

COMMENTS RECEIVED

Gabriele Wood

From: Vered Karty <vkarty@brightsourceenergy.com>
Sent: 11 January 2016 19:59
To: Gabriele Wood
Subject: Paulputs CSP Project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello Gabriele and happy new year!

Can you please add me to the I&AP database for the Paulputs CSP Project?

Thank you
Vered

Vered KARTY
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Be green, leave it on the screen. Please think before you print.

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an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Date: Friday January 15, 2016

Page No: 1

Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 8759

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Paulputs CSP (RF) (Pty) Ltd

Project Name: Paulputs CSP Project Applicant: Paulputs CSP RF (Pty) Ltd. Proposed Activity and Location: The development of a 200MW Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) Project and associated infrastructure on Portion 4 of the Farm Scuitklip 92 located ~45km north-east of Pofadder within the Khai-Ma Local Municipality in the Northern Cape.

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd (Savannah) was contracted by Paulputs CSP RF (Pty) Ltd to complete an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the Paulputs CSP Project, near Poffadder, Northern Cape Province. A Scoping Report was completed in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014.

Savannah contracted David Morris and John Pether to conduct the Heritage Scoping Study and the Palaeontological Desktop Assessment for the project respectively.

Morris, 2015. Paulputs CSP Facility near Poffadder, Northern Cape. Specialist Input for the Scoping Phase of the Environmental Impact Assessment: Archaeology.

The author found that heritage resources from the Stone Age and Colonial/Historical periods may be present within the project area, and due to the sparse vegetation the heritage resources are likely to be highly visible. A grave of the Northern Border Police is known on the affected farm portion and a road-side grave is present.

Recommendations provided in the report are as follows:

- A site visit must be conducted to examine the proposed project area for heritage resources.
- Identified heritage resources will be assessed for their significance
- Nineteenth and twentieth century cultural heritage and intangible heritage values attached to places that are to be impacted by the development must be assessed during the pending EIA phase.
- A Visual Impact Assessment must be conducted on identified heritage resources
- Should heritage resources be uncovered during the construction phase of the project, all work in the



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area must cease immediately and be reported to SAHRA and/or the McGregor Museum, Kimberly. The find should be investigated by a professional archaeologist who will provide further recommendations. Should it be deemed necessary, a Phase 2 Mitigation permit must be applied for in order to conduct any sampling, excavations or collections of heritage deposit before the development can continue.

Pether, 2015. Brief Palaeontological Impact Assessment (Desktop Study). Proposed Pofadder Solar Thermal Plant. Portion 4 of the farm Scuit-Klip 92, Kenhardt District, Northern Cape.

The author found that expected palaeontology in the project area includes freshwater clams and snail fossils, abraded bone fragments and loose teeth, however, due to the sporadic occurrences of fossils in the area, there is a low potential for uncovering fossil heritage. Should fossils be identified during the construction phase, they will be considered as significance finds due to the lack of fossil occurrences in the vicinity.

Recommendations provided in the report include:

- Fossil Finds Procedures must be developed and implemented that details the guidelines and reporting/action protocols to be following when finds are uncovered.
- The local Council of Geoscience in Upington may be utilized to contract a local geologist who will inspect excavations and liaise with the Environmental Control Officer and an advising palaeontologist.

Interim Comment

Regarding archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit accepts the submitted Archaeological Scoping Report and Palaeontological Desktop Study and their respective recommendations, and has no objections against the development. The following additional conditions must be adhered to and must form part of the final EIA Phase of the project:

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) must be completed for the proposed Paulputs CSP Project. The HIA must include the following studies:

- An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA);
- An assessment of Burial Grounds and Graves;
- An assessment of intangible heritage resources; and
- A VIA must be completed on identified heritage resources.



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No further palaeontological assessment is required. A Fossil Finds Procedure must be developed for the project to ensure that standard protocols and steps are followed should any fossil resources be uncovered during the construction phase of the project. These procedures should outline the steps and reporting structure to be followed in the instance that fossil resources are found. These procedures must be incorporated into the final Environmental Management Plan for implementation.

Final comments will be published once the above has been submitted along with the EIA for the project.

Decisions regarding Built Environment will be provided by Ngwao-Boswa Jwa Kapa Bokone (NBKB), the Northern Cape Provincial Heritage Resource Authority (Ratha Timothy - rtimothy@nbkb.org.za /053 831 2537).

