

Appendix C6:
Comments Received

MOQHAKA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Savannah Public Process

From: Savannah Public Process
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 6:16 PM
To: Rentia Thompson
Subject: RE: VREDE & RONDAVEL SOLAR PV DEVELOPMENTS - Reminder Notification: Review and comment period ending soon

Dear Rentia,

Thank you for the e-mail below.

The feedback from the Electricity Section is noted and forwarded to the project team for their information.

Kind regards,



t: +27 (0)11 656 3237
f: +27 (0) 86 684 0547

Nicolene Venter
Public Process

e: Publicprocess@savannahsa.com
c: +27 (0)60 978 8396

SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant on Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015

From: Rentia Thompson
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 12:14 PM
To: Savannah Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
Subject: FW: VREDE & RONDAVEL SOLAR PV DEVELOPMENTS - Reminder Notification: Review and comment period ending soon

Good afternoon, the following for your attention please.



Sincerely,

Rentia Thompson
p.p. Directorate: Infrastructure
Management & Development
PO Box 302, Hill Street, Kroonstad, 9499

From: Louis Greeff
Sent: Wednesday, 27 January 2021 11:53 AM
To: Rentia Thompson
Cc: Lerato Ngobeni

Etienne De Villiers

Subject: RE: VREDE & RONDAVEL SOLAR PV DEVELOPMENTS - Reminder Notification: Review and comment period ending soon

Good day

The area is in the Eskom distribution area therefore the Electricity Section cannot comment on the proposed Solar PV developments.

Regards

Louis Greeff
Directorate: Technical Services - Electricity



From: Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>

Sent: Wednesday, 06 January 2021 4:10 PM

To: Rentia Thompson

Subject: VREDE & RONDAVEL SOLAR PV DEVELOPMENTS - Reminder Notification: Review and comment period ending soon

DEVELOPMENT OF THE 100MW VREDE PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY & BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS), AND THE 100MW RONDAVEL SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS), INCLUDING ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BOTH, LOCATED NEAR KROONSTAD, FREE STATE PROVINCE

Dear Stakeholder and Interested and Affected Party,

With reference to the attached notification letter sent on Wednesday, 18 November 2020 per e-mail, this e-mail serves to inform you that the comment period for the Scoping Report (SR) is ending on **Monday, 11 January 2021**.

As you may recall, the review and comment period for the SR was from Friday, 20 November 2020 to Monday, 11 January 2021.

Thank you to those Stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties who submitted their written comments and those who had not yet submitted written comments, we kindly request that you do so before or on **Monday, 11 January 2021**

Kind regards,

[Unsubscribe this type of email](#)



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SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant on Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND
THE ENVIRONMENT



environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA 0001 Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia· PRETORIA

DEFF Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2038

Enquiries: Ms Constance Musemburi

Telephone: (012) 399 9416 E-mail: Cmusemburi@environment.gov.za

Mr Gideon Raath
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
P. O Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
2157

Telephone Number: (011) 656 3237/3256/3251
Email Address: gideon@savannahsa.com

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Mr Raath

ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE 100 MW VREDE PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED NEAR KROONSTAD IN THE MOQHAKA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE.

The final Scoping Report (FSR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA) dated January 2021 and received by the Department on 15 January 2021, refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted FSR and the PoSEIA dated January 2021 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the PoSEIA as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR):

(a) Listed Activities

- (i) The listed activities represented in the EIAR and the application form must be the same and correct
- (ii) Note that for every activity, a sub-activity must be selected i.e. Listing Notice 1, Activity 12(ii)(a). The EIAR must assess the correct sub listed activity for each listed activity applied for.
- (iii) The EIAR must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.

- (iv) Kindly include the proposed threshold for each activity. For each listed activity, where possible, provide the proposed threshold/footprint associated with the listed activity i.e. the footprint of infrastructure in m², the removal of material in m³, the clearance of land in m², number of BESS per site (each individual unit, if applicable), the storage of hazardous goods in m³, road dimensions etc.
- (v) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the latest version of the Department's application form template can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.

