

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
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 10094

Date: Monday October 10, 2016
Page No: 1

Interim Comment

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

Attention: Perception Heritage Planning
PO Box 9995
GEORGE
653

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMDA CHARLIE PV (SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY) ON PORTION 1 OF N'ROUGAS ZUID NO 121, STRAUSSHEIM AS WELL AS OVERHEAD POWER LINE GRID CONNECTION TO THE ESKOM NIEUWEHOOP MTS SUB-STATION ACROSS PORTION 3 OF GEMSBOK BULT NO120, KENHARDT DISTRICT, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd were appointed by AMDA Charlie (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment Process for the proposed AMDA Charlie Solar PV Energy Facility and overhead Power Line Grid Connection. The proposed project is located on portion 1 of N'Rougas Zuid No 121, Strausshiem and portion 3 of Gembok Bult No 120 near Kenhardt, Northern Cape Province. A Final Scoping Report was completed in term of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014. The proposed development will comprise a development footprint of approximately 250 ha with a solar PV field, sub-station, collector sub-station, buildings, roads and an access road, and permanent and construction laydown areas. The proposed 132kV powerline will connect to the Eskom Nieuwehoop MTS Substation with a confirmed capacity of 245MW and will be 5.5 km in length. Additional infrastructure will include possible pipelines and powerlines, and a sewage system.

Perception Planning was appointed to conduct the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) as part of the EIA process. Dr Peter Nilssen and Dr John Almond were appointed to provide the Archaeological Scoping Report and Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) for the project respectively.

Nilssen, P. 2016. Scoping Archaeological Impact Assessment: Proposed development of the AMDA Charlie PV (Solar Energy Facility) on portion 1 of N'Rougas Zuid No 121, Strausshiem, and overhead powerline grid connection to the Eskom Nieuwehoop MTS Sub-station across portion 3 of Gembok Bult No 120, Kenhardt Registration Division, Northern Cape Province.

The Scoping Report showed that archaeological resources such as Stone Age occurrences, historical buildings and traces of the Anglo-Boer War may be present within the proposed project area. Potential impacts to archaeological resources that were identified include direct negative impacts during the construction and

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
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 10094

Date: Monday October 10, 2016
Page No: 2

installation phases of the proposed development. Indirect and cumulative impact may occur during the operational phase. It is noted that an Archaeological Impact Assessment (HIA) will be completed during the EIA phase which will include a field site visit. The AIA will be incorporated into an HIA that Perception Planning will complete.

Almond, J. 2016. Recommended Exemption from Further Palaeontological Studies: Proposed AMDA Charlie Solar PV Development on Portion 1 of N'Rougas Zuid No 121, Kenhardt Registration Division, Northern Cape.

The proposed Solar PV Development and transmission line is underlain by Precambrian metamorphic basement rocks of insignificant palaeontological sensitivity. These rocks are overlain by Late Caenozoic superficial sediments such as alluvium, Aeolian sands and surface gravels of low palaeontological sensitivity. No significant impacts to palaeontological resources are expected and therefore it is recommended that there is no need for further palaeontological specialist studies for the proposed development.

Should any substantial fossil remains (e.g. mammalian bones and teeth) be encountered during construction, these should be safeguarded, preferably in situ, and reported by the ECO to SAHRA as soon as possible. This is to ensure that appropriate mitigation action can be taken by a professional palaeontologist, at the developer's expense. Mitigation would normally involve the scientific recording and judicious sampling or collection of fossil material as well as associated geological data (e.g. stratigraphy, sedimentology, and taphonomy) by a professional palaeontologist. These recommendations should be incorporated into the Environmental Management Plan for the proposed solar energy facility.

Interim Comment

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts and promotes the recommendations of the AIA and PIA. No further Palaeontological Specialist studies are required for the proposed development. The pending HIA must take the following aspects (but not limited to) into consideration when assessing impacts:

- Archaeological and Historical heritage resources;
- Burial grounds and graves;
- Visual Impact of the proposed development on heritage resources; and
- Any comments provided by the public regarding heritage resources.

The EIA with all appendices must be submitted along with the heritage reports in order for further comments to be issued.

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
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 10094

Date: Monday October 10, 2016
Page No: 3

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

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

John Gribble
Manager: Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit / Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/369352>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2943)