

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
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CaseID: 10863

Date: Tuesday May 02, 2017
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Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Sivest - Gauteng

PO BOX 2921
Rivonia
2128

BioTherm Energy (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as BioTherm) intends to develop the Tlisitseng 1 132kV Substation and 132kV power line (hereafter referred to as the “proposed development”) near Lichtenburg in the North West Province of South Africa. SiVEST SA Pty (Ltd) (hereafter referred to as SiVEST) has been appointed as Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Basic Assessment (BA) for the proposed development. The overall objective of the project is to feed the electricity generated at the Tlisitseng 1 solar photovoltaic (PV) energy facility (part of a separate ongoing process) back into the National Grid by constructing the proposed Tlisitseng 1 substation and power line.

Sivest SA Pty (Ltd) has been appointed by BioTherm Energy (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Basic Assessment Process in support of an Environmental Authorisation Application for the proposed construction of the Tlisitseng 1 and Tlisiteng 2 132kV Substation and Powerline near Lichtenburg, North West Province. A draft Basic Assessment Report (dBAR) has been submitted for each application in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include the construction of a substation and powerline to connect the proposed Tlisiteng 1 and 2 Solar PV Energy Facility to the existing Eskom Watershed substation. Please note that this comment refers to the separate EA applications, DEA Reference numbers are still pending.

PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd was appointed to conduct the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for both EA Applications. The PIA was conducted by G. Groenewald.

Fourie, W. 2016. Tlisiteng Project – Tlisiteng 1 Substation and Power Line: Heritage Impact Assessment.

Fourie, W. 2016. Tlisiteng Project – Tlisiteng 2 Substation and Power Line: Heritage Impact Assessment.

Two occurrences of out of context stromatolites were identified within the proposed powerline routes. The

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stromatolites were not found to be highly significant however the presence of cave breccias would need to be confirmed after the completion of the geotechnical surveys. No other heritage resources were identified within the proposed development area.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Although no significant fossils were recorded in situ in both PV sites as well as the proposed alternative route corridors for the power lines, several well-defined micro-stromatolites and possible sites with cave breccia have been identified. Depending on the results of the geotechnical investigation and where potential excavations for foundations will exceed 1.5m, the ECO must investigate the possible presence of stromatolites and/or cave breccia and inform the HIA consultants immediately for appropriate action and appointment of a qualified palaeontologist to investigate the site before destruction of fossils occurs;
- Site visits as stipulated in the management tables will include an initial 2-day site visit and then fortnightly during construction; and
- Such mitigation measures will require a permit from SAHRA before mitigation can be done as well as a final destruction permit on completion of the mitigation work.

Interim Comment

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that the PIA conducted for Thlisitseng 2 be rectified to include photographs of the 11 observations as stated in the report. The current photos in the report depict the observations from the Thlisitseng 1 proposed powerline route. The above must be rectified before further comments can be provided.

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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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/396995>
(DEA, Ref:)