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
SAHRA Head Archaeologist (Acting)
South African Heritage Resources Agency



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Date: Friday January 15, 2016

Page No: 4

Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 8759

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/344252>
(DEA, Ref:)

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.

Gabriele Wood

From: Simon Gear <advocacy@birdlife.org.za>
Sent: 29 March 2016 15:32
To: 'Gabriele Wood'
Subject: RE: EIA PROCESS - CONSTRUCTION OF PAULPUTS 200MW SOLAR THERMAL ELECTRIC (STE) MOLTEN SALT TOWER (MST) FACILITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi Gabriele,

Please register BirdLife South Africa on this EIA using my details below.

Thanks,

Simon Gear
Policy & Advocacy Manager



Giving Conservation Wings

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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Birdlife-South-Africa/112371882122716>

https://twitter.com/BirdLife_SA

SMS 'birdlife' to 38878 and help Give Conservation Wings R10 per SMS. Free SMS and SMS bundles do not apply, All proceeds, less service provider fees, will be donated to BirdLife South Africa. Error messages will be billed. More details on BirdLife South Africa website.

Donations to BirdLife South Africa may contribute to your B-BBEE scorecard as we are fully SED compliant in terms of the B-BBEE Act. We are also a registered Public Benefit Organisation (No. 930004518) and authorised to issue 18A tax certificates where applicable.

The Policy & Advocacy Division is supported by The Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB) and BirdLife International.



From: Gabriele Wood [<mailto:gabriele@savannahsa.com>]

Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 1:08 PM

To: undisclosed-recipients:

Subject: EIA PROCESS - CONSTRUCTION OF PAULPUTS 200MW SOLAR THERMAL ELECTRIC (STE) MOLTEN SALT TOWER (MST) FACILITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Dear Stakeholder

Paulputs CSP RF (Pty) Ltd proposes the development of up to a 200MW Solar Thermal Electric (STE) Molten Salt Tower (MST) facility and associated infrastructure on a site located approximately 45km north-east of Pofadder in the Northern Cape Province. The proposed project is to be known as the **Paulputs Tower Facility**. The purpose of the proposed STE facility will be to evacuate the generated power into the Eskom electricity grid. The project is proposed to be bid into the Department of Energy's (DoE) Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP).

Savannah Environmental has been appointed as the independent environmental consultant to undertake the required Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process to identify and assess all the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project, and propose appropriate mitigation and management measures in an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). You have been identified as a potential Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP) for the abovementioned project and are therefore invited to participate in the EIA process. Kindly refer to the attached background information document and process notification letter which provides further details on the project.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information relating to the project and EIA process.

Kind regards

Mrs Gabriele Wood

Public Participation and Social Consultant

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

Tel: 27 11 656 3237

Fax: 086 684 0547

Email: gabriele@savannahsa.com

www.savannahsa.com



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Directorate: Forestry Management (Other Regions)
P.O. Box 2782, Uptington, 8800, Tel 054 338 5909, Fax 054 334 0030

Enquiries: J Mans
E-mail: JacolineMa@daff.gov.za
Date: 11 May 2016
Ref: F13/11/2/328/1

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
P.O. Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
2157

ATTENTION: Gabriele Wood (gabriele@savannahSA.com)

RE: COMMENTS ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE PROPOSED PAULPUTS 200 MW CONCENTRATED SOLAR TOWER ENERGY FACILITY, POFADDER (DEA REF: 14/12/16/3/3/2/870)

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) has commented on the Background Information Document (BID) in October 2015. The DAFF has studied the draft EIA report and would like to make the following additional comments.

COMMENTS ON DRAFT EIA REPORT

- Page 63 refers to the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 101 of 1998 (NVFFA) and stated that according to Section 12 of the Act, "the landowner would be required to **burn** firebreaks..." Although s12 refers to the duty to prepare and maintain firebreaks, it does not state that such firebreaks **must be burned**. In fact, if a firebreak is prepared by **burning**, then certain rules must be followed as prescribed in the Act under s12(2). If a registered Fire Protection Association (FPA) objects to the **burning** of a firebreak, the owner **may not burn** the firebreak (s12(4)). In arid and semi-arid regions, **burning** of firebreaks is not recommended. It may cause too much environmental damage. It may expose soil surfaces, making it more prone to wind erosion which may aggravate desertification. In the study site, the vegetation is of such a nature that there may not be sufficient woody flammable material to sustain a controlled **burn** (the area is classified as a '**low veldfire risk**' area). Hence other methods are preferred, such as using existing roads as firebreaks or in years of above-average rainfall, mowing a firebreak.
- What is important about firebreaks is that it must be prepared on the **property boundary (S12(1))**, unless if the owner is a member of a **registered FPA** in which case the FPA rules apply (which may differ from what is in the Act). It is also important to take note of the

definition of “landowner” under the NVFFA (see s2(1)(xiii) when interpreting responsibilities under the NVFFA.

