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CaseID: 145

Date: Friday June 22, 2012

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Final Comment

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

Attention:

Ms Tamarin Arthur
SRK Consulting
P O Box 21842
Port Elizabeth
6000

Proposed Metrowind Wind Energy Facility on the Farm Rietfontein Van Stadens, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape.

Booth, C., January 2012. *An Archaeological 'Ground-Truthing' Survey Of The Footprint For The Proposed Metrowind Wind Energy Facility (Wef) On The Farm Rietfontein Van Stadens, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape Province.*

Gess, R., June 2012. *Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment for van Stadens Wind Farm*

Metrowind received an environmental authorization for the establishment of a wind energy facility in the Nelson Mandela bay Municipality (DEA ref: 12/12/20/1506). The original project was downscaled from including three properties to only one property, where eight wind turbines will be erected.

SAHRA commented in March 2010 on the original heritage impact assessment undertaken by Dr Johan Binneman and Ms Celeste Booth and requested in the recommendations that a Palaeontological Impact Assessment be undertaken and test excavation be necessary for the sites identified during the survey, if impacted by the development.

A desktop study, which is indeed a letter of exemption from further palaeontological studies, was undertaken by Dr Gess in June 2012, while a new final survey of the exact area where wind turbines and related infrastructure are proposed was undertaken by Ms Booth.

The area earmarked for the development is underlain by the Nanaga Formation, which is formed by semi consolidated to consolidated aeolian deposits which generally do not contain fossils of palaeontological significance. The Nanaga Formation is in turn underlain by the Kleinrivier, Kaan and van Stadens Formations of the Gamtoos Group of Proterozoic Age. Thin-shelled microfossils were recovered in the Gamtoos Group, however according to the specialist it is unlikely that they will be recorded in the affected locality.

Ms Booth identified a few new Stone Age scatters located along the proposed route between Turbines 4 and 5 and 4 and 6. One site is also located close to Turbine 7. Three sites, VS08, VS10 and VS13, had already been identified during the previous survey and test pitting was requested if they had to be impacted by the



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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development.

During the new survey Ms Booth identified three empty unused reservoirs, which may be older than 60 years and therefore protected by the s. 34 of the NHRA and seven new scatters of marine shell, fragments of fauna. at times dug up by burrowing animals. No depth of deposit seems to be present, however the presence of churned up material from mole hills may indicate some archaeological stratification.

Decision:

After having assessed the three impact assessments and consulted with the specialist and the consultant, SAHRA recommends that:

- from a palaeontological perspective the development may proceed.
- if sites VS08, VS10 and VS13 are impacted upon by the development, test pitting must be undertaken to assess depth of deposit and their significance. The archaeologist will require a permit from SAHRA in terms of s. 35 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999). The results of the test pits must be submitted to SAHRA APM Unit for consideration. SAHRA will make further recommendations in terms of the sites such as their final destruction or additional sampling.
- if it is expected that sites VS08, VS10 and VS13 are not going to be impacted by the establishment of the wind energy facility, a buffer zone of 50m must be maintained around them. A temporary fence must be erected around them and the sites must be clearly demarcated on maps to ensure that archaeological resources are not accidentally disturbed during construction and future maintenance activities.
- test pitting must be undertaken in sensitive areas between turbines 4 and 6 to better understand the possible significance of the archaeological material abundantly identified along the proposed route connecting these two turbines. As for above, the archaeologist will require a permit from SAHRA in terms of s. 35 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999). The results of the test pits must be submitted to SAHRA APM Unit for consideration. SAHRA will make further recommendations in terms of the sites such as their final destruction or additional sampling.
- 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 or palaeontologist according to the nature of the findings 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



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Mariagrazia Galimberti
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
(DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/1506)

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.



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