

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 21373

Date: Monday July 17, 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: Ms Sharon Jones
SRK Consulting (Pty) Ltd - Western Cape
Postnet Suite #206
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Rondebosch
7701

Development of the Hanover Cluster of seven (7) solar energy facilities and four (4) wind energy facilities, and associated infrastructure, with a total proposed generation capacity of 1 910 MW, outside Hanover in the Northern Cape.

SRK Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Skilpad Solar Energy Facility and associated infrastructure, near Hanover, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) 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 PV panel arrays, on-site substation, 33kv powerlines/underground cabling between the SEF and on-site substation, internal roads, centralised inverter stations, fencing and lighting, laydown areas, water supply and storage, telecommunication infrastructure, stormwater infrastructure, offices and ablutions, operational control centre and maintenance area, and security guard house.

The DSR states that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) will be conducted as part of the EIA phase of the application.

Interim Comment

SAHRA requests that the pending assessment of the impact to heritage resources comply with section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA). The assessment must include an assessment of the impact on archaeological and palaeontological resources. The field-based assessment of archaeological resources must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and the report must comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports.

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The proposed development is located within an area of moderate and very high Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a field-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 viewscapes must also be assessed. The results of the Visual Impact Assessment must be incorporated into the HIA.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above pending reports and draft EIA documents 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

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/617741>