



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 7956

Date: Friday June 04, 2021

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Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(4) 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.

An amendment was proposed to the existing Environmental Authorisation for the construction of a small-scale photovoltaic (PV) facility 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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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 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.*

The supplementary letter by Ms J. Lavin (CTSHeritage) mentions an updated PIA that was conducted by Lavin & Bamford (2020) noting that the proposed area is underlain by Quaternary aeolian sands and palaeontological sensitive coal deposits of the Volksrust Formation.

Interim comment

It is noted that the 2020 PIA by Lavin & Bamford was not submitted to the application. It must be submitted before SAHRA will issue further comments.

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Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

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.