(b) Public Participation

- i. Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAR. This includes but is not limited to the Free State Department of Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA), the Department of Transport, the Mqhashaka Local Municipality, the Fezile Dabi District Municipality, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL), the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), BirdLife SA, the Department of Mineral Resources & Energy; Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Environment, Forestry & Fisheries: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation.
- (i) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR and draft EIAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final EIAR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- (ii) A Comments and Response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAR. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Appendix 1 of this comments letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments.
- (iii) Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.
- (iv) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

(c) Alternatives

- (i) Please provide a description of each of the preferred alternative type and provide detailed motivation on why it is preferred.
- (ii) The applicant must determine the need for decommissioning of existing facilities, structures or infrastructure. This information must inform whether there is a need to update the application form and/or to amend the terms of reference for the specialist studies.

(d) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- (i) The EIAR must provide the four corner coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities for each of the sites. Coordinates must be in the format as prescribed in the 2014 NEMA Regulations, as amended.
- (ii) The EIAR must provide the following:
 - Clear indication of the envisioned area for the proposed solar and BESS facility; i.e. placing of BESS, PV panels and all associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale.
 - Clear description of all associated infrastructure. This description must include, but is not limited to the following:
 - Power lines;
 - Internal roads infrastructure; and
 - All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house and control room etc.
- (iii) A copy of the final preferred layout map. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following:
 - Permanent laydown area footprint;
 - Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible);
 - Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used;
 - The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
 - Location of access and service roads;
 - All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads;
 - Buffer areas;
 - Buildings, including accommodation; and
 - All "no-go" areas.
- (iv) An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process.
- (v) A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.
- (vi) Google Maps will not be accepted.

(e) Specialist assessments

- (i) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:
 - A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.
 - Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.

- Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.
 - Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Departments definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.
 - **All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.**
 - Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
 - Outcomes regarding the radiological study must be clearly explained in the subsequent reports. It must be illustrated whether the findings of the previous radiological study or a new study will be commissioned.
 - Regarding cumulative impacts:
 - Clearly defined cumulative impacts and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - A detailed process flow to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
 - Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development must be rated with the significance rating methodology used in the process.
 - The significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
 - A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.
- (ii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
- (iii) The following Specialist Assessments will form part of the EIAR:
- Agricultural Impact Assessment
 - Terrestrial Ecological Study
 - Heritage Impact Assessment
 - Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
 - Visual Impact Assessment

(f) General

- i. The proposed development must consider the requirements of the custodians/authorities of existing infrastructure on site when designing the layout.
- ii. The EIAR must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions. A sample for the minimum information required is listed under Annexure 2 below.
- iii. Should a Water Use License be required, proof of application for a license must to be submitted.
- iv. The EAP must provide landowner consent for all farm portions affected by the proposed project, whether the project component is linear or not, i.e. all farm portions where the access road, solar panels and associated infrastructure is to be located.

- v. A construction and operational phase EMPr that includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the final EIAR. The EMPr must include a detailed fire management and protection plan.
- vi. Should the applicant wish to expand the footprint of the proposed development, implications to public participation, listed activities (application form), scope of the specialist studies and impacts and mitigations must be considered and reflected clearly.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amendment, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
Signed by: Ms Millicent Solomons
Designation: Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects
Date: 24/02/2021.

cc:	Mr Eugene Marais	South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd
	Mr N Koen	DESTEA
	Simon Mqwathi	Hantam Local Municipality

Annexure 1

Format for Comments and Response Trail Report:

Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
27/01/2016 Email Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries: Priority Infrastructure Projects (John Doe)	Please record C&R trail report in this format Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority	EAP: (Noted) The C&R trail report has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form

Annexure 2: Sample of technical details for the proposed facility

Component	Description / dimensions
Height of PV panels	
Area of PV Array	
Number of inverters required	
Area occupied by inverter / transformer stations / substations	
Capacity of on-site substation	
Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas	
Area occupied by buildings	
Length of internal roads	
Width of internal roads	
Proximity to grid connection	
Height of fencing	
Type of fencing	
BESS infrastructure	

**SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES
AGENCY**

Savannah Public Process

From: Natasha Higgitt
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 10:41 AM
To: Savannah Public Process
Cc: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
Subject: RE: VREDE & RONDAVEL SOLAR PV DEVELOPMENTS (14/12/16/3/3/2/2038 (Vrede) & 14/12/16/3/3/2/2039 (Rondavel): Commencement of EIA Phase

Importance: Low

Good morning,

Please note that all development applications are processed via our online portal, the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) found at the following link: <http://sahra.org.za/sahris/>. We do not accept emailed, posted, hardcopy, faxed, website links or DropBox links as official submissions.

