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IMPACT STATEMENT LETTER FOR BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE PAULPUTS WIND ENERGY FACILITY SOUTH (RF) (PTY) LTD

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd was appointed by WKN Windcurrent SA (Pty) Ltd to undertake and manage the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process as the lead consultant for the proposed establishment of the 300MW Paulputs Wind Energy Facility (RF) (Pty) Ltd (further referred to as Paulputs WEF), and its associated infrastructure. Leandri Kruger was appointed by Arcus as the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) consultant to conduct and produce the SIA Report for the proposed Paulputs WEF as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

The proposed Paulputs WEF is located near the town of Pofadder in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa, which is the closest town to the proposed site. It is located approximately 34km NE outside the town of Pofadder and covers a proposed area of approximately 10 000ha (75 WTG (219ha))—covering 6 farms with four (4) proposed 132/133kV grid connections with a distance of approximately 23km from the switching stations to the existing Eskom Paulputs Substation, located NW of the proposed site.

On 11 December 2019, the proposed Paulputs WEF and its associated grid connection received environmental authorisation (EA) by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE)

(DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1120). Following the receipt of the EA the client would like to submit a Basic Assessment process application for the already assessed and authorised on-site substation (Substation C) and OHPL (connecting from substation C via substation A to the already existing Eskom substation). The following section will include a summary of the technical details for the proposed construction of the grid connection and its associated electrical infrastructure for the authorised Paulputs WEF.

2. TECHNICAL DETAILS FOR PROPOSED BA

The following proposed technical details was communicated to the SIA specialist as received from Arcus:

D – BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT	
PROJECT TITLE	The proposed construction of the Grid Connection and Electrical Infrastructure for the Authorised Paulputs South Wind Energy Facility, Northern Cape Province.
PROJECT SPV	Paulputs Wind Energy Facility South(RF) Pty Ltd.
PROJECT INFORMATION	Approval of substation; and approval of the Grid connection from Substation C to the existing Eskom substation.
COMPONENT	PROPOSED
Holder of Authorisation	Paulputs Wind Energy Facility South(RF) Pty Ltd.
Location of the Site	50 km NE of Pofadder, Northern Cape Province
SUBSTATION C COMPONENT	PROPOSED
Area occupied by inverter transformer stations / substations	The O&M complex will form part of the on-site 200m x 200m substation compound of the WEF
Capacity of on-site substation	132 kV
GRID CONNECTION COMPONENT (FROM SS C TO THE EXISTING ESKOM SS)	PROPOSED
Height of pylons	Max 30m high
Length of transmission line	The line will be approx. 26.5km long from SS C to the existing Eskom Paulputs SS, NW of the N14
Types of poles used	Both monopoles and lattice structures are being considered
Transmission capacity	Double circuit, 132kV line, evacuating a max of 300MW
Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas	Laydown areas used are the same as for the WEF, i.e. approx. 4ha (To allow for a 0.5ha office block, 1 ha permanent laydown and 1ha temporary laydown and will include authorisation of a BESS)
Area occupied by buildings	The O&M complex will form part of the on-site 200m x 200m SS compound of the WEF
Width of servitude road	3 - 6 m wide
Servitude Road	26.8km (worst case scenario)

Site access	N14 (including for abnormal loads)
Height of fencing	Max 3m only around the on-site SS and buildings
Type of fencing	Wired mesh/chain link fence not electrified

3. ASSESSMENT OF KEY SOCIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED GRID CONNECTION AND ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

As demonstrated earlier in this letter the proposed Paulputs WEF and its associated infrastructure already received EA (DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1120) in December 2019. Following the section of the details of the application for the BA for the proposed grid connection and electrical infrastructure above, this section focuses on the potential key social impacts and the assessment thereof.

The identification and assessment of the key social impacts related the proposed WEF included the assessment of the key social impacts related to the authorised grid connection and was included in Section 4 of the full SIA report that formed part of the EIA that already received EA by the DFFE. A full impact assessment of the approved social impacts associated with the grid-connection and its associated infrastructure will not be included in this letter, hence for more detail in this regard the full SIA report can be consulted. In relation to the proposed construction of the grid connection and electrical infrastructure of the authorised Paulputs WEF in this letter, no additional social impacts to those included in the already authorised full SIA report for the grid connection and electrical infrastructure, is identified that requires additional assessment.

Therefore, the social impacts that was identified and assessed in the full SIA report that formed part of the full EIA report that was authorised, as well as the mitigation and enhancement measures included in the full SIA report and any social aspects included in the approved EMP, is still relevant and valid for the proposed Basic Assessment (BA) report. The findings of the full SIA report demonstrated that the proposed establishment of the Paulputs WEF and its associated grid connection are supported, because it creates a positive social benefit for society. This recommendation was made subject to the implementation of proposed mitigation and enhancement measures included in the full SIA report, as well as the inputs from other specialist reports for the proposed WEF.

4. IMPACT STATEMENT

Due to the above, it is therefore recommended by the author of this impact statement letter as well as the full SIA report, that the proposed grid connection of the Paulputs WEF and its associated infrastructure be supported as it was proposed above. However, this recommendation is still made subject to the implementation of the suggested enhancement and mitigation measures contained in Section 4 of the full SIA report, as well as inputs from other specialist studies for the proposed Paulputs WEF.

Regards,

Dr. L. Kruger

SIA specialist