

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
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
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CaseID: 15872

Date: Friday January 15, 2021
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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: Bloemsmond Solar 3 (Pty) Ltd

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

The applicant has applied to amendment environmental Authorisation for the proposed Bloemsmond 3 PV development to include a Battery Energy Storage System of up to 500 megawatt hours. This Battery Energy Storage System is proposed to fall entirely within the development footprint as assessed and authorised. The Case ID for the main development was 14250 and SAHRA issued a final comment on Friday February 28, 2020.

Cape EA Prac has been appointed by AEP Bloemsmond Solar 3 (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Amendment Application process for the authorised Bloemsmond 3 Solar Photovoltaic facility, near Upington, Northern Cape Province (DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2042).

A Final Motivation Report 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 amendment will include the installation of a battery energy storage system (BESS) within the authorised footprint.

In a previous SAHRIS Application (SAHRIS Case ID 14250 <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/bloemsmond-3>), a Final Comment was issued on the 28/02/2020 noting no objections to the development and provided conditions (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/531896>).

Natura Viva CC and Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA Amendment application report 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. 2020. Palaeontological Heritage Resources Comment: Proposed Battery Energy Storage System for the Authorised AEP Bloemsmond Solar 3 Facility on Portions 5 and 14 of the Farm Bloemsmond 455 near Upington, Siyanda District Municipality, Northern Cape.

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The specialist confirmed that the inclusion of the BESS would not change the nature or significance of the impacts assessed in the original Palaeontological Assessment, nor would it result in additional impacts that were not previously assessed. No additional management outcomes or mitigation measures were recommended.

Van der Walt. J. 2020. Heritage Statement – Proposed Battery Energy Storage System for the Authorised Bloemsmond Solar 3

The specialist confirmed that the proposed amendments would not change the nature or significance of the impacts assessed in the original Heritage Assessment, nor would it result in additional impacts that were not previously assessed. No additional recommendations were provided.

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 Motivation Report and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed amendment to the authorised 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 conditions contained within the Interim Comment issued on the 28/02/2020 on SAHRIS Case ID 14250 are valid and must be 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;

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- 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 the Final Motivation report has been finalised without including SAHRA comments, this comment must be forwarded directly to the competent authority for their consideration during the decision-making process. Proof of the delivery and receipt thereof must be uploaded to this case for record keeping 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

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

Amendment of Bloemsmond Solar 3 to include BESS

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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/547768>
(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.