

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
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
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CaseID: 11252

Date: Monday November 20, 2017
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Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Sivest - Gauteng

PO BOX 2921
Rivonia
2128

Proposed Construction of the Hartebeest Leegte Wind Farm near Loeriesfontein, Northern Cape Province

Sivest Environmental were appointed by South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process in support of an Environmental Authorisation Application for the Proposed Hartebeest Leegte Wind Farm, on the Remainder of the Farm Hartebeest Leegte No 216, near Loeriesfontein, Northern Cape Province. A Final Scoping Report was completed in term of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the EIA Regulations 2014. The proposed development will comprise the construction of a 235MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF) with a total buildable area of 3 083.45 ha. Each turbine will occupy 0.5 ha which will include a hard standing area. Associated infrastructure will include a temporary lay down area, internal access roads, contractor's site office, and administration and warehouse buildings.

Professional Grave Solutions (PGS) has been appointed to conduct the Heritage Component of the EIA process. The Palaeontological Assessment was conducted by Banzai Environmental (Pty) Ltd.

Fourie, W. 2017. Hartebeesleegte Wind Energy Facility (WEF): Heritage Impact Report.

No heritage resources were identified within the proposed development footprint.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- A walk down of the final layout to determine if any significant sites will be affected;
- Monitor find spot areas if construction is going to take place through them;
- A management plan for the heritage resources needs then to be compiled and approved for implementation during construction and operations. Possible surface collections for sites with a medium to high significance as well as conducting a watching brief by heritage practitioner during the

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- construction phase;
- Avoid the historical farmstead at HBL001.

Butler, E. 2016. Palaeontological Desktop Impact Assessment for the proposed development of Four Leeuwberg Wind Farms and Basic Assessments for the associated Grid Connection near Loeriesfontein, Northern Cape Province.

*It must be noted that this report includes an assessment of other WEF applications. The discussion below only pertains to the Hartebeestleegte WEF.

The development footprint is underlain by the unfossiliferous Karoo Dolerite and the Prince Albert Formation (Dwyka Group), which is known for its trace fossils. These rocks are overlain by Late Caenozoic superficial deposits of very low palaeontological sensitivity. Due to poor preservation and weathering the overall impact to palaeontological resources is rated as low.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Pending the discovery of significant new fossil material, no further specialist studies are considered to be necessary;
- However, should fossil remains be discovered during any phase of construction, either on the surface or exposed by fresh excavation, the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) responsible for the development should be alerted immediately. Such discoveries ought to be protected (preferably in situ) and the ECO should alert SAHRA so that appropriate mitigation can be taken by a professional palaeontologist. The specialist involved would require a collection permit from SAHRA. Fossil material must be curated in an approved collection and all fieldwork and reports should meet the minimum standards for palaeontological impact studies developed by SAHRA.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 27/07/2017, SAHRA requested that the Draft EIA and all appendices must be submitted to the SAHRIS Case application before further comments could be issued. This has been completed.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeological, Palaeontological and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objection to the development and supports the recommendations of the specialists as referred to above. The recommendations of the specialists and the following conditions apply to the development and must be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr):

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- A 30 m no-go buffer zone must be adhered to around the identified historical farmstead. The site must be demarcated during all phases of development and a management and monitoring procedure for the site must be developed to be included in the EMPr;
- The Final EIA and appendices must be submitted to the SAHRIS application when submitted to the Competent Authority;
- A walk-down of the final layout must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist prior to construction. A report detailing the results of the walk-down must be submitted to SAHRA for comment prior to construction. No construction may commence without comments from SAHRA;
- 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/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/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.
- Should the project be granted Environmental Authorisation, SAHRA must be notified and all relevant documents submitted to the 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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Phillip Hine
Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/405267>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1015)

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.