

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 21037

Date: Friday June 09, 2023
Page No: 1

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

ENERTRAG South Africa (Pty) Ltd (ESA) (the Developer) is proposing the development of a Camden Renewable Energy Complex comprising various projects within the vicinity of the Camden Power Station in Mpumalanga. The Complex consists of eight distinct projects referred to as: - Camden I Wind Energy Facility (WEF) (up to 200MW): Subject to a Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process (DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2137); ? Camden I Wind Grid Connection (up to 132kV): Subject to a Basic Assessment (BA) process; ? Camden Grid Connection and Collector substation (up to 400kV): Subject to a S&EIR process (DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2134); - Camden I Solar Energy Facility (SEF) (up to 100MW): Subject to a S&EIR process (DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2136); - Camden I Solar Grid Connection (up to 132kV): Subject to a BA process; (this report & application) - Camden II WEF (up to 200MW): Subject to a S&EIR process (DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2135); - Camden II WEF up to 132kV Grid Connection: Subject to a BA process; and - Camden Green Hydrogen and Ammonia Facility and associated infrastructure: Subject to a S&EIR process (MDARDLEA Ref: 1/3/1/16/1G-242). The Complex (except for the Green Hydrogen and Ammonia project) is being developed in the context of the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy's (DMRE Integrated Resource Plan, and the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPP). The proposed Camden I SEF will be connected to the nearby Camden Collector substation (which in turn will connect to the Camden Power Station), through an up to 132kV powerline (either single or double circuit) between the grid connection substation portion (immediately adjacent the Camden I Solar PV on-site IPP substation portion) and that of the Camden Collector substation. The focus of this Application is the proposed Camden up to 132kV Grid Connection powerline and associated infrastructure. The proposed project entails the construction of an up to 132kV Grid connection overhead powerline including associated infrastructure, from the Camden I Solar PV Facility to the nearby Camden Collector substation (which in turn will connect to the Camden Power Station). The powerline will be approximately 5km in length, depending on the authorized location of the collector substation. The onsite grid connection substation will consist of high voltage substation yard to allow for multiple (up to) 132kV feeder bays and transformers, control building, telecommunication infrastructure, access roads, etc. The area for the onsite substation will be up to 1.5ha. The up to 132kV powerline and substation will have a 500m corridor (250m either side of the centre line, and 250m around the entire

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Page No: 2

perimeter of the proposed substation sites), to allow for micro-siting and avoidance of sensitive features where possible. This corridor, as opposed to the line routing, is proposed for authorisation. This application includes the necessary up to 132kV voltage electrical components required for connection at the Collector Substation (i.e. the termination works). The proposed project will comprise the following key components: - The grid connection substation (adjacent the IPP substation), consisting of a high voltage substation yard to allow for multiple (up to) 132kV feeder bays and transformers, control building, telecommunication infrastructure, access roads, lighting and fencing; - Construction of an up to 132kV power line (either single or double circuit) between the grid connection substation portion and that of the Camden Collector substation; and - Termination works, comprising the necessary up to 132kV voltage electrical components required for connection at and into the Collector Substation. - Existing or new access and service roads (utilising existing roads where possible, with new roads developed where there are no existing roads to be utilised).

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Enertrag South Africa (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed grid connection for the Camden 1 PV near Ermelo, Mpumalanga Province.

A draft Basic Assessment 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 development will include the construction of 132KV powerlines (four alternative routes have been assessed), a substation and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (two alternative locations have been assessed) and a collector and switching substation (two alternative locations have been assessed), construction clearance, control building, telecommunication infrastructure, oil dams, workshop and office area, fencing, access and internal roads.

Prof Marion Bamford and Beyond Heritage (Pty) Ltd was appointed to provide heritage specialist input into the EA 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).

Bamford, M. 2022. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Grid Connection for the Camden I Solar Energy Facility (up to 210MW), west of Camden, Mpumalanga Province

The proposed development area is underlain by the potentially fossiliferous Vryheid Formation that may contain fossil plant remains and the non-fossiliferous Jurassic dolerite. No fossils were identified as part of the site visit. A Fossil Chance Finds Protocol is recommended to be implemented.

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Page No: 3

Van der Walt, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Camden I Solar up to 132kV Grid Connection, Mpumalanga Province

A total of three heritage resources were identified within the proposed development area. These include built structures of low and medium heritage significance. Other heritage resources were identified outside of the proposed development footprint such as built structures, however, will not be impacted by the development.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Implementation of a Chance Find Procedure for the Project (as outlined in Section 10.2);
- The study area should be monitored by the ECO during construction;
- Recorded heritage features should be indicated on development plans and avoided with a 30 m buffer; and
- The final alignment should be subjected to a heritage walkthrough.

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 BAR and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists and in the EMPr are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows:
 - A report providing the results of the walkdown must be submitted to SAHRA for review and comment prior to the construction phase. No construction may commence without comments from SAHRA;
 - SAHRA reserves the right to provided additional conditions based on the results of the walkdown report;
 - SAHRA reserves the right to object to the proposed development based on the results of the walkdown 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 (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660/ nhiggitt@sahra.org.za) must be alerted as per

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Page No: 4

section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with 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), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with 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 regarding offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
- With reference to the mitigation work noted above, a qualified archaeologist must be appointed to undertake the work in terms of the permit applied for as noted above;
- 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 BAR 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

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

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Page No: 5

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/615928>
(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.