Please create an application on SAHRIS and upload all documents pertaining to the Environmental Authorisation Application Process. As per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA), an assessment of heritage resources must form part of the process and the assessment must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA.

Once all documents including all appendices are uploaded to the case application, please ensure that the status of the case is changed from DRAFT to SUBMITTED. Please ensure that all documents produced as part of the EA process are submitted as part of the application.

From: Savannah Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
Sent: 16 April 2021 15:19
To: Natasha Higgitt
Subject: VREDE & RONDAVEL SOLAR PV DEVELOPMENTS (14/12/16/3/3/2/2038 (Vrede) & 14/12/16/3/3/2/2039 (Rondavel): Commencement of EIA Phase

DEVELOPMENT OF THE 100MW VREDE SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY & BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS), AND THE 100MW RONDAVEL SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS), INCLUDING ASSOCIATED GRID CONNECTION SOLUTIONS FOR BOTH, LOCATED NEAR KROONSTAD, FREE STATE PROVINCE

(DEFF Reference Nos.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2038 (Vrede) and 14/12/16/3/3/2/2039 (Rondavel) respectively)

Dear Stakeholder and Interested & Affected Party,

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd, the appointed Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) notified you, as a registered interested and affected party (I&APs), in November 2020 of the availability of the Scoping Report for the above-mentioned projects for your review and comments. The final Scoping Reports for both projects were submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) on 15 January 2021.

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the DFFE has accepted the final Scoping Report and approved the Plan of Study for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in terms of Regulation 22 (a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The letters in this regard was received on Wednesday, 24 February 2021 (Vrede) and Thursday, 25 February 2021 (Rondavel).

Please find attached letter for further details regarding the commencement of the EIA processes.

Kind regards,

[Unsubscribe this type of email](#)



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Nicolene Venter
Public Process

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SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant on Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015

Natasha Higgitt

Heritage Officer: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit

South African Heritage Resources Agency

- *A nation united through heritage* -

www.sahra.org.za



Savannah Public Process

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Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 10:41 AM
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Cc: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
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(DEFF Reference Nos.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2038 (Vrede) and 14/12/16/3/3/2/2039 (Rondavel) respectively)

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We would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the DFFE has accepted the final Scoping Report and approved the Plan of Study for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in terms of Regulation 22 (a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The letters in this regard was received on Wednesday, 24 February 2021 (Vrede) and Thursday, 25 February 2021 (Rondavel).

Please find attached letter for further details regarding the commencement of the EIA processes.

Kind regards,

[Unsubscribe this type of email](#)



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SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant on Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015

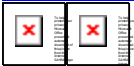
Natasha Higgitt

Heritage Officer: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit

South African Heritage Resources Agency

- *A nation united through heritage* -

www.sahra.org.za



SCOPING PHASE

DEFF



environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, · PRETORIA

DEFF Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2039

Enquiries: Ms Constance Musemburi

Telephone: (012) 399 9416 E-mail: CMusemburi@environment.gov.za

Mr Gideon Raath
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
P. O Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
2157

Telephone Number: (011) 656 3237/3256/3251
Email Address: gideon@savannahsa.com

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Mr Raath

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE 100 MW RONDAVEL PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED NEAR KROONSTAD IN THE MOQHAKA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, FEZILE DABI DISTRICT, FREE STATE PROVINCE.

The application form and draft Scoping Report (SR) dated November 2020, received by this Department on 20 November 2020 and acknowledged on the 24 November 2020, refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the final SR:

(a) Listed Activities

- It is noted that activity 11 (i) of Listing Notice 1 has been applied for however the draft SR on page 11 mentions that "*The grid connection solution for the Rondavel Solar PV facility forms part of a separate application for environmental authorisation subject to a Basic Assessment, to be submitted in due course. This application will be submitted separately and does therefore not form part of this application*". Please clarify why is this activity applied for in this application?
- For each listed activity, where possible, please ensure that the proposed threshold/footprint associated with the listed activity are included, i.e. the footprint of infrastructure in m², the removal of material in m³, the clearance of land in ha or m², number of BESS per site (each individual unit, if applicable), the storage of hazardous goods in m³, road dimensions etc.
- Please confirm the relevance of activity 12 (b) ((ii) of Listing Notice 3 (985) to this development and whether the Free State Biodiversity Spatial Plan has been adopted.
- Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. Only activities applicable to the development must be applied for and assessed.
- If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form

template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.

