

Our Ref:



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
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CaseID: 9059

Date: Monday July 25, 2016
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Final Comment

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

Attention: Pele Green Energy (Pty) Ltd.

Proposed Grootpoort Solar Photovoltaic Energy development facility near Luckhoff, Letsemeng Local Municipality, Free State Province.

The proposed project entails the development of a solar photovoltaic facility and associated infrastructure extending over approximately 250 hectares near Luckhoff, Letsemeng Local Municipality, Free State Province. As requested in an interim comment from 22 April 2016, a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) was submitted with the case. A Heritage Impact Assessment by J. van Schalkwyk has been commented on in the same interim comment.

Almond, J. E. June 2016. Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Desktop Study: Proposed Grootpoort Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility, near Luckhoff, Free State Province.

The proposed area is underlain by potentially fossiliferous sediments of the Tierberg Formation (Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup) with local intrusions by unfossiliferous igneous rocks of the Karoo Dolerite Suite. A layer of Late Caenozoic superficial sediments, which may locally contain mammalian bones and teeth as well as trace fossils, covers the majority of the Tierberg Formation sediments. Surface gravels may also contain rare fragments of reworked petrified wood from the Ecca Group.

The proposed area is considered to be of low palaeontological significance.

Final comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit accepts the submitted HIA and PIA and recommendations therein as no significant archaeological or palaeontological heritage resources have been found.

The following conditions must be adhered to and must be incorporated into the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for implementation:

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1. Should any objects of archaeological or palaeontological remains be found during construction activities, work must immediately stop in that area and the Environmental Control Officer (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 EIA and appendices must be submitted to SAHRA upon submission to DEA. Should the project be granted Environmental Authorisation, SAHRA must be notified and all relevant documents submitted to the case file.

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
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine
Heritage Officer: Permitting
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/354844>
(, Ref:)

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.