

DANIELSKUIL (ERF. 753, A PORTION OF ERF. 1, DANIELSKUIL, KGATELOPELE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE) PROPOSED SOLAR PV FACILITY APPLICANT: ROMA ENERGY DANIELSKUIL (PTY) LTD POST ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT D



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: 11224

Date: Monday July 24, 2017
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Final Comment

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

Attention: Enviroafrica CC

PO Box 5367
Heilderberg
7135

Project Location and Description The proposed development site is located at 28°12'38.03''S, 23°33'20.33''E, on Erf. 753, a Portion of Erf. 1, Danielskuil, within the Kgatelopele Local Municipality, Barkley West Registration Division, Northern Cape Province. The proposed development is an array of 18540 crystalline solar photovoltaic (PV) modules grouped into tables or panels of 20 modules each. It is proposed that the PV tables would form an array covering an area of 20ha, circumscribed with a perimeter fire access road and fence. The PV tables will be raised approximately 500mm above ground level and will have single axis tracking systems allowing the generation of approximately 5MW of alternating current. Proposed associated infrastructure includes a fenced construction staging area, a maintenance shed, six central inverters and three transformers on concrete pads, one to two office buildings on the 20ha site and a switch panel for connection to the power grid, as well as a 22kV powerline connection from the PV array to feed in to Eskom's Ouplaas substation.

Enviro Africa CC has been appointed by Roma Energy Danielskuil (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Basic Assessment Process in support of an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the Proposed Solar PV Plant on Erf. 753, a Portion of Erf. 1, Danielskuil, within the Kgatelopele Local Municipality, Barkley West Registration Division, Northern Cape Province. A Basic Assessment Report (BAR) has been completed in term of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA 2017 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will comprise the construction of 20 ha of solar photovoltaic modules grouped into tables or panels. Associated infrastructure will include fenced construction staging area, a maintenance shed, six central inverters and three transformers on concrete pads, one to two office buildings, a switch panel for connection to the power grid, and a 22kV powerline connection to the Ouplaas Substation.

The Agency for Cultural Resources Management has been appointed to conduct the Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) and Natura Viva CC has been appointed to conduct the Palaeontological Component.

Kaplan, J. 2017. Archaeological Impact Assessment: The Proposed Roma Energy Danielskuil Solar Energy

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Farm on Erf 753 (Portion of Erf 1) Danielskuil, Northern Cape.

No heritage resources were identified within the proposed development area. The impact significance of the proposed development is therefore low.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- No mitigation is required; and
- Should any unmarked human burial/remains or ostrich eggshell water flask caches are uncovered, or exposed during construction activities, these must immediately be reported to the contracted archaeologist or SAHRA; and
- The above recommendations must be incorporated into the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed development.

Almond, J. E. 2017. Recommendation Exemption from Further Palaeontological Studies and Mitigation: Proposed Danielskuil Roma Energy Solar Plant, Kgatelopele Local Municipality, Northern Cape.

The proposed development area is underlain by Precambrian marine limestones of the Kogelbeen Formation (Campbellrand Subgroup) that are known to contain horizons of well-preserved stromatolites. The impact significance of the proposed development is considered to be low as the Precambrian bedrocks are mantled here by superficial sediments of low palaeontological sensitivity, and no extensive/deep excavations into the bedrock are likely to occur as part of the development.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- It is therefore recommended that, pending the exposure of significant new fossils during development, exemption from further specialist palaeontological studies and mitigation be granted for this solar development;
- During the construction phase, all major clearance operations and excavations deeper (>1 m) should be monitored for fossil remains on an on-going basis by the Environmental Control Officer (ECO); and
- Should any substantial fossil remains (e.g. vertebrate bones and teeth, shells, petrified wood, calcretised burrows) be encountered during excavation, these should be reported to SAHRA for possible mitigation by a professional palaeontologist;
- These mitigation recommendations should be incorporated into the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the solar project.

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The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development. The recommendations of the heritage specialist and the following conditions must be included in the EMPr for the project:

- 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

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/404531>
(DEA, Ref:)

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.