



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: Nokukhanya Khumalo

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CaseID: 13279

Date: Wednesday January 30, 2019

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## **Final Comment**

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

Attention: Mr Neels Kruger

Exigo Sustainability

Eulophia Corner Building 1

38 Gen. Van Reyneveld St

Persequor Park

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (AIA) OF AREAS DEMARCTED FOR PROPOSED PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANT (BOLUBEDU SOLAR PARK) ON THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM KROMRIVIERFONTEIN 360 LT, AND THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM WORCESTER 200 LT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

Thank you for informing SAHRA of the Bolubedu Solar Park Environmental Authorisation re-application. It is noted that the plans for the Solar park have not changed and that this current case is related to case ID 9925 and an archaeological excavation permit on case ID 12332. SAHRA had approved the following development activities:

*Renewable Solutions (Pty) Ltd is proposing to construct a 75MW solar power plant in the Bolubedu area in Greater Letaba Local Municipality of the Limpopo Province. The proposed project area is located on traditional land surrounded by rural villages. The location was selected solely on the existing Bolubedu sub-station. Construction will include 500m long 132kV that will connect the PV power plant to the Bolubedu substation. Including internal roads, access road, solar PV arrays and admin offices. The applicant appointed AGES Limpopo (Pty) Ltd to conduct the Scoping Report in terms of the NEMA 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations in support of an application for environmental Authorisation. A Heritage Impact Assessment was conducted by an in-house specialist of AGES (Pty) Ltd and submitted to SAHRA for commenting.*

The Archaeological Impact Assessment report that was submitted in 2016 was resubmitted again in December 2018 for commenting in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999, as this is a re-application. The report was summarised as follows:



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*Kruger, N. July 2016. Archaeological Impact Assessment Proposed Photovoltaic Power Plant Development on the Remainder of the Farm Kromrivierfontein 360 LT, and the Remainder of the farm Worcester 200 LT, Limpopo Province.*

*The author conducted a field assessment of the proposed development area to identify any possible heritage resources that may be impacted on. The entire project area is intersected by small streams with riparian forests and the surrounding area has been disturbed over the years by agricultural activities. Twelve heritage features were identified in the natural environment that may be impacted by the development if mitigation measures are not implemented:*

*EXIGO-BSP-SA01: This site consists of an isolated occurrence of MSA stone tools that are not diagnostic and out of context. This site is listed as low significance and no further further mitigation is required. It is recorded sufficiently in the report.*

*EXIGO-BSP-IA01 and IA02: Isolated pottery scatters occur on both sites that are of low significance. No further further mitigation is required, it is recorded sufficiently in the report.*

*EXIGO-BSP-FT01 and FT02: Both sites are recent homestead stone structures that are also listed as being of low significance. During construction-related activities the area must be monitored by an ECO.*

*EXIGO-BSP-IA03, IA04, IA05, IA07: All these sites are stone walled settlements with grain bin stands and surface pottery scatter. They are listed as having medium significance and it is recommended that the solar power plant plans to be amended to accommodate keeping the sites in situ. If the developer is unable to change the solar power plant plans, then a section 35 mitigation permit must be applied for to map and excavate the sites.*

*EXIGO-BSP-BP01 and BP02: Both these sites are informal cemeteries and are of high significance. It is recommended that they are retained in situ. They must be fenced and a 50m buffer area must be maintained to prevent accidental damage throughout construction and operation of the power plant.*

## **Final Comment**

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit approved the AIA report for the initial 2016 EA application and since the scope of the project has not changed. The SAHRA Final Comment issued on 23 September 2016 on case ID 9925 still stands as follows:

**AIA OF AREAS DEMARCTED FOR THE BOLUBEDU SOLAR PARK, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

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*SAHRA has no objections to the proposed Bolubedu Solar Park on the condition that the above recommendations are included in the EMPr as a condition of the environmental authorisation. The following additional conditions should also be adhered to:*

- 1. If during ground clearance and earth moving activities more cultural artefacts are uncovered at homestead features EXIGO-BSP-FT01 and FT02 then work must cease immediately, and an archaeologist called in to inspect the finds.*
- 2. If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments and charcoal/ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed activities, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings.*
- 3. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary, and a permit will be needed before mitigation. You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip HIne 021 202 8672),*
- 4. If any unmarked human burials are uncovered then please contact the SAHRA BGG Unit (Mimi Seetelo 087 802 1251).*

The Environmental Authorisation must be uploaded to this case as soon as it is available.

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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Nokukhanya Khumalo  
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

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/518882>

**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.