3. The developer should take note of section 16 of the NVFFA, which stated: “The right or duty to prepare and maintain a firebreak.... prevails over any prohibition in any other law.... except that the owner **must-**
 - (a) **where possible, transplant any plant which is protected in terms of any law; or**
 - (b) **where it is safe and feasible, position the firebreak so as to avoid such plant or tree.”**
4. Page 64 refers to the National Forests Act, 84 of 1998 (NFA) and stated that the relevant authorities under the NFA is DAFF and NC DENC. Kindly note the DENC does not have a mandate under the NFA.
5. Page 64 stated under the NFA the following: “No Protected tree species or indigenous tree species were identified on site”. It might be true for protected tree species, but it is definitely not true for indigenous tree species. The specialist report refers to indigenous tree species recorded on site, *Parkinsonia africana* and *Boscia foetida* to name but a few.
6. Page 69 and 70 refers to Northern Cape Nature Conservation Act, 9 of 2009 (NCNCA) and the Flora Permit requirement under the NCNCA. Kindly note, a Fauna Permit may also be required under the NCNCA.
7. The draft EIA report, under applicable legislation, did not mention the Sub-division of Agricultural Land Act 70 of 1970 (SALA). If the land is demarcated as ‘agricultural land’, it cannot be changed to another land use without the supported recommendation under the SALA. A local authority cannot change the zoning of demarcated agricultural land to any other zoning without a letter from the Registrar of this Act. What is the current zoning of the proposed development site and was an application to change the zoning (if zoned Agriculture) submitted to the DAFF, Registrar of the SALA, for review?
8. Page 94, number 5.3 refers to the Ecological Environment. Page 94 and 95 refers to the affected Bushmanland Arid Grassland and stated that “at a national scale this vegetation type has been transformed to a slight degree and approximately 27% is conserved in the Augrabies Falls National Park”. Where did the 27% statistic came from (please provide the source)? Mucina & Rutherford (2006) indicated that the conservation target is 21% and that only small patches are conserved. Savannah Environmental draft EIA reports on the Karoshoek Solar Valley projects (i.e. Ilanga CSP 2, CSP3, etc.) stated that only a small percentage of Bushmanland Arid Grassland vegetation type is conserved, with the specialist report referring to a little as 1% of this vegetation type in formal conservation areas. Please clarify.
9. Page 133 confirmed that the vulnerable *Aloe dichotoma* was recorded in the study area. The statement that *A. dichotoma* may be impacted on was repeated several times. There is currently a **moratorium in place in the Northern Cape prohibiting the removal of Quiver trees from the wild (Proclamation No. 968 of 1 April 2005)**. It is imperative that Nature

Conservation be consulted in this regard; otherwise the presence of this species on site (if affected) may result in a fatal flaw.

COMMENTS ON ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

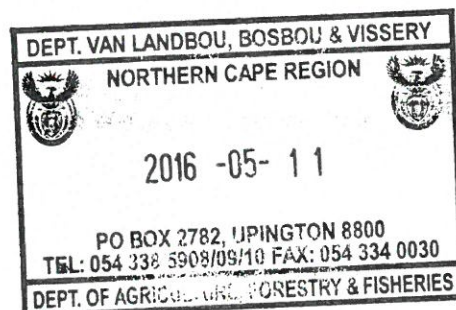
10. Page 13 of the specialist Ecological Impact Assessment Report, number 2.2.2.1 refers to the NFA and stated that the list of protected tree species are given under the NEM:BA TOPS list. The statement is incorrect. The TOPS list refers to species listed as Threatened or Protected under the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act (Act No 10 of 2004). The list of protected tree species under section 12(1) of the NFA, was published in GN1161 of 20 November 2015.
11. The report stated that *Aloe dichotoma* was recorded in the study area and that the study site falls in an Ecological Support Area (ESA), thus Nature Conservation must be consulted to determine if these two factors may derail the proposed development. It is not clear if the specimens of *A. dichotoma* can be avoided.
12. The specialist Ecological Impact Assessment Report did not mention the NCNCA under applicable legislation. It is definitely applicable, because of the protected plant species recorded on site such as *Hoodia gordonii* and *Boscia foetida*.
13. Page 52 of report refers to DAFF comments made on the Background Information Document in October 2015 and potential impacts on *Schotia brachypetala* var. *angustifolia* (see 3rd bullet, number 8.7 of page 52). Thank you for pointing it out. It was a typing error and I was actually referring to *Schotia afra* var. *angustifolia* which I know occur in the vicinity of Pofadder along drainage lines, because we often go there for seed collection. It should be avoided as far as possible.
14. Should any unexpected NFA listed protected tree species be found on site, please apply for a Forest Act License prior to disturbance.

