

Development of the Kokerboom 3 Wind Energy Facility, battery energy storage system and associated infrastructure near Loeriesfontein, in the Northern Cape Province

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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CaseID: 16417

Date: Tuesday September 14, 2021
Page No: 1

Final Comment

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

Attention: Business Venture Investments No 2105 (Pty) Ltd

Business Venture Investments No 2105 (Pty) Ltd proposes to construct a 300MW wind energy facility (WEF) and associated infrastructure on Portion 1 of the Farm Karree Doorn Pan, Farm No.214 (5 094.23 ha), Portion 2 of Farm Karree Doorn Pan, Farm No. 214 (5 094.24), and on the Remainder of Aan de Karee Doorn Pan (2 580.00ha) within Ward 5 of the Hantam Local Municipality. The proposed site is located approximately 60 km north of Loeriesfontein, 85 km west of Brandvlei and 160 km south-east of Springbok, in the Namakwa District Municipality, in the Northern Cape province.

Zutari (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Business Venture Investments No. 2105 (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed development of the Kokerboom 3 Wind Energy Facility, battery energy storage system and associated infrastructure on Farms 1/214 and 2/214, near Loeriesfontein, Northern Cape Province.

A Scoping Report has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include 60 wind turbines, a facility substation, operation and maintenance building, BESS, underground cabling between project components, hardstands at each turbine, service and access roads, laydown areas with storage and workshops areas and batching plant.

Natura Viva CC and ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA, and in terms of section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as required by section 38(8) of the NHRA.

Almond, J. E. 2020. Palaeontological Heritage Assessment: Site Sensitivity Report & Letter of Exemption from Further Specialist Studies Proposed Kokerboom 3 and Kokerboom 4 Wind Farms near Loeriesfontein, Namaqua District Municipality, Northern Cape.

The proposed development area is underlain by fossiliferous sediments of the Eccca Group that are poorly exposed and deeply weathered and extensively intruded by unfossiliferous Karoo dolerites. Possible Karoo and / or post-Karoo breccia pipes and igneous intrusions were encountered during fieldwork. Fossils that may



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be present include low diversity trace fossils that occur widely. These rocks are overlain by late Caenozoic superficial deposits that do not contain many fossils. No fossils were identified during the field assessments. Recommendations include the need for a Chance Finds Procedure.

Orton, J. 2021. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Kokerboom 3 Wind Energy Facility on Farm 213/Rem, north of Loeriesfontein, Calvinia Magisterial District, Northern Cape.

A total of 66 heritage resources were identified within the proposed development footprint. These include surface scatters of Stone Age lithics of very low to medium heritage significance, ostrich eggshell fragments, scatters of historical artefacts such as glass bottles, earthenware, porcelain and metal items, grinding groove on bedrock, ruined mudbrick farmstead with of medium heritage significance with associated artefact scatter, and a stone walled enclosure with associated artefact scatter of low to medium significance. It is noted that the development is designed to avoid impacts to heritage resources.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The final layout must be examined in the field by an archaeologist prior to construction with recommendations made for mitigation as required;
- The site at waypoint 722 must be examined and its extent physically marked on site during the pre-construction survey to enable proper cordoning off by the ECO. However, if it will not be possible to avoid direct disturbance to the site, as seems likely, then mitigation (in the form of sampling and collection) will be required prior to construction of turbine #25; and
- If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development then the find should be protected from further disturbance and work in the immediate area should be halted if necessary. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 03/06/2021, SAHRA noted the submitted heritage reports. Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the draft EIA inclusive of appendices. Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, additional Heritage Reports have been submitted along with the DEIR.

Almond, J. E. 2020. Palaeontological Heritage Assessment: Site Sensitivity Report & Letter of Exemption from Further Specialist Studies. Proposed Kokerboom 3 and Kokerboom 4 Wind Farms near Loeriesfontein,

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Namaqua District Municipality, Northern Cape.

The proposed development area is underlain by the Prince Albert, Whitehill and Tierberg Formations which may contain invertebrate trace fossils. These have been baked by unfossiliferous Karoo dolerite intrusions. Breccia pipes and igneous intrusions were identified during the fieldwork. Late Caenozoic superficial deposits appear to be highly fossiliferous, however finds are rare and unpredictable.

A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented and is provided in the report.

Orton, J. 2021. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Kokerboom 3 Wind Energy Facility on Farms 214/1 and 214/2, North of Loeriesfontein, Calvinia Magisterial District, Northern Cape.

A total of 87 heritage resources were identified within the proposed development footprint. A total of nine heritage resources of low-medium significance include surface scatters of Stone Age lithics with ostrich eggshell (OES) fragments (burnt and unburnt), one scatter has an associated small enclosure, historical artefact dump associated with a historical farmstead of medium significance. One surface scatter of Stone Age lithics and OES fragments was assessed as having a medium heritage significance. The remaining identified heritage resources were assessed as resources of low or very low significance.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The archaeological site at waypoints 722, 1938 and 1939 must be subjected to mitigation (in the form of sampling and collection) prior to construction of turbine #25 and the adjacent road;
- The site at waypoint 091 should be avoided if possible, although this is not required;
- The site at waypoints 717 to 719 must be demarcated as a no-go area and monitored by the ECO to ensure that it is not damaged during construction; and
- If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development then the find should be protected from further disturbance and work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.

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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 EIR and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the 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:
- Permits in terms of section 35 of the NHRA must be applied for from SAHRA for all excavation and sampling mitigation measures prior to the construction and ground clearing phase. No ground clearance or construction in those areas may commence without a permit issued in this regard;
- All sites to be avoided as recommended by the specialist, must be avoided with a 30 m no-go buffer zone;
- Monitoring reports of sites 717 to 719 by the ECO must be provided to SAHRA upon completion of the construction phase;
- 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 for offenses;
- 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 EIR and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the

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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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/573653>

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.