

2013-07-17

Attention: Ms. Kathryn Smuts
PO Box 4637
Cape Town
8000

**ESTABLISHING OF THE PROPOSED PRIESKA SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED
INFRASTRUCTURE ON A SITE NEAR PRIESKA, NORTHERN CAPE DEA REF NO.
14/12/16/3/3/2/313**

RESPONSE TO LETTER DATED 04/03/2013 SAHRA REF: 9/2/075/0002

Dear Ms Smuts,

In response to your letter and the accompanying comments from the peer review we would like to respond as follows (the bullets of the original letter is responded to in kind);

- The report did contain an executive summary although it was termed a “management summary” since this more clearly explains its purpose.
- It was requested by the client that numbering not be used to enable easier integration with their reports. In retrospect we realised that in PDF format it does not contain the document coding and that this could be confusing. This has been corrected.
- The same reason as above follows for this criticism. The heading “Introduction” is a section heading with the sub-headings all forming part of the section. This would have been clear in the Word format and has since been altered. The wording of the sections should however have made this abundantly clear if the report was not just scanned.
- Rectified
- Rectified
- There was one occurrence of the word “scoping” due to faulty editing. The comment suggests that this was done several times, which is misleading.
- Rectified
- Rectified (only two occurrences)
- Reference to East African sites was in an effort to put the regional descriptions into focus and recent references have been provided for the issue around the contentiousness of the term MSA.
- Omitted
- Rectified



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- This is an unclear and possibly unfounded statement. It should be better explained and described to be of any value. The statement in the report has however been clarified to make it easier to understand.
- The survey diagram was sourced from the property act however this was incorrectly labeled in the report. This has been rectified.
- Rectified
- Rectified. The Cultural Landscape table is unfortunately as clear as it possibly could be.
- Rectified
- Rectified
- Rectified
- Rectified
- Rectified
- Rectified as far as possible.
- Photographic techniques are explained in full in the revised study.
- Rectified
- Rectified

We feel that a peer review should focus on the scientific contents of a report and not on semantics and editing. This creates the idea that the purpose and aim of the review was to undermine the validity of the report at all costs rather than evaluate its findings.

The accompanying report is the result of a totally new survey study which kept in mind the comments provided. The new report should be seen as an independent study from the original and we request that the reviewer should try not to be biased due to the original report.

G&A Heritage is working hard to try and fulfill the requirements set by SAHRA. The minimum standard documents seem outdated compared to the comments received and there is a great need for this to be put down on paper in order that we can ensure that we deliver the correct information in the correct format.

We would however also like to point out that many contemporary reports from this area were consulted for the revised study and most of them were found lacking when the same standards were imposed as outlined in the peer review comments. We are happy to conform to the higher standards that are being put in place, however it would be reassuring to know that this is being implemented across the board and is not just individual victimisation. When you are at the receiving end it is however very difficult to be objective about such issues especially when you see seriously mediocre reports being approved.

I do however hope that this whole episode results in improved relationships and improved work.

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Kind regards,



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for G&A Heritage

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