



INFORMATION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT REPORTS

August 2007

VICTORIA'S AUDIT SYSTEM

An environmental audit system has operated in Victoria since 1989. The *Environment Protection Act 1970* (the Act) provides for the appointment by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA Victoria) of environmental auditors and the conduct of independent, high quality and rigorous environmental audits.

An environmental audit is an assessment of the condition of the environment, or the nature and extent of harm (or risk of harm) posed by an industrial process or activity, waste, substance or noise. Environmental audit reports are prepared by EPA-appointed environmental auditors who are highly qualified and skilled individuals.

Under the Act, the function of an environmental auditor is to conduct environmental audits and prepare environmental audit reports. Where an environmental audit is conducted to determine the condition of a site or its suitability for certain uses, an environmental auditor may issue either a certificate or statement of environmental audit.

A certificate indicates that the auditor is of the opinion that the site is suitable for any beneficial use defined in the Act, whilst a statement indicates that there is some restriction on the use of the site.

Any individual or organisation may engage appointed environmental auditors, who generally operate within the environmental consulting sector, to undertake environmental audits. The EPA administers the environmental audit system and ensures its ongoing integrity by assessing auditor applications and ensuring audits are independent and conducted with regard to guidelines issued by EPA.

AUDIT FILES STRUCTURE

Environmental audit reports are stored digitally by EPA in three parts: the audit report (part A), report appendices (part B) and, where applicable, the certificate or statement of environmental audit and an executive summary (part C). A report may be in colour and black-and-white formats. Generally, only black-and-white documents are text searchable.

Report executive summaries, findings and recommendations should be read and relied upon only in the context of the document as a whole, including any appendices and, where applicable, any certificate or statement of environmental audit.

AUDIT REPORT CURRENCY

Audit reports are based on the conditions encountered and information reviewed at the time of preparation and do not represent any changes that may have occurred since the date of completion. As it is not possible for an audit to present all data that could be of interest to all readers, consideration should be made to any appendices or referenced documentation for further information.

When information regarding the condition of a site changes from that at the time an audit report is issued, or where an administrative or computation error is identified, environmental audit reports, certificates and statements may be withdrawn or amended by an environmental auditor. Users are advised to check [EPA's website](#) to ensure the currency of the audit document.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on Victoria's environmental audit system, visit EPA's website or contact EPA's Environmental Audit Unit.

Web: www.epa.vic.gov.au/envaudit

Email: environmental.audit@epa.vic.gov.au

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Table 1: Summary of Audit Information

| | |
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| EPA File reference no. | CARMS No. 78066-1 |
| Auditor | Stephen Jenkins |
| Auditor account number | 75700 |
| Auditor appointment end date | 1 May 2021 |
| Audit type | Section 53V Risk of Harm |
| Date EPA notified | 25/06/2019 |
| Audit service order number | 8006236 |
| Name of person requesting audit | Ms Coralie Spitzner |
| Relationship to premises/location | Manager, Synergy Wind |
| Name of premises owner | n/a |
| Date of Auditor engagement | 19/06/2019 |
| Completion date of the audit | 30/10/2019 |
| Reason for Audit | Pre-construction wind farm noise compliance and risk of harm assessment. |
| Audit characterisation | Alberton Wind Energy Facility comprising 34x wind turbines (precise turbine candidate yet to be selected). |
| Environmental Segments | Noise |
| Current Land Use Zoning | Farming zone (FZ) |
| EPA Region | Gippsland |
| Municipality | Wellington Shire Council |
| Dominant – Lot on Plan | n/a |
| Additional - Lot on Plan(s) | n/a |
| Site / Premises name | |
| o Building/complex subunit no | n/a |
| o Street / Lot – Lower No. | n/a |
| o Street / Lot – Upper No. | n/a |
| o Street Name | n/a |
| o Street type (road, court, etc) | n/a |
| o Street suffix (North, Sth etc) | n/a |
| o Suburb | Alberton |
| o Postcode | 3971 |
| GIS Coordinate of Site centroid ¹ | 38.6442 |
| o Latitude (GDA94) | |
| o Longitude (GDA94) | 146.5261 |
| Member & category of support team | Dave Dolly (Acoustics) |
| Further work or requirements | It is recommended that following planning approval, if micro-siting is being considered whereby a turbine is to be re-located closer to noise sensitive location that presently is predicted to be marginally compliant (i.e. a dwelling close to the 40 dB LA90 (10 min) contour), that a |

¹ Longitude and latitude (decimal degrees) co-ordinates in the 1994 Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA94) is required to six decimal places. In the case of a WEF it is the point nominated by the proponent as representing the centroid point of the facility.

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| | <p>predictive noise assessment first verify compliance will be achieved prior to development.</p> <p>As the final turbine type has not been decided, it is recommended a turbine type from the nominated candidate list that achieves best practice noise control for low frequencies and during lower wind speeds is preferable for selection.</p> |
| Nature and extent of continuing risk | Nil (the wind energy facility is yet to be constructed). |

1. Centroid not used but proposed Turbine T03 location adopted instead.

Outcome of the Audit

I have audited the pre-construction noise compliance assessment report (i.e. the noise assessment report) against the compliance criteria specified in NZS6808:2010 Acoustics Wind Farm Noise (the Standard) and with reference to State guidelines on wind energy facilities and relevant EPA advice.

The acoustic report has made predictions against a base standard noise amenity noise limit of 40dB L_{A90} given noise sensitive locations fall within a Farming Zone as defined within the local planning scheme. This approach is deemed appropriate considering EPA advice supports that a Farming Zone does not attract a high noise amenity limit.

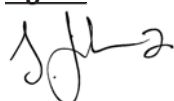
I confirm the acoustic report has been prepared against the Standard and that compliance is predicted against a noise limit of 40dB L_{A90} under a range of turbine options and at the locations specified for turbine construction; albeit some indicate marginal compliance. A compliant outcome supports that noise will not present an unacceptable risk of harm. Given the marginal compliance predicted for some candidate turbines, should micro-siting result in turbine development closer to a noise sensitive location, a re-assessment by a qualified and competent acoustic consultant to confirm compliance at the nearest noise sensitive locations is recommended prior to construction.

It needs to be emphasised that the 40dB L_{A90} noise limit specified in the New Zealand Standard (and adopted under Victorian guidelines) means that wind turbine noise may, at times, be readily audible; particularly during relatively low wind speeds that align with low background noise conditions.

Table 2: Physical Site Information

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| Historic land use | Farming |
| Current land use | Farming and wind energy facility |
| Surrounding Land Use (N, S, E, W) | Farming, state forest and rural housing |
| Proposed land zoning (within 35dB contour) | Stay as is: FZ, PCRZ and small parcel of IN1Z |
| Nearest surface water - name | Albert River |
| Nearest surface water – direction | 300m south east at nearest point |
| Groundwater Segment | Not relevant for wind energy facility audit |

Signed



Stephen Jenkins
 ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITOR
 (APPOINTED PURSUANT TO THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT 1970)