



Interim Comment

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

Attention: Chevonne Stevens
WSP Environment and Energy
WSP House
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Bryanston
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Proposed Concentrated Solar Power and Photovoltaic/Concentrated Photovoltaic (CPV) Facility

Van Vollenhoven, A. May 2012. *A Report On A Heritage Impact Assessment For The Proposed Sasol CSP And CPV Project Near Upington In The Northern Cape Province*

Sasol New Energy Holding (Pty) Ltd (SNE), represented by Sasol Technology (Pty) Ltd has proposed a solar facility, to be known as Project Solis, on portions of the farm Van Roois Vley near Upington, Northern Cape Province. The facility will consist of Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) technology, covering 700ha, and a Photovoltaic/Concentrated Photovoltaic (PV/CPV) array, covering 200ha. The receiving area is largely flat, although a rocky hill occurs beyond the property boundary to the north west. The area is used for sheep grazing and is mostly undisturbed, covered with grass and bisected by seasonal streams.

The archaeologist conducted background research and a site visit. Background research revealed that there has been little Early Stone Age material found in the area, although Middle and Later Stone Age finds do occur and are likely, together with rock engravings. Historically, displaced refugees, fleeing the Mfecane, arrived in the area from the 1820s, encountering the early white travellers, traders and farmers in the region. A mission station was established at Olyfenhoutsdrift in 1871 and a police force was stationed at Upington to police the conflict between the Koranna, San and farmers. These two settlements combined to create the town Upington in 1898. The 1914 Rebellion saw a number of people camp on Van Roois Vley and the tree and site where General Manie Maritz declared his intention to join the Rebellion is a Provincial Heritage Site; a rebel who died during the encampment was reburied under the tree.

The site survey identified a single historic site and several Stone Age features. The historic site (Site 1) consisted of a large refuse midden with glass, ceramics and metal artefacts together with more recent bricks and debris. The remaining sites (Sites 2-34) contained Middle and Later Stone Age material occurring singly or in small scatters; none comprised a site as such. Most tools were in the form of waste flakes, cores, scrapers and broken points. The author notes the presence of the PHS and a site with rock engravings beyond the development area.

No palaeontological assessment was conducted, however the study area is largely underlain by Namaqua Province Metamorphic rocks, which are largely unfossiliferous.





Decision:

SAHRA supports the recommendations of the author and requires that:

- Given the historic rebel encampment on the farm, any sites associated with that time are of potential significance. For this reason, Site 1 should be temporarily fenced off before construction and the fence should be erected 10m from the perimeter of the site, with no construction or development allowed within the fenced off area. If the site cannot be avoided, a Phase 1b assessment will be necessary, allowing for limited excavation to assess the depth and extent of the deposit as well as to better document the cultural material present by means of photographs, description and analysis of the material. The specialist will require a mitigation permit from the relevant Heritage Resources Authority in terms of section 35 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999). On receipt of a satisfactory report from the archaeologist, the heritage authority will make further recommendations in terms of the site. Very often permission is given for the destruction of the remainder of the archaeological or palaeontological sites. Very rarely, if a site has high heritage significance the authority may request that it be conserved, that mini-site management plans, interpretive material and possibly protective infrastructure be established.
- Given the paucity of knowledge about Stone Age material in the area and the high number of Stone Age occurrences identified, detailed recording of all occurrences and mitigation in the form of systematic collection of a representative sample must be undertaken before trenching and any other earth-moving activity resulting from this proposed project begin. The distribution of artefacts to be collected must be recorded and shot in with the aid of a surveying instrument and a photographic record must be established immediately before, during and after mitigation. A suitably qualified Stone Age archaeologist will require a mitigation permit from SAHRA in terms of Section 35 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999). On receipt of a satisfactory mitigation (Phase 2) permit report from the archaeologist, SAHRA will make further recommendations in terms of the sites such as their final destruction or additional sampling.

If the recommendations made in the specialist report and in this comment are adhered to, 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). 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 a professional archaeologist and/or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be alerted immediately.

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
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/336) (DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/335)

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.

