

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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CaseID: 11587

Date: Monday September 18, 2017
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Interim Comment

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

Attention: InnoWind (Pty) Ltd

San Kraal Wind Power (Pty) Ltd are applying for environmental authorisation to construct the San Kraal 390 MW wind energy facility (WEF) and its associated infrastructure, including a 132 kV grid connection (the proposed San Kraal WEF). Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd ('Arcus') has been appointed by San Kraal Wind Power (Pty) Ltd to conduct the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process as required by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), as amended. The proposed development site is located approximately six kilometres south east of the town of Noupoort in the Umsobomvu Local Municipality (ULM) which forms part of the Pixley ka Seme District in the Northern Cape Province. A small portion of the development site falls within the Inxuba Yethemba Local Municipality, within the Chris Hani District of the Eastern Cape Province. The town of Middelburg and Colesberg are located approximately 25 km and 58 km to the south and north east of the site respectively.

Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd were appointed by San Kraal Wind Power (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process in support of an Environmental Authorisation Application for the Proposed San Kraal 390 MW Wind Energy Facility (WEF), Northern and Eastern Cape. 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 390 MW WEF of up to 78 wind turbines, a switching station, internal roads, laydown areas, operations and maintenance buildings, and a 25 km 132 kV double or single string transmission line. It must be noted that approximately 13 turbines are proposed for the Eastern Cape portion of the development, with 4 on the border with the Northern Cape Province.

ACO Associates CC has been appointed to conduct the Heritage Component of the EIA process.

Hart, T. 2016. Heritage Impact Assessment (Scoping) for the Proposed San Kraal Wind Power (Pty) Ltd Wind Energy Facility to be situated in the Northern Cape.

The Heritage Scoping Report found that several types of heritage resources can be expected in the proposed development area. These include palaeontological resources such as fish fossils, early vertebrates, plant remains and trace fossils located within the Beaufort Group. Archaeological resources expected to be present

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include Early Stone Age (ESA), Middle Stone Age (MSA) and Later Stone Age (LSA) lithics and sites, rock-art sites, stone walled structures, colonial settlements and farm houses, railways and graves. The N9 is a National Route and the Kikvorsberge escarpment is a scenic area. The development area has a strong wilderness quality that may be diminished by the proposed WEF. The combined cumulative impact of other renewable energy facilities in the immediate surroundings will impact the aesthetic qualities of the region.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The physical remnants of human activity need to be identified and assessed through physical site inspection, mapped and assigned field grades;
- Detailed work has to be done through physical field assessment of palaeontological resources;
- The assessment of the landscape as a heritage resource will require the integration of the findings impacts assessment as well as consideration of the methods of landscape characterization and grading to produce an integrated statement of impact for purposes of the EIA.

Interim Comment

It must be noted that comments for the Eastern Cape section of the proposed development must be sought from the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (ECPHRA). The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts and promotes the recommendations provided by the heritage specialist. 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.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

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Natasha Higgitt
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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/407381>
(DEA, Ref:)