

## Final Comment

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

Attention: Aurecon - Cape Town  
1 Century City Drive, Waterford Precinct, Century City  
P.O Box 1347, Cape Town 8000

### **Proposed Boegoeberg Hydropower Station and Associated Infrastructure at Boegoeberg Dam on the Orange River, near Groblershoop, Northern Cape: DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/568; NEAS Ref: DEA/EIA/TBA**

*Orton, J. and Webley, L. November 2013. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Boegoeberg Hydropower Station near Groblershoop, Northern Cape.*

*Almond, J. September 2013. Palaeontological Heritage Assessment: Desktop Study for the Proposed Hydropower Station and associated infrastructure at Boegoeberg Dam on the Orange River near Groblershoop, Kheis, Siyathemba & Siyancuma Local Municipalities, Northern Cape*

The above reports were submitted for the proposed development of a 15MW hydropower station and associated infrastructure at Boegoeberg Dam in the Northern Cape. The proposed development consists of a hydropower station on the Orange River and includes an off-take structure for water abstraction, a temporary dam, water conveyance infrastructure, a head pond, pipelines, a power chamber, switchroom and transformer yard, an outlet channel, a distribution powerline and access roads.

It is noted that this proposed development has not yet been mapped using the SAHRIS Mapping tool.

The heritage impact assessment identified a number of archaeological resources of varying significance. An extensive artefact scatter, consisting of Middle and Later Stone Age artefacts, was identified on top of the cliff above Boegoeberg Weir (ZKB2013/001). This site was identified as having some heritage significance. An ephemeral archaeological scatter of low significance was identified downstream of the weir. Twelve stone wall features of archaeological significance were identified on the south side of the river and on the mountain slope (BDW2013/001). Although rock art in the area is likely, none was identified in the field assessment.

One informal graveyard and two possible graves including a stone cairn (ZKB2013/004, ZKB2013/003 and ZKB2013/002) were identified in the report. No structures will be impacted by the proposed development. Boegoeberg Weir was constructed between 1929 and 1933 and as such has some heritage significance. It is noted that the weir will not be impacted by the proposed development. Existing borrow pits will be reused for the proposed development.

Three silt storage areas have been proposed however none of these is likely to impact significant heritage resources. There is a concern that water drainage may lead to erosion of the floodplain margins which may impact archaeological sites and burials of heritage significance.

According to the palaeontological assessment, no areas or sites of palaeontological significance were identified within the study area. It is unlikely that the proposed development will impact on significant palaeontological heritage.

**Final Comment**

SAHRA has no objection to the proposed development based on the information provided in the above reports on condition that;

- The gravestone and stone cairn (ZKB2013/003 and ZKB2013/002) must not be impacted by development activities. These sites must be clearly demarcated and carefully avoided.
- Excavation of the silts below the weir must be carefully monitored for additional burials by the ECO.
- The graveyard at ZKB2013/004 must be fenced and a 20m buffer zone of no development must be imposed. A Conservation Management Plan must be adopted for the continued management and conservation of this site.
- The stone structures at BDW2013/001 must be avoided during construction and may not be impacted by the proposed development of the hydropower station or the transmission lines. This will require the careful placement of pylons. A permit in terms of Section 35 of the NHRA is required from SAHRA should any of these structures be disturbed.
- The archaeological site identified at ZKB2013/001 requires archaeological mitigation (Phase 2) in the form of detailed documentation, including mapping and sampling. This must occur prior to construction activities. This mitigation will require a permit from SAHRA in terms of Section 35 of the NHRA.
- Should any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, marine shell and charcoal/ash concentrations), unmarked human burials, fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed activities, SAHRA APM Unit (Jenna Lavin/Colette Scheermeyer 021 462 4502) must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully



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Jenna Lavin  
Heritage Officer



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South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Colette Scheermeyer  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/126178>

**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.

