

**Khwezi Solar Power Plant: Comments and Response Report (Appendix C7)**

**Comments received prior to the release of the Draft Basic Assessment and during the initial Public Participation 30-day comment period**

Organisation	Person	Issue or comment raised (see Appendix C5 & C6 of the Final Scoping report)	Addressing or incorporation of issue or comment
South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)	Sityhilelo Ngcatsha	<p>in a letter, dated 18 November 2022, an interim comment was submitted by SAHRA for the project. The content of the comment is included below:</p> <p><b>The activities entail the development of a photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure on the Remaining Extent, Portion 1 and Portion 2 of the Farm Koppiesdam No. 511, Registration Division Winburg, situated within the Mantsopa Local Municipality area of jurisdiction. The town of Excelsior is located approximately 10km southeast of the proposed development. The project entails the generation of up to 300MW electrical power through photovoltaic (PV) panels. The total footprint of the project will approximately be 500 hectares (including supporting infrastructure on site) that is located within the larger 750 hectares to be assessed</b></p> <p>Thank you for notifying the SAHRA on the proposed development of a photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure on the Remaining Extent, Portion 1 and Portion 2 of the Farm Koppiesdam No. 511 in Windburg, situated within the Mantsopa Local Municipality, Free State. The project entails the generation of up to 300MW electrical power through photovoltaic (PV) panels and the total footprint of the project will be approximately 500 hectares including the supporting infrastructure on site.</p> <p>As the proposed development is undergoing an EA Application process in terms of the National Environmental</p>	<p>The comments made by SARHA is acknowledged. The requirements for heritage, archaeological and palaeontological specialists and reports have been adhered to. The draft scoping assessment report will be uploaded to the online SARHIS portal for comment, as well as the heritage, archaeological and palaeontological reports.</p>

		<p>Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, it is incumbent on the developer to ensure that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is done as per section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).</p> <p>This must include an archaeological component, palaeontological component and any other applicable heritage components. The HIA must be conducted as part of the EA Application in terms of NEMA and the NEMA EIA Regulations. The archaeological component of the HIA should follow the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological Component of Impact Assessment Report. The quickest process to follow for the archaeological component would be to contract a qualified archaeologist (see <a href="http://www.asapa.co.za">www.asapa.co.za</a> or <a href="http://www.aphp.org.za">www.aphp.org.za</a>).</p> <p>The proposed development area is located mostly within an area of very high sensitivity in terms of palaeontological resources as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist (See <a href="https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html">https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html</a> for a list of qualified palaeontologists).</p> <p>The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments. Any other heritage resources as defined in section 3 of the NHRA that may be impacted, such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes riverscapes must also be assessed.</p>	
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<p>Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)</p>	<p>Boitumelo Melato</p>	<p>In a letter dated 28 November 2023 the following comment was received:</p> <p>Good day,</p> <p>Hope this mail finds you well. Thank you for registering the Department of Water and Sanitation as an Interested and Affected party for the above-mentioned project. Future correspondence on the project must be addressed as follows so that the project can be allocated accordingly.</p> <p>Attention: Dr T Ntuli Department of Water and Sanitation Corner Charlotte Maxeke and East Burger 2 nd Floor: Bloemfontein Plaza Building</p>	<p>Environamics acknowledges the request and will address the department accordingly in future.</p>
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JUWI	Raymond Takuba	<p>In an email dated 21 December the following comment was received:</p> <p>Good day Ansone,</p> <p>Please kindly register both Siya and myself as I&amp;APs on the above mentioned project and the associated grid connections.</p> <p>Please also kindly share with us a shapefile indicating both the PV facility and grid connection so we may assess the impact.</p> <p>Best Regards</p>	<p>In an email dated 20 January 2023 Environamics responded:</p> <p>Good Day Mr Takuba I trust this email finds you well. Please note that Ansone is no longer with Environamics.</p> <p>I have taken note of your previous emails and shall register you as an I&amp;AP.</p> <p>Have a great weekend!</p>
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Aberdare Cables	Mantsali Chakane	<p>In an email dated 17 October 2022 the following comments were received:</p> <p>Good morning</p> <p>Trust you are well.</p> <p>I am interested in taking part on Khwezi solar power plant in the Mantsopa municipality.</p> <p>Looking forward to hearing from you.</p> <p>Regards</p>	
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I&AP	Rhynie Bernard	<p>In an email dated 14 October 2022 the following comment was received:</p> <p>Good day</p> <p>I would appreciate if I could be registered as an I&amp;AP during the EAP process for the above project.</p> <p>Regards</p>	<p>In an email dated 25 November 2022 the Environamics responded:</p> <p>Dear Rhy,</p> <p>Thank you for your email. I can confirm that you have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party as part of the Khwezi Solar Power Plant and Power Line projects near Excelsior, Free State Province.</p> <p>Attached, please find the Background Information Documents for your reference. You will be notified of the availability of all draft reports made available for commenting.</p> <p>Kind regards</p>
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