

9 December 2016

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HERITAGE (ARCHAEOLOGY) STATEMENT FOR THE DEA FOR MODDERFONTEIN WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF) PROJECT.

1. Review of the Historical Information

An Archaeological Desktop Study as part of the Scoping Phase of the project was compiled by the Albany Museum (Ms Celeste Booth and Ms Natasha Higgitt) in November 2010. The report recommended that a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment be undertaken for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report Phase as it was likely that archaeological heritage resources would be encountered within the project area.

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report was completed in March 2011 by the Albany Museum (Dr Johan Binneman, Ms Celeste Booth and Ms Natasha Higgitt) and was submitted to the relevant heritage resources authorities by the environmental consultant, Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd. Of all farms investigated, Phaisantkraal 1 is located in the Western Cape, whereas Modderfontein 228, Nobelsfontein 227 (including the Farms Annex Nobelsfontein 234, Ezelsfontein 235 and Rietkloofplaaten 239) are located in the Northern Cape. A series of archaeological sites were identified on all farms. Most significantly the Farm Modderfontein 228 yielded Middle and Later Stone Age scatters including Later Stone Age occupation sites as well as rock engravings, rock paintings, a gong rock, stone kraals and stone wall structures.

In addition, an Archaeological Ground-Truthing Walk-Through was conducted by the Albany Museum (Celeste Booth and Sholeen Sanker) for the Nobelsfontein WEF and substation and associated overhead power line for the Nobelsfontein WEF situated in the Northern Cape in December 2012.

The Modderfontein WEF was originally authorized by the DEA on 22 February 2012 and a subsequent application for extension was only granted for 2 years on the premise that the receiving environment and by association, the impacts on the receiving environment, may have changed to such a significant degree that a new application would be required. The 2 years extension has since expired and the request for the

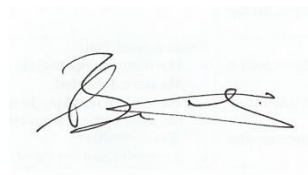
new is extension is up to 2020.

2. Heritage Statement

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), who acts as the heritage authority overseeing the Northern Cape heritage, requires than impact assessment reports older than five (5) years be reassessed and reevaluated. As the Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report for the Karoo Renewable Energy Facility was completed in March 2011, SAHRA was consulted to make comment on the report. SAHRA in its replies has stated that: “Considering the fact that this case merely relates to an extension of the authorization for a further two years. SAHRA requires only that the recommendations made in its review comments of 2011 and 2013 must be fully implemented”.

As a portion of the Modderfontein WEF project falls within the Western Cape, Heritage Western Cape (HWC) who is the heritage authority that oversees the heritage in the Western Cape was also consulted. HWC replied that they are “satisfied with the reports being referenced and that Section 38 comments and decisions whether under a NID or HIA phase still stands therefore the requirements of 2011 stated in the NID (if one was done) still stands. However an integrated HIA (including integrated recommendation) which fulfils the requirement of Section 38(3) of the NHRA still needs to be submitted attached with the AIA, EA and other associated reports.”

I would like to confirm that the proposed extension for environmental authorisation is acceptable in terms of the reasons stated. It is possible that new archaeological heritage sites may have become exposed over the last five years owing to erosion and human and animal disturbances within the WEF layout area. Further studies recommended by the heritage authorities should, however, make recommendations for the appropriate mitigation measures for the conservation and preservation the archaeological and other heritage sites. Therefore, the receiving heritage environment and by association, the impacts on the receiving heritage environment have not changed to such a significant degree that a new application is required.



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