Thank you for allowing this Department to comment on the proposed development.

Kind Regards,



Jacoline Mans
Chief Forester: NFA Regulation





agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, forestry & fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

..
Directorate Land Use and Soil Management, Private Bag x120, Pretoria, Gezina 0031
Delpen Building, c/o Annie Botha & Union Streets, Riviefa..

From

: Director: Land Use and Soil Management

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SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL

P O BOX 142

SUNNINGHILL

2151

2016/05/19

DEAR SIR/MADAM

This serves as a notice of receipt and confirms that your application has been captured in our electronic AgriLand tracking and management system. It is strongly recommended that you use the on-line AgriLand application facility in future.

Detail of your application as captured:

TYPE CSP PROJECT

YOUR REFERENCE PAULPUTS CSP PROJECT

Description PAULPUTS CSP PROJECT

DATED 2016/05/19

Please use the following reference number in all enquiries:

AGRILAND REFERENCE NUMBER ; 2016_05_0128

Enquiries can be made to the above postal, fax or e-mail address.

Yours sincerely,

B N DE LANGE

pp DIRECTOR: LAND USE AND SOIL MANAGEMENT

<http://www.agis.agric.za/agriland>

27 May 2016

Mrs Gabriele Wood
Savannah Environmental
Email: gabriele@savannahsa.com

Dear Gabriele

Draft EIA report for the proposed 200 MW Concentrated Solar Power Tower Project and Associated Infrastructure, 45km North-East of Pofadder.

DEA ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/870

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above report. BirdLife South Africa supports the responsible development of renewable energy. However, birds may be injured or killed at Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) facilities if they collide with the reflective surfaces (e.g. heliostats), or with associated infrastructure (e.g. powerlines and fences). CSP tower technology presents an additional risk to birds – they may be burned if they fly through the area of concentrated solar flux. CSP facilities may also impact on birds indirectly by destroying or degrading large areas of habitat and displacing sensitive species.

If solar energy is to be developed without having marked negative impacts on birds, rigorous impact assessment of proposed CSP facilities is critical. We are therefore pleased to note that an avifaunal specialist was appointed to undertake an avifaunal impact assessment. However, only two site visits were conducted (one in the wet season and one in the dry season), as opposed to the four or more site visits BirdLife South Africa recommends for developments of this nature and scale (as per draft Guidelines included with our comments on the scoping report dated 3 December 2015). Provided they are well-timed, two site visits may be adequate to obtain a representative sample of the diversity of species likely be affected by the facility, however, they may not be adequate to record finer details such as patterns of movement, important habitats, breeding areas, rare species etc. This information could be central to properly assess and mitigate impacts. Given the proximity to an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area we suggest that a rigorous assessment would be prudent. The avifaunal specialist report does not clarify if the “wet season” site visit was indeed well-timed and coincided with the expected increase in species diversity, abundance and activity associated with the wet season.

Despite the literature review including “Guidelines to minimise impact of solar facilities and infrastructure on avifauna”, little further mention is made of these guidelines in the avifaunal specialist study. Key references included in the draft Guidelines, and included our comments on the draft Scoping Report, are absent from the avifaunal study and literature review. Most notably we refer to Walston et al. 2015¹ and the recently published peer reviewed paper

¹ Walston et al. 2015. A review of avian monitoring and mitigation information at existing utility-scale solar facilities. U.S. Dept. of Energy, Environmental Science Division. ANL/EVS-15/2. (Available at http://www.evs.anl.gov/downloads/ANL-EVS_15-2.pdf)

arising from this report². While the McCrary (1986) study is a useful resource, it is out-dated. Shawn Smallwood's testimony³ details the shortcomings of their approach to estimating fatality rates at Solar One. To summarise, the approach did not adequately account for searcher efficiency and scavenger removal. In his report, Mr Hudson suggests the information on which our comments were based was from "colloquial articles". We disagree and suggest that the lengthy reference list included in our draft Guidelines would be a good departure point for a more detailed and up-to-date literature review.

