

Proposed Paarde Valley PV2 Switching Station, 132 kV OHPL to Vetlaagte MTS and associated infrastructure

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: 18817

Date: Friday August 12, 2022
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Final Comment

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

Attention: Paarde Valley PV2 (Pty) Ltd

Proposed Paarde Valley PV2 Switching Station, 132 kV OHPL to Vetlaagte Main Transmission Substation (MTS) and Associated Infrastructure, near De Aar in the Northern Cape Province.

Holland & Associates Environmental Consultants have been appointed by Paarde Valley PV2 (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed establishment of the Paarde Valley PV2 Switching Station and 132kV Overhead Powerline to the Vetlaagte Main Transmission Substation and associated infrastructure, near De Aar, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the EIA Regulations. The proposed activities include the construction of a 132KV double circuit OHPL from the Switching Station connecting to the proposed Vetlaagte MTS (a 200 m corridor has been assessed and is applied for), a 132KV feeder bay at the Vetlaagte MTS and an on-site switching station including access road, adjacent to the authorised 1PP 132KV substation.

Banzai Environmental and ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input into the EA process as per section 24(4)b(iii) of the NEMA and section 38(3) and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Butler, E. 2022. Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Paarde Valley PV2 Grid Connection Vetlaagte Main Transmission to Substation (MTS)

The proposed development area is underlain by Jurassic Dolerite, the Tierberg Formation, the Adelaide Subgroup and overlain by quaternary alluvium. Trace fossils, vascular plants, crustaceans, insects, fish and microfossils are known to be present in the Tierberg Formation.

Scattered petrified wood fragments and oolites were identified in the south-eastern section of the proposed grid development. Recommendations provided in the report include a Chance Finds Protocol and the ECO must be aware of the possibility of finding fossils in the Adelaide and Tierberg formation rocks.

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Orton, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed 132 kV Powerline for Paarde Valley PV2 At De Aar, De Aar Magisterial District, Northern Cape.

A total of 16 heritage resources were identified within the proposed development area. These include surface scatters of Stone Age lithics and scatters of historical artefacts of very low heritage significance. A historical farmstead of medium heritage significance is located 1.3 km from the proposed grid connection. A mid-20th century farm house of medium heritage significance is located 1.3 km from the powerline corridor and the Vetlaagte farm complex of medium heritage significance is located 1 km from the powerline corridor. These sites will not be directly impacted.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Surface clearance is to be kept to the minimum required for the project; and
- If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development then work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.

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 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)

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Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Ngqabutho 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:
- 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

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit

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South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/599222>
(DFFE, 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.