



ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES

06 August 2019

Attention: Caroline Evans

Project Manager

Motherwell Wind Farm

AMENDMENT FOR THE APPROVED 140MW MOTHERWELL WIND ENERGY FACILITY NEAR MOTHERWELL, OUTSIDE PORT ELIZABETH, EASTERN CAPE: ECOLOGICAL SPECIALIST OPINION

Dear Caroline

Motherwell Wind Power (Pty) Ltd. received an environmental authorisation for the Motherwell Wind Energy Facility (WEF) on land near Motherwell, in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa. Since authorisation, a Part 2 Amendment to the Motherwell WEF environmental authorisation are proposed. The proposed amendments (listed in Table 1) received on the 14th June 2019 was assessed to determine impacts on the surrounding ecological landscape. Changes to the layout include:

Table 1. Proposed specification changes to the Motherwell Wind Energy Facility

Currently authorised		Proposed amendment
EA validity of original impacts over time	Approval validity of impacts on land use	Validity on updated land use change

All other specifications as listed in the EIA will remain the same.

Sensitivity:

As there are no changes to the physical layout footprint for the Motherwell WEF, there will be no change in sensitivity.

Ecological specialist comments:

The following comments are made to each change in specification as listed in Table 1:

Table 2. Comments on the proposed specification changes to the Motherwell WEF

Proposed new specifications	Effect on mitigation measures	Effect on current EA conditions	Effect on cumulative impacts	Notes on land-use changes
Turbine numbers:				
EA validity of original impacts over time	All mitigations identified in the original Ecological Report are still valid for this change. There are no additional mitigations proposed for this change.	All conditions listed in the EA are still valid for this change. There are no additional conditions proposed for this change.	The proposed change will have no additional cumulative impact on the ecological landscape and therefore no additional cumulative issues were identified. The cumulative impact statement in the original Ecological report is therefore still relevant.	There has been no change in land-use since the original Ecological report was completed and therefore the impacts and severity thereof remains unchanged.
Total Output:				

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Concluding remarks:

No additional ecologically sensitive areas were identified. All sensitivity allocations as listed in the original Ecological Impact Assessment are therefore still relevant.

All issues identified in the original Ecological Impact Assessment still remain valid and all recommended mitigation measures listed in the Ecological Impact Assessment must still be implemented for all phases of the wind farm.

None of the amendments listed in Table 1 will result in a change in overall significance.

There has been no change in land-use since the original Ecological report was completed and therefore the impacts and severity thereof remains unchanged.

This Letter of Opinion is not a standalone document and the conclusions made must be read in conjunction with the ecological findings of the Ecological Impact Assessment.

Yours faithfully

Mr Roy de Kock *M.Sc. (Botany)*
Ecologist

Ecological specialist details:

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Roy is a Principal Consultant holding a BSc Honours in Geology and an MSc in Botany from the Nelson Mandela University in Port Elizabeth. He has recently started a PhD in Botany and Soil Science focussing on the impact of fracking fluids on vegetation and soils in the Karoo Basin. He has been working for CES since 2010, and is based at the East London office where he focuses on Vegetation, Biodiversity, Ecological and Agricultural Assessments, Geological and Geotechnical analysis, Environmental Management Plans, mining applications and various environmental impact studies. Roy has worked on numerous projects in South Africa and Africa at large. Roy is registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professional (SACNASP).

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Declaration:

I, Roy de Kock, declare that I am an independent consultant and have no business, financial, personal or other interest in the proposed development, application or appeal in respect of which I was appointed other than fair remuneration for work performed in connection with the activity, application or appeal. There are no circumstances that compromise the objectivity of my performing such work.

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