

6 June 2022

Dear Interested and Affected Party

RE: NOTIFICATION OF THE RELEASE OF A BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT FOR A 30-DAY COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF 14 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITIES (I.E. KUDU SOLAR FACILITIES), ELECTRICITY GRID INFRASTRUCTURE AND VARIOUS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR DE AAR, NORTHERN CAPE (DFFE REFERENCE NUMBER: To be assigned)

Notice is hereby given that the Project Developer, ABO Wind renewable energies (Pty) Ltd¹ (hereinafter referred to as ABO Wind), is proposing to develop the Kudu Solar Photovoltaic (PV) cluster, consisting of up to 14 Solar PV Facilities, associated infrastructure and Electricity Grid Infrastructure (EGI), north-east of the town of De-Aar, in the Renosterberg Local Municipality and Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, in the Northern Cape Province. The generation capacity of each PV Facility will range from approximately 50 MWac Megawatts alternating current (MWac) to up to 300 MWac. The developable area (i.e. project footprint) for each PV Facility and associated infrastructure will range from approximately 30 to 550 hectares.

Each solar PV facility will have a range of infrastructure, including, but not limited to, a solar field; building infrastructure; on-site substation complex (consisting of an On-site Independent Power Producer (IPP) or Facility Substation; Lithium Ion or Redox Flow Battery Energy Storage System (BESS); and a Switching Station and Collector Station); and various associated infrastructure. The proposed Solar PV facilities will connect to an existing 400 kV power line via dedicated 132 kV power lines and an independent Main Transmission Substation (MTS). A 300 m – 1000 m wide corridor will be assessed for the EGI projects.

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) and the 2014 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations promulgated on 8 December 2014 and as amended on 7 April 2017 in Government Notice (GN) R326, R327, R325 and R324, and further amended on 11 June 2021 in GN 517 and on 3 March 2022 in GN 1816, the proposed projects require Environmental Authorisation (EA). The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been appointed as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the required Environmental Assessments. Projects 1 to 14 will each require a full Scoping and EIA Process. Projects 15 to 30 will each require a Basic Assessment (BA) Process. Each of the projects would require its own, separate EA (should such approval be granted), and a specific Project Applicant, as described below. Table 1 indicates the details of the proposed projects, the respective Project Applicants and Environmental Assessment processes, as well as the potential affected farm portions. Note that the affected farm portions are presented cumulatively for all projects, however each individual project will not necessarily affect all farm portions.

Table 1: Details of Project, Applicant, Environmental Assessment and Affected Farm Portions

No.	Projects	Environmental Assessment Process	Affected Farm Portions
1 - 14	<p>PROJECTS 1 TO 14: The proposed development of 14 Solar PV Facilities and associated infrastructure (i.e. Kudu Solar Facility 1 to Kudu Solar Facility 14)</p> <p><i>Applicant:</i> Kudu Solar Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd; Kudu Solar Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd; Kudu Solar Facility 3 (Pty) Ltd; Kudu Solar Facility 4 (Pty) Ltd; Kudu Solar Facility 5 (Pty) Ltd; Kudu Solar Facility 6 (Pty) Ltd; Kudu Solar Facility 7 (Pty) Ltd; Kudu Solar Facility 8 (Pty) Ltd; Kudu Solar Facility 9 (Pty) Ltd; Kudu Solar Facility 10 (Pty) Ltd; Kudu Solar Facility 11 (Pty) Ltd; Kudu Solar Facility 12 (Pty) Ltd; Kudu Solar Facility 13 (Pty) Ltd; Kudu Solar Facility 14 (Pty) Ltd</p>	Scoping and EIA Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 (RE) of Farm Basberg 88 • Portion 3 of Farm Basberg 88 • Portion 4 of Farm Basberg 88 • Portion 2 of Farm Grass Pan 40 • Portion 0 (RE) of Farm Annex Wolve Kuil 41 • Portion 1 of Farm Annex Wolve Kuil 41 • Portion 0 (RE) of Farm Wolve Kuilen 42 • Portion 2 of Farm Wolve Kuil 43
15 - 28	<p>PROJECTS 15 TO 28: The proposed development of Switching Stations and Collector Stations at each On-Site Substation Complex at each of the 14 x Kudu Solar Facilities, and up to 14 x 132 kV Overhead Power Lines running from each Solar Facility to the proposed Collector Station(s) or up to the proposed Main Transmission Substation (MTS)</p> <p><i>Applicant:</i> ABO Wind renewable energies (Pty) Ltd</p>	BA Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 0 (RE) of Farm Basberg 88 • Portion 3 of Farm Basberg 88 • Portion 4 of Farm Basberg 88 • Portion 2 of Farm Grass Pan 40 • Portion 0 (RE) of Farm Annex Wolve Kuil 41 • Portion 1 of Farm Annex Wolve Kuil 41 • Portion 0 (RE) of Farm Wolve Kuilen 42 • Portion 2 of Farm Wolve Kuil 43 • Portion 5 of Farm Kopyy Alleen 83 • Portion 1 of Farm Kopyy Alleen 83 • Portion 4 of Farm Kopyy Alleen 83

