



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 14143

Date: Friday August 23, 2019
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Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Sivest - Gauteng

PO BOX 2921
Rivonia
2128

Proposed Development of the Mooi Plaats Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility and Associated Infrastructure near Noupoort in the Northern Cape Province

Sivest SA (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Mooi Plaats Solar Power (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application process for the proposed Mooi Plaats Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility and associated infrastructure near Noupoort in the Northern Cape Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include PV Solar panel field, on-site substations, operation and maintenance buildings, laydown areas, internal roads and fencing.

Banzai Environmental and PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process as per section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA.

Butler, E. 2019. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the Proposed Umsobomvu Solar PV Energy Facilities, Northern and Eastern Cape.

*Only the results of the assessment of the Mooi Plaats PV facility will be discussed below.

The proposed development area is underlain by the Adelaide Subgroup with a small section located in the Tarkastad Subgroup and a smaller section located in the Karoo Dolerite Suite. These rocks are also overlain by Quaternary aeolian and superficial deposits. No fossils are evident in the Karoo Dolerite Suite, while the Adelaide Subgroup is known to include vertebrate and invertebrate fossils, plant remains and trace fossils. Some vertebrate fossils are known to be present in the Tarkastad Subgroup rocks including fossil fish,



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millipedes and trace fossils. Quaternary group fossils are rare and include mammalian fossils, reptiles, shells, plant remains, stromatolites and trace fossils.

One in-situ *Lystrosaurus* skull from the Tarkastad Subgroup was identified on Mooi Plaats 121.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- It is recommended that a 50 m buffer will be placed around the *Lystrosaurus* skull. It has been identified as Highly Sensitive and No-go area.
- In the event that construction is necessary in this sensitive area, it is recommended that the fossil be collected by a professional palaeontologist. Preceding excavation of any fossil material, the specialist would need to apply for a collection permit from SAHRA. Fossil material must be curated in an accredited collection (museum or university collection), while all fieldwork and reports should meet the minimum standards for palaeontological impact studies suggested by SAHRA;
- A Chance Fossils Finds Procedure has been recommended and provided in the report.

Fourie, W. 2019. Heritage Scoping Report: Proposed Umsobomvu Solar PV Energy Facilities.

*Only the results of the assessment of the Mooi Plaats PV facility will be discussed below.

The desktop study identified several sensitive areas where heritage resources may be present within the proposed development area as shown on page 25 of the report. These areas include drainage lines, enclosures, farmsteads and ridges. Heritage resources that may be present include Stone Age resources and colonial buildings.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

Further field truthing through an archaeological walk down and palaeontological study covering the site. The aim of this will be to compile a comprehensive database of heritage sites in the study areas, with the aim of developing a heritage management plan for inclusion in the Environmental Management Plan as derived from the EIA.

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The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that the PIA is revised to

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provide a map of the identified fossil in relation to the proposed development footprint.

Additionally, when the pending Heritage Impact Assessment report is drafted, the report must clearly separate the results of each development application.

SAHRA awaits the revised PIA and pending HIA before further comments are issued. The draft EIA and all appendices must be submitted at the start of the Public Consultation period in order for informed 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

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/526725>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1134)

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