A further shortcoming of the avifaunal impact assessment is that the Red Data Book statuses provided in the main text are out-of date. For example, the report suggests that Secretarybird is Near Threatened, but it is now listed as Vulnerable both globally and regionally⁴. The Red Data Book statuses appear to be correctly reflected in Appendix A. This inconsistency should be corrected in the report.

Although it does not affect the substance of the assessment, there are also a number of editorial errors in the avifaunal assessment and draft EIA report that should be corrected. For example, the page header of the avifaunal impact assessment incorrectly refers to the report as a Scoping Report. Similarly, the page header from page xxvi onwards of the Executive Summary of the EIR refers to a Scoping Report, and page xv suggests the deadline for comment is in 2015. We hope that similar oversights have not crept in to more material aspects of the impact assessment.

One major oversight in the avifaunal assessment is that the potential for the evaporation ponds, on site and at the adjacent CSP facilities, to attract birds and increase the risk of collisions and solar flux injuries, has not been adequately considered. Although relatively new, the ponds at Kaxu are already attracting species such as Maccao Duck (Near Threatened and listed under the Convention of Migratory Species). As they mature, the evaporation ponds are likely to attract more birds. The risks associated with this should be carefully assessed and mitigated. For example, we recommend that they should be located well away from the heliostat field.

We are somewhat comforted by the fact that few Red Data Book species and few Important Bird and Biodiversity Area trigger species have been recorded on site, despite the proximity to an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area. However, we do not share the specialist's confidence that species such as Secretarybird, Kori Bustard, Ludwig's Bustard and Sclater's Lark are entirely absent from the area. Larks are locally nomadic, and bustards and Secretarybirds move regionally. Some birds may also have been temporarily displaced by

² Walston LJ, Rollins KE, Kirk E, LaGory KE, Smith KP and Meyers SP. 2016. A preliminary assessment of avian mortality at utility-scale solar energy facilities in the United States. *Renewable Energy* 92:405-414

³ Smallwood, K.S. 2014. "Exhibit 3128 – Testimony of K. Shawn Smallwood, Ph.D." Palen Solar Power Project.
http://docketpublic.energy.ca.gov/PublicDocuments/09-AFC-06C/TN201152_20131108
T155000_Testimony_of_K_Shawn_Smallwood_PhD.pdf.

⁴ See Taylor MR, Peacock, F, Wanless, RM (eds). 2015. The Eskom Red Data Book of Birds of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. BirdLife South Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa.

construction activities associated with Kaxu and Xina. We also do not support the specialist's confidence in his significance ratings - there are many sources of uncertainty, including with regards to the species present on site, their use of the area, the potential for birds to be attracted to the facility, and how to quantify the risk of collisions and solar flux injuries. The limitations of the assessment should be acknowledged.

We also question the approach to assessing cumulative impacts and suggest that the potential cumulative risks and benefits of developing a cluster of solar energy developments should be more rigorously assessed. This should not be limited to the impacts of CSP tower projects, but should extend to all energy-related infrastructure proposed and developed in the area. We suggest that consideration be given to the likely and known impacts, monitoring requirements, and the likely effectiveness of mitigation plans at the adjacent facilities. We are surprised that the avifaunal specialist is unable (or unwilling) to comment on these, as we understand that he has been appointed to monitor the impacts of Xina and Kaxu on birds. We suggest that, should the application be approved despite the shortcomings of the assessment, efforts to monitor and mitigate impacts should be coordinated between the projects. We also urge that the impacts are monitored in accordance with the methods outlined in our draft Best Practice Guidelines and that the results of this work be shared with BirdLife South Africa. We further request that these results be published in a peer review journal, so that we can better understand and mitigate impacts of CSP in the future to ensure that impacts on birds and other biodiversity are minimised.

