

Letter

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

Attention: Mr Charles Berrington

Background Information Document for the proposed development of a Photovoltaic Power Plant on the Farm Brakfontein 897-HN, Taung by Brakfontein Solar Power Plant (Pty) Ltd in the North West Province

Thank you for notifying SAHRA of the intention to develop a PV Solar Plant on the farm Brakfontein 887 HN, which is 35km from the town of Taung. The development footprint is proposed to be 225 hectares on undeveloped land.

Under sections 34, 35 and 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) heritage resources are protected from damage from mining and development activities. Resources like palaeontology (fossils of plant and animal material), burial grounds, unmarked and marked graves that are older than 60 years. Built structures that are older than 60 years old, archaeology which includes: stone tools, stone walled sites, prehistoric and historic pottery sherds, ash grounds etc.

The proposed Solar facility is situated to the west of, and in close proximity to Taung National and World Heritage Site. This area is considered to have high archaeological and palaeontological sensitivity (<http://www.sahra.org.za/map/palaeo>), due to the high likelihood of the presence of significant fossil and archaeological material. A field based palaeontological assessment and an archaeological assessment will have to be undertaken for this project.

In addition, the impact of the proposed solar facility as well as the additional infrastructure such as roads, substation and power line corridors will have to be assessed. The impact of the proposed development on the character of the site must also be assessed.

Decision:

A comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessment must be undertaken, inclusive of:

- A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment by a professional archaeologist, preferably by an archaeologist with experience of stone age archaeology of the area (<http://asapa.org.za/images/uploads/crm-list-october.pdf>).
- A Palaeontological Impact Assessment by a professional palaeontologist (<http://www.palaeontologicalsociety.co.za/palaeontological-impact-assessments.html>).
- In addition, the impacts of increased traffic, including a human and vehicle must be assessed.

Brakfontein PV solar plant

Our Ref: 6004

Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nkhumalo@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 6004

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an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

Once SAHRA receives these studies further comments will be made about the proposed development.

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

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/169672>



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

Street Address: 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town 8000 * Postal Address: PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000
* Tel: +27 21 462 4502 * Fax: +27 21 462 4509 * Web: <http://www.sahra.org.za>