



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 21386

Date: Monday June 26, 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

The proposed renewable energy generation projects by Cygnis Energy (Pty) Ltd (Lyra 2 Solar Park) on Farm Groot Vogelstruisfontein 644 LQ with overhead powerlines to the Eskom Matimba Substation and/or to the Eskom Waterberg Distribution Substation, within the Lephalele Local Municipality, Waterberg District Municipality, Limpopo Province

Cygnis Energy (Pty) Ltd is proposing to construct the Lyra 2 Solar Park. Lyra 2 Solar Park will have a generation capacity of 240MW, a BESS, and a 12 132kV power line to the Matimba substation or Waterberg Distribution Substation. Lyra 2 Solar Park will be 600ha in extent with the PV area being 174ha in extent all located on the farm Groot Vogelstruisfontein 644 LQ, both facilities are in the Lephalele 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 Scoping report states that a Heritage Impact Assessment (PIA) and a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) will be commissioned for the EIA phase. The draft EIAR for Lyra 1 Solar was uploaded onto the old case, the case ID is 20334 on SAHRIS on 19/05/2023. The reports for Lyra Solar 2 have been submitted on this case, case 21386.

The SAHRA issued an Interim Comment dated 17/03/2023 on case 20334 requesting the submission of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) by a suitably qualified archaeologist and a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) by a suitably qualified palaeontologist. The HIA by Beyond Heritage (Pty) Ltd, and a PIA by Prof M Bamford was submitted on 19/05/2023 on case 20334 and the new case for Lyra 2 case 21386.

Van der Merwe, J. March 2023. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Renewable Energy Generation Project by Lyra Energy (Pty) Ltd (Lyra 1 Solar Park) on Farm Welgelegen, 469-LQ with Overhead Powerlines to the Eskom Matimba Substation and/or to the Eskom Waterberg Distribution Substation, within the Lephalele



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Local Municipality, Waterberg District Municipality.

The Lyra Solar plant area has been subjected to a field survey and only the foundation remains of a rectangular house (Site LR001) was identified within the project area. The site is of low significance and it is sufficiently recorded in the HIA, and the area has previously been used for hunting camps, and the historical structures, which are situated outside of the Project footprint and will not be impacted on. The project area is considered to be of low heritage significance. The author recommends the following:

- Implementation of the Chance Find Procedure for the Project as outlined under section 10 of this report;
The study area should be monitored by the ECO during construction.

Bamford, M. March 2023. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the Lyra Energy (Pty) (Lyra 1 Solar Park) Renewable Energy Generation Project on Farm Welgelegen, 469-LQ with Overhead Powerline to the Eskom Matimba Substation and/or to the Eskom Waterberg Distribution 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 EMP.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) notes and accepts the submission of the Final EIAR, and HIA reports. SAHRA has no objections to the proposed development on the following conditions:

38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Applications 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. There are no further additional.

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),



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fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660) 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 significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;

This Final Comment must be submitted to the competent authority;

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



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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/617787>
(DFFE, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2291)

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.