



## **Final Comment**

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

Attention:

Mr Bongani Khupe  
Savannah Environmental  
PO Box 148  
Sunninghill  
2157  
Gauteng

### **Proposed Kabi Vaalkop Solar PV Facility on a Site near Orkney, North West Province**

Coetzee, FP. April 2012. *Cultural Heritage Survey of the Proposed Kabi Vaalkop PV Facility near Orkney, Dr Kenneth Kaunda District, North West Province.*

Bamford, M. May 2012. *Palaeontological Impact Assessment for Kabi Vaalkop Solar PV Facility.*

Kabi Solar (Pty) Ltd has proposed the development of a Photo-voltaic (PV) solar energy facility approximately 8km north east of Orkney, North West Province. The facility will occupy approximately 780 ha and be developed in three 75 MW stages, ultimately generating up to 225 MW; a fourth stage consists of the development of a substation and connecting power line. Each PV development, in addition to the solar panels and connecting cables, will include internal access roads and a workshop area. The fourth phase will see the construction of a single, shared 100m<sup>2</sup> on-site substation and a 6km long 132kV overhead power line, connected to the Hermes Substation, following an existing alignment of lines.

No alternative locations for the development have been proposed as the generally flat topography of the selected site is ideal for the proposed technology (PV). There are no water ways or pans on site and the vegetation is predominantly grassland-woodland typical of the region; several chert outcrops occur across the site. The study area is surrounded by mining activity but, nonetheless, is fairly undisturbed.

The archaeologist conducted a background study and a site visit. The background study revealed that archaeological traces from the Early, Middle and Later Stone Age might be expected, as well as from the Early and Late Iron Age. Historically, the nearby town of Klerksdorp was settled in 1837. Several important battles were fought in the area during the South African War and four blockhouse lines converge on the area. Gold mining has taken place in the area since 1885. The site visit did not identify any Stone Age, Iron Age or Colonial Period remains and located no graves. The foundations of two square brick and cement structures (5m x 5m and 5m x 8m) were identified, but these were deemed to be less than 60 years old.

The palaeontological assessment showed that the area is located within the Malmani Subgroup of the Chuniesport Group (Transvaal Sequence), represented by dolomites and cherts that are too old to contain fossils, beyond possible unicellular algal tracefossils in the dolomite.





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CaseID: 57

Date: Wednesday June 20, 2012

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## Decision:

As there is apparently no evidence of any significant archaeological material in this area, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit has no objection to the development (in terms of the archaeological (IF they have actually done a palaeontological assessment add "and palaeontological components" here) component 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 North West Province (**Mr. Mothlabane Mosiane**, email: [mosianem@nwpg.gov.za](mailto:mosianem@nwpg.gov.za)) 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



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

(DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/2513/1) (DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/2513/2) (DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/2513/3) (DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/2513/4)

**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.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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