CSIR SMART PLACES: EMS



11 Jan Celliers Road Stellenbosch 7600 South Africa Tel: +27 21 888 2400 Email: ems@csir.co.za

10 November 2023

Dear Interested and/or Affected Party,

RE: NOTIFICATION OF THE SUBMISSION OF FINAL SCOPING REPORTS TO THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY FOR COSNIDERATION FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THREE WIND ENERGY FACILITIES (WEFS); NAMELY, GENESIS BEAU VALLEY WEF (DFFE REF. 14/12/16/3/3/2/2413), GENESIS ELAND WEF (DFFE REF. 14/12/16/3/3/2/2425), AND GENESIS WINDY PLAINS WEF (DFFE REF. 14/12/16/3/3/2/2424) AND THEIR ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR BEAUFORT WEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

Notice is hereby given that the Final Scoping Reports for the above-mentioned proposed projects have been submitted to the Competent Authority, i.e. the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), for consideration in terms of Regulation 21(1) and Regulation 22 of the 2014 National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (as amended).

As communicated in September 2023, the Project Applicants, Genesis Beau Valley Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd, Genesis Eland Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd, and Genesis Windy Plains Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd are proposing the construction and operation of three Wind Energy Facilities (WEFs) and their associated infrastructure located within the Beaufort West Local Municipality and the Central Karoo District Municipality. The proposed projects are referred to as "Genesis Beau Valley WEF", "Genesis Eland WEF", and "Genesis Windy Plains WEF." The proposed projects form part of a larger development consisting of three clusters and a total of nine Renewable Energy Facilities (REFs) (7 x WEFs and 2 x Solar Energy Facilities (SEFs)).

The proposed WEF projects will comprise various infrastructure, such as wind turbines, building infrastructure, an on-site substation complex, 132 kV overhead transmission power line, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), as well as associated infrastructure (e.g., laydown area; internal roads; fencing; storm water channels; and on-site internal cables).

The proposed projects are <u>not</u> located within any of the Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZs) gazetted in Government Notice (GN) 114 on 16 February 2018; and GN 144 on 26 February 2021. Therefore, the proposed projects are subject to full Scoping and EIA Processes and a decision-making period of 107 days, in terms of the NEMA and the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended).

The proposed projects trigger various listed activities in terms of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended); with Activity 1 of Listing Notice 2 (GN R325) serving as the main activity. Separate applications for Environmental Authorisation (EA) were submitted to the DFFE, the Competent Authority, for each WEF, along with the Draft Scoping Reports for comment in September 2023. The Draft Scoping Reports were made available to all Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs), Organs of State and relevant stakeholders for a 30-day comment period, which extended from 4 September 2023 to 6 October 2023. Copies of all comments received from I&APs and stakeholders during the review of the Draft Scoping Reports have been collated into Comments and Response Reports and included as an appendix to the Final Scoping Reports, inclusive of relevant responses to the comments. Refer to Appendix E Part 2 of the Final Scoping Reports for the Comments and Responses Reports. In addition, an Amended Application for EA for each proposed project has been submitted to the National DFFE along with the Final Scoping Reports for decision-making.

For your record and information purposes, the Final Scoping Reports with all supporting appendices can be downloaded from the following link on Google Drive: https://bit.ly/GenesisBWestWEFs.

As a registered I&AP on the projects, you will be duly informed of the outcome of the DFFE's decision on the Final Scoping Reports.

Should you wish to register as an I&AP, you are kindly requested to e-mail or mail your name, contact details and any direct business, financial, personal or other interest related to the proposed project, to the CSIR at the contact details provided below:

Attention: Paul Lochner / Willan Adonis

Email: ems@csir.co.za

Postal address: PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599

Tel: 021 888 2402

In accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) (Act 4 of 2013), the CSIR will conduct itself responsibly when collecting, processing, storing and sharing any personal information collected for the purposes of public participation processes in terms of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended). Note that by registering as an I&AP and by submitting information and comments to the CSIR as part of these Scoping and EIA Processes, 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 for your participation in these Scoping and EIA Processes. Should you have any queries or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned using the contact details provided below:

Sincerely,

Paul Lochner Registered EAP
Project Leader and EAP

CSIR Environmental Management Services

Willan Adonis
Project Manager

CSIR Environmental Management Services