



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 15642

Date: Monday November 16, 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: Hyperion Solar Development (Pty) Ltd

Hyperion Solar Development (Pty) Ltd proposing the development of a hybrid generation facility consisting of a dispatchable, dual fuel (liquid or gas) thermal generation plant that will work in combination with the authorised Hyperion PV Solar Energy Facility (SEF) complex. The power generated by the thermal facility and authorised Hyperion PV facility complex will connect via an overhead 132kV power line to the existing Eskom Kalbas substation. The thermal generation plant will include the following infrastructure

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Hyperion Solar Development (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed 75MW Thermal Dual Fuel Facility and associated infrastructure for the authorised Hyperion 1 & 2 Solar OV facilities, near Kathu, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed infrastructure will include gas turbines or reciprocating engines, access roads, truck entrance and parking facility, regasification plant and fuel preparation plant, dry cooling system, fuel off-loading facility, fuel storage facility, water demineralisation plant, substation, cabling, operation and maintenance building, fencing, warehouse and workshops covering an area of 5ha. The proposed Thermal Dual Fuel Facility will be located within the authorised Hyperion PV Solar Energy Facility.

SAHRIS Case ID 12966 has reference (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/hyperion-solar-development-2>). In a Final Comment issued on the 06/05/2019, SAHRA noted no objections to the proposed development and provided specific conditions for the development.

ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Orton, J. 2020. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Thermal Power Dual Fuel Generator on Farm 432/REM and Access Road on Farm 464/1, North of Kathu, Kuruman Magisterial District, Northern Cape.

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It is noted that no physical survey was conducted as part of this HIA, however, the area where the proposed facility is to be located was surveyed as part of the original EA application. No heritage resources were previously identified within the proposed facility footprint.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The subsurface palaeontological record can never be fully understood, and the EIA Phase report will need to make recommendations for monitoring and/or mitigation to be carried out in advance of or during construction work;
- The EIA Phase report will need to make recommendations for mitigation to be carried out in advance of construction work. This will likely entail monitoring of excavations and excavating column samples from a few strategic locations. It should be noted that the potential does exist for a larger excavation to be required if highly significant archaeological resources are discovered;
- The EIA Phase report will need to make recommendations for mitigation or avoidance of graves visible on the surface and indicate how to proceed in the event that a grave is discovered during excavation.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeological, Palaeontological and Meteorites (APM) requests that the EIA phase report HIA must include a field-based survey be conducted for the proposed access road. The EIA phase HIA must include a Palaeontological Desktop Study as the proposed development footprint is located within an area of moderate sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map.

The draft EIA and appendices must be submitted in order for informed comments can be issued.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested documents.

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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Natasha Higgitt
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South African Heritage Resources Agency

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South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/542131>
(DEA, Ref:)