Environmental Management Services

PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599

Tel: 021 888 2561

Fax: 021 888 2693

Email: SLaurie@csir.co.za

 14 August 2018

Dear Interested and Affected Party

**RE: RELEASE OF DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR COMMENT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THREE SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITIES (REFERRED TO AS VRYBURG SOLAR 1, VRYBURG SOLAR 2, VRYBURG SOLAR 3) AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE (INCLUDING 132KV DISTRIBUTION LINES), SOUTH-WEST OF VRYBURG, NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

ABO Wind Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd (the project developer) with support from Veroniva (Pty) Ltd, are proposing to develop three 115 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility and associated electrical infrastructure (including 132 kV distribution lines), near Vryburg in the North West Province. The proposed projects are referred to as **Vryburg Solar 1**, **Vryburg Solar 2** and  **Vryburg Solar 3** and the project Applicant are Vryburg Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd, Vryburg Solar 2 (Pty) Ltd, Vryburg Solar 3 (Pty) Ltd, respectively. The Vryburg Solar projects and associated electrical infrastructure will occur on the following farm portions:

* Portion 1 of Retreat Farm 671
* Portion 2 of Frankfort Farm 672 (“Erica”)
* Portion 1 of Frankfort Farm 672 (“Edin”)
* Portion 0 of Frankfort Farm 672 (Remainder)
* Remainder of Rosendal Farm 673

The projects are located approximately 8 km south-west of Vryburg and falls within the Vryburg Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ) 6. The REDZs represent areas where wind and solar photovoltaic development is being incentivised from resource, socio-economic and environmental perspectives. The Wind and Solar SEA REDZs were identified in five provinces, namely the Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Northern Cape, Free State and North West, as defined in Government Gazette No 41445 of 16 February 2018, Notice No. 114 – *Notice for Renewable Energy Development Activities procedure to apply for Environmental Authorisation.*

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) and the amended 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations promulgated in Government Gazette 40772 and Government Notice (GN) R326, R327, R325 and R324 on 7 April 2017, wind and solar PV projects located within a REDZs are subject to a Basic Assessment (BA) Process and reduced decision-making period by the authorities. In accordance with Regulation 12 (1) of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended, GN R326), the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been appointed by the Applicant to undertake the BA Processes for the proposed development.

In line with the amended Environmental Impact Assessment requirements, Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby notified of the release of the Draft BA Reports for a 30-day review period, which will extend from the **15th August 2018** to the **14th September 2018**.Please submit any review comments on the Draft BA Reports by **14 September 2018** to the CSIR Project Manager via email or post at the contact details above

Hard copies of the Draft BA Reports are available for public viewing at the Huhudi Local Library (cnr Mosiapoa & Nelson Mandela Drive, Huhudi 8601). The BA Reports can also be downloaded from the following website: <https://www.csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment> .

All comments received during this 30-day review period of the BA Reports will be captured and included in the Final BA Reports for submission to the National DEA for decision-making in line with Regulation 22 of the 2017 EIA Regulations. As a registered I&AP on the project database, you will be notified of the submission of the Final BA Reports to the DEA for decision-making.

Should you have any queries or require additional information please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned using the contact details provided above.



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Surina Laurie

Project Manager

CSIR Environmental Management Services