



SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURES ZA

July 2011

Dear Stakeholder

**NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS:  
CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROPOSED  
COOKHOUSE II WIND ENERGY FACILITY,  
EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE  
(DEA Ref No. 12/12/20/2290)**

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**NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

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**African Clean Energy Developments** (Pty) Ltd (“ACED”) are proposing to establish a commercial wind energy facility and associated infrastructure on a site located within the Blue Crane Route Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape Province. Up to 50 wind turbines, collectively referred to as a **wind energy facility**, are planned to be constructed on a site located approximately 20 km east of the town of Cookhouse in the Eastern Cape Province. A broader area of approximately 35 km<sup>2</sup> is being considered within which the facility is to be constructed.

The site comprises land directly adjoining the already authorised ACED Renewables Cookhouse (Pty) Limited 200 turbine Wind Energy Facility. The Cookhouse II wind energy facility is proposed on farm portions: Van Wyks Kraal 73 (Portions 0 – remaining extent, 1 and 4), Roberts Kraal 72 (Portion 0 remaining extent), Gallants Kloof 70 (Portion 3), Request 71 (Portion 0 remaining extent, Portion 11, Portion 12) and Farm 75 (Portion 2) (‘the Site’).

This proposed development, known as the Cookhouse II Wind Energy Facility, is an expansion of the original site. This expansion project requires Environmental Authorisation from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), who have approved the request for downscaling from a Scoping and EIA to a Basic Assessment process, in terms of Regulation 20(4) of GN543.

**Infrastructure** associated with the facility will include:

- » Up to 50 **wind turbines** with Foundations to support the turbine towers;
- » **Cabling** between turbines, to be lain underground where practical;
- » Up to two **substations** to facilitate the connection to the grid;

- » Overhead **power lines** either feeding into the existing Eskom Poseidon substation or tying into existing overhead transmission lines;
- » Internal **access roads** to each wind turbine; and
- » Workshop area for maintenance and storage if required.

### ***NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS***

In terms of sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No 107 of 1998), as read with the EIA Regulations of GN R543 – R546 a Scoping and EIA process is required to be undertaken for the proposed project. However based on the motivation supplied to the National Department of Environmental Affairs in terms of GN R543 20(4), a downscaling from a full EIA to a Basic Assessment Process has been approved for the proposed project. Under GN R543 20(4) if an applicant intends undertaking an activity for which a full Scoping and EIA process must be applied and the applicant is of the view that the competent authority will be able to reach a decision on the basis of information provided in a basic assessment report, the applicant may apply to the competent authority for permission for a Basic Assessment to be undertaken instead of a Scoping and EIA process.

The site is almost entirely surrounded by an authorised wind energy facility and the project could be considered as infill development of a similar nature. The environmental impacts for the proposed development are also known for this area, and as this site has been subject to some level of scoping during the previous EIA undertaken for the adjacent facility, it is considered that the end result of undertaking a Basic Assessment will be the same as would be achieved through a Scoping and EIA process. Therefore a **Basic Assessment** (BA) is being undertaken for the proposed project. The project has been registered with the National Department of Environmental Affairs under Application Reference Number. **12/12/20/2290**.

In this regard, ACED have appointed **Savannah Environmental** to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment process to identify and assess all potential environmental impacts that might arise as a result of the proposed project. **Sustainable Futures ZA** is assisting Savannah Environmental in the process through the facilitation of the public participation process, which forms part of the BA process. You and/or the organisation/department which you represent have been identified as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP). Should you have an interest in this project, please register yourself as an I&AP and note your formal comments by sending written correspondence in this regard. All comments received will form part of the Comments and Response Report that will be included in the Scoping and EIA reports which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). By submitting your details and

comments to Sustainable Futures ZA, you are ensured that your comments, concerns or queries will be noted.

To obtain further information and register on the project database, please submit your name, contact information and interest in the project to the contact person below.

Comments can be made as written submission via fax, post or e-mail.

Please submit your comments to
<b>Shawn Johnston of Sustainable Futures ZA</b> PO Box 749, Rondebosch, Cape Town, 7701 Fax: 086 510 2537 E-mail: swjohnston@mweb.co.za

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information and/or clarification regarding the proposed project. Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process.

Yours sincerely,

Shawn Johnston  
Process Facilitator

Relevant contact details:

Shawn Johnston of Sustainable Futures ZA

PO Box 749, Rondebosch, 7701

Tel: 083 325 9965

E-mail: swjohnston@mweb.co.za

Fax: 086 510 2537

To view project documentation, visit [www.savannahsa.com](http://www.savannahsa.com)



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November 2011

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### **DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR REVIEW**

A Draft Basic Assessment Report has been prepared for the project by Savannah Environmental and is now available for public review. You are invited to review the report at one of the following locations:

- » Cookhouse Library
- » Bedford Library
- » [www.savannahSA.com](http://www.savannahSA.com)

The period for review is 07 November 2011 to 07 December 2011. Please submit written comment by 07 December 2011.

### **PUBLIC FEEDBACK MEETING**

All interested and affected parties are invited to attend a public feedback meeting to be held on 16 November 2011 at the Bedford Club, from 17:30 – 19:00.

To obtain further information and register on the project database, please submit your name, contact information and interest in the project to the contact person below.

Comments can be made as written submission via fax, post or e-mail.

Please submit your comments to
<b>Shawn Johnston of Sustainable Futures ZA</b> PO Box 749, Rondebosch, Cape Town, 7701 Fax: 086 510 2537 E-mail: <a href="mailto:swjohnston@mweb.co.za">swjohnston@mweb.co.za</a>

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