

**NATURA VIVA cc**  
***Natural History Education, Tourism, Research***

**Attention: Mnr Wouter Fourie**  
**PGS Heritage**  
**906 Bergarend Street**  
**Waverley**  
**Pretoria, 0186**

**Date: 13 January 2013**

**Re: Redstone Solar Thermal Energy Plant near Postmasburg, Northern Cape Province**

Dear Mnr Fourie,

As outlined in my two desktop assessments of potential fossil heritage associated with the Redstone Thermal Energy Plant near Postmasburg (Almond May 2011, December 2013), most of the development area does not, in my opinion, require further specialist palaeontological input. This is pending the discovery or exposure of any substantial fossil remains during the construction phase.

Adopting a precautionary approach, it is recommended that a **short field-based palaeontological assessment** of the study area, of the 132 kV power line and switchyard associated with the Redstone Solar Thermal Energy Plant (OHL), be commissioned by the developer, however, focussing on two small areas of special fossil and geological interest that are indicated in Figure 3 of Almond (2013). The study should document any surface occurrences of fossil material (notably well-preserved stromatolites) as well as geological features of unusual interest, and make recommendations for any further specialist palaeontological monitoring or mitigation required.

It is further recommended (Almond 2013) that:

- The Environmental Control Officer (ECO) responsible for the Redstone Solar Thermal Energy Plant and electrical infrastructure developments should be aware of the possibility of important fossils (*e.g.* well-preserved stromatolites, mammalian bones, teeth) being present or unearthed on site and should regularly monitor all substantial excavations into superficial sediments as well as fresh (*i.e.* unweathered) sedimentary bedrock for fossil remains;
- In the case of any significant fossil finds made during construction, these should be safeguarded - preferably *in situ* - and reported by the ECO as soon as possible to the relevant heritage management authority (South African Heritage Resources Agency. Contact details: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town. PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000, South Africa. Phone : +27 (0)21 462 4502. Fax: +27 (0)21 462 4509. Web : [www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)) so that appropriate mitigation (*i.e.* recording, sampling or collection) by a palaeontological specialist can be considered and implemented, at the developer's expense; and

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- These recommendations should be incorporated into the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the Redstone Solar Thermal Energy Plant and associated electrical infrastructure projects.

The palaeontologist concerned with mitigation work will need a valid collection permit from SAHRA. All work would have to conform to international best practice for palaeontological fieldwork and the study (*e.g.* data recording fossil collection and curation, final report) should adhere to the minimum standards for Phase 2 palaeontological studies recently published by SAHRA (2013).

Approval of the proposed OHL by SAHRA will be dependent in part on the results of the recommended field-based palaeontological heritage assessment report and may be subject to specific mitigation measures, such as the recording and sampling of fossil material within the development footprint before or during construction.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr John E. Almond**  
**Palaeontologist**  
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