

Our Ref:



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: 21432

Date: Monday October 09, 2023
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Final Comment

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

Attention: Lesedi Power Company (Pty) Ltd.

The Part 2 EA Amendment application has been lodged with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) (the Competent Authority) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (Regulations in terms of sections 24(5) and 44 of the NEMA, 1998), as amended on 7 April 2017 and 11 June 2021. For this EA Amendment application, a Part 2 EA Amendment process will be conducted as there has been a change in scope of the EA for the Lesedi Power Company. The Applicant, Lesedi Power Company (Pty) Ltd., has appointed EARTHnSKY Environmental (Pty) Ltd. as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to facilitate the application process. The existing Lesedi Solar Power Facility is located 4 km southeast of the Groenwater settlement and 30 km east of Postmasburg in the Northern Cape. Construction of the Lesedi Solar Power Facility commenced in November 2012, within the EA validity period (August 2011 to August 2014) and is currently operational. Full operations of the Lesedi Solar Power Facility commenced on 21 May 2014 and the facility is expected to have an operational lifespan of around 25 years. The Applicant, is applying for various amendments to its existing EA (12/12/20/1903/1, dated 23 February 2012) issued for the 75 MW Humansrus Photovoltaic (PV) 1 Solar Power Facility (referred to as Lesedi Power Project).

EarthnSky Environmental has been appointed by Oakleaf Investment Holdings 79 (RF)(Pty) Ltd (Trading as Lesedi Power Company) to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Amendment Application for the 75MW Humansrus PV 1 Solar Power Facility, near Metsimatala, Northern Cape Province (DFFE Ref: 2022-09-0038).

The EA for the development was issued on the 29/08/2011 (12/12/20/1903/1). SAHRIS Case ID 1566 (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/groenwater-solar>) has reference. SAHRA issued a Final Comment on the 21/04/2011, noting no objections to the development and provided conditions (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/110321>).

An EA Amendment application was submitted, to which SAHRA noted no objections in a Final Comment issued on the 23/06/2023 (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/619030>) and provided additional conditions. One of

Part 2 Environmental Authorisation (EA) Amendment for the 75 MW Humansrus Photovoltaic (PV) 1 Solar Power Facility (referred to as Lesedi Power Company)

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these conditions included the CHMP must be submitted to SAHRA within one year of the approval of the amendment application. Since the Final Comment was issued, a revised HIA Statement regarding the amendment application has been submitted, along with the amended EIR for the amendment, Operational EMPr with the Grave Heritage Management Plan.

The revised HIA notes that when the construction phase for the development commenced in 2012, four previously unknown graves were identified. A fence and 15 m buffer were established around the burial ground and no impacts to the burial ground occurred. A Heritage Management Plan has been submitted to provide management measures for the burial ground.

Pelser, A. 2023. A Grave Site Cultural Heritage Management Plan for grave sites located at the 75 MW Humansrus PV 1 Solar Power Facility located on the remainder of Farm 469, Hay RD east of Postmasburg in the Northern Cape Province

Management measures provide in the CHMP include the maintenance of the burial ground, visitor control, heritage education programme and site interpretation. The Management Plan should be re-evaluated in 2028.

Final Comment

SAHRA is satisfied with the CHMP. The remaining conditions in the Final Comment issued on the 23/06/2023 must still be adhered to.

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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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/618049>
(DFFE, Ref: 2022-09-0038)

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.