



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 14250

Date: Friday February 28, 2020
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Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8), 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Bloemsmond Solar 3 (Pty) Ltd

101, Block A, West Quay Building
7 West Quay Road, Waterfront
Cape Town, 8000

Construction and operation of a 100 MW PV energy development on portion 5 and 14 of the farm Bloemsmond 544

Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners have been appointed by Bloemsmond Solar 3 (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Bloemsmond 3 PV Facility on Portion 5 and Portion 14 of the Farm Bloemsmond 455, near Upington, Northern Cape Province (Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2042).

A draft Basic Assessment Report (dBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed activities include the construction of a PV facility covering approximately 310 ha which will include solar panels, an on-site switching station/substation, auxiliary buildings, laydown area, underground cabling, rainwater tanks, perimeter fencing and security network, and access and internal roads. A grid connection from the substation will be assessed as part of a separate BAR process.

Natura Viva CC and HCAC have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the BAR process as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Almond, J. E. 2019. Recommended Exemption from further Palaeontological Studies: Proposed Bloemsmond 3, Bloemsmond 4 and Bloemsmond 5 Solar PV Facilities on portions 5 and 14 of the farm Bloemsmond 455 near Upington and their connection to the national grid via the Upington Main Transmission Substation, ZF Mgcawu District Municipality, Northern Cape.

**It must be noted that this report has assessed two other development areas and the transmission line that are not part of the current application. Only results pertaining to Bloemsmond 3 will be discussed below.*



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The proposed development area is underlain by Namaqua-Natal Province of Mid Proterozoic age that do not contain fossils. These rocks are overlain by aeolian sands of the Gordonia Formation and Late Caenozoic calcretes that may contain fossils such as terrestrial remains, root casts, termitaria, ostrich eggshells, land snail shells, freshwater bivalves, stromatolites, insect burrows and mammalian trackways.

It is unlikely that the proposed development will have significant impact on local palaeontological heritage resources. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended and included in the report.

Van der Walt, J. 2019. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Bloemsmond 3PV Project, Upington, Northern Cape Province.

A total of 12 Stone Age surface scatter find spots, two historical find spots and three archaeological sites were identified within the proposed development area. The Stone Age surface scatters consist of out of context scatters of Middle Stone Age lithics, while the two historical findspots consist of historical metal and earthenware fragments. These sites were rated as resources of low heritage significance. The three archaeological sites consist of a stone cairn/possible grave (B3/1) of high significance if confirmed to be a grave, an open air Stone Age Site next to a small pan with a stone cairn possible pre-colonial grave (B3/2) of medium significance and a smaller open air site with Stone Age lithics next to a seasonal waterhole (B3/3) of medium significance. The three archaeological sites will be avoided during construction.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Site B3/1 must be avoided with a 30 m buffer zone;
- Sites B3/2 and B3/3 must be avoided with a 50 m buffer zone each;
- A Heritage Management Plan must be implemented as part of the project; and
- A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be followed and is provided in the report.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final BAR and EMP:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit no objections to the



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proposed 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:
- The Heritage Management Plan must be submitted to SAHRA prior to the construction phase;
- Monitoring reports must be submitted to the SAHRIS application by the ECO or appointed heritage specialist after the construction phase has occurred with regards to sites B3/1, B3/2 and B3/3 to ensure that the recommended buffer zones have been 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 APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with 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 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. Non-compliance with 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(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - i) 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 BAR and EMP must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
 - 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

Our Ref:



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Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/527753>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2042)

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.