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BRANDVALLEY WIND ENERGY FACILITY SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENT LETTER

INTRODUCTION

Brandvalley Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd (the applicant), a subsidiary of G7 Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd (G7), proposes to develop a 140 megawatt (MW) wind energy facility (WEF) near Laingsburg, on the border of the Northern Cape Province and the Western Cape Province in South Africa. The proposed WEF is located in the Karoo Hoogland, the Witzenberg (Ceres) and the Laingsburg Local Municipalities, which fall within the Namakwa, the Cape Winelands and the Central Karoo District Municipalities, respectively.

EOH Coastal and Environmental Services was appointed by Brandvalley Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd to undertake and manage the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the proposed WEF. Tony Barbour was appointed by EOH Coastal and Environmental Services to undertake a specialist Social Impact Assessment (SIA) to inform the EIA process. The findings of the SIA for the proposed Brandvalley WEF are contained in the SIA Report submitted to EOH Coastal and Environmental Services on 11 April 2016.

However, due to ecological sensitivities identified within the Brandvalley WEF project area there have been some changes to the proposed layouts, namely:

- The area near Snydersberg (located in the northern section of the project area, comprising of 12 proposed turbines) has been identified as a very sensitive area – the access roads have therefore been re-routed to follow existing roads and two turbines (38 and 42) have been taken out;
- The footprint within this area has therefore been reduced by approximately 40%.

IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The ecological sensitivity issues in the northern section of the project area near Snydersberg that have resulted in the removal of turbine 38 and 42 and the re-routing of the access roads to follow existing access roads will not have a bearing on the findings of the Social Impact Assessment dated April 2016. No changes to the SIA Report (April 2016) are therefore required.


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