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CaseID: 10096

Date: Monday October 10, 2016
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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 ECHO PV (SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY) ON REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM KLONDIKE NO 670, AND OVERHEAD POWER LINE GRID CONNECTION TO THE MOOKODI MTS SUB-STATION ACROSS THE REMAINDER OF ERF 506 AND REMAINDER OF THE FARM ROSENDAL 673, VRYBURG DISTRICT, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd were appointed by AMDA Echo (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment Process for the proposed AMDA Echo Solar PV Energy Facility and overhead Power Line Grid Connection. The proposed project is located on remaining extent Klondike No 670 and the Remainder of Erf 506 and Remainder of the farm Rosendal 673, Vryburg, Registration Division, North West 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 Mookodi MTS Substation with a confirmed capacity of 485MW and will be 5.88 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 Echo PV (Solar Energy Facility) on Remaining Extent Klondike No 670, and Overhead Power Line Grid Connection to the Mookodi MTS Sub-Station across Remainder of Erf 506 and Remainder of the Farm Rosendal 673, Vryburg, Registration Division, North West Province.

The Scoping Report showed that archaeological resources such as Stone Age occurrences, rock engravings, Iron Age structures, historical buildings, and graves may be present within the proposed project area. Potential impacts to archaeological resources that were identified include direct negative impacts during the

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construction and 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 Echo Solar PV Development on the Remaining Extent of Klondike No. 670-IN, Naledi Local Municipality, North West Province.

The proposed Solar PV Development and transmission line is underlain by Precambrian metamorphic basement rocks of the Schmidtsdrift Subgroup and glacial sediments of the Dwyka Group. 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.

De Kock, S and Narainne, G. 2016. Scoping Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Development of The AMDA Echo PV (Solar Energy Facility) On Remaining Extent Klondike No 670, And Overhead Power Line Grid connection to the Mookodi Mts Sub-Station across Remainder of Erf 506 and Remainder of the Farm Rosendal 673, Vryburg, Registration Division, North West Province.

Taking into account the recommendations of the AIA and PIA, and Integrated HIA will be conducted during the EIA phase that will include inputs from the Visual Impact Assessment, Basic archival background research, Cultural Landscape assessment and Built environment.

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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.

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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.

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
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South African Heritage Resources Agency

John Gribble
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ADMIN:
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