

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 20521

Date: Wednesday February 15, 2023
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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

Ruspoort 2 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 2 Solar PV Facility and its associated electrical infrastructure on Portion 2 of the Farm Leeuwberg 79 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 2 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 ~516ha 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 2 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 an application area of 204 ha.

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 2 Solar PV Facility near

PROPOSED RUSPOORT 2 SOLAR PV FACILITY NEAR PETRUSVILLE, DE AAR & PHILLIPSTOWN IN THE NORTHERN CAPE

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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.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that the pending assessment of the impact to heritage resources comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA as required by section 38(8) of the NHRA. The HIA must include an archaeological and palaeontological component.

The field-based archaeological component of the HIA must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and must comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports.

The proposed development is located within an area of high Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a desktop based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist. The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.

Any other heritage resources as defined in section 3 of the NHRA that may be impacted, such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the pending heritage reports and the 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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Natasha Higgitt
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South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/611926>