

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: 11255

Date: Thursday July 27, 2017
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Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Sivest - Gauteng

PO BOX 2921
Rivonia
2128

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

Sivest Environmental was 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 Ithemba Wind Farm, on the Portion 2 of the farm Graskoppies No 176 and the western portion of portion 1 of the farm Hartebeest Leege No 216, near Loeriesfontein, Northern Cape Province. A Draft 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 3 008.15 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. 2016. Ithemba Wind Energy Facility (WEF): Heritage Scoping Report.

The Heritage Scoping Report identified three (3) heritage resources within the proposed development area which includes two Stone Age surface occurrences of low significance and a farmstead with associated infrastructure of low significance.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Rocky outcrops and elevated areas are considered heritage sensitive areas and should be avoided where possible;
- A walk-down of the final layout to determine if any significant sites will be affected;
- Any heritage features of significance identified during the walk down will require formal mitigation or

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- where possible a slight change in design could accommodate such resources
- Monitor find spots if construction is going to take place through them; and
 - A management plan for heritage resources needs to be compiled and approved for implementation during construction and operations.

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 Ithemba WEF.

The development footprint is underlain by Karoo Dolerite, the Prince Albert and Whitehill Formations. These rocks are overlain by superficial deposits of Late Caenozoic age and are not palaeontological sensitive. 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.

Interim Comment

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes that a Heritage Scoping Report has been submitted, and therefore awaits the pending Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). It is further noted that the palaeontological recommendations included in the Heritage Scoping Report do not appear in the Palaeontological Desktop Assessment appended to the Heritage Scoping Report. This must be rectified in the HIA.

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The pending HIA must assess all heritage resources as defined in section 3(2) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) and the report must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA. Additionally, the Visual Impact of the proposed development on heritage resources and any comments provided by the public regarding heritage resources must be taken into consideration. The Scoping report appendices, the draft EIA with all appendices must be submitted along with the heritage reports in order for further comments to be issued. Additionally, the location of the proposed development must be mapped on the GIS Layer of the case application in order to be compliant.

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

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/405272>
(DEA, Ref:)