



Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo

Tel: 021 462 4502

Email: nkhumalo@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 19812

Date: Tuesday January 31, 2023

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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Vanadium Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd

The activities entail the development of an up to 250MW photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure, on Portion 1 of the farm Makayskraal No. 18 and Portion 2 of the farm Zwartdoorns No. 421, Limpopo Province situated within the Thabazimbi Local Municipality area of jurisdiction. The town of Northam is located approximately 2 km north of the proposed development. The project entails the generation of up to 250MW electrical power through photovoltaic (PV) panels. The total footprint of the project will be approximately 645 hectares (including supporting infrastructure on site).

Vanadium Solar Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd have appointed Environamics (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment application process in support for an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) as amended, for activities that trigger the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 2014 Regulations, as amended.

Vanadium Solar Plant is proposing to construct a 250MW Solar PV facility with associated supporting infrastructure on 645 ha of land. This will include a 132KV substation and transformer, as well as a BESS and a 88kV power line to the Eskom Spitskop substation. The PV plant will be located on Portion 1 of the farm Makayskraal No. 18 and Portion 2 of the farm Zwartdoorns No. 421 in Thabazimbi Local Municipality of the Limpopo Province.

A BID has been submitted to SAHRA for commenting in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Interim Comment

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999 (NHRA), heritage resources, including archaeological or palaeontological sites over 100 years old, graves older than 60 years, structures older than 60 years are generally protected. They may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. In contexts of development applications, the developer must ensure that no heritage resources will be impacted by the proposed development, by lodging an application to SAHRA and submitting

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an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

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detailed development specifications as a notification of intent to develop. If the application is made in terms of s. 38 (8) of the NHRA then it is incumbent on the developer to ensure that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is undertaken, as s. 38(2)a does not apply. Such a study should follow the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports and section 38(3) of the NHRA.

The HIA must be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist and it must comply with section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA). Once the report is submitted to the case for commenting, SAHRA will provide further comments on this proposed development.

In addition to the HIA report, SAHRA also requires an assessment of palaeontological resources by a suitably qualified palaeontologist.

The HIA and the Palaeontology Impact Assessment (PIA) must be provided to SAHRA prior to the submission of the final EIAR to the competent authority. All these documents will be assessed by SAHRA and the comment issued must be included in the final EIAR.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Nokukhanya Khumalo
Heritage Officer
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/606719>

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.