

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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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
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CaseID: 13468

Date: Friday August 18, 2023
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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: Khoi-Sun Development (Pty) Ltd

The Skuitdrift 2 Solar PV Energy Facility received Environmental Authorisation in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2010, on 26 June 2013 (DEA Ref.: 12/12/20/2600). The EMPr of the project was approved as part of the Environmental Authorisation. The project has received preferred bidder status under the Small Projects IPP Procurement Programme's second round in 2017, from the Department of Energy. Construction of the facility is expected to commence shortly after financial close.

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Khoi – Sun Development (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Amendment Application for the authorised Skuitdrift 2 PV Facility, near Skuitdrift, Northern Cape Province (DFFE Ref: 12/12/20/2600).

A draft Motivation Report has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, No 107 of 1998 (NEMA), NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed amendment includes the extension of the validity of the EA by an additional 10 years. The original EA SAHRIS Case 202 (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/khoi-sun-skuitdrift-2600>) applies. SAHRA noted no objections to the development and provided conditions.

CTS Heritage was appointed to provide specialist heritage input into the EA Amendment application as per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Lavin, J. 2023. Heritage Report: Proposed extension of the EA granted for the proposed development of the Khoi-Sun Solar Farm near the Orange River in the Northern Cape.

One additional heritage site was identified in the 2023 verification survey. All sites within the development area are deemed to be of negligible heritage significance. A grave site of high heritage significance is located outside of the project boundary and will not be impacted. No further mitigation measures are recommended.

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The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and

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section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final Motivation Report and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) has no objections to the proposed amendment to the development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows:
- All previous conditions provided for the development remain valid and must be adhered to.
- 38(4)c(i) – 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 DAU (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660/ nhiggitt@sahra.org.za) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with this section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA DAU (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660/ nhiggitt@sahra.org.za) must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with this section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51 of the NHRA regarding offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
- If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. 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;
- The Final Motivation Report and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA Amendment Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

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
Manager: Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/520972>
(DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/2600)

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.