Yours sincerely

Samantha Ralston
Birds and Renewable Energy Manager

and

Simon Gear
Programme Manager: Policy and Advocacy

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Partnership for
nature and people



Honorary Patrons: Mrs Gaynor Rupert, Dr Precious Moloi-Motsepe, Mr Mark Shuttleworth



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
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DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/870

Enquiries: Ms Nonhlahla Mkhwanazi

Telephone: (012) 399 9386 **E-mail:** NMkhwanazi@environment.gov.za

Ms Karen Jodas
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
2157

Telephone Number: (011) 656 3237
Email Address: karen@savannahsa.com

PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Ms Jodas

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 200 MEGAWATTS (MW) PAULPUTS CONCENTRATED SOLAR POWER (CSP) FACILITY AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON PORTION 4 OF THE FARM SCUITKLIP 92 NEAR POFADDER WITHIN THE KHAI-MA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The draft Environmental Impact Assessment report (EIAr) dated May 2016 and received by this Department on 09 May 2016 refers.

This Department has the following comments on the abovementioned application:

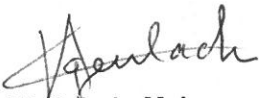
- i. It is noted that the exact thresholds related to the applied listed activities are not specified in the application form. For instance, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) mentioned that "*the facility will require the construction of new internal access roads within which will be wider than 8 metres*". Please ensure that all the required thresholds have been correctly specified in both the application form and the final EIAr.
- ii. If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final EIAr, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.
- iii. All the specialist assessments must include a cumulative environmental impact statement. Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be indicated and quantified, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
- iv. Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development must be rated with the significance rating methodology approved with the acceptance of the scoping report.
- v. The cumulative impacts significance rating must inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
- vi. The preferred layout plan with the preferred substation, service routes, and construction camp must be indicated in the final EIAr. A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map must also be included in the final EIAr.
- vii. Recommendations provided by specialist reports must be considered and used to inform the preferred layout alternative. Specifically, the solar field, power block and associated services must be removed from all sensitive areas as recommended by the specialists.

- viii. The Soils and Agricultural Study prepared by the Agricultural Research Council (ARC)-Institute for Soil dated April 2016 stated that *"the site was not visited during the course of this study, and so the detailed composition of the specific land types has not been ground-truthed. However, due to the very low prevailing agricultural potential, a site visit was not deemed necessary"*. You are requested to conduct a site visit and the findings of the site visit must inform the study to be included in the final EIAr.
- ix. It is noted by this Department that the Social Assessment conducted by Savannah was peer reviewed by an external review. Please ensure that external peer review follows the following format:
- Acceptability of the ToR;
 - Is the methodology clearly explained and acceptable;
 - Evaluate the validity of the findings (review data evidence);
 - Discuss the mitigation measures and recommendations;
 - Evaluate the appropriateness of the reference literature;
 - Is the article well-written and easy to understand; and
 - Identify any short comings.
- x. It must be noted that this Department in its acceptance of SR letter requested that the avifaunal assessment must cover the summer and winter seasons. Upon review of this report, a six day field study was conducted between August 2015 and April 2016 of which April is deemed as autumn. As such, the study must be conducted within the seasons as requested by the DEA. Furthermore, no reason or motivation was provided for the deviation from the acceptance of the SR.
- xi. The specialist studies to be conducted must comply with Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 and proof of compliance must be provided in the final EIAr.
- xii. In the Department's previous correspondence dated 18 February 2016, it was indicated that comments from the Department of Water and Sanitation: Impact and Resource Management Directorates must be obtained. However, proof that the comments were requested from the afore-mentioned Department is not provided. The EIAr must include proof that comments were requested from the Department of Water and Sanitation.
- xiii. The draft EIAr failed to include the traffic impact assessment as requested under point x of the acceptance of SR dated 18 February 2016. As such, the final EIAr must include a traffic assessment study. The study must determine the specific traffic needs during the different phases of implementation.
- xiv. The draft EIAr does not provide proof of compliance with Regulation 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the EIAr from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the Final EIAr. Proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments and proof that the proposed development was advertised in at least one local newspaper.
- xv. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) must include a provision to audit the effectiveness of the mitigation measures and recommendations for amongst others the following: grievance incidents; waste management, alien and open space management, re-vegetation and rehabilitation, plant rescue and protection and traffic and transportation. The results must be made available to the Department and relevant competent authority on request and must be part of monitoring and audit reports.
- xvi. The EMPr must identify and indicate the applicable section of the National Heritage Act (Act 20 of 1999).
- xvii. Please note that the final EIAr must comply with all conditions of the acceptance of the scoping report signed on 18 February 2016 and must address all comments contained in this comments letter.
- xviii. In terms of Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, the report must include an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to:
- the correctness of the information provided in the reports;
 - the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs;
 - the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant;
 - any information provided by the EAP to I&APs; and,
 - responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by I&APs.
- xix. The EIAr must provide the technical details of the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions. A sample of the minimum information required was listed under point 2 of the EIA information required in the acceptance of SR.

