

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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CaseID: 16417

Date: Thursday June 03, 2021
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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: 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. 2021. 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 igneous rocks. Fossils that may present include low diversity trace fossils that occur widely. These rocks are overlain by late Caenozoic

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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.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) notes the submitted heritage reports. Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the draft EIA inclusive of appendices.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

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Yours faithfully

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South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
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South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

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