

Tashriq Naicker

From: Van der Walt, Cor <CorvdW@elsenburg.com>
Sent: 15 October 2012 08:42 AM
To: Layman, Brandon
Cc: AnnetteS@nda.agric.za; MShubane@environment.gov.za
Subject: 599 - Caledon

OUR REFERENCE : 20/9/2/4/2/599
YOUR REFERENCE : J29164
DEA REFERENCE : 12/12/20/1701
ENQUIRIES : Cor van der Walt

Electra wind
PO Box 1171
Umhlanga Rocks
4320

Att: Sofie van den Bergh

AMENDMENT OF TURBINE POSITIONS: RENEWABLE ENERGY - CALEDON WIND FARM; DIVISION CALEDON
PORTION 1 OF THE FARM WARMOESKRAAL NO 259
PORTION 3 OF THE FARM RIET FONTEIN NO 259
PORTION 7 OF THE FARM RIET FONTEIN NO 259
PORTION 8 OF THE FARM RIET FONTEIN NO 259
PORTION 9 OF THE FARM NO 259
FARM DE VLEJTJES NO 261
PORTION 3 OF THE FARM LANG ROAD NO 263
PORTION 1 OF THE FARM WARMOESKRAAL NO 263
REMAINDER OF THE FARM WARMOESKRAAL NO 263
PORTION 4 OF THE FARM GOEDVERTROUW NO 264
PORTION 1 OF THE FARM HAWSTON VIEW NO 271
PORTION 3 OF THE FARM HAWSTON VIEW NO 271
PORTION 1 OF THE FARM WINDHEUWEL NO 354
FARM NO 744
FARM NO 749

Your e-mails amendment plans of 26 September 2012 have reference.

Your initial application has the intention to develop 243 MW of electricity with 71 wind turbines on the above-mentioned farms but have been reduced to 31 turbines. Many have been moved to as mitigation to lessen the impact on agriculture.

Some of the proposed wind turbine sites (T 14a, T 15, T 16, T 24, T 25, T 26, T 28, T 29, T 33, T 35, T 38, T 39, T 40, T 41, T 55 and T 68) are still on actively cultivated lands in a region considered to be of the best winter small grain producing areas in the Western Cape as per revised/amended layout plan Version 13. The Western Cape Department of Agriculture (WCDOA) would have preferred it to be outside the cultivated.

This office reminds you of the regulations set out by the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries which specifically states: *No renewable energy structure, its foot print, service area, supporting infrastructure or access routes in any form or for any purpose will be allowed on areas currently being cultivated (cultivated fields/ production areas) or on land that have been cultivated in the last ten years. This is relevant to cultivated land utilized for dry land production as well as land under any form of irrigation.*

However, many compromises have been made to lessen the potential impacts on agriculture to low by:

- i) reducing and or moving the turbines,
- ii) and to commit to remove the hard standing areas after construction to be able to cultivate that again.

It is however important for the deciding authorities to take cognisance of the fact that the **individual impacts** per turbine after mitigation (removing of the hard standing areas), **is considered relatively low**. There are low cumulative impacts that relates to the reducing of currently cultivated areas to the total of ±5 ha and possible impacts on day to day farming activities.

Please note:

- Schedule 4 of the Constitution provides that agriculture is a concurrent function involving National and Provincial Governments. The role of Provincial Government in respect of the National Policy on the Preservation of Agricultural Land is to: (10) “Determine Provincial Norms and Standards, which may not be more lenient than those set by the National Department.”
- Listed activities may be triggered as a result of this development.
- **That this is only a recommendation to the relevant deciding Authorities** in terms of the Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act 70 of 1970, Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act no 43 of 1983 and the Land Use Planning Ordinance 15 of 1985. The applicant must provide the local government and the National Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry with copies of the application and that **consent from the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries must also be obtained for the lay-out positions, the consent use and long term lease agreements.**
- Kindly quote the above-mentioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.
- The Department reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on the information received.

Yours sincerely

AS ROUX Pr Eng
DIRECTOR: SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Copies: NDA; DEA&DP –National and Provincial; Theewaterskloof Mun; Cape Nature; Birdlife SA; Overstrand Mun – Neville Green

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Western Cape
Government

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