

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 20345

Date: Wednesday January 25, 2023
Page No: 1

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Kudu Solar Facility 10 (Pty) Ltd

ABO Wind renewable energies (Pty) Ltd is proposing to develop 12 Solar Photovoltaic (PV) power generation facilities and associated Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI), north-east of the town of De Aar, in the Renosterberg Local Municipality and Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, in the Northern Cape Province. Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Processes are currently being undertaken for the 12 Solar PV facilities. Separate Basic Assessment (BA) and/or EGI Standard Registration processes will be commissioned separately, once finalised, for the EGI projects. This case is for the proposed Kudu Solar Facility 10.

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been appointed by ABO Wind renewable energies (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation Application for the proposed Kudu Solar Facility 10 and associated infrastructure, near De Aar, Northern Cape Province.

A Draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed activities will include the construction of solar panels, auxiliary buildings, inverter/transformer stations, on-site substation complex, battery energy storage system (BESS), underground cables, access roads, internal roads, fencing, storm water channels, panel cleaning and maintenance area, laydown areas with an overall application area of 97 ha.

Natura Viva CC and ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process as per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Almond, J. E. 2022. Site Sensitivity Verification Report: Proposed Development of the Kudu Solar Photovoltaic Facilities and Associated Infrastructure near Philipstown and De Aar, Pixley Ka Seme District, Northern Cape Province.

A report that combines the assessment of all 12 Kudu Solar Projects has been submitted.

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Page No: 2

The proposed development footprint is underlain by the Waterford Formation, the Tierberg Formation and are overlain by the Late Caenozoic calccrete hardpans, alluvial deposits, surface gravels and soils of low sensitivity. A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

Orton, J. 2022. Heritage Specialist Scoping Report Inputs: Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process for the Proposed Development of a Solar Photovoltaic Facility (Kudu Solar Facility 10) and associated infrastructure, near De Aar, Northern Cape Province

No heritage resources were identified within the Kudu PV 10 development area, with one site of low heritage significance located on the outskirts.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended; and
- The recommendations of the Visual Impact Assessment must be followed.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that the HIA must be revised to include a map of the track logs and show all project components such as the access roads etc. The table of identified heritage resources i.e. Table 2, must be revised to indicate in which Kudu project each heritage resources is located within and any specific mitigation and/or management measures required. An addendum to the PIA must be provided with specific results for the Kudu Solar 10 project.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above revised reports and 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.

Yours faithfully

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Page No: 3

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ADMIN:
Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/611047>
(DFFE, Ref:)