



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
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CaseID: 21881

Date: Monday August 07, 2023  
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## Interim Comment

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

Attention: Utopia Solar PV 1 (Pty) Ltd

**The activity entails the development of an up to 130MW photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure on the Remaining Extent of the Farm Paradys No. 137, situated within the Mqohaka Local Municipality area of jurisdiction. The town of Viljoenskroon is located approximately ~22km southeast of of the proposed development (refer to the attached locality map). The project entails the generation of up to 130MW electrical power through photovoltaic (PV) panels. The total footprint of the project will approximately be 587 hectares (including supporting infrastructure on site). The property on which the facility is to be constructed will be leased by Utopia Solar PV 1 (Pty) Ltd from the property owner, for the lifespan of the project (minimum of 20 years).**

Thank you for notifying SAHRA of the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Utopia Solar PV 1 near Viljoenskroon, Free State Province.

As the proposed development is undergoing an EA Application process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA), NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations as amended, it is incumbent on the developer to ensure that an application specific Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is done as per section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA. This must include an archaeological component, palaeontological component and any other applicable heritage components. The HIA must be conducted as part of the EA Application in terms of NEMA and the NEMA EIA Regulations.

SAHRA requests that an assessment of the impacts to heritage resources that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA as required by section 38(8) of the NHRA and section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA be conducted as part of the EA process.

The assessment must include an assessment of the impact to archaeological and palaeontological resources. The field-based assessment of archaeological resources must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and the report comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports (see [www.asapa.co.za](http://www.asapa.co.za) or [www.aphp.org.za](http://www.aphp.org.za) for a list of qualified archaeologists).

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The proposed development is located within an area of insignificant and high Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist. (See <https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html> for a list of qualified palaeontologists). The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.

Any other heritage resources as defined in section 3 of the NHRA that may be impacted, such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the draft basic assessment report documents inclusive of appendices.

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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Briege Williams  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Natasha Higgitt  
Manager: Development Applications Unit

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South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/620690>

**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.