

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: 20520

Date: Thursday June 22, 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: Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

Ruspoort 1 Solar PV Facility, Northern Cape Province application by Akuo Energy Afrique. A consortium consisting of Akuo Energy Afrique, Africoast Investments and Golden Sunshine Trading propose to develop the Ruspoort 1 Solar PV Facility and its associated electrical infrastructure on Portion 5 of the Farm Bokken Kraal 81 in the Renosterberg Local Municipality in the greater Pixley ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. The project site is located approximately 20km north of Phillipstown and 30km west of Petrusville and within the Central Transmission Corridor. The Project (Ruspoort 1 Solar PV Facility Solar PV Facility) is part of a cluster known as the Hydra B Renewable Energy Cluster. The Cluster entails the development of up to Twenty-one (21) solar energy facilities. A technically suitable project site of ~1355ha has been identified by Akuo Energy Afrique for the establishment of the PV facility. The proposed facility will have a contracted capacity of 100MW.

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Akuo Energy Afrique to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Ruspoort 1 Solar PV Facility, near Petrusville, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) was submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA EIA Regulations (As amended). The proposed development will include the construction of PV panels, transformers and inverters, cabling between the project components, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), on-site substation and powerline (separate EA process), site offices, security office, operations and control buildings, maintenance and storage laydown areas, access roads and internal distribution roads within two alternative application areas of 203 and 370 ha respectively.

CTS Heritage has been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process in terms of section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Lavin, J. 2022. Desktop Heritage Screening Assessment for the Proposed Ruspoort 1 Solar PV Facility near

PROPOSED RUSPOORT 1 SOLAR PV FACILITY NEAR PETRUSVILLE, DE AAR & PHILLIPSTOWN IN THE NORTHERN CAP

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Petrusville, De Aar & Phillipstown in the Northern Cape

The screening assessment recommends that a field-based archaeological impact assessment be conducted due to the likelihood of heritage resources present within the development footprint. Additionally, it is recommended that a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment be conducted as part of the HIA.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 15/02/2023, SAHRA noted the pending assessment of the impact to heritage resources. Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, the draft EIA, HIA with palaeontological component has been submitted for review (05/06/2023).

Lavin, J. 2023. Heritage Impact Assessment In terms of Section 38(8) of the NHRA for the Proposed Ruspoort PV 1 Solar PV Facility near Petrusville, De Aar & Phillipstown in the Northern Cape

The HIA draws results from two heritage specialist reports (Lavin, J; Wiltshire, N and Jongens, A. 2022) and (Chapelle, K. 2023).

It is noted that no survey was conducted for the Option B development footprint. The proposed development area is underlain by Jurassic Dolerite and Quaternary deposits. A total of 20 heritage resources were identified within the proposed development footprint. These include surface scatters of Stone Age lithics of negligible heritage significance.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Option A is preferred from a heritage perspective as Option B has not been subjected to a field assessment and as such, the archaeological sensitivity of this footprint is unknown, although it is likely to be low;
- The attached Chance Fossil Finds Procedure must be implemented;
- A general heritage Chance Finds Procedure must be implemented.

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 EIA and EMPr:

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- 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:
 - If Option B development footprint is chosen as the final development location, this footprint must be subjected to a field survey by an archaeologist. A report with results of the survey must be submitted to SAHRA for review. No construction may commence without comments from SAHRA in this regard;
 - SAHRA reserves the right to provide additional conditions to the development based on the results of the above report;
 - SAHRA reserves the right to object to the development based on the results of the above report;
- 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 (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 (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 of the NHRA for 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 EIA 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 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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/611924>

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.