



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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CaseID: 21199

Date: Thursday May 18, 2023
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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Mirarch Solar PV Project (Pty) Ltd

The activities entail the development of an up to 160MW photovoltaic solar energy facility and associated infrastructure (including an on-site substation, grid connection, access roads and battery storage system). The facility will be located on the Farm Newcastle No. 53, Registration division K.Q situated within the Thabazimbi Local Municipality area of jurisdiction. The town of Thabazimbi is located approximately 55km south of the proposed development (refer to the attached locality map). The project entails the generation of up to 160MW electrical power through photovoltaic (PV) panels. The total extent of the project will be approximately 337 hectares (including supporting infrastructure on site). The property on which the facility is to be constructed will be leased by Mirarch Solar PV Project (Pty) Ltd from the property owner, for the lifespan of the project (minimum of 20 years).

Environamics Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Mirarch Solar PV Plant (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment in support of an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environment Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) for activities that trigger the NEMA EIA 2014 Regulations, for the construction of a solar power plant consisting of solar array panels, and BESS.

The Background Information Document (BID) for the project have been submitted to SAHRA in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999 for commenting. The BID report states that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) will be undertaken as part of the specialist studies.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA APM Unit acknowledges receipt of the BID and notes that a HIA and PIA will be undertaken as part of the EA application process.

The HIA must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA and the SAHRA 2006 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Component of Impact Assessments, and the 2012 Minimum Standards:



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Archaeological Component of Heritage Impact Assessments. The Minimum Standards provides allowance for a Letter of Recommendation for Exemption that can be submitted by a qualified archaeologist should they deem it appropriate.

In addition, the PIA must be conducted by a qualified palaeontologist. The report must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA and the SAHRA 2006 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Component of Impact Assessments, and the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Component of Heritage Impact Assessments. The Minimum Standards provides allowance for a Letter of Recommendation for Exemption that can be submitted by a qualified palaeontologist should they deem it appropriate.

The assessment should include any other heritage resources that may be impacted such as built structures over 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 above.

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

Yours faithfully

Nokukhanya Khumalo
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency



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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/616774>