



Enquiries: Kathryn Smuts
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CaseID: 118

Date: Thursday June 21, 2012

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Final Comment

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

Attention:

Ms Irme van Zyl

Van Zyl Environmental Consultants

PO Box 567

Upington

8800

Draft Basic Environmental Impact Assessment Report: Proposed Development of PV Power Station II near Greefspan Substation, Douglas Northern Cape AE-AMD Renewable Energy (PTY) Ltd

AE-AMD Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd proposes the construction of a commercial photovoltaic (PV) power station of fixed or tracking systems and associated infrastructure with a generation capacity of 40MW at the Greefspan Substation situated between Douglas and Prieska in the Northern Cape as a result of discussions with ESKOM. The development will have a footprint of approximately 100 ha and associated infrastructure will include:

- Lighting protection systems, including masts
- Any equipment and upgrades or expansions required to the substation
- Internal service roads and where required an access road
- Small administrative, control and security buildings
- Ablution facilities
- Workshops, storerooms and laydown areas
- Perimeter fencing and security systems
- Area lighting (movement activated)
- small parking area

The study area covers a valley and hill slope north of the Vaal River in an area of sparse vegetation. No alternative layout option was proposed.

The archaeologist had conducted two surveys for the general property and reported on these previously. These surveys revealed that the general area contained a uniform but low density scatter (less than one artefact per 10m²) of Early and Middle Stone Age artefacts, with some Later Stone Age material occurring. The ESA material tended to occur on the higher ground, while the MSA and LSA artefacts were generally found on the sloping, lower areas. No ostrich eggshell was recorded, nor were there and colonial period structures or remains were found. The archaeologist has also submitted a letter indicating that no finds of any significance are expected within the footprint of this development.

A palaeontological desktop study and field assessment were compiled. These assessments concluded that the area is underlain by the Mbizane Formation (Dwyka Group) and possibly the Prince Albert Formation (Ecca



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Group) sediments. The Prince Albert Formation is highly fossiliferous in the Douglas area, however, the study area is mantled by surface calcrete and a thin layer of Kalahari sands which are sparsely fossiliferous and the foundations for the power station are likely to be shallow.

Decision:

As there is apparently no evidence of any significant archaeological and palaeontological material in this area, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit has no objection to the development (in terms of the archaeological and palaeontological components of the heritage resources) on condition that, if any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources are found during development, construction or mining, SAHRA and an archaeologist and/or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be alerted immediately.

Decisions on Built Environment (e.g. structures over 60 years) and associated Living Heritage (e.g. sacred sites) must be made by the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Northern Cape (**Mr. Andrew Timothy, email: ratha.timothy@gmail.com**) to whom this Archaeological Review Comment will be copied.

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

Yours faithfully

Kathryn Smuts
Heritage Officer: Archaeology

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency





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ADMIN:
(DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/2645)

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.



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