

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: 14397

Date: Friday January 24, 2020
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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: Sivist - Gauteng

PO BOX 2921
Rivonia
2128

Proposed Construction of the Dwarsrug Wind Farm near Loeriesfontein, Northern Cape Province

Sivist SA (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Amendment Application to amend the authorised Dwarsrug Wind Farm near Loeriesfontein, Northern Cape Province (DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/690/AM2).

A draft EA Amendment Assessment 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 include increasing the turbine hub height from 160 m up to 200 m; and increasing the rotor diameter from 160 m up to 200 m. These increases may result in the reduction with the number of turbines to be constructed. The impacts regarding visual and noise impacts were found to be the same as part of the original EA Application in SAHRIS Case ID 6161 (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/dwarsrug-wind-farm>).

An Interim Comment was issued on the 06/08/2015 for the original EA application requesting that a field-based palaeontological assessment be undertaken for the proposed project. It appears that this has yet to be completed. Additionally, it was requested that the cemetery at DR04 be restored and fenced.

A letter has been submitted by PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd regarding the proposed amendments.

Fourie, W. 2019. Proposed construction of the Dwarsrug Wind Farm near Loeriesfontein, Northern Cape Province: Heritage Statement.

The author found that the proposed amendments would not change the findings of the previous HIA submitted for the project.

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In an Interim Comment issued on the 15/11/2019, SAHRA requested that as the previously requested field-based PIA has not been completed for the original EA, that a field-based PIA be conducted for the amended layout of the authorised WEF as part of the EA Amendment application.

In a response to the Interim Comment, the applicant noted that the SAHRA Interim Comment had been issued outside of the 30-day NEMA commenting timeframe. If the comment had been issued during the review timeframes, there would have been enough time to address SAHRA concerns. As such, a final PIA walkthrough will be conducted of the layout before construction occurs and the results of the walkdown will be submitted to SAHRA.

It must be noted that the Public Review timeframe as per the letter was stated to be from the 27th September to the 28 October 2019, however the SAHRIS application was only created on the 2nd October 2019. Nonetheless, the SAHRA comment was issued more than 30 working days after the 28th October 2019.

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 Amendment Assessment Report and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes that there will be no additional impacts to heritage resources as a result of the amendments and has no objections to the proposed amendments to the authorised development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations provided by the heritage specialists provided in SAHRIS Case ID 6161 are still valid and are supported and must be adhered to. The conditions provided by SAHRA in the Interim Comment issued for SAHRIS Case ID 6161 on 06/08/2015 must be adhered to.
- A Palaeontological walkdown must be conducted on the final layout of the WEF prior to construction. The results of such must be submitted to SAHRA for comment prior to construction. No construction activities may occur without comments from SAHRA in this regard;
- The cemetery at DR04 must be restored and fenced prior to construction commencing;
- 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

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- 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;
 - As this Final Comment is issued outside of the EA application timeframes, this comment must be forwarded directly to the competent authority for their consideration as part of the decision-making process. Proof of the delivery and receipt thereof must be submitted to the SAHRIS application;
 - The Final EA Amendment Assessment 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

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/529355>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/690/AM2)

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.