Our Ref: 18080



an agency of the Department of Arts and Culture

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Interim Comment

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

Attention: ENERTRAG (Pty) Ltd

The proponent is proposing the development of a 400 KV Grid Connection and Collector substation located approximately 10km south of Ermelo (near Camden) in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa. The broader Camden developments will connect to the Camden Power Station substation through an up to 400kV powerline (either single or double circuit) either directly or via a Loop-In-Loop-Out onto the existing Camden-Incandu 400kV power line.

Enertrag South Africa (Pty) Ltd have appointed WSP Environmental (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment application process in support for an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) as amended, for activities that trigger the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 2014 Regulations, as amended.

Enertrag in conjunction with Camden Solar I and II RF, and Camden I and II Wind Energy RF are proposing to construct a renewable energy facility consisting of 8 projects within the existing Eskom Camden Power Station in Mpumalanga Province. The Solar Energy renewable energy facility application case ID is 18082, the Wind 1 and Wind 2 facility applications are case ID 18077, and case ID 18087 respectively, and the green energy facility application case ID is 18081. This application is for the construction a 400kV power line and common collector substation for their new energy facility to be connected to the National Grid. The proposed power line alternative route 1 will cross the farms Portion 14 Mooiplaasts 290 and Portion 11 of Welgelegen 322. The power line alternative route 2 will cross the farms Portion 14 Mooiplaasts 290 and Portion 1 of Welgelegen 322, Msukaligwa Local Municipality, Mpumalanga province. The collector substation will be about 5ha in extent and the Camden substation will be 1ha. The power line corridor will be 250m in width.

A Heritage Scoping report by Beyond Heritage (Pty) Ltd has been submitted to SAHRA for commenting in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Van der Walt, J. October 2021. HERITAGE SCOPING REPORT For the Proposed Camden 1 up to 400kV Grid Connection and Collector substation, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa.

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The author undertook an assessment of the available documentation on the history of the development area. The author notes that the area has previously been assessed and identified historical homesteads and farmsteads. No archaeological sites and graves have been identified in the study area but due to the nature of heritage resources occurring underground there is potential of unkown sites being uncovered. The study area has negligible palaeontological significance as seen on the SAHRIS palaeomap and the palaeomap policy. The author recommends a field assessment during the EIA phase to assess the development footprint for any potential heritage resources.

Interim Comment

The Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorites (APM) notes the submission of the Scoping Report and Heritage Scoping Report and endorses the recommendation for a field survey by a suitably qualified archaeologist as part of a Heritage Impact Assessment report.

SAHRA will provide further comments on the proposed development once the draft EIAr and the HIA report is submitted to the case.

SAHRA grants the development an exemption from undertaking a Palaeontological Impact Assessment as the development area is located in a region mapped on the palaeomap as being of negligible palaeontological significance. The palaeomap policy does not require an assessment of impacts for zones of negligible palaeontological significance.

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

Yours faithfully

Nokukhanya Khumalo Heritage Officer

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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/593573

(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2134)