

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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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
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CaseID: 18576

Date: Friday June 10, 2022
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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: Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

Emoyeni Renewable Energy Farm (Pty) Ltd is proposing the development of renewable energy facilities, collectively known as the Umbbilla Emoyeni Renewable Energy Facility, consisting of a commercial wind farm, solar PV facility, and associated grid infrastructure, including a battery energy storage system, located approximately 6km southeast of Bethal in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa. A preferred project focus area with an extent of 27 819ha been identified by Emoyeni Renewable Energy Farm (Pty) Ltd as a technically suitable area for the development of the Umbbilla Emoyeni Renewable Energy Farm with a contracted capacity of up to 666MW of wind energy and 150MW of solar energy. This layout, and project capacity, will reduce as the EIA and scoping process identifies environmental constraints that exclude areas for development. The wind farm is proposed to accommodate the following infrastructure: Up to 111 wind turbines with a maximum hub height of up to 200m. The tip height of the turbines will be up to 300m. 33kV / 132kV onsite collector substations Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Cabling between turbines, to be laid underground where practical Laydown and O&M hub (approximately 300m x 300m): Batching plant of 4ha to 7ha Construction compound (temporary) of 6 Ha approximately Operation and Maintenance office of 1.5Ha approximately , Laydown and crane hardstand areas (approximately 75m x 120m) Access roads of 12-13m wide, with 12m at turning circles. It is anticipated that the power generated by the project will be bid into the REIPPPP tender process (DMRE) and/or into private off take opportunities. The LILO corridor will intersect with either the Camden-Zeus 1 400kV, Camden-Zeus 2 400kV or Camden-Tutuka 400kV power line.

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Emoyeni Renewable Energy Farm (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Umbbilla Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility, near Bethal, Mpumalanga Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed

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development will include the construction of 111 turbines over an area of 27 819 ha with associated infrastructure such as underground cabling, on-site collector substation, 3 x 132kV powerlines from the substation, site office, batching plant, 3 x operation and maintenance office, 3 x laydown areas, laydown and crane hardstands and access roads.

CTS Heritage has been 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).

Lavin, J. 2022. Desktop Heritage Screening Assessment for the Umbila Emoyeni Renewable Energy Wind and Solar PV Facilities, Mpumalanga Province.

The desktop study noted that heritage resources such as Stone Age resources, Late Iron Age sites, burial grounds and graves, historical werfs and Anglo-Boer war remains may be located within the proposed development area. The proposed development footprint is located in areas of moderate and very high palaeontological sensitivity, underlain by the Vryheid formation.

The report recommends that further field assessment of the impact to heritage including palaeontological resources must be undertaken.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes the pending assessment of the impact to heritage resources. The HIA must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA as required by section 38(8) of the NHRA. The HIA must include an archaeological and palaeontological component.

The 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.

The proposed development footprint is located in areas of moderate and very high sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity Map. Therefore, a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist. 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

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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 draft EIA documents inclusive of appendices and the above pending heritage specialist reports.

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

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/597541>