- xx. You are further reminded that the final EIAR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of the EIAR in accordance with Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014.
- xxi. Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).
- xxii. Failure to comply with the requirements of the acceptance of the SR, the comments of this letter as well as the requirements of the EIA Regulations, 2014, a negative Environmental Authorisation will be issued by this Department.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs

Signed by: Mr Coenrad Agenbach

Designation: Deputy Director: Strategic Infrastructure Developments

Date: 03/06/2016

cc:	Dr Louis van Heerden	Paulputs CSP RF (Pty) Ltd	Email: Louis.vanheerden@abengoa.com
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an agency of the
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Date: Monday June 06, 2016

Page No: 1

Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 8759

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Paulputs CSP (RF) (Pty) Ltd

Project Name: Paulputs CSP Project Applicant: Paulputs CSP RF (Pty) Ltd. Proposed Activity and Location: The development of a 200MW Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) Project and associated infrastructure on Portion 4 of the Farm Scuitklip 92 located ~45km north-east of Pofadder within the Khai-Ma Local Municipality in the Northern Cape.

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Paulputs CSP RF (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in support of an Environmental Authorisation Application for the proposed Paulputs CSP Project, near Pofadder, Northern Cape Province. A draft EIA was conducted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the EIA Regulations, 2014. The proposed Paulputs CSP project will consist of a field of heliostats and central receiver and will be constructed over an area of approximately 900 ha on Portion 4 of the Farm Scuitklip 92. Associated infrastructure will include a molten salt tower, power island, cabling linking the power block to the on-site substation, water supply abstraction point with filter and booster station, on-site lined ground water storage reservoir, lined evaporation ponds, water treatment plant and associated chemical store, auxiliary wet cooled chiller plant, control room and office building, workshop, access roads and overhead powerline.

David Morris from the McGregor Museum was appointed to conduct the Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for the project.

Morris, 2016. Archaeological Specialist Input for the Environmental Impact Assessment Phase of the EIA for the Paulputs CSP Facility, near Pofadder, NC Province

According to the submitted AIA, identified heritage resources fall outside the proposed development footprint and of low significance, however, it appears that the identified road side grave (Site 6) may be located within the proposed solar field array. The remaining archaeological resources (Early Stone Age [Site 6] and Later Stone Age scatter Site 7]) are of low significance. Additionally, it has been noted that the pipeline route was surveyed previously in 2014 and that artefact densities are extremely low along the route. It must be noted that a track log of the area surveyed was not supplied.



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Recommendations provided in the AIA report include the following:

- The rocky outcrops that occur at the north eastern side of the proposed project footprint should be avoided with a 60 m buffer;
- Provisions for on-going heritage monitoring in a facility environmental management plan which also provides guidelines on what to do in the event of any major heritage feature being encountered during any phase of the development or operation;
- Inclusion of further heritage impact considerations in any future extension of infrastructural elements;
- Immediate reporting to relevant heritage authorities of any heritage feature discovered during any phase of development or operation of the facility; and
- Officials from the relevant heritage authorities (National and Provincial) to be permitted to inspect the operation at any time in relation to the heritage component of the management plan.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the submitted AIA and promotes the recommendations included in the report. The following additional conditions must be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr):

- A buffer of 30 m must be maintained around the identified grave (Site 6). A Conservation Management Plan (CMP) must be developed for the long term in situ conservation of the burial. The CMP must be submitted to SAHRA for comment;
- Should it not be possible to conserve the burial, a social consultation process in terms of section 36(5) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (NHRA) and Chapter XI of the NHRA Regulations must be conducted, thereafter a permit in terms of section 36(3) of the NHRA and Chapter IX of the NHRA Regulation may be applied for if feasible; and
- Should it not be possible to avoid the rocky outcrops, an archaeological walk-down must be conducted to ensure that no heritage resources will be impacted by the proposed development. The results of the walk-down must be submitted to SAHRA for comment prior to the commencement of construction;
- If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Itumeleng Masiteng/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately. A professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly

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CaseID: 8759

discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
SAHRA Head Archaeologist (Acting)
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/344252>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/87)

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.



the dr&pw

Department:
Roads & Public Works
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DIRECTOR: ROADS
PO Box 3132, KIMBERLEY, 8301
45 Schmidtsdrift Road
KIMBERLEY, 8301
Tel : 053 861 9600
Fax : 053 861 9626

Enquiries: M. Sithole
References:L2.1.2.9.5-OG73
Date: 09 June 2016

Kaxu CSP Africa (Pty) Ltd
The Kendon House, Abengoa Solar
3 Kiepersol Close, 2nd Floor
Platteklouf 7500, Cape Town
Telephone: +27 21 937 0200

Attention: HP van Heerden

RE: Realignment of Provincial Road (OG73) to accommodate the Proposed New Paulputs CSP Development near Pofadder

Refer to your letter dated 25 April 2016 with its attachment.

