

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 19626

Date: Friday October 21, 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: Soyuz 3 (Pty) Ltd

The Applicant, Soyuz 3 (Pty) Ltd., is proposing the development of a commercial Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and associated infrastructure on a site located approximately 35 km South of Britstown within the Emthanjeni Local Municipality and Ubuntu Local Municipality and the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province.

CES Environmental and Social Advisory Services has been appointed by Soyuz 3 (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Soyuz 3 Wind Energy Facility, near Britstown, Northern Cape 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 up to 75 turbines, transformer at the base of each turbine, concrete turbine foundation, turbine, crane and blade hardstands, temporary laydown areas, battery energy storage system (BESS), cabling between turbines (underground where practical), two on-site substations, access roads to the site and between project components inclusive of storm water infrastructure (125 km), a temporary site camp establishment and concrete batching plants, operation and maintenance buildings, within an application area of 23 800 ha.

Banzai Environmental (Pty) Ltd and Exigo Sustainability were appointed to provide heritage specialist input into the EA process 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).

Butler, E. 2022. Palaeontological Desktop Assessment: Soyuz 3 Wind Energy Facility Northern Cape Province.

The proposed development area is underlain by Late Caenozoic alluvium, Karoo Jurassic Dolerite, the Abrahamskraal Formation and the Ecca Group, which is very highly sensitive. The report recommends that a site investigation of the proposed development area be conducted during the EIA phase.

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Nelius, K. 2022. Heritage Scoping Study: Soyuz 1 (Pty) Ltd: Soyuz 3 Wind Energy Facility Project, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province

The desktop assessment states that heritage resources such as Stone Age sites, engravings, historical farmsteads and structures, remains of the Anglo-Boer War, cemeteries and burial grounds, and intangible heritage may be present in the proposed development area.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The HS should be expanded to an integrated Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) including findings of a walkdown of final project impact areas to document all sites, features and objects;
- It is recommended that all graves and cemeteries that might occur in the project surrounds be conserved and excluded from impact emanating from any future development. Where impact on such resources would prove to be inevitable, the correct human remains repatriation procedures should be observed at all times. These procedures should include public notification of intent to relocate the remains, consultation with descendant communities, close liaison with - and approval from local futurities, adherence to any local laws and / bylaws, and correct grave relocation methodologies;
- It is possible that groups, farmers and locals living in the area have occupied the region for many generations and have expressed long-term cultural associations with the region. Therefore, it is important to ascertain from these respondents whether there are any further undetected sites of cultural significance in the area to which they relate and / or attach cultural meaning.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that the pending assessment of the impact to heritage and palaeontological resources comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA, the 2007 SAHRA Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment and the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Component of Heritage Impact Assessments. The HIA must include the results of the VIA.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above pending 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.

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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/605693>
(DFFE, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2207)