¹ ABO Wind renewable energies (Pty) Ltd is the holding company. Various subsidiary companies will serve as the Project Applicants.

No.	Projects	Environmental Assessment Process	Affected Farm Portions
29	<p>PROJECT 29: The proposed development of an independent 400/132 kV MTS, including associated infrastructure at the MTS such as 132 kV busbar and feeder bay(s), and 500 MVA 400/132 kV transformer(s) with transformer bay(s)</p> <p><i>Applicant: ABO Wind renewable energies (Pty) Ltd</i></p>	BA Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 3 of Farm Basberg 88 • Portion 5 of Farm Kopyy Alleen 83 • Portion 1 of Farm Kopyy Alleen 83 • Portion 4 of Farm Kopyy Alleen 83
30	<p>PROJECT 30: The proposed development of a 400 kV Loop-In-Loop-Out (LILo) from the existing Hydra-Perseus 400 kV Overhead Power Line to the proposed MTS.</p> <p><i>Applicant: ABO Wind renewable energies (Pty) Ltd</i></p>		

A request has been submitted to the National Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DFFE) for consideration for the EAP to submit combined Applications for EA and associated Scoping, EIA and BA Reports; and for the Specialists to submit combined specialist reports per theme, in terms of Regulation 11 (4) of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended), and the issuing of multiple EAs (should they be granted) in terms of Regulation 25 (1) and (2) of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended). Depending on the DFFE's decision-making on the combination request, either single or combined Applications for EA and Scoping, EIA or BA Reports will be compiled and provided to stakeholders for comment and to the DFFE for decision-making.

An integrated Public Participation Process (PPP) is being undertaken for the Scoping, EIA and BA Processes due to the proximity of the sites (i.e. the proposed projects will take place within the same geographical area) and similar project activities.

In line with the above, you are hereby notified of the release of the Background Information Document (BID) for the proposed projects for a 30-day comment period, which extends from **6 June 2022** to **7 July 2022** (excluding public holidays).

The BID can be accessed on the project website (<https://www.csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment>).

Should you wish to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and/or to provide comments on these proposed projects, you are kindly requested to e-mail, fax or mail your name, contact details and project-related comments to the EAP at the contact details provided below by **7 July 2022**:

- Attention: Rohaida Abed
- Email: ems@csir.co.za
- Postal address: P.O. Box 59081, Umbilo, Durban, 4075
- Tel: 031 242 2300
- Fax: 031 261 8172

I&APs will be notified of the availability of and opportunity to comment on upcoming Draft Scoping Reports, Draft EIA Reports and Draft BA Reports once available.

In accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act (Act 4 of 2013), CSIR will conduct itself responsibly when collecting, processing, storing and sharing any personal information collected for the purposes of PPP in terms of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended). By registering as an I&AP and/or submitting information and comments, you consent to the collection, collation, processing, and storing of such information and the use and disclosure of such information for the aforementioned purpose (<https://www.csir.co.za/csir-privacy-notice>). If you would like to opt out of communications on this project, please do so by responding to this correspondence via email.

We thank you in advance for your participation in these Scoping, EIA and BA Processes. Should you have any queries or require additional information please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned using the contact details provided above.

Sincerely,



Paul Lochner *Registered EAP*
EMS Manager and Project Leader
CSIR - Environmental Management Services



Rohaida Abed *Pr. Sci. Nat.*
Project Manager
CSIR - Environmental Management Services