

Lake Turkana turbines to remain inactive until 2018

Jun 8, 2017



Despite being two months ahead of schedule, the 365 turbines installed at the Lake Turkana Wind Farm by Danish firm Vestas Wind Systems, will remain inactive until 2018.

Reuters reported that Kenya's government has not yet installed the transmission infrastructure needed to connect the Lake Turkana wind farm to its end users.

The 300MW wind farm was anticipated to come online this month however has been delayed by state-run Kenya Transmission Company (KETRACO), who are responsible for the build.

The Kenyan government took over the payment in March for the procurement of the power transmission line for the Lake Turkana Wind Power project, to ensure that the project completion date this month was met.

Lake Turkana synchronisation

“The challenge is now to get the wind farms connected to the grid and that is indeed a project which is not with us,” head of Vestas’ Central European and sub-Saharan business Nils de Baar told Reuters in an interview at the Africa Energy Forum in Copenhagen.

“The expectation is that it will happen in early 2018,” he added.

According to Reuters that \$678 million project is the country’s largest single private investment and “is closely watched by investors looking for opportunities in African renewable energy.”

Payment plans

In an earlier report energy cabinet secretary, Charles Keter, said that government had moved in to pay subcontractors and suppliers owed by Madrid-based Isolux. [Read more...](#)

Keter stated at the time that the company owed the suppliers nearly Sh1.6 billion (\$15 million) for the supplies. [Read more...](#)

“We want to deal with contractors directly and then seek reimbursement from the Spanish government. An account has been opened at Kenya Commercial Bank. The bank will issue letters of credit to suppliers to guarantee timely payments,” he said.