

**Proposed extension of the validity of the EAs of two authorised solar PV facilities on Portion D and Portion E (and now called the Ukuqala Solar PV facility) within the Vetlaagte Farm near De Aar**

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 20786

Date: Thursday August 17, 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: Landscape Dynamics - Cape Town

**This application is made for the proposed extension of the validity of the EAs of two authorised solar PV facilities on Portion D and Portion E (and now called the Ukuqala Solar PV facility) within the Vetlaagte Farm near De Aar. The total size of the solar facility will be 75MW. Note that all the relevant NEMA authorisations for the above two PV facilities are currently in place, and were issued in 2013 however the EAs will expire by July 2023 if not extended. The final layout was guided by the Environmental Sensitivity Map which was produced using the specialist input obtained during the original impact assessment, as well as during the course of numerous EA Amendment Applications. Furthermore, CTS Heritage has recently completed field assessments in the immediate context and as such, the site is well understood.**

Landscape Dynamics has been appointed by Ukuqala Solar PV (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Amendment Application for the Ukuqala Solar PV Portion D and E, near De Aar, Northern Cape Province (Ref no: 14/12/16/3/3/2/382/3 and 14/12/16/3/3/2/382/4).

The EA for the development was issued on the 19 July 2013 and SAHRIS Case ID 192 applies (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/de-aar-vetlaagte-pv>). SAHRA noted no objections to the proposed development and provided conditions (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/49847>).

A draft Amendment Report has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed amendment will include the extension of the validity of the Environmental Authorisations.

CTS Heritage (Pty) Ltd was appointed to provide heritage specialist input into the EA Amendment process as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

*Lavin, J. 2023. Proposed extension of the validity of the EAs of two authorised solar PV facilities on Portion D and Portion E (and now called the Ukuqala Solar PV facility) within the Vetlaagte Farm near De Aar*

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The specialist notes that the landscape has not varied much, and the original assessment remains valid. No additional mitigation measures are recommended.

### 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 Amendment Report and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) has no objections to the proposed amendment;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No further additional specific conditions are provided for the development;
- The conditions provided as part of the Final Comment on Case 192 must be adhered to;
- 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 (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660/ [nhiggitt@sahra.org.za](mailto: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 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 DAU (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660/ [nhiggitt@sahra.org.za](mailto: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 offence 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 regarding 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 Amendment Report and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
  - The decision regarding the EA Amendment 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

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above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

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

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/613674>

**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.