

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: 19715

Date: Wednesday February 08, 2023  
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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: Highveld Solar Power Plant (RF) (PTY) Ltd

**The activities entail the development of 300MW photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure, as well as a 10ha (5-7MW) photovoltaic solar facility for private use generation, on Portion 17 of the Farm Kleinwater No. 301, Remaining Extent of Portion 2, Remaining Extent of Portion 15, Portion 47 and Portion 48 of the Farm Kromdraai No. 279, Registration Division JS, Mpumalanga Province situated within the eMalahleni Local Municipality area of jurisdiction. The town of Witbank is located approximately 15 km south east of the proposed development. The project entails the generation of up to 300MW and 5-7MW electrical power through photovoltaic (PV) panels. The total footprint of the Highveld Solar Power Plant (SPP) will approximately be 673 hectares (including supporting infrastructure on site) and the Private use facility will have a footprint of 10 hectares.**

Environamics has been appointed by Highveld Solar Power Plant (RF)(Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Highveld Solar Power Plant, near Witbank, Mpumalanga Province.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) have 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 solar panels, battery energy storage facility, internal substation, internal roads, laydown areas, operation and maintenance building, powerline and perimeter fencing within an application footprint of 500 ha.

Banzai Environmental (Pty) Ltd and Dr Van Schalkwyk were 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).

*Butler, E. 2022. Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Highveld Solar Power Plant*

The proposed development area is underlain by the Vryheid Formation, however, no fossils were identified as part of the site assessment. A Chance Finds Protocol is recommended to be followed.

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*Van Schalkwyk, J. A. 2022. Phase 1 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: The Development of the Highveld Solar Power Plant near Witbank, Mpumalanga Province*

No heritage resources were identified within the proposed development footprint. A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be followed.

## 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) 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

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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

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Natasha Higgitt  
Manager: Development Applications Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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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/606142>

**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.