

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
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 202 8660
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CaseID: 21499

Date: Friday June 30, 2023
Page No: 1

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

FG Emvelo (Pty) Ltd is proposing to amend the Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the Karoshoek Grid Integration Infrastructure i.e. on-site substation/switching yard and 400kV powerline from site 1.4, 3, 4, and 5 to the feature Eskom MTS 400kV power line proposed to the west of the site, as part of the larger Karoshoek Solar Valley Development, 30km east of Upington, within the Khara Hais Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province, by extending the EA validity by an additional ten (10) years. Extension of the validity of the EA will ensure that the EA remains valid for the undertaking of the authorised activities. Condition 6 of the EA states that the activity must commence within a period of three (3) years from the date of issue. The Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the project was issued on 20 March 2013. The validity of the EA was extended for an additional two years on 11 November 2015 (DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/288/AM1) and by an additional 5 years on 11 April 2018 will lapse on 20 March 2023. FG Emvelo requests an extension of the validity of the EA by an additional ten years. Condition 6 of the EA is requested to be amended from: "This activity must commence within a period of three (3) years from the date of issue" To: "This activity must commence within a period of twenty (20) years from the date of issue". The Karoshoek Solar Valley projects will form part of the proposed Upilanga Solar and Green Hydrogen Park development, located at Karoshoek, Upington, Northern Cape Province, South Africa. Upilanga Solar and Green Hydrogen Park falls under the Green Hydrogen National Program Strategic Infrastructure Project (SIP) No. 20e, which was gazetted by the Honourable Minister Patricia De Lille in Government Gazette 437658 on 6 December 2022. Therefore, the applicant is requesting that the validity of the EA be extended. This will ensure that the EA remains valid for the undertaking of the authorised activities such that the project can be incorporated into this SIP registered project.

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by FG Emvelo (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Amendment Application for the Proposed Karoshoek 400KV Grid Integration, near Vaal Koppies Settlement, Northern Cape Province (DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/288).

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The EA for the development was issued on the 20 March 2013. SAHRIS Case ID 210 (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/karoshoek-solar-valley-project>) has reference. SAHRA issued a Final Comment on 16 July 2012, noting no objections to the development and provided conditions (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/34139>).

A draft Amendment Report has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed amendment will include the extension of the validity of the Environmental Authorisation by an additional 10 years.

CTS Heritage (Pty) Ltd were appointed to provide heritage specialist input into the EA Amendment process as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Lavin, J. 2023. Desktop Heritage Screening Assessment for the proposed EA Amendment for Karoshoek Grid Integration Infrastructure, Northern Cape.

A field survey conducted in 2020 and various other assessments were used to inform the heritage statement. No significant heritage resources are located within the proposed development footprint. The recommendations provided in the 2012 must be adhered to.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final Amendment Report and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) has no objections to the proposed amendment;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No further additional specific conditions are provided for the development;
- 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 (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660/ nhiggitt@sahra.org.za) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with this section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of

EA AMENDMENT FOR KAROSHOEK GRID INTEGRATION INFRASTRUCTURE, NORTHERN CAPE

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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 DAU (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660/ nhiggitt@sahra.org.za) must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with this section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51 of the NHRA regarding offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - 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;
 - The Final Amendment Report and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
 - The decision regarding the EA Amendment 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

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/618343>

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.