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DATE: 17 May 2012
ENQUIRIES: Ms Katie Smuts
Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
E-mail: ksmuts@sahra.org.za
Web site: www.sahra.org.za

Our Ref. Number: 9/2/038/0001
Your Ref. Number: 12/20/2512

Ms Lydia Cape-Ducluzeau
CSIR Consulting and Analytical Services
PO Box 320
Stellenbosch
7599

Dear Ms Cape-Ducluzeau,

RE: LETTER OF EXEMPTION FROM FURTHER PALAEOLOGICAL STUDIES: PROPOSED MAINSTREAM SOLAR PARK NEAR DOUGLAS, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Thank you for your letter regarding the palaeontological resources of the proposed development area near Douglas, Northern Cape.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999, heritage resources, including archaeological or palaeontological sites over 100 years old, graves older than 60 years, structures older than 60 years are protected. They may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. This means that before such sites are disturbed by development it is incumbent on the developer to ensure that a Heritage Impact Assessment is done. This must include the archaeological component (Phase 1) and any other applicable heritage components. Appropriate (Phase 2) mitigation, which involves recording, sampling and dating sites that are to be destroyed, must be done as required.

According to the information provided by Dr Almond in his correspondence of 16 May 2012, it is unlikely that any significant impacts on palaeontological heritage resources will result from the construction of the proposed solar facilities near

Douglas due to the small nature of the panel footprints, the shallow excavation depth of the cable trenches and the low sensitivity of the local geological deposits.

Consequently, SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology & Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objection to the proposed development from the point of view of palaeontological heritage, on the condition that if any evidence of palaeontological sites or remains are found during development activities, SAHRA APM Unit (Katie Smuts/Colette Scheermeyer 021 462 4502) must be alerted immediately, and an accredited palaeontologist must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of palaeontological significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary.

Please note that this letter of exemption only applies to the palaeontological resources on the proposed development site. SAHRA is still awaiting the Archaeological Impact Assessment requested in the review comment of 23 February 2012. Comment will be delivered on the archaeological heritage resources of the development site once that report is received and has been reviewed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Colette Scheermeyer', written over a horizontal line.

Pp Mrs Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
For: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Copies: PHRA Northern Cape Office