- It is noted that Activity 14 is triggered since hazardous goods will be stored on site and the electrolyte for the BESS will also periodically be refilled.

Project Description

The project describes the construction of the onsite substation. The inclusion of the onsite substation is questioned as the Department understands that the grid connection solution will be separate application. You are required to amend the application from and the SR to exclude information with regards to the 33/132kV on-site substation including its associated equipment and infrastructure and grid Connection 132kV power line so as to avoid confusion.

(b) Alternatives

- Please note that all reference to a basic assessment process in the report must be corrected as this is a scoping and environmental impact assessment. This is a serious fatal flaw.
- Please ensure that a description of any identified alternatives for the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity as per Appendix 2 (1) (c) (d) and 2 (h) of GN R.982 of 2014, as amended, is provided. Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2 (2)(x)(xi).

(c) Specialist Studies

- Please note that the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Scoping Report must be reviewed by an independent peer reviewer.
- Please note that the specialist studies to be conducted must provide their comments and recommendations on the preferred alternatives.
- Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
- The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.

(d) Cumulative Assessment

Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:

- a) Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
- b) Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
- c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.

d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

(e) Public Participation Process

- Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the final SR. This includes but is not limited to the Free State Department of Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA), the Department of Transport, the Moqhaka Local Municipality, the Fezile Dabi District Municipality, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL), the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), BirdLife SA, the Department of Mineral Resources; Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation.
- Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- A Comments and Response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format. Please note that a response such as "noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments.
- The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014 as amended.

General

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:

"If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority"

You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries

Signed by: Ms Milicent Solomons

Designation: Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects

Date: 10/12/2020.

cc:	Mr Eugene Marais	South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd
	Mr N Koen	DESTEA
	Simon Mqwathi	Hantam Local Municipality

Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries



environment, forestry & fisheries

Department: Environment, Forestry
and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Directorate: Forestry Management (Other Regions), P.O. Box 3291, Bloemfontein, 9300

Enquiries: Ms. Z. Matiwane
E-mail: ZilungileM@daff.gov.za
Contact: 060 973 2126
Date: 11 October 2021

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
P.O. Box 148
Sunninghill
Gauteng,
2157

Attention: Mr. Gideon Raath (Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd)

COMMENTS ON BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE 100MW RONDAVEL PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED NEAR KROONSTAD, FREE STATE PROVINCE

1. DEPARTMENTAL MANDATE

The Directorate: Forestry Management (Other Regions) in the Department of Environment, Forestry, Fisheries is responsible for administration of the National Forests Act, Act 84 of 1998 (NFA) and the National Veld and Forest Fires Act, Act 101 of 1998 (NVFFA) as amended.

2. NATIONAL FORESTS ACT, ACT 84 OF 1998 (AS AMENDED)

2.1 Section 12(1) read with s15(1) of the National Forests Act, Act 84 of 1998 (NFA) states that the Minister may declare a particular tree, group of trees, woodland; or trees belonging to a particular species, to be a protected tree, group of trees, woodland or species.

2.1 A list of protected tree species was gazetted in GN 635 of 6 December 2019, those found in Freestate Province including Camel thorn (*Vachellia erioloba*), Bushman's tea (*Catha edulis*), Shepherd's tree (*Boscia albitrunca*), Real yellowwood (*Podocarpus latifolius*), Outeniqua yellowwood (*Podocarpus falcatus*) and Cheesewood (*Pittosporum viridiflorum*).

2.2 The effect of the declaration is that no person may (a) cut, disturb, damage or destroy; or (b) possess, collect, remove, transport, export, purchase, sell, donate or in any other manner acquire or dispose of any protected tree, or any forest product derived from a protected tree, except under a license granted by the Minister; or in terms of an exemption published by the Minister in the Gazette.

