

## Final Comment

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

Attention: SolarReserve South Africa (Pty) Ltd

Office 11C, 11th Floor, SinoSteel Plaza,  
159 Rivonia Rd,  
Sandton,

2196  
**Proposed Wilger PV Power Project on the Remainder of Portion 0 of Farm 267, near Daniëlskuil in the Northern Cape**

Fourie, W. November 2011. *Proposed Arriesfontein Solar Thermal Energy Power Plant near Daniëlskuil, Northern Cape province - Heritage Scoping*

Fourie, W. May 2012. *Proposed Arriesfontein Solar Thermal Energy Power Plant near Daniëlskuil, Northern Cape province - Heritage Scoping*

Almond, J. November 2011. *Proposed solar thermal energy power park on Farm Arriesfontein near Daniëlskuil, Postmasburg District, Northern Cape Province*

Solar Reserve (Pty) Ltd has proposed the development of a 225 MW Photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facility that will occupy 450 ha of the Farm Arriesfontein, near Daniëlskuil in the Northern Cape Province. The project will be undertaken in three phases of 150 ha each, with each phase producing 75 MW of power. The development will consist of rows of panels mounted on metal frames approximately 3m high and associated infrastructure, including office space, access and internal roads, sewer and water treatment works, a new 100m<sup>2</sup> substation and overhead power lines. The development is being proposed alongside a Concentrated Solar Power project on the same property.

The archaeologist has undertaken a scoping study to assess the possible heritage sites and finds that might be affected by the development; an initial site visit was also conducted. Subsequently a site visit has been undertaken. The palaeontologist was requested to undertake a desktop study, using both existing references on the area and photos from the geotechnical reports commissioned by Mainstream Renewable Power in 2011. These reports all consider the entire Arriesfontein property and, therefore, stand for both the CSP and the PV developments.

The Heritage Scoping report by Mr Fourie identified that most archaeological finds in the Northern Cape occur close to water sources such as rivers and pans, as well as on hills and in rock shelters. This area is also the location of Wonderwerk Cave, a significant heritage site containing deposit spanning the Early Stone Age to historical times. Early, Middle and Later Stone Age material may therefore be represented within the study area. Furthermore, two pre-historic specularite mines are also known from the area, while several rock engraving sites have been found near Daniëlskuil. The area was settled by Sotho-Tswana people in the seventeenth century who were then displaced by the Korana in the eighteenth century. More recently, the Daniëlskuil area was the site of several skirmishes between the Boers and the English who fought for control

of the town during the South African War; it was eventually taken from the Boers by the English who fortified the town. The farm itself was granted in the late 1800s, and the current occupant is a descendant of the Roux family who have been associated with the farm from then. The preliminary site visit by the archaeologist revealed that most artefacts were concentrated around the pans and water channels. Furthermore, a resident on the farm reported that there are several Stone Age scatters around the pans.

The full site survey identified three heritage resources, all of which form a single farm complex. The sites include the main farmstead (AF1), the farm cemetery (AF2) and the workers' housing (AF3). AF1, which is currently occupied, is understood to contain a core built in the 1920s after the original house was abandoned. AF2, the cemetery, consists of several formal graves, with the oldest dated to 1932 and belonging to the Roux family. AF3 consists of two stone and brick buildings and a kraal; foundations of a third building are located to the north west. Historical significance is accorded to the fountain on the farm which was used as an outspan on the transport route that followed the current railway line. The original farmstead was reported to have stood to the west of the fountain, south of AF2. All the sites fall outside of the development footprint, although sites AF2 and AF3 are in close proximity to proposed solar panel installations. The stone artefacts identified in the preliminary survey were found to be isolated, low density scatters of low significance.

The palaeontologist compiled a desktop study that noted that the study area is underlain Precambrian Campbell Rand Subgroup sediments of the Ghaap Group (Transvaal Supergroup) that are sparsely fossiliferous. Most of the area is mantled by Quaternary to Recent calcretes and downwasted rubble, all of which are of low to very low palaeontological significance. The palaeontologist notes that the foundations of the solar field will be fairly shallow, limiting the impact of the proposed development on palaeontological resources.

### Final Comment

SAHRA supports the recommendations of the authors and requires that:

- The graves (AF2) should be restored where these are dilapidated, protected and conserved. For this purpose, a proper fence must be built around them including entry gates to allow visits from relatives and family friends. The fence must be placed 5 meters away from the perimeter of the graves. No development is allowed within 15 meters from the fence line surrounding the graves.
- The ECO should be informed of the possibility of discovering significant fossils and should monitor all substantial excavations into unweathered bedrock.

If the recommendations made in the specialist report and in this comment are adhered to, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit has no objection to the development (in terms of the archaeological and palaeontological components of the heritage resources). If any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources are found during development, construction or mining, SAHRA and a professional archaeologist and/or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be alerted immediately.



Decisions on Built Environment (e.g. structures over 60 years) and associated Living Heritage (e.g. sacred sites) must be made by the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Northern Cape (**Mr. Andrew Timothy**, email: [ratha.timothy@gmail.com](mailto:ratha.timothy@gmail.com)) to whom this Archaeological Review Comment will be copied.

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

Yours faithfully

Kathryn Smuts  
Manager: National Inventory Unit  
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/379>

Edit view (DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/2647) (DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/2648) (DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/2649)

**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.

