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CaseID: 15395

Date: Saturday September 19, 2020
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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: ABO Wind Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd

The development of a grid connection infrastructure to connect the proposed Geelstert 1 and Geelstert 2 solar PV facilities to Aggeneis Main Transmission, Northern Cape Province.

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by ABO Wind Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Geelstert Grid Connection, near Aggeneis, Northern Cape Province.

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 infrastructure will include a double-circuit power line (up to 220kV in capacity) and a single circuit powerline (up to 220kV in capacity). A corridor of 17.5 km long and 1 km wide has been assessed. Associated infrastructure will include a new collector substation with a development footprint of 1.25 ha and a new 6 m wide access road.

CTS Heritage 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). It is noted that the proposed development is located within an area of low sensitivity for palaeontological resources as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map, and therefore no further assessment of the impact to palaeontological resources is required.

Lavin, J. 2020. Heritage Screener: Proposed Development of a grid connection for the proposed Geelstert 1 and Geelstert 2 Solar PV facilities on a site 11 km south-east of Aggeneis in the Northern Cape Province.

Geelstert 2 Solar PV Facility on the remaining extent of the farm Bloemhoek 61 near Aggeneis in the Northern Cape.

The results of the report are based on desktop sources only. Previous surveys in the proposed route and adjacent areas did not identify significant heritage resources. The specialist concluded that no significant heritage resources would be negatively impacted by the proposed development.

Our Ref:



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Department of Arts and Culture

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Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- A person must be trained as a site monitor to report any archaeological sites found during the development. Construction managers/foremen and/or the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) should be informed before construction starts on the possible types of heritage sites and cultural material they may encounter and the procedures to follow when they find sites;
- A Chance Finds Procedure and a Fossil Finds Protocol are recommended to be followed.

It must be noted that the powerline route has not been surveyed in previously studies in its entirety and several previously identified heritage resources have not been noted in the above submitted report.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit cannot accept the Letter of Exemption for further assessment of heritage resources as the proposed development area has not been previously surveyed sufficiently and the visual impact of the proposed development on the heritage resources has not been conducted

A field-based HIA must be conducted, inclusive of an assessment of the visual impact of the development on the Gamsberg and Namiesberg massacre sites.

SAHRA advises the applicant to extend the EA process in terms of section 19(1)b of the EIA regulations in order to comply with this comment.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above.

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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ADMIN:
Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/539149>
(DEA, Ref:)