



SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY
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FOR ATTENTION: **PHRA: Eastern Cape**

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SAHRA Contact Person: **Mariagrazia Galimberti**
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REVIEW COMMENT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

BY ARCHAEOLOGY/ PALAEOLOGY UNIT OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

South Africa has a unique and non-renewable archaeological and palaeontological heritage. Archaeological and palaeontological sites are protected in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999) and may not be disturbed without a permit. Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIAs) and Palaeontological Impact Assessments (PIAs) identify and assess the significance of the sites, assess the potential impact of developments upon such sites, and make recommendations concerning mitigation and management of these sites. On the basis of satisfactory specialist reports SAHRA or the relevant heritage resources agency can assess whether or not it has objection to a development and indicate the conditions upon which such development might proceed and assess whether or not to issue permission to destroy such sites. AIAs and PIAs often form part of the heritage component of an Environmental Impact Assessment or Environmental Management Plan. They may also form part of a Heritage Impact Assessment called for in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act No. 25, 1999. They may have other origins. In any event they should comply with basic minimum standards of reporting as indicated in SAHRA Regulations and Guidelines.

This form provides review comment from the Archaeologist of the relevant heritage resources authority for use by Heritage Managers, for example, when informing authorities that have applied to SAHRA for comment and for inclusion in documentation sent to environmental authorities. It may be used in conjunction with Form B, which provides relevant peer review comment.

- A. PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY: **Northern Cape**
- B. AUTHOR(S) OF REPORT: **Mr David Morris**
- C. ARCHAEOLOGY CONTRACT GROUP: **McGregor Museum**
- D. CONTACT DETAILS: **PO Box 316, Kimberley 8300, Tel: 082 222 4777, email: mmkarchaeology@yahoo.co.uk**
- E. DATE OF REPORT: **September 2010**
- F. TITLE OF REPORT: **Specialist Input for the EIA Phase and EMP for the Proposed Upington Solar Thermal Plant, Northern Cape Province.**
- G. AUTHOR(S) OF REPORT: **Mr John Pether**
- H. ARCHAEOLOGY CONTRACT GROUP: **Geological and Palaeontological Consultant**
- I. CONTACT DETAILS: **PO Box 48318, Kommetjie, 7976, tel: 021 783 3023, cell: 083 744 6295, Email: jpether@iafrica.com**
- J. DATE OF REPORT: **14 October 2010**
- K. TITLE OF REPORT: **Brief Palaeontological Impact Assessment (Desktop**

Study) Proposed Upington Solar Thermal Plant Portion 3 of the Farm McTaggarts Camp 453, Gordonia District, Northern Cape.

- L. Please circle as relevant: Archaeological and Palaeontological components of **EIA / EMP / HIA / CMP/ Other (Specify)**
- M. REPORT COMMISSIONED BY (**CONSULTANT OR DEVELOPER**): **Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**
- N. CONTACT DETAILS: **PO Box 148, Sunnighill, 2157, Tel: 011 234 6621, Fax: 086 684 0547, Cell: 084 300 0660**
- O. COMMENTS:
- P. Please see comment on next page

REVIEW COMMENT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Mr David Morris

Dated: September 2010, Received: 19 October 2010

Specialist Input for the EIA Phase and EMP for the Proposed Upington Solar Thermal Plant, Northern Cape Province.

Mr John Pether

Dated: 14 October 2010, Received: 19 October 2010

Brief Palaeontological Impact Assessment (Desktop Study) Proposed Upington Solar Thermal Plant Portion 3 of the Farm McTaggarts Camp 453, Gordonia District, Northern Cape.

INTRODUCTION

A 22 km² commercial solar energy facility has been proposed within the Khai !Gariep Municipality. The infrastructure for this project will encompass: a power island, an overhead powerline running from the site for about 4 km to reach the existing Eskom line, and abstraction point with the associated supply pipelines, a suspension reservoir, a line evaporation pond and an external and an internal access road and workshop, office and storage areas. All these will have a footprint of 6 km² which has been assessed by both the archaeology and palaeontology specialists.

Archaeologically, a series of low density MSA scatters were identified along the area. Their density increases both towards the settlement reservoir of Orange River and along a low rocky outcrop. The source of most stone tools was jasperite and in a lesser extent quartz and quartzite.

From a geological point of view, the formation underlying the proposed development is the Kalahari Group, an unfossiliferous sedimentary deposit. The bedrock is overlaid by Eden, Mokalen and Gordonia Formations.

SAHRA RECOMMENDATIONS

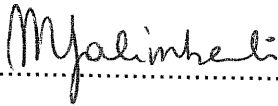
SAHRA supports the recommendations of the authors and requires that:

- Mitigation in the form of collection and characterization must be undertaken on the low rocky outcrop bed (28.54109 S 21.08842E) before trenching and any other earth-moving activity resulting from this proposed project. A photographic record must be established immediately before, during and after mitigation. The archaeologist will require a mitigation permit from SAHRA in terms of s. 35 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999). On receipt of a satisfactory mitigation (Phase 2) permit report from the archaeologist, SAHRA will make further recommendations in terms of the report such as its final destruction or additional sampling.
- Managers, foremen and manual workmen must be trained to recognise possible fossil remains identified during excavation.
- If any new development had to occur outside the investigated footprint, a new assessment will be necessary.


CONCLUSION

If the recommendations made in the specialist report and in this comment are adhered to, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorite Unit has no objection to the development (in terms of the archaeological and palaeontological components of the heritage resources). If any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources are found during development, construction or mining, work must be stopped and SAHRA (Mrs Nonofho Ndobochani/Mariagrazia Galimberti 021 462 4502) and a professional archaeologist or

palaeontologist must be alerted immediately.

SIGNATURE OF ARCHAEOLOGIST PROCESSING REPORT: 

EMAIL: mgalimberti@sahra.org.za

SIGNATURE OF SAHRA HEAD ARCHAEOLOGIST: 

EMAIL: nndobochani@sahra.org.za

NAME OF HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY: SAHRA

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COMMENT (ABOVE OR APPENDED) CONSTITUTES THE COMMENT OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY ARCHAEOLOGIST AND THAT ANY DEVELOPMENT THAT INVOLVES DESTRUCTION OF ANY ARCHAEOLOGICAL/PALAEONTOLOGICAL SITE IS STILL SUBJECT TO A PERMIT/PERMISSION FOR DESTRUCTION OF SUCH SITE GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPER BY THE RELEVANT HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALAEONTOLOGICAL PERMIT COMMITTEE (THIS WILL BE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE PHASE 2 OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL/ PALAEONTOLOGICAL MITIGATION AS NECESSARY). THIS REPORT MAY BE TAKEN ONLY AS APPROVAL IN TERMS OF SECTION 35 OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT. THE PROVINCIAL MANAGER OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY MUST ADVISE AS TO APPROVAL IN TERMS OF HERITAGE ISSUES ENCOMPASSED BY OTHER ASPECTS OF THE LEGISLATION, SUCH AS ISSUES OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (STRUCTURES (E.G. FARM HOUSES), OVER 60 YEARS), INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS OR OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES AS THIS IS NOT WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGIST.

PLEASE NOTE THAT SAHRA IS NOW RESPONSIBLE FOR GRADE I HERITAGE RESOURCES (AND EXPORT) AND THE PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GRADE II AND GRADE III HERITAGE RESOURCES, EXCEPT WHERE THERE IS AN AGENCY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY.