



Final Comment

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

Attention:

Mrs Gabriele Wood
Savannah Environmental
P.O. Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

Proposed establishment of a 20 MW commercial solar energy facility south west of Aberdeen along the N9, Eastern Cape

van der Walt, J., May 2012. Archaeological Impact Assessment - Proposed Aberdeen Photovoltaic Plant –Eastern Cape Province

BioTherm Energy (Pty) Ltd is proposing the establishment of a solar energy facility on about 20ha of portion 1 of Farm Wildebeestpoortje 153, 15km south of Aberdeen, in the Eastern Cape. The facility is proposed to produce up to 20MW of energy through PV or CPV technology.

There will be a maximum number of 80 000 panels, and 35 inverters and transformers, each panel will be approximately 3m high, in the case of PV, and 20m high in the case of CPV technology. The support for the panels will be 1m2. Cabling between the panels will mostly be underground at 1m depth. Short temporary access roads may be necessary during the construction phase and their width will be between 4 and 6m.

According to the geological assessment, the area is underlain by the Teekloof Formation of the Adelaide Subgroup, of the Beaufort Group, which is generally of high palaeontological significance. The Teekloof Formation is traversed by a dolerite dyke which, by its igneous nature, is unfossiliferous. The farm is also overlain by Quaternary alluvium, in which a few fossils were recovered, even though very sporadically.

The archaeologist surveyed the area and undertook a detailed desktop study of the history of the farm. The only archaeological material identified were isolated stone tools in fine grained material dating both to the Middle and Later Stone Age.

Decision:

Considering the information provided in the Archaeological Impact Assessment and in the Basic Assessment Report SAHRA requests that:

- A palaeontological impact assessment is required. This must be submitted to SAHRA at the earliest convenience, possibly before the project receives a final decision from DEA.
- Since the archaeological material is of low significance, no mitigation is requested





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CaseID: 224

Date: Tuesday July 24, 2012

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- Since only the footprint of the development, inclusive of access roads, was surveyed, if any changes to the layout of the facility will be implemented, a new assessment will be necessary.

If any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources are found during development, construction or mining, SAHRA (Mariagrazia Galimberti, Tel: 021 462 4502) and an archaeologist or palaeontologist according to the nature of the finds 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

Mariagrazia Galimberti
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/522)

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.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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