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**Subject: Bekevar Wind Project (SREPS-EST-031) – Natural Resources Canada’s Section 82
Determination under the *Impact Assessment Act***

The Bekevar Wind LP (the Proponent), a partnership between Renewable Energy Systems Canada Inc. (RES) and Awasis Nehiyawewini Energy Development (a wholly owned Cowessess First Nation entity), is proposing to construct and operate a 204MW wind power project (the Project) consisting of 35-40 turbines located on approximately 20,000 acres of private land in the rural municipalities of Hazelwood and Kingsley, Saskatchewan, and three quarter sections of Cowessess First Nation reserve land. In order to support the Project, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), through the Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways program (SREPs), has been requested to provide funding for the Project.

Under Section 82 of the *Impact Assessment Act* (the Act), a federal authority must not enable or carry out a project on federal lands or outside of Canada until it has been determined that the carrying out of the project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects as defined in Section 81 of the Act.

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) conducted a detailed environmental review of the Project to assess the potential for significant adverse environmental effects. The assessment concluded that the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects on the basis of appropriate mitigation, monitoring and follow-up measures, and increased economic wellbeing for the Cowessess First Nation community members. NRCan has reviewed available project documentation, including the determination recommended by ISC, and concurs that the project is unlikely to result in significant adverse environmental effects.

NRCan and ISC invited comments from the public for a period of 30 days which ended on January 28th, 2022. During this public comment period, no comments were received.

This memo may be retained as proof of due diligence that NRCan has fulfilled its requirements pursuant to Sections 82 and 86 of the *Impact Assessment Act* for the Project. Any questions can be directed via e-mail to walker.smith@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca or by phone at (613) 447-2892.

Thank you,

Walker Smith
Environmental Assessment Officer
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cc:

Peter Unger – A/Director, Impact Assessment Division
Hilary Hunter – Senior Environment Officer, Indigenous Services Canada