



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 379

Date: Tuesday November 23, 2021
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Final Comment

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

Attention: H2ON Environmental

Engie Solar Africa (Pty) Ltd [previously known as Solaire Direct Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd] was granted an Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the proposed Grootspruit Solar Project on Farm No. 252, Grootspruit, Odendaalsrus RD, Free State Province on the 10 July 2014 (Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/376).

SAHRA provided a Final Comment on the 13/02/2013, noting no objections to the development (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/110259>) and conditions were provided in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Since the issuing of the Final Comment, the EA has subsequently been amended to split the PV facility and the associated grid infrastructure into separate EA's (Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/376/AM4 and Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/376/AM5).

Currently, Engie Solar Africa has been awarded the preferred bidder status as part of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) and require updated comments from SAHRA. No changes to the project layout or activities have occurred since the issuing of the Final Comment on the 13/02/2013.

Final Comment

SAHRA hereby provides an updated Final Comment for the approved Grootspruit PV facility, powerlines and grid infrastructure (Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/376/AM4 and Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/376/AM5):

- The Final Comment issued on the 13/02/2013 (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/110259>) remains valid for the PV facility, powerlines and grid infrastructure developments;
- No comments are required from Heritage Free State in this regard, however if a permit in terms of section 34 of the NHRA is required at any point for the development, this must be applied for from Heritage Free State;



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- 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 (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) 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;
- 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;
- See section 51 of the NHRA for offences;
- The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
- With reference to the mitigation work noted above, a qualified archaeologist must be appointed to undertake the work in terms of the permit applied for as noted above;
- 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.

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
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Our Ref: 9/2/346/0011



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Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/49818>