2.3 Section 58(1) of the NFA read with s62 and s63 states that any person who contravenes the prohibition on the cutting, disturbance, damage or destruction of protected trees referred to in section 15(1)(a) of the NFA; or the possession, collection, removal, transport, export, purchase or sale of any forest product derived from a protected tree referred to in section 15(1)(b), is guilty of a first category offence and may be sentenced to a fine or imprisonment for a period of up to three years, or both.

3. COMMENTS ON BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

3.1 The Rondavel Solar PV Facility is to be developed on the remaining extent of the farm Rondavel Noord No. 1475 and the remaining extent of the farm Rondavel No. 627, located approximately 6km south-west of the town of Kroonstad in the Free State Province. The proposed project area may have an impact on protected trees under s15 (1) of the National Forests Act, Act 84 of 1998 (NFA). The developer must do an assessment to determine how many protected trees (if there are any) will be destroyed by the proposed development.

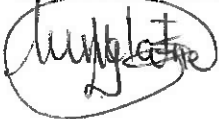
3.2 The development area contains many areas of dense thorny shrubs. One small ephemeral drainage line bisects the southeastern corner of the development area, with a length of approximately 1.5km. Drainage lines are important corridors for woodland species because the woodland along the banks is a refuge for woodland species. The largest concentration of shrubs and a few small trees in the development area is found along the banks of the drainage line. If these thorny scrubs are protected under Section 15 (1) of the National Forests Act, Act 84 of 1998 (NFA), there may be a need for an application for a license under the NFA.

3.3 The license application form is available on the Departments' website or at any Forestry Office. Supporting documentation required when applying for a license is listed on the license application form. Each property is required to apply individually for a license and the department cannot issue a blanket license for the entire project.

3.4 Due to the late receipt of the scoping report the department has not had sufficient time to go through the entire report and is willing to visit the proposed site should there be time available to do so.

Kind Regards,

Zilungile Matiwane
Chief Forester: Regulations



Ronald Baloyi

From: Nicolene Venter
Sent: Monday, 11 January 2021 16:04
To:
Cc: Gideon Raath; Ronald Baloyi
Subject: RE: Scoping Report Comments

Dear Ms Matiwane,

Thank you for taking my call this afternoon to confirm that your Department's comments in the letter attached to your e-mail below is also applicable to the 100MW Vrede Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and Associated Infrastructure.

The comments submitted in the letter will be captured in both the project's comments and responses report.

Kind regards,



t: +27 (0)11 656 3237
f: +27 (0) 86 684 0547

Nicolene Venter
Public Process

e: Publicprocess@savannahsa.com
c: +27 (0)60 978 8396

SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant on Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015

-----Original Message-----

From: Gideon Raath <gideon@savannahsa.com>
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 3:29 PM
To: Nicolene Venter <nicolene@savannahsa.com>; Ronald Baloyi <Ronald@savannahsa.com>
Subject: FW: Scoping Report Comments

Gideon Raath
Environmental and Permitting Consultant | Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
Tel: +27 (0)11 656 3237 | Cell: +27 (0)72 194 3644 | Fax: +27 (0)86 684 0547

SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant for Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015

-----Original Message-----

From
Sent: Monday, 11 January 2021 15:27
To: Gideon Raath <gideon@savannahsa.com>
Subject: Scoping Report Comments

Good Afternoon Gideon

Attached please find the scoping report comments from the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries in Bloemfontein FS for the proposed Vrede solar panels.

Kind Regards
Zilungile

Nicolene Venter

From: Zilungile Matiwane
To: Nicolene Venter
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 10:03 AM
Subject: Read: Scoping Report Comments

Your message

To: Zilungile Matiwane
Subject: RE: Scoping Report Comments
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 4:04:29 PM (UTC+02:00) Harare, Pretoria

was read on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 10:01:43 AM (UTC+02:00) Harare, Pretoria.

ESKOM

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Eskom requirements for work in or near Eskom servitudes.

