



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 20335

Date: Tuesday June 20, 2023

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Final Comment

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

Attention: Mr Ernst Jordaan Burger
Carina Energy (Pty) Ltd

Proposed renewable energy generation project by Carina Energy (Pty) Ltd (Buffalo 1 Solar Park) on Farm Buffelsjagt 744 LQ with overhead powerlines to the Eskom Medupi Substation, within the Lephhalale Local Municipality, Waterberg District Municipality, Limpopo Province

Carina Energy (Pty) Ltd is proposing to construct the Buffalo 1 Solar Park and it will have a generation capacity of 240MW, a BESS, and a 12km 132kV power line to the Medupi substation. Buffalo 1 Solar Park facility will encompass an area of 600 hectares and the PV area will be 174 ha, in facilities are in the Lephhalale Local Municipality of Limpopo Province.

Exigent Engineering Consultants (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Cygnis Energy and Lyra Energy to undertake a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment in support of an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environment Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) for activities that trigger the NEMA EIA 2014 Regulations.

The Final Scoping reports for both projects have been submitted to SAHRA in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999 for commenting. The draft EIAR for Buffalo 2 Solar were uploaded onto a new case, the case ID is 21385. The report states that a Heritage Impact Assessment (PIA) and a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) will be commissioned for the EIA phase. The reports for Buffalo Solar 1 was submitted to the case 20335 on SAHRIS on 19/05/2023. The reports for Buffalo Solar 2 have been submitted on case 21385.

The SAHRA issued an Interim Comment dated 17/03/2023 requesting the submission of a Heritage Impact Assessment by a suitably qualified archaeologist and a Palaeontological Impact Assessment by a suitably qualified palaeontologist. The draft EIAR, HIA by Beyond Heritage (Pty) Ltd and PIA by Prof. M. Bamford were submitted on 19/05/2023.

Van der Walt, J. March 2023. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Renewable Energy Generation Projects by Carina Energy (Pty) Ltd (Buffalo 1 Solar Park) On Farm Buffelsjagt 744-LQ with Overhead Powerlines to the Eskom Medupi Substation within the Lephhalale Local Municipality, Waterberg District



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Municipality.

The author undertook a field assessment for the Buffalo Solar Project 1 area and did not identify any heritage resources on site. The study area assessed to have a low heritage significance due to the lack of surface heritage features and the overall impact of the project on heritage resources is also assessed as being low. The author recommends the following:

- The chance finds procedures in the PIA report under section 10 must be included in the EMP for implementation by the ECO.

Bamford, M. April 2023. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Renewable Energy Generation projects by Carina Energy (Pty) Ltd: Buffalo 1 Solar Park on the Farm Buffelsjagt 744-LQ with overhead powerlines to the ESKOM Medupi Substation, within the Lephalale Local Municipality, Waterberg District Municipality, Limpopo Province.

The study area is underlain by potentially fossiliferous Swartrand Formation (Equivalent of the Pietermaritzburg Formation, Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup) that could preserve trace fossils and fossil plants of the Glossopteris flora. Most of the site is on Quaternary sands that have a lower sensitivity and might have fragmented transported fossils. The site visit confirmed that there are no fossils visible on the surface, and that the overall impact by the project is low. The author recommends chance finds procedures to be implemented by the ECO. The procedures in the report under section 10 must be included in the EMP.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes and accepts the submission of the Final BAR, and HIA reports. SAHRA has no objections to the proposed development on the following conditions:

38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit and the Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;

38(4)b – The recommendations provided by the heritage specialists are supported and must be adhered to. There are no further additional.

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



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Unit (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8654) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence 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/Ngqalabutho 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 offence in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;

38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;

38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:

i) 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 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

Nokukhanya Khumalo
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency



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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/611015>
(DFFE, Ref: 14-12-16-3-3-2-2241)

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.