

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
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
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CaseID: 13547

Date: Thursday April 18, 2019
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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: Mr Richard Gordon
Business Venture Investments No 1788 (Pty) Ltd

Application for Amendment of Environmental Authorisation for the Proposed Kokerboom 1 Wind Farm on Farm Leewbergvrievier (Farm no. 1163) and Remainder of Farm Kleine Rooiberg (Farm 227) near Loeriesfontein in the Northern Cape.

Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Business Venture Investments No. 1788 (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Amendment Application for the authorised Kokerboom 1 Wind Energy Facility, near Loeriesfontein, Northern Cape.

A previous SAHRIS Case has reference (SAHRIS Case ID 10338 - <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/kokerboom-1-wef>).

A draft Amendment 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 amendments to the authorised development include a new substation location, an increase in the rotor diameter, new construction camp/laydown area locations, 32 km of overhead MV powerlines and a new 3.3 km HV powerline. Additionally, the locations of the turbines have been altered when compared to the Final EIA on SAHRIS Case ID 10338.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 01/04/2019, SAHRA noted the Final Comment issued on 15/08/2017 on the original EA Application case for Kokerboom 1, with the following conditions:

"If there are any changes to the layout then these should be evaluated by an archaeologist and a report must be submitted to SAHRA for comment. No construction may commence without comment from SAHRA."

As the proposed amendments to the authorized include changes to the footprint of the turbines, SAHRA requested that the condition provided in the Final Comment referenced above be completed as part of the EA Amendment Application.

Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, a Heritage Comment on the revised layout as per the proposed

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amendments has been submitted.

Orton, J. 2019. Amendment to Environmental Authorisation for Kokerboom 1 Wind Energy Facility: Heritage Comment.

The specialist notes that the new layout respects all known heritage resources and that the palaeontological specialist had previously showed that the development footprint is of low palaeontological sensitivity and no areas required avoidance. The adjusted layout shows that one archaeological site will be 60 m from a turbine but will not be directly impacted. It is considered very unlikely that further significant resources would be present anywhere within the project site. As there will be a reduction in the turbine number and is therefore considered to be a positive aspect.

Recommendations provided in the comment include the following:

- All mitigation measures previously recommended remain valid;
- If there are any further changes to the layout then these should be evaluated by an archaeologist. If any mitigation becomes necessary, this should be commissioned and completed before the start of construction; and
- If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development, then the find should be protected from further disturbance and work in the immediate area should be halted if necessary. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed amendments to the development and supports the recommendations of the specialists. The recommendations of the specialist and the following conditions must be included in the EMPr:

- The Final Comment issued for the original EA application on SAHRIS Case ID 10338 remains valid and must be adhered to;
- The Final Amendment Report and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
- If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous

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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/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. 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;

- The decision regarding the EA 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

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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/521443>
(SAHRA, Ref: 10338)

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.