1. Eskom's rights and services must be acknowledged and respected at all times.
2. Eskom shall at all times retain unobstructed access to and egress from its servitudes.
3. Eskom's consent does not relieve the developer from obtaining the necessary statutory, land owner or municipal approvals.
4. Any cost incurred by Eskom as a result of non-compliance to any relevant environmental legislation will be charged to the developer.
5. If Eskom has to incur any expenditure in order to comply with statutory clearances or other regulations as a result of the developer's activities or because of the presence of his equipment or installation within the servitude restriction area, the developer shall pay such costs to Eskom on demand.
6. The use of explosives of any type within 500 metres of Eskom's services shall only occur with Eskom's previous written permission. If such permission is granted the developer must give at least fourteen working days prior notice of the commencement of blasting. This allows time for arrangements to be made for supervision and/or precautionary instructions to be issued in terms of the blasting process. It is advisable to make application separately in this regard.
7. Changes in ground level may not infringe statutory ground to conductor clearances or statutory visibility clearances. After any changes in ground level, the surface shall be rehabilitated and stabilised so as to prevent erosion. The measures taken shall be to Eskom's satisfaction.
8. Eskom shall not be liable for the death of or injury to any person or for the loss of or damage to any property whether as a result of the encroachment or of the use of the servitude area by the developer, his/her agent, contractors, employees, successors in title, and assignees. The developer indemnifies Eskom against loss, claims or damages including claims pertaining to consequential damages by third parties and whether as a result of damage to or interruption of or interference with Eskom's services or apparatus or otherwise. Eskom will not be held responsible for damage to the developer's equipment.
9. No mechanical equipment, including mechanical excavators or high lifting machinery, shall be used in the vicinity of Eskom's apparatus and/or services, without prior written permission having been granted by Eskom. If such permission is granted the developer must give at least seven working days' notice prior to the commencement of work. This allows time for arrangements to be made for supervision and/or precautionary instructions to be issued by the relevant Eskom Manager

Note: Where and electrical outage is required, at least fourteen work days are required to arrange it.

10. Eskom's rights and duties in the servitude shall be accepted as having prior right at all times and shall not be obstructed or interfered with.
11. Under no circumstances shall rubble, earth or other material be dumped within the servitude restriction area. The developer shall maintain the area concerned to Eskom's satisfaction. The developer shall be liable to Eskom for the cost of any remedial action which has to be carried out by Eskom.
12. The clearances between Eskom's live electrical equipment and the proposed construction work shall be observed as stipulated by *Regulation 15* of the *Electrical Machinery Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993)*.
13. Equipment shall be regarded electrically live and therefore dangerous at all times.
14. In spite of the restrictions stipulated by Regulation 15 of the Electrical Machinery Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993), as an additional safety precaution, Eskom will not approve the erection of houses, or structures occupied or frequented by human beings, under the power lines or within the servitude restriction area.
15. Eskom may stipulate any additional requirements to highlight any possible exposure to Customers or Public to coming into contact or be exposed to any dangers of Eskom plant.
16. It is required of the developer to familiarise himself with all safety hazards related to Electrical plant.
17. Any third party servitudes encroaching on Eskom servitudes shall be registered against Eskom's title deed at the developer's own cost. If such a servitude is brought into being, its existence should be endorsed on the Eskom servitude deed concerned, while the third party's servitude deed must also include the rights of the affected Eskom servitude.

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat)(EAPASA)
Senior Consultant Environmental Management
Eskom Transmission Division: Land & Rights
Megawatt Park, D1Y42, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton.

Moqhaka for the People

Savannah Public Process

From: Anton Meyer
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 3:00 PM
To: Savannah Info
Cc: Savannah Public Process; spiro khoury
Subject: Email by Moqhaka for the People....
Attachments: Savannah Environmental - SPV.pdf

Dear Ms Venter,

Re: Above Heading,

- The MFP (Moqhaka for the People) is disturbed by a lack of acknowledgement and or reply by Savannah Environmental on the writing by the MFP;
- For your edification the PDF document will be attached to this email,
- Please note writing is dated 27 November 2020, and receipt thereof by Moqhaka Municipality, 30 November 2020, confirmed by Municipal Stamp.
- Please acknowledge both emails as received, by return email, to my email address .

My contact detail/s follow below:

Cellphone Voice & WhattsAoo ·

Skype:

Sincerely,

Anton B Meyer

Admin Secretary: Moqhaka for the People (MFP)

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



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27.11.2020

To: The Executive Mayor, Municipal Manager, Head of Technical Services, Head of Electrical, Legal Services & Savannah Environmental.

