



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 21385

Date: Tuesday June 20, 2023

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Final Comment

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

Attention: Mr Ernst Jordaan Burger

Proposed renewable energy generation projects by Canis Energy (Pty) Ltd (Buffalo 2 Solar Park) on Farm Vergulde Helm 321 LQ with overhead 132kV powerlines to the Eskom Medupi Substation, within the Lephalale Local Municipality, Waterberg District Municipality, Limpopo Province

Canis Energy (Pty) Ltd is proposing to construct the Buffalo 2 Solar Park and it will have a generation capacity of 240MW, a BESS, and a 12 132kV power line to the Medupi substation. Buffalo 2 Solar Park will be 600ha in extent with the PV area being 174ha in extent, both facilities are in the Lephalale Local Municipality of Limpopo Province.

Exigent Engineering Consultants (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Cygnis Energy and Lyra Energy 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.

The Final Scoping reports for both projects have been submitted to SAHRA in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999 for commenting on case 20335. The draft EIAR for Buffalo 1 Solar were uploaded onto the old case, the case ID is 20335. The report states that a Heritage Impact Assessment (PIA) and a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) will be commissioned for the EIA phase. The reports for Buffalo Solar 1 was submitted to the case 20335 on SAHRIS on 19/05/2023. The reports for Buffalo Solar 2 have been submitted on case 21385.

The SAHRA issued an Interim Comment dated 17/03/2023 requesting the submission of a Heritage Impact Assessment by a suitably qualified archaeologist and a Palaeontological Impact Assessment by a suitably qualified palaeontologist. The draft EIAR, HIA by Beyond Heritage (Pty) Ltd and PIA by Prof M Bamford were submitted on 19/05/2023.

Van der Walt, J. March 2023. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Renewable Energy Generation Projects by Canis Energy (Pty) Ltd (Buffalo 2 Solar Park) On Farm Vergulde Helm 321 LQ with Overhead Powerlines to the Eskom Medupi Substation within the Lephalale Local Municipality, Waterberg District



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Municipality.

The author undertook a field assessment for the Buffalo Solar Project 2 area and identified 2 heritage sites (BF001 and BF002) in the north eastern corner of the proposed development area. BF001 is the remains of an old farmhouse that is degraded but protected by the NHRA based on its age. A small burial site consisting of four graves (BF002) is present in the north-eastern corner of the project area and should be avoided with a 30m buffer zone. The study area assessed to have a low heritage significance due to the sparse coverage of surface heritage features, the overall impact of the project on heritage resources is also assessed as being low. The author recommends the following:

The structure at BF001 should be mapped and recorded prior to construction, after which a destruction permit must be applied for.

A 30 m buffer zone around site BF002 must be maintained to prevent any damage to the sites and they must be demarcated, with access for family and avoided with a ~30m buffer zone.

Any palaeontological and archaeological material uncovered during construction must be kept in situ and the ECO must be informed of the findings.

The chance finds procedures in the PIA report under section 10 must be included in the EMPr for implementation by the ECO.

Bamford, M. March 2023. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Canis Energy (Pty) Ltd (Buffalo 2 Solar Park) Renewable Energy Generation Project Farm Vergulde Helm 321 LQ with Overhead Powerlines to the Eskom Medupi Substation, within the Lephalale Local Municipality, Waterberg District Municipality, Limpopo Province.

The study area is underlain by potentially fossiliferous Swartrand Formation (Equivalent of the Pietermaritzburg Formation, Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup) that could preserve trace fossils and fossil plants of the Glossopteris flora. Most of the site is on Quaternary sands that have a lower sensitivity and might have fragmented transported fossils. The site visit confirmed that there are no fossils visible on the surface, and that the overall impact by the project is low. The author recommends chance finds procedures to be implemented by the ECO. The procedures in the report under section 10 must be included in the EMPr.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes and accepts the submission of the Final BAR, and HIA reports. SAHRA has no objections to the proposed development on the following



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conditions:

38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit and the Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;

38(4)b – The recommendations provided by the heritage specialists are supported and must be adhered to. These further additional comments apply:

The structure at BF001 must be mapped and recorded prior to construction, after which a section 34 destruction permit must be applied for to the Limpopo Heritage Resources Authority (LIHRA). For further information please contact Ms Vho Ravhungoni at 066 201 6421.

BGG Comments:

Site BF002 must be conserved *in situ* and a no-go buffer zone area of 30m must be maintained during construction and the life of the solar plant.

The relevant families must be informed of the proposed development prior to the commencement of construction activities as well as any fencing of the cemetery.

If the cemetery cannot be conserved *in situ* then a section 36 of the NHRA permit application in terms of Chapter XI of the NHRA 2000 Regulations must be applied for by a suitably qualified archaeologist if a grave is confined at the site.

Any grave relocations must be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist.

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 APM Unit (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8654) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with 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 Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Ngqalabutho Madida 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with 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(1) of the NHRA;

38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:

i) 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



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significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA; 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

Nokukhanya Khumalo
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/617783>
(DFFE, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2290)

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.



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3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.