlands or in agricultural fields.
 - A flock of four Denham's Bustard was observed utilising similar habitat to the cranes.
 - Martial Eagle was seen near Mount Pelan Auction, soaring in turbine rotor sweep height whilst using updraughts along the ridges.
 - Two Black Harrier were observed on the R35 outside Memel, suggesting that the area is suitable at least for foraging, but also likely breeding by this species.

- The probable destruction, degradation, and fragmentation of threatened grassland and seasonal and permanent wetlands representing **Critical Biodiversity Areas 1 and 2, and Ecological Support Areas 1 and 2.**
- The probable destruction, disturbance and/or displacement of avifauna that are representative of the various **Important Bird Areas, Key Biodiversity Areas, Protected Areas,** and other areas that are currently flagged under the **National Protected Area Expansion Strategy** within the region.
- **The lack of long-term studies from South Africa confirming that implemented bird fatality mitigation measures are adequate in terms of minimizing impacts on avifauna to Low or Insignificant levels.**

Given this, **the proposed wind farms are unlikely to meet IFC Performance 6 Standards,** since PS6 could be violated by destruction or degradation of Critical Habitat and destruction, disturbance, or displacement of certain avifaunal Species of Conservation Concern such as Botha's Lark.

Should development of one or more of these proposed WEFs be approved, **this will set a terrible precedent for development of WEFs within areas of South Africa of highest biodiversity conservation importance.** Indeed, on what grounds could potential development of wind farms in similarly conservation important areas such as the St Lucia Isimangaliso World Heritage site, the Kruger National Park, or Table Mountain be prohibited?

Approval of these projects will be a confirmation from authorities that short-term economic profits outweigh the value of preserving irreplaceable natural heritage in South Africa.

If one or more of these WEF projects is approved, what exactly would have been the purpose or value of:

- The guidance on birds and wind energy in South Africa such as by Jenkins *et al.* 2015, Simmons *et al.* 2020, and particularly Pfeiffer and Ralston-Paton 2018?
- The global and regional IUCN Red List Assessments for avifauna in South Africa?
- Pertinent conservation efforts of NGOs such as VulPro and EWT?
- The Free State Conservation Plan (C-Plan)?
- The National Environmental Screening Tool?
- Key Biodiversity and Important Bird Areas in the region?
- Formal and informal Protected Areas in the region?
- The National Protected Area Expansion Strategy?
- National legislation including NEMA, NEMBA, NEMPA, and more.
- International guidance such as IFC PS 6?

IWS can confirm, from the results of monitoring the efficacy of different bird fatality mitigation measures at several WEFs in South Africa, that:

- **Observer-led shutdown is not sufficiently effective at preventing or minimizing priority bird fatalities** when compromised by factors such as inclement weather, landowner issues, disease outbreaks, and bird observer issues to name a few.
- **Acoustic bird deterrents are not sufficiently effective at preventing or minimizing priority bird fatalities** when these birds are engaged with or distracted by e.g. social or reproductive activities or behaviour.
- **Carrion removal can be onerous and ineffective** especially when large areas with difficult terrain need to be patrolled often during inclement weather, and when landowners are not in support of large animal carcass searching and swift removal on their properties.

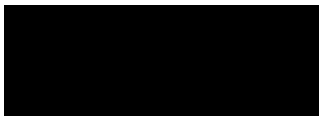


- **Blade painting has not yet been proven to be effective for Cape Vultures and many of the other avian Species of Conservation Concern that occur in the Verkykerskop WEF Cluster.**

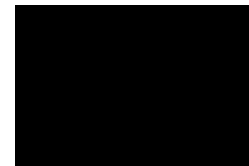
Should mitigation measures be implemented at the proposed WEFs, and should these happen to be highly effective (which is unlikely based on all available evidence to date), **has consideration been given to:**

- **Possible displacement of certain avian Species of Conservation Concern** from the study region, and the potential impact of this at a regional, national, or global scale?
- **The economic impact on each WEF of rigorous avifaunal impact mitigation?** What if turbines must be regularly shutdown during the day to mitigate priority bird fatalities, and what if turbine curtailment must also be applied to mitigate bat fatalities at night? What if numerous IdentifFlight, BioSeco, Biodiv SafeWind, or similar systems must be purchased, monitored, and maintained throughout the life of each WEF?
- **Appropriate offsets** for residual impacts of these projects on threatened avifauna and the habitats and other resources that these depend on – has this been adequately considered? Will sufficient financial provision be made to offset every fatality of every threatened bird species throughout the life of each WEF?

We trust that these comments will be given due consideration by the applicable EAP, developer, local landowners, and all authorities.

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Dr Caroline Lötter.

Dr Caroline Lötter, Pr. Nat. Sci.

A black rectangular box redacting the contact information of Dr Caroline Lötter.A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Dr Jarryd Alexander.

Dr Jarryd Alexander

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