



Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 11574

Date: Friday September 22, 2017
Page No: 1

Final Comment

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

Attention: Environamics

PO Box 6484
Baillie Park
2526

The construction of a +- 4km access road to the Waterloo Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility near Vryburg, situated within the Naledi Local Municipality, registration Division IN, North West Province.

Environamics has been appointed by DPS79 Solar Energy (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Basic Assessment Process for the proposed construction of an access road as part of the Waterloo Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility (SEF) near Vryburg, North West Province. A draft Basic Assessment Report (dBAR) was submitted in support of the Environmental Authorisation Application in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA), and the NEMA 2017 EIA Regulations. The proposed access route will be approximately 4 km with a width of approximately 8 m. A total of three alternative routes were assessed, including a mitigated route to avoid stromatolites identified as part of the SEF application.

Dr Van Schalkwyk and Natura Viva were appointed to provide Heritage Specialist Input as part of the BAR.

Van Schalkwyk, J. 2017. Phase 1 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: The construction of an access road for the proposed Solar Power Plant on a portion of the farm Waterloo 992, Vryburg Region, North West Province.

No cultural heritage resources were identified within the proposed access routes. Should archaeological sites or graves be exposed during construction work, it must immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

Almond, J. E. 2017. Palaeontological Heritage: Phase 2 Mitigation Report Recording & Surface Sampling of Precambrian Stromatolites from the Boomplaas Formation (Ghaap Group) on a Portion of the Farm Waterloo 992 near Vryburg, Naledi Local Municipality, and North-West Province.

The author assessed the access route options again (pg 30), and found that the Alternative 1 passes through areas where numerous stromatolites were identified. A mitigated access route, providing a buffer of 60 m

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

Date: Friday September 22, 2017
Page No: 2

CaseID: 11574

according to pg 59 of the BAR, was proposed so that the stromatolites could be avoided. There is no expected impact to palaeontological resources by the remaining route alternatives.

As part of the Waterloo SEF, several stromatolites were identified within the access route area. These stromatolites were collected due to their significance as per SAHRA Permit 2511, SAHRIS Case ID 10938.

Recommendations provided in the report include that the area indicated on Figure 39 be protected during the construction phase and that the area of sensitive stromatolite area be excluded from the access route or an alternative route must be selected.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the recommendations of the heritage specialists and has no objections to the proposed development. The recommendations regarding heritage resources contained within the DBAR are also accepted. The following additional conditions must be incorporated into the FBAR and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr):

- The Final BAR and appendices must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
- 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

Access road as part of the Waterloo Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility near Vryburg, North West Province

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: 11574

Date: Friday September 22, 2017
Page No: 3

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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/407341>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1805)

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.