Moqhaka Municipality

Hill Street

Kroonstad

9499

Public Notice by Savannah environmental for and on behalf of South African Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd. (Undated)

Dear Recipients

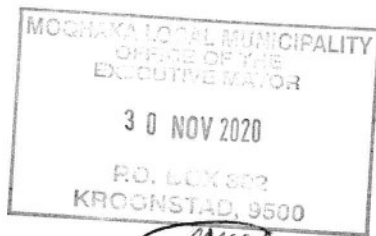
The MFP a Public Participation Forum and also the Imperial Investment Appointed Agent hereby oppose the above Illegal and unwarranted Public Notice, based on the following fact;

That the above Public Notification is in direct breach of the **Appointment on Risk: Expression of Interest In Moqhaka Power Station issued by Moqhaka Municipality**, dated 27 December 2018 and the acceptance of the Appointment by Imperial Investments dated 1 December 2018.

Yours sincerely

Spiro Khoury

MFP Chairman



Anton Meyer

MFP Admin Secretary

Savannah Public Process

From: Anton Meyer <meyerab54@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 5:48 PM
To: Savannah Public Process;
Cc: Braam Visagie; spiro khoury; keke.ramantso1;
Subject: RE: Vrede SEF & Rondavel SEF: Scoping Report for review and comment

Dear Nicolene and Liza,

I have just come from the MFP Exec meeting, during the discussion

- I was asked about the Shareholding of SA Mainstream, (if you may disclose, please do so, if not a NDA may be requested)
- The commitment if any to local labour, training and upskilling, (So called Potable Skills)
- And then the question, which I asked before, the reference to REIPPPP in the Scoping Report & elsewhere, when everyone knows the DMRE has said that Window 5, with a little bit of luck will be announced in the first quarter Of 2021,
- Possibly with amended / changed Regulations, different from Window 4,
- And finally, that Savannah Environmental present themselves for a face to face meeting, as soon as possible, but before the 6th of January 2021, to finalise if possible the Public Participation presentation, presently scheduled for 11 January 2021.
- Dates available, 28 – 30 December 2020, and 4 - 6 January 2021.

Thanking you in anticipation,
Anton B Meyer
MFP Admin Secretary

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Public Process](#)
Sent: Thursday, 17 December 2020 10:35
To: [Braam Visagie](#); [Leonard Mafokosi](#); [Anton Meyer](#); [Keke Ramantso](#); [P Motludi](#); [Spiro Khoury](#)
Cc: ronald@savannahsa.com; gideon@savannahsa.com; [Nicolene Venter](#)
Subject: Vrede SEF & Rondavel SEF: Scoping Report for review and comment

DEVELOPMENT OF THE 100MW VREDE PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY & BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS), AND THE 100MW RONDAVEL SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS), INCLUDING ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BOTH, LOCATED NEAR KROONSTAD, FREE STATE PROVINCE

Dear Mr Meyer and Moahaka for the People,

South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd is proposing the development of two separate solar photovoltaic (PV) facilities inclusive of all associated infrastructure ~13km south west of Kroonstad, in the Free State Province. The two solar PV facilities are to be known as the Vrede Solar PV Facility and the Rondavel Solar PV Facility.

Please find attached the Background Information Document which provides additional information regarding the applications for the Vrede PV and Rondavel Solar PV facilities. You are most welcome to distribute these documents to any other I&AP who you believes need to be informed of this proposed projects.

Please also be informed that the draft Scoping Reports are available for download from Savannah Environmental's stakeholder engagement platform at <https://www.savannahsa.com/public-documents/energy-generation/vrede-and-rondavel-pv-sef/> and the release code is: **2g4JyG**. The review and comments period for the Scoping Reports are from **Friday, 20 November 2020** Until **Monday, 11 January 2020**.

It will be appreciated if we can receive your Organisation's written comments on the Scoping Reports before or on **Monday, 11 January 2020**. The Scoping Reports can also be send to you on CD (per courier) or electronically via WeTransfer.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional information and/or clarification regarding the project. Our team welcomes your participation and look forward to your involvement throughout this process.

