

16 May 2023

Ms Natasha Higgitt  
Manager: Development Applications Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency  
111 Harrington Street  
Cape Town  
8000

Dear Ms Higgitt

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESMENT FOR THE PROPOSED UMMBILA EMOYENI ELECTRICAL GRID  
INFRASTRUCTURE, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
(DFFE Reference No.: 4/12/16/3/3/2/2162)**

Emoyeni Renewable Energy Farm (Pty) Ltd is proposing the development of the Ummbila Emoyeni Electrical Grid Infrastructure located within the Govan Mbeki and Lekwa Local Municipalities, within the Gert Sibande District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. The project is planned as part of a larger cluster of renewable energy projects (to be known as the Ummbila Emoyeni Renewable Energy Farm, which includes one 900MW wind energy facility, to be developed in several phases, one 150MW solar energy facility and associated grid connection infrastructure. Each project was subject to a separate EIA process in support of an application for Environmental Authorisation.

After updating the Ummbila Emoyeni Renewable Electrical Grid Infrastructure Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report with written comments received on the draft EIA Report from commenting Stakeholders, Key Stakeholder and Interested and Affected Parties, Savannah Environmental noted that the *Final Comments* from SAHRA were not received, however the *Interim Comments* (CaseID: 18578) dated 31 March 2023 was noted. It was believed that the final written comments submitted by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) (CaseID 18576) on the Ummbila Emoyeni Renewable Wind Facility (DFFE Ref. No.: 4/12/16/3/3/2/2160) dated 18 November 2022 (refer to Appendix A attached) are applicable to the Ummbila Emoyeni Renewable Electric Grid Infrastructure (CaseID 18578). This is due to the fact that the Ummbila Emoyeni Renewable Electrical Grid Infrastructure (DFFE Ref. No.: 4/12/16/3/3/2/2162) is located on properties also assessed for the proposed Ummbila Emoyeni Renewable Wind Facility development areas.

Savannah Environmental submitted the final EIA Report to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) on 21 November 2022 without final written comments from SAHRA, and the DFFE granted Environmental Authorisation for the project in January 2023.

When the EA was uploaded onto SAHRIS (Case 18577) it was noted that the Final Scoping Report and the draft EIA Report were not uploaded onto SAHRIS, although it had been assumed that our team had uploaded the relevant Reports as is our standard procedure to do so.

Savannah Environmental would like to take this opportunity to confirm that the following Reports will be uploaded onto SAHRIS to provide SAHRA with an opportunity to review these:

- Final Scoping Report;
- Draft EIA Report; and
- Final EIA Report

SAHRA's final written comments on the Ummbila Emoyeni Renewable Electric Grid Infrastructure will be appreciated, and responses to the written comments will be provided. The comments received and responses thereto (in the form of an addendum to the Comments and Responses Report included in the Final EIA Report), will be submitted to the DFFE for their consideration together with an explanation as to the reason for the late submission. In addition, a copy of this letter is being submitted to the DFFE Case Officer, Ms Julliet Mahlangu, for her information.

We hope that SAHRA will accept our sincere apology for this oversight in our process.

Confirmation of receipt of this letter will be appreciated.

Kind regards,



Nicolene Venter  
Public Participation and Social Consultant

CC: Ms Julliet Mahlangu, Case Officer: DFFE – [jmmahlangu@dffe.gov.za](mailto:jmmahlangu@dffe.gov.za)

**Document attached:** Appendix A: Ummbila Emoyeni Renewable Electrical Grid Infrastructure (DFFE Ref. No.: 4/12/16/3/3/2/2162), CaseID 18578 31 March 2023