



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: Ragna Redelstorff, PhD

Tel: +27 (0)21 202 8651

Email: rredelstorff@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 7956

Date: Tuesday June 29, 2021

Page No: 1

Final Comment

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

Attention: Nyala Photovoltaic (Pty) Ltd

Proposed 10MW Harmony Nyala PV Solar Facility in the Matjhabeng Local Municipality and the Lejweleputswa District Municipality, Odendaalsrus, Free State Province.

The project entails the construction of a small-scale photovoltaic (PV) facility "Nyala" and associated infrastructure on the Farms Rietpan RE/17 and Rheederpark 443 near Odendaalsrus, Free State Province. This PV facility is part of a larger project "Harmony" of three PV facilities in total.

An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) and Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) were submitted to the original application and commented on by SAHRA.

VAN DER WALT, J. JUNE 2015. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED HARMONY GOLD NYALA PV FACILITY IN WELKOM FREE STATE PROVINCE.

The author undertook a desktop and field study on the proposed preferred area to assess the archaeological components. He identified no surface indicators of archaeological heritage resources. Due to the late inclusion of the alternative location, the author undertook superficial observations and a desktop study only for this area and concludes that any surface indicators of heritage sites could have been destroyed due to agricultural activities. He recommends that should it be decided to use the alternative area, a field assessment should be conducted for this area.

BAMFORD, JULY 2015. PALAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THREE PROPOSED PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR FACILITIES FOR HARMONY GOLD MINING COMPANY, ODENDAALSRUS, FREE STATE PROVINCE.

The author summarises that the area of the proposed PV facility occurs within layers of the Permian Volksrust Formation, the potentially fossiliferous coals of which are of poor quality and lie too deep to be affected by the proposed development.



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The updated EMP, a heritage walk-down report for the final layout and supplementary letter as well as a letter confirming the developer's name change to Nyala Photovoltaic (Pty) Ltd were submitted to the application.

VAN DER WALT, J. 2020. HERITAGE WALK-DOWN FOR THE PROPOSED NYALA SOLAR PV FACILITY NEAR WELKOM, FREE STATE PROVINCE.

No heritage features or sites of significance were identified in the highly disturbed area. Though no surface indicators of graves were recorded, a cemetery is indicated on topographic maps dating to 1997 adjacent (south west) to the inverter area. This area is therefore considered highly sensitive and was investigated by Subscan through Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) (Le Roux 2020). The results of the study concluded that none of the 12 locations tested indicated any disturbances and therefore that no graves are present in the area.

Recommendations:

- 1. The possibility of a cemetery of which the surface dressings have been demolished exists and this area adjacent to the proposed inverter is considered to be a highly sensitive area, unless it can be proven that no graves exist. It is recommended that this area should be avoided with a 50 m buffer zone.*
- 2. If avoidance of the possible burial area is not possible, it is recommended that the subsurface occurrence of graves is confirmed through the use of Ground Penetrating Radar. Based on these results, further recommendations will apply.*
- 3. A chance find procedure must be incorporated for the project.*

An updated PIA that was conducted by Lavin & Bamford in 2020 was subsequently submitted as requested by SAHRA.

LAVIN & BAMFORD. 2020 DESKTOP PALAEOLOGICAL SPECIALIST STUDY - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF NYALA SOLAR PV STEP-UP FACILITIES AND SUBSTATION, NEAR WELKOM, FREE STATE PROVINCE.

The proposed area is underlain by Quaternary aeolian sands and palaeontological sensitive coal deposits of



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Page No: 3

the Volksrust Formation. Due to the low depth of the proposed infrastructure it is unlikely that significant palaeontological material will be affected. A Chance Finds Procedure must be implemented.

Final comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit endorses the updated EMPr as well as the recommendations in the archaeological walkdown report and updated PIA. The following conditions apply:

1. Should any objects of archaeological or palaeontological remains be found during construction activities, work must immediately stop in that area and the ECO must be informed.
2. The ECO must inform the South African Heritage Recourse Agency (SAHRA) and contact an archaeologist and/or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the find, to assess the importance and rescue them if necessary (with the relevant SAHRA permit). No work may be resumed in this area without the permission from the ECO and SAHRA.
3. If the newly discovered heritage resource is considered significant a Phase 2 assessment may be required. A permit from the responsible heritage authority will be needed.
4. A Chance Finds Procedures must be developed for the project to ensure that standard protocols and steps are followed should any heritage and/or fossil resources be uncovered during all phases of the project. These procedures should outline the steps and reporting structure to be followed in the instance that heritage resources are found. This must be included in the Environmental Awareness Plan.
5. The final EMPr and appendices as well as the Environmental Authorisation and all relevant documents must be submitted to the case on SAHRIS.

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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Ragna Redelstorff, PhD
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/289369>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1472)

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.