

BA Process for the Proposed Construction of Electrical Grid Infrastructure to support the Rietrug Wind Energy Facility (WEF), Northern and Western Cape Provinces (Rietrug WEF – Electrical Grid Infrastructure)

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: 10494

Date: Monday January 09, 2017
Page No: 1

Response to NID (Notification of Intent to Develop)

In terms of Section 38(2) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd
P.O. Box 45063
Claremont
7753

South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd (Mainstream) received three Amended Environmental Authorisations (EAs), dated 10 November 2016 (DEA Reference Numbers: 12/12/20/1782/1; 12/12/20/1782/2; and 12/12/20/1782/3), from the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) to construct and operate the Sutherland Wind Energy Facility (WEF), Sutherland 2 WEF, and Rietrug WEF, each with a generation capacity of 140 MW. Mainstream is now proposing to amend the turbine and hub specifications of each of the separately authorised WEFs (dated 10 November 2016). Three separate EA Amendment Applications will be submitted to the DEA accordingly. Mainstream is also proposing to construct electrical infrastructure (including three on-site substations, Operational and Maintenance Buildings, laydown areas, service roads, 132 kV distribution lines, and connection to a proposed third party collector hub or to the proposed Eskom Nuwerust Substation) to support the three separately authorised WEF projects. Three separate Basic Assessment (BA) Processes are being undertaken for each Electrical Infrastructure project. An integrated Public Participation Process will be undertaken for the proposed projects. This specific application is for the BA Electrical Infrastructure project and is referred to as "Rietrug WEF – Electrical Infrastructure". The proposed project will take place approximately 23 km south of Sutherland and 50 km north of Laingsburg, within the Northern and Western Cape Provinces.

Thank you for notifying SAHRA of the proposed Electrical Infrastructure Grid to support the authorised Rietrug Wind Energy Facility (WEF), near Sutherland, Northern Cape Province.

It must be noted that sections of the development are located within the Western Cape Province. SAHRA cannot provide comments for developments within the Western Cape Province. Comments must be sought from Heritage Western Cape for those sections of the development.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999, heritage resources, including archaeological or palaeontological sites over 100 years old, graves older than 60 years, structures older than 60 years are protected. They may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. This means that before such sites are disturbed by development it is incumbent on the developer to ensure that a **Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA)** is done as per Section 38(8) of the NHRA. This must include the

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archaeological component (Phase 1) any other applicable heritage components. The HIA must be conducted as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase of the Environmental Authorisation Application in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, No 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014.

The quickest process to follow for the archaeological component would be to contract a specialist (see www.asapa.org.za) to provide a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report. The Phase 1 Impact Assessment Report will identify the archaeological sites and assess their significance. It should also make recommendations (as indicated in section 38) about the process to be followed. For example, there may need to be a mitigation phase (Phase 2) where the specialist will collect or excavate material and date the site. At the end of the process the heritage authority may give permission for destruction of the sites. If the property is very small or disturbed and there is no significant site the specialist may choose to send a letter to the heritage authority to indicate that there is no necessity for any further assessment.

Where bedrock is to be affected, or where there are coastal sediments, or marine or river terraces and in potentially fossiliferous superficial deposits, a Palaeontological Desk Top study must be undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon palaeontological resources - or at least a letter of exemption from a Palaeontologist is needed to indicate that this is unnecessary. If the area is deemed sensitive, a full Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be required and if necessary a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary (see www.palaeontologicalsociety.co.za for qualified paleontologists).

Any other heritage resources that may be impacted such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.

Please note that all Environmental Reports (Scoping Report and EIA) with all appendices must be submitted to the SAHRIS Case file in order for an informed comment 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

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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/383531>
(DEA, Ref:)