The Department of Roads and Public Works (DRPW) does not have objections towards your application to realign Provincial Road (OG73) as proposed.

The applicant is hereby advised of the following administrative processes:

Proclamation: The new alignment must be proclaimed in accordance with the Road Ordinance, 19 of 1976. The proclamation process include the public participation. The intention to realign the concerned road must be advertised for public comments.

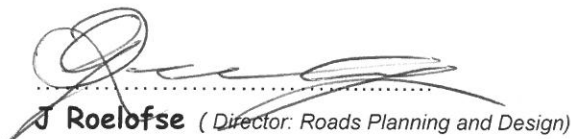
Administration fee: A nonrefundable administration fee of R10 000.00 (TEN THOUSAND RANDES) will be payable by the applicant to initiate the proclamation process.

The applicant is further advised to liaise with the directly affected road users to eliminate the undue objections that may be raised during public comments period.

The following standard conditions must be complied with at all times in the case of any work undertaken within the statutory road reserve or within a distance of 95 meters from the centerline of any building restriction road (Advertising on Roads and Ribbon Development Act, No. 21 of 1940) and within the statutory road reserve or within 5 meters from the statutory boundary of any public road (Roads Ordinance, 19 of 1976).

1. For the relocation requirements; the applicant must investigate and relocate all existing services within the statutory road reserve.
2. Detailed design produced by an ECSA registered engineer must be submitted to the DRPW for approval prior to any construction activities.
3. The applicant will bear all costs in-connection with this proposal.
4. Any alterations and/or additional proposals post this consent letter must be communicated to the DRPW for approval prior to implementation.
5. The applicant must liaise with all affected authorities and service providers.
6. The applicant indemnifies the Department against, and holds it harmless from, any claim or damage which may be instituted or suffered by any person, including legal costs incurred, as a result of:
 - non-compliance of the applicant with any condition to which this approval relates;
 - The amendment or cancellation of any condition pertaining thereto or the imposition of any new condition;
7. This approval in principle does not exempt the applicant from complying with any other law that may be applicable to the proposed work and related activities.
8. The work shall only be carried out provided the foregoing conditions are accepted in full.

Yours sincerely.



J Roelofse (*Director: Roads Planning and Design*)

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Gabriele Wood

From: Gabriele Wood <gabriele@savannahsa.com>
Sent: 06 June 2016 15:28
To: 'Peter Cloete'
Cc: michelle@savannahsa.com
Subject: Reminder: Paulputs CSP Project - EIA Report Comments Requested
Attachments: -PODImages-P11860-16926078.jpg; Paulputs CSP DEIAr Notification 3.05.2016.pdf

Dear Peter Cloete

The EIA process currently being undertaken for the Paulputs CSP project has reference (14/12/16/3/3/2/870). Following your telephone conversation with Michelle earlier today, please could you kindly provide your written comments on the project as soon as possible.

We look forward to our telecom on Thursday this week.

Kind regards
Gabi Wood

Gabriele Wood

From: Gabriele Wood <gabriele@savannahsa.com>
Sent: 06 June 2016 15:41
To: 'cloetes@dwa.gov.za'
Cc: 'schwartz@dws.gov.za'; 'Cebekhulu Mduduzi Christopher (UPN)'
Subject: EIA Process - Paulputs CSP Project - Request for Comments
Attachments: Road Realignment DWS FGM 27.05.2016.pdf; Paulputs CSP DWS FGM 27.06.2017.pdf; DWS Reg.pdf

Dear Shaun Cloete

I hope you are keeping well. The EIA process being undertaken for the Paulputs CSP Project (DEA Ref. No. 14/12/16/3/3/2/870) has reference. Please find the minutes of the meeting held with your colleagues on 27 May 2016. Please could you kindly submit your written comments as soon as possible. Please could you kindly send me the scanned version of the hard copy comments which are usually posted to me?

Thanks.

Kind regards
Gabriele Wood