

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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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
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CaseID: 20368

Date: Wednesday July 19, 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: FE De Rust (Pty) Ltd

FE De Rust (Pty) Ltd is proposing the development of a solar energy facility (SEF) and associated infrastructure on a site located approximately 23 kilometers (km) south of Pofadder in the Northern Cape province of South Africa. The proposed development will have a generation capacity of up to 240MW which will feed into the National Grid.

Enviro Insight CC has been appointed by FE De Rust (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation Application for the proposed De Rust PV 2 Solar Energy Facility and associated infrastructure, near Pofadder, 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 PV panels, underground and aboveground cabling, onsite substations, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), internal/access roads, permanent workshop area and office for control, maintenance and storage, stormwater infrastructure, fencing, formal laydown area within an application area of 485 ha.

The DSR states that a Heritage and Palaeontological Assessment, and Visual Impact Assessment will be included in the EIA phase of the development. In an Interim Comment issued on the 26/01/2023, SAHRA noted the pending heritage reports. Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, the draft EIA and appendices, and HIA have been submitted for review (19/07/2023).

Van der Walt, J. 2023. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed De Rust Solar PV2 Solar Energy Facility (SEF), Pofadder, Northern Cape Province

No heritage resources were identified within the proposed development footprint.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Regular monitoring of the development footprint by the ECO to implement the Chance Find Procedure

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for heritage and palaeontology resources (outlined in Section 10.2) in case heritage resources are uncovered during the course of construction;

- Any changes to the layout should be subjected to a heritage walkdown prior to development.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final EIA and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows:
- Any heritage walkdown conducted for any layout changes must be submitted to SAHRA prior to construction. No construction may commence without comments from SAHRA in this regard;
- 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 DAU Unit (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660/ nhiggitt@sahra.org.za) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with this 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 DAU Unit (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660/ nhiggitt@sahra.org.za) must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with this 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(1) of the NHRA regarding offences;
- 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 Final EIA must be submitted to the SAHRIS application for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA application must be submitted to the SAHRIS application for record purposes.

PROPOSED DE RUST PV 2 SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Yours faithfully

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/611249>
(DFFE, Ref:)

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.