

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: 18014

Date: Thursday February 02, 2023
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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: Mr Shaun Macgregor
Ecoleges Environmental Consultants
PO Box 9005
NELSPRUIT
1200

The development of a 300MW Solar Photo-Voltaic (PV) plant on Portion 3 & Remainder of Farm Goedehoop 26 C, Portion 1, 6 & Remainder of Kwanselaars Hoek 40 C, Portion 6 of Leuwe Fountain 27 C, Portion 4 of Taaibosch Fontein 41 C and the Remainder of Farm Riet Fountain 39 C, registration district Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality; Northern Cape Province. The proposed development will be connected to an already authorised solar PV facility by means of overhead powerlines, so that both facilities feed into existing Eskom 400KV overhead powerlines via an on-site sub-station.

Ecoleges Environmental Consultants have been appointed by Soventix South Africa (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed 300MW PV plant (Phase 2 De Aar 300MW PV) on several properties near De Aar, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) was submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA EIA Regulations (As amended). The proposed development will include the construction of PV panels, laydown areas, vegetation clearance, use of existing borrow pits, on-site substation and powerline, transformers and inverters, access roads, and existing roads will be upgraded, operation and maintenance buildings, fencing, waste water treatment facilities within a development footprint of 450 ha.

The DSR states that a Visual and Heritage Impact Assessment will be conducted as part of the EIA phase.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that the pending assessment of the impact to heritage resources comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA as required by section 38(8) of the

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NHRA. The HIA must include an archaeological and palaeontological component.

The field-based archaeological component of the HIA must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and must comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports (see www.asapa.co.za or www.aphp.org.za for a list of qualified archaeologists).

The proposed development is located within an area of very high Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist. (See <https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html> for a list of qualified palaeontologists). The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.

Any other heritage resources as defined in section 3 of the NHRA that may be impacted, such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewscapes must also be assessed.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the pending heritage reports and 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.

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Manager: Development Applications Unit
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/593007>