Kind regards,



t: 011 656 3237
f: 086 684 0547

Nicolene Venter
Public Process

e: publicprocess@savannahsa.com
c: +27 (0) 60 978 8396

SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant on Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015



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MTN

MOBILE TELEPHONE NETWORKS PROPRIETARY LIMITED
(Registration number:1993/001436/07)
216 14th Avenue, Fairland, 2195
Private Baa 9955, Cresta, 2118, South Africa



25 November 2020

For Attention: Savannah Environmental

Letter of Clearance:

DEVELOPMENT OF THE 100MW RONDAVEL PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY & BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS).

Dear Madam,

In response to your request for a letter of clearance regarding the planned photovoltaic solar energy facility near Kroonstad in the Free State province.

MTN hereby confirms that presently, there would be no foreseeable interference or obstructions to MTN's network caused by the above-mentioned photovoltaic solar energy facility.

MTN has no objection to the construction of the aforementioned facility, subject to the project conforming to the relevant ICASA regulations as it relates to radio frequency emissions.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'T. Smith'.

Tessa Smith
Property: Central Region
MTN SA

SAHRA

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha

Date: Friday January 15, 2021

Page No: 1

Email:

CaseID: 15828

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd is proposing the construction and operation of the 75 MWac Rondavel Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Energy Facility (SEF) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), near the town of Kroonstad in the Moqhaka Local Municipality (Fezile Dabi District) of the Free State Province of South Africa. The proposed development traverses four (4) farm parcels namely: » Remaining Extent of the farm Rondavel Noord No. 1475 (main site); and » Remaining Extent of the farm Rondavel No. 627 (main and grid site).

South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd appointed Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Environmental Authorisation application for the proposed construction and operation of the 100 MW Rondavel Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure located near Kroonstad in the Moqhaka Local Municipality, Fezile Dabi District in the Free State Province.

A draft Scoping Report (SR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA; Act No. 107 of 1998) and the NEMA 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended. The project site has an extent of 2027ha and will be located within the Remaining extent of the Farm Rondavel Noord No. 1475 and the remaining extent of the farm Rondavel No. 627. It will be connected to the grid via a separately authorised grid connection solution.

The infrastructure associated with the facility includes solar PV array, inverters and transformers, cabling, on-site facility substation, battery energy storage system (BESS), site offices and maintenance buildings, laydown areas and access roads, fencing around the development area and telecommunication infrastructure, stormwater channels and water pipelines.

CTS Heritage has been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA application as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of

Proposed development of the Rondavel Solar Energy Facilities near Kroonstad, Free State Province

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha

Date: Friday January 15, 2021

Page No: 2

Email:

CaseID: 15828

1999 (NHRA).

Lavin, J. 2020. Heritage Screening Assessment for the Proposed development of the Rondavel Solar Energy Facilities near Kroonstad, Free

The study area is underlain by the Adelaide Subgroup (Beaufort Group) and Volksrust Formation as well as Jurassic Dolerite intrusions. The areas proposed for development are underlain by sediments of moderate to very high palaeontological sensitivity according to the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity Map. Based on other heritage finds in the broader Kroonstad area, potential exists for archaeological resources within the development area.

It is likely that the proposed development will negatively impact on significant archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources, as such, it is recommended that an HIA is required.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite unit notes the Heritage Screening Assessment along with the recommendations provided therein. It is noted that a HIA inclusive of an Archaeological and Palaeontological Impact Assessment is recommended. The SAHRA supports the recommendations of the Heritage Screening Assessment and requests the submission of the pending HIA before further comments can be issued.

The HIA must comply with section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA). Additionally, the archaeology and palaeontology specialist reports must comply with the SAHRA 2006 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Component of Impact Assessments, and the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Component of Heritage Impact Assessments. The HIA should also incorporate the results of the Visual Impact Assessment and any heritage related public comments received during the Public Review period.

The Final Scoping Report must be submitted to the SAHRIS Case application once completed for record purposes. Additionally, the draft EIA and all appendices must be submitted to SAHRA at the start of the Public Review period so that an informed comment may be issued.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above.

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

**Proposed development of the Rondavel Solar Energy Facilities near Kroonstad,
Free State Province**

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha

Date: Friday January 15, 2021

Page No: 3

Email:

CaseID: 15828

Yours faithfully

Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite Intern
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/546560>

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.