

PROPOSED NEW HOPE 3 SOLAR PARK RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT, KAI! GARIB LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, ZF MGCAWU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

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
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 16682

Date: Friday July 23, 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: Neels Kruger

PROPOSED NEW HOPE 3 SOLAR PARK RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT ON THE REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM N'ROUGAS ZUID, 121, REGISTRATION DIVISION KENHARDT RD, KAI! GARIB LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, ZF MGCAWU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

AGES Limpopo (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Apus Energy (Proprietary) Limited to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed New Hope 3 Solar Energy Facility, near Kenhardt, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) 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 PV panels, powerlines, Battery Energy Storage System, access roads, construction camp and laydown area within a development footprint of 230 ha.

Dr Bruce Rubidge and Exigo Sustainability was 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).

Rubidge, B. 2021. Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment: New Hope Solar Park 1, 2 3 and 4 and Powerline.

**Only results pertaining to New Hope 3 will be discussed below.*

The proposed development is underlain by the Namaqua-Natal Metamorphic Province that comprises Precambrian igneous rocks and the Jacomyns Pan Group that comprises metamorphic rocks, both of which do not contain fossils. These rocks are overlain by Quaternary alluvial deposits of the Gordonia Formation of the Kalahari Group which could contain fossils, however it is unlikely. A Chance Fossils Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

Kruger, N. 2021. Archaeological Impact Assessment: Proposed New Hope 1, 2, 3, 4 Solar Parks on the Remaining Extent of the Farm N'rougas Zuid 121, ZF Mgcawu District Municipality, Northern Cape Province.

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**Only results pertaining to New Hope 3 will be discussed below.*

A total of eight (8) surface scatters of Stone Age lithics and two (2) worked quartz outcrops of low significance were identified within the proposed development footprint.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- It is recommended that application should be made for a permit prior to the destruction of archaeological material;
- The general monitoring of the development progress by an ECO or by the heritage specialist is recommended for all stages of the project;
- Should any subsurface palaeontological, archaeological or historical material, or burials be exposed during construction activities, all activities should be suspended and the archaeological specialist should be notified immediately;
- Burials and historically significant structures dating to the Colonial Period occur on farms in the area and these resources should be avoided during all phases of construction and development, including the operational phases of the development.

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 BAR 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:
- No destruction permit application in terms of section 35 of the NHRA is required for the identified heritage resources as they are of low significance. Construction may commence without such permits;
- A monitoring report must be submitted once the construction phase has been finalised;
- 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

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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 of the NHRA for offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
- With reference to the mitigation work noted above, a qualified archaeologist must be appointed to undertake the work in terms of the permit applied for as noted above;
- 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 BAR 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 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

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/576502>

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.