



SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY
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FOR ATTENTION: **PHRA: Northern Cape**

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SAHRA File No: **9/2/032/0001**
Date Received: **15 June 2011**
Date of Comment: **17 February 2012**
Sent to Peer Review:
Date to Peer Review:
SAHRA Contact Person: **Dr Mariagrazia Galimberti**
DEA Ref. no: **12/12/20/2056**

REVIEW COMMENT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

BY ARCHAEOLOGY, PALAEOLOGY AND METEORITES UNIT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

South Africa has a unique and non-renewable archaeological and palaeontological heritage. Archaeological and palaeontological sites are protected in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999) and may not be disturbed without a permit. Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIAs) and Palaeontological Impact Assessments (PIAs) identify and assess the significance of the sites, assess the potential impact of developments upon such sites, and make recommendations concerning mitigation and management of these sites. On the basis of satisfactory specialist reports SAHRA or the relevant heritage resources agency can assess whether or not it has objection to a development and indicate the conditions upon which such development might proceed and assess whether or not to issue permission to destroy such sites.

AIAs and PIAs often form part of the heritage component of an Environmental Impact Assessment or Environmental Management Plan. They may also form part of a Heritage Impact Assessment called for in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act No. 25, 1999. They may have other origins. In any event they should comply with basic minimum standards of reporting as indicated in SAHRA Regulations and Guidelines.

This form provides review comment from the Archaeologist of the relevant heritage resources authority for use by Heritage Managers, for example, when informing authorities that have applied to SAHRA for comment and for inclusion in documentation sent to environmental authorities. It may be used in conjunction with Form B, which provides relevant peer review comment.

- A. PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY: **Northern Cape**
- B. AUTHOR OF THE REPORT: **Dr Johnny van Schalkwyk**
- C. ARCHAEOLOGY CONTRACT GROUP:
- D. CONTACT DETAILS: **62 Coetzer Avenue, Monument Park, 0181, Tel: 076 790 6777, email: jvanschalkwyk@mweb.co.za**
- E. DATE OF REPORT: **May 2011**
- F. TITLE OF REPORT: **Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Establishment for the Ilanga Solar Thermal Power Plant, near Upington, Northern Cape province.**
- G. Please circle as relevant: Archaeological component of **EIA** / EMP / HIA / CMP/ Other (Specify).....
- H. REPORT COMMISSIONED BY (**CONSULTANT** OR DEVELOPER): **Ms Tammy Kruger, Savannah Environmental**
- I. CONTACT DETAILS: **P.O. Box 148, Sunninghill, 2151, tammy@savannahasa.com**
- J. COMMENTS:

Please see comment on next page

REVIEW COMMENT ON HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT**Dr J. van Schalkwyk****Dated: May 2011, Received: June 2011****Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Establishment for the Ilanga Solar Thermal Power Plant, near Uppington, Northern Cape province****INTRODUCTION**

Ilangaletu Solar Power has received the environmental authorization for the establishment of a concentrated solar power (CSP) plant near Uppington. The solar facility will produce 125MW and will cover 4.84km². The solar farm will include, besides the solar field, a power block composed by a steam turbine generator and a substation, water related infrastructure, a 132kV power line, which will connect the facility to the Gordonia-Garona power line, and other associated infrastructure such as access roads, parking facilities, buildings for administration and security and temporary waste storage facilities.

An environmental authorization was issued in October 2011, however SAHRA never commented on the specialist report of the Environmental Impact Assessment, since it failed to meet the deadline for the commenting period. SAHRA is therefore rectifying the situation allowing Ilangaletu Solar Power to bid for the REFIT phase.

Dr van Schalkwyk undertook a scoping study in October 2010, which was commented upon by SAHRA in July 2011. A Heritage Impact Assessment was undertaken in May 2011, but no palaeontological assessment was included in any of the two phases.

During his survey the archaeologists identified six Later Stone Age scatters located along a non-perennial stream ending into a pan south of the development.

Other heritage resources identified on the property are two structures of low significance, one of which may be younger than 60 years.

It is unclear whether at this stage the footprint of all infrastructure has already been surveyed or not. If this is not the case, SAHRA requires that an archaeologist visit the site before construction starts to identify possible archaeological resources on these footprints.

The Later Stone Age sites should be protected. Since they are located outside of the development footprint, they are not expected to be affected, however, it is required that a buffer zone of at least 50m is maintained from the border of the pan, and no development may occur within it.

Decisions on Built Environment (e.g. structures over 60 years) and Cultural Landscapes and associated Living Heritage (e.g. sacred sites) must be made by the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Northern Cape (Mr. Joas Sinthumule, jsinthumule@ncpg.gov.za) to whom this Archaeological Review Comment will be .

If the recommendations made in this comment are adhered to, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit has no objection to the development (in terms of the archaeological component of the heritage resources). Please provide SAHRA with the report of the additional survey before construction starts.

If any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources are found during construction, SAHRA (Mariagrazia Galimberti/Colette Scheermeyer, Tel: 021 462 4502) and a professional archaeologist must be alerted immediately.

SIGNATURE OF ARCHAEOLOGIST PROCESSING REPORT: 

EMAIL: mgalimberti@sahra.org.za

SIGNATURE OF SAHRA HEAD ARCHAEOLOGIST: 

EMAIL: cscheermeyer@sahra.org.za

NAME OF HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY: SAHRA.....

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COMMENT (ABOVE OR APPENDED) CONSTITUTES THE COMMENT OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY ARCHAEOLOGIST AND THAT ANY DEVELOPMENT THAT INVOLVES DESTRUCTION OF ANY ARCHAEOLOGICAL/PALAEONTOLOGICAL SITE IS STILL SUBJECT TO A PERMIT/PERMISSION FOR DESTRUCTION OF SUCH SITE GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPER BY THE RELEVANT HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALAEONTOLOGICAL PERMIT COMMITTEE (THIS WILL BE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE PHASE 2 OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL/ PALAEONTOLOGICAL MITIGATION AS NECESSARY). THIS REPORT MAY BE TAKEN ONLY AS APPROVAL IN TERMS OF SECTION 35 OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT. THE PROVINCIAL MANAGER OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY MUST ADVISE AS TO APPROVAL IN TERMS OF HERITAGE ISSUES ENCOMPASSED BY OTHER ASPECTS OF THE LEGISLATION, SUCH AS ISSUES OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (STRUCTURES (E.G. FARM HOUSES), OVER 60 YEARS), INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS OR OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES AS THIS IS NOT WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGIST.

PLEASE NOTE THAT SAHRA IS NOW RESPONSIBLE FOR GRADE I HERITAGE RESOURCES (AND EXPORT) AND THE PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GRADE II AND GRADE III HERITAGE RESOURCES, EXCEPT WHERE THERE IS AN AGENCY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY.

