

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: 18577

Date: Wednesday July 19, 2023
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Final Comment

In terms of Section 38 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 solar PV facility is proposed to accommodate the following infrastructure: PV modules and mounting structures with a capacity per panel of 350W to 450W and dependent on optimization and cost. Inverters and transformers 33kV/132kV onsite collector substation Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Cabling between project components Laydown and O&M hub (approximately 300m x 300m): Construction compound (temporary), Maintenance office Access roads (up to 12m wide) 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 Solar 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 development will include the construction of PV panels over an area of 27 819 ha with associated infrastructure such as invertors and transformers, cabling between components, on site collector substation,

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132kV powerline from the substation, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), laydown and Operation and Maintenance hub and access roads.

In a Final Comment issued on the 12/06/2023, SAHRA noted no objections to the proposed development and provided conditions. One condition was for a Management Plan for the identified burials to be submitted prior to construction.

Lavin, J. 2023. Heritage Conservation Management Plan: Umbila Emoyeni Renewable Energy Wind and Solar PV Facilities, Mpumalanga Province.

The CMP contains management and monitoring measures for the protection and management of heritage resources within the development area, noting the different phases of the development i.e. construction, operational and decommissioning phases. The CMP contains a guide on how to identify burials and how to proceed should previously unidentified burials be uncovered.

Final Comment

SAHRA is satisfied with the submitted CMP. The conditions in the Final Comment issued on 12/06/2023 remain valid and must be adhered to with the exception of the need to submit a CMP, as this has been achieved.

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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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/597543>
(DFFE, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2161)

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.