

**Proposed Development of Two 9.9MW Internal Combustion Engines (ICE)
associated with the Afrikaans and Sotho PV Plants on the Remaining Extent of
Farm Bokpoort 390, Groblershoop, Northern Cape**

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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Date: Friday February 11, 2022
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CaseID: 17809

Final Comment

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

Attention: ACWA Power Energy Africa (Pty) Ltd

In September 2020, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) released a request for proposal as part of the Risk Mitigation Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme to reduce the current load shedding periods being experienced by the country. ACWA Power Project DAO (RF) Pty Ltd (hereafter referred to as ACWA Power) submitted a bid for a 150MW (export capacity) PV plant that was bid as “Project DAO” and were successful. A condition in the RFP requires Bidders to not tap into the national grid for power and requires that a reliability test be undertaken at a specified generation rate and time. In meeting the RFP requirements, ACWA Power decided to supplement their already authorised project infrastructure by adding ICE infrastructure in the projects which was applied for and then authorised. The DMRE relaxed the reliability run requirements, and ACWA Power decided to lapse four (Zulu, Afrikaans, Sotho and Swati PV plant ICE) of the seven ICE EAs. The DMRE has now confirmed that they are not relaxing the reliability run requirements, and as such, ACWA Power needs two additional ICE to meet these requirements. Individual applications for Environmental Authorisation will be lodged for the 9.9MW ICE within the Afrikaans and Sotho previously approved PV plants on the Bokpoort Farm 390, !Kheis Local Municipality, Northern Cape.

Royal Haskoning DHV have been appointed by ACWA Power Project DAO (RF) Pty Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed development of two 9.9 MW Internal Combustion Engines (ICE) associated with the Afrikaans and Sotho PV Plants on the remaining extent of Farm Bokpoort 390, Groblershoop, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) 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 the construction of two ICE's with a footprint of 0.5 ha each, within the already authorised footprints.

It is noted that SAHRIS Case ID 14976

(
<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/basic-assessment-processes-eight-new-photovoltaic-pv-plants-well-increase-capacity-and>) and SAHRIS Case ID 15900

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(
<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/basic-assessment-proposed-development-seven-99mw-internal-combustion-engines-ice-remaining>) are linked to the current application. SAHRA noted no objections to the previous applications and provided conditions.

Natura Viva CC and Dr Van Schalkwyk were 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).

Almond, J. E. 2021. Addendum: Revised layout of ICE for the authorised Bokpoort Solar Power Facility (Project DAO) near Groblershoop, Northern Cape Province.

The specialist confirmed that the new layout of the ICE will not change the significance rating of the original Palaeontological Impact Assessment and no additional impacts are expected. The mitigation measures in the original report remain valid.

Van Schalkwyk, J. 2021. Specialist Opinion for the new Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) Developments associated with the Afrikaans and Sotho PV Plant for Project Dao (Formerly Bokpoort Solar Photovoltaic (Pv) Energy Facility) near Groblershoop, !Kheis Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province.

The specialist confirmed that the proposed amendments of the ICE will not increase the level or nature of impacts that were initially assessed, and no additional impacts are expected. The mitigation measures in the original report remain valid.

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. No further additional specific conditions are provided for the development;
- 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

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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/ Ngqalabutho Madida 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 regarding 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/591508>
(DEA, Ref:)

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.