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**Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisation**

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Road  
Arcadia, Pretoria  
0001

**UPDATED APPLICATION AND FINAL BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL  
AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE CASTLE OVERHEAD  
TRANSMISSION LINE NEAR DE AAR, IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

African Clean Energy Developments (Pty) Ltd (ACED) under the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) Castle Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd appointed EnviroAgri (Pty) Ltd as the independent environmental assessment practitioner to undertake a Basic Assessment (BA) process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No.107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) and the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (as amended) to obtain authorisation for the proposed development.

The applicant for this project is Eskom Holdings SOC Limited (Eskom), which proposes to construct a 132kV-400kV Overhead Transmission Line (OHL) to connect to the authorised Castle Wind Energy Facility (WEF) via the authorised De Aar 2 South OHL to the existing Hydra Main Transmission Substation (MTS), on farms near De Aar in the Northern Cape. The OHL will be constructed in terms of a self-build agreement between Eskom and Castle Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd.

Public participation process is detailed in the attached Public Participation Report and Comment Response Report. It should be noted that the final BAR and application is submitted with a reduced extent of the preferred alternative OHL as it became apparent through the assessment process that it would be feasible for the proposed Castle OHL to connect to the authorised De Aar South 2 OHL (DFFE ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2330) thereby negating the requirement to build another OHL to the Hydra MTS. Should this application for the environmental authorisation for the proposed Castle OHL be granted, an agreement between Mulilo De Aar 2 South (Pty) Ltd and Castle Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd in terms of this connection will be formalised and in place prior to commencement of construction activities.

The Castle WEF is a registered Strategic Integrated Project (SIP) part of the he Embedded Generation Investment Programme (EGIP) which forms part of the Energy SIP No. 20c, the proposed Castle OHL is in support of the Castle WEF and thus a SIP. Moreover, the Castle WEF is a preferred bidder scheduled to conclude financial close and commence with construction in the fourth quarter of 2022.

This application is submitted in terms of Government Notice 113. The proposed development site is located within the Electricity Grid Infrastructure Central Strategic Transmission Corridor as per GN 113, of NEMA, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). In terms of GN 350, 13 April 2017 of NEMA, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998), the proposed development falls within the Central Strategic Transmission Corridor. The basic assessment procedure contemplated in Regulation 19 and 20 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 to obtain environmental authorisation, as required in terms of the Act is being followed. The timeframe for decision-making as contained in the EIA Regulations, 2014 for purposes of this application for EA, as contemplated in GN 350 of NEMA (Act No. 107 of 1998) is 57 days. The route has been pre-negotiated with the relevant landowner as laid out in the application form.

Considering the route is within a Strategic Transmission Corridor and supports a registered SIP it would be appreciated if the processing of this application could be expedited which would greatly assist the parties involved bringing the project to fruition. We also request that the layout including the 300m corridor and Environmental Management Programme be approved as final, provided that environment Environmental Authorisation is granted.

Please receive herewith the updated application for Environmental Authorisation and Final Basic Assessment Report for your comment. These have been uploaded to the Department's website <https://sfiler.environment.gov.za:8443>.

For further information on the proposed project please contact the undersigned at EnviroAgri:  
Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Name: Mr Dirk Pretorius

Telephone: 072 100 27 12

Email: dirk@enviroagri.com

Post: P.O. Box 3731, Tyger Valley



Dirk Pretorius *Pr.Sci.Nat., Reg.EAP*

*Director EnviroAgri (Pty) Ltd*

*BSc Cons.Ecol., MSc Zoology*

CC: Kholofelo Rameetse [Kholofelo.Rameetse@aced.co.za](mailto:Kholofelo.Rameetse@aced.co.za)

Julliet Mahlangu [JMMahlangu@dffe.gov.za](mailto:JMMahlangu@dffe.gov.za)

Debbie Harding [HardinD@eskom.co.za](mailto:HardinD@eskom.co.za)

Bryan Fisher [bfisher@ncpq.gov.za](mailto:bfisher@ncpq.gov.za)