

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 10138

Date: Thursday October 20, 2016  
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## Interim Comment

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

Attention: Ms Jasandra Nyker  
BioTherm Energy  
BioTherm Energy (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 69408  
BRYANSTON  
2021

**BioTherm has proposed a solar energy development on Farm Hartebeest Vlei 86, located approximately 13km southeast of Aggeneys located within the Kh?i-Ma Local Municipality under the jurisdiction of the Namakwa District Municipality. This application is specific to the Enamandla Photovoltaic (PV) Site 1 Project. The project is located in the Northern Cape Province.**

WSP| Parsons Brinckerhoff was appointed by BioTherm Energy (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment Process for the proposed Enamandla PV 1 Project on Farm Hartebeest Vlei 86, near Aggeneys, Northern Cape Province. A Draft 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 75MW photovoltaic panel system, operation and maintenance buildings, temporary and permanent laydown areas, cement batching plant, access and internal roads, sewage processing systems, on-site substations and powerlines. The proposed facility will cover 354 ha.

ACO Associates cc: Archaeology and Heritage Specialists and Natura Viva cc were appointed to conduct the Heritage Scoping Assessments and Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) for the project respectively.

*Halkett, D and Webley, L. 2016. Scoping Heritage Assessment: Proposed Construction of Solar CSP and PV Facilities on the Remaining Extent of the Farm Hartebeest Vlei 86, near Aggeneys, Northern Cape.*

The Scoping Report showed that archaeological resources such as Stone Age occurrences, historical buildings, and traces of the Anglo-Boer War and burial grounds may be present within the proposed project area. Potential impacts to archaeological resources that were identified include direct negative impacts during the construction phase of the proposed development. Sections of the proposed water pipeline to the Orange River cross over homesteads, settlements and may potentially impact pre-colonial pastoralist encampments and graves, and may be considered particularly sensitive. It is noted that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) will be completed during the EIA phase which will include a field site visit and should consider the cumulative

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impact of a number of solar facilities in the Aggeneys area.

*Almond, J. 2016. Letsoai and Enamandla Solar Energy Facilities on Farm Hartebeestvlei near Aggeneys, Northern Cape: Palaeontological Heritage*

The proposed Solar PV Development is underlain by Mid Proterozoic basement rocks of the Namaqua-Natal Province, Quaternary to Recent sands and gravels, and Aeolian sands of the Gordonia Formation. The Koa River Palaeo-valley runs south-east – north-east just to the northeast of the Enamandla PV 1 Site and turns west across the transmission line. The Namaqua-Natal Province is completely unfossiliferous, the Quaternary to Recent sands and gravels are of low palaeontological sensitivity, and the Koa River Palaeo-valley is highly significant in terms of palaeontological heritage. The planning, operational and decommissioning phases of the solar energy facility are unlikely to involve further adverse impacts on local palaeontological heritage.

Chance fossil finds should be safeguarded – preferably in situ – and reported by the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) as soon as possible to SAHRA so that appropriate mitigation by a palaeontological specialist can be considered and implemented. The palaeontologist concerned with mitigation work would need a valid fossil collection permit from SAHRA and any material collected would have to be curated in an approved repository. These recommendations should be incorporated into the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the solar energy developments.

### 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.

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

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Yours faithfully

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Natasha Higgitt  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

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**ADMIN:**  
Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/369728>  
(DEA, Ref: )