

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
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CaseID: 10139

Date: Tuesday March 28, 2017
Page No: 1

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4) 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 2 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 2 Project on Farm Hartebeest Vlei 86, near Aggeneys, Northern Cape Province. A Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was completed in terms 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.

ACO Associates cc: Archaeology and Heritage Specialists were appointed to conduct the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the project.

Halkett, D and Webley, L. 2017. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed construction of Enamandla PV 2 Solar Facility on the remaining extent of the farm Hartebeest Vlei 86, near Aggeneys, Northern Cape.

A single large exposure of bedrock with grinding grooves and Later Stone Age archaeological material was identified to the south of the study area; however, as the sites are located outside the development footprint, they will not be impacted. Low level surface scatters of Middle Stone Age quartz artefacts and the base of a bowl were identified throughout the development footprint, and are rated as heritage resources of low cultural significance. There will be a low impact to the cultural landscape and the N14 as the proposed facilities will be shielded by a low rise of hills.

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Page No: 2

Recommendations provided as part of the HIA include the following:

- If any concentrations of archaeological material, such as stone artefacts are recovered, SAHRA must be notified; and
- If any human remains are uncovered during the excavation of tower holes, work must stop in that area and SAHRA must be alerted immediately.

Additional mitigation and management measures for heritage are provided in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) which includes that a Chance Finds Procedure is to be drafted and implemented before the start of construction.

Final Comment

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts and promotes the recommendations of the HIA and the EMPr. The recommendations of the specialists and the following conditions must be included in the EMPr for the project:

- The Final EIR and all appendices must be submitted to the SAHRIS Case file upon final submission to the relevant competent authority;
- If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/John Gribble 021 462 5402) must be alerted. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately. A professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA; and
- If the development receives an Environmental Authorisation (EA), SAHRA must be informed and all documents pertaining to the EA must be uploaded to the SAHRIS 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

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Page No: 3

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/369732>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/969)

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.