

Interim Comment

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

Attention: Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
Limpopo Operating Unit
Land Development and Environment Section

Project Name: Tutuka Solar Energy Facility. Applicant: Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd. Proposed Activity: Construction of a 65.9MW solar energy facility and associated infrastructure within the Tutuka coal fired power station boundary near Standerton in Mpumalanga Province.

Eskom Holdings (SOC) Limited proposes to develop a solar PV facility to be named Tutuka Solar Power Facility. It is intended to be located on the farm Portions 4, 10, 11 and 12 on the farm Pretorius Vley 374 IS, Lekwa Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. The Construction of the PV solar facility will entail the installation of Solar PV panels and related infrastructure on 98.8 ha on the preferred alternative to produce 65.9 MW of electricity.

A Heritage Scoping Assessment and Palaeontological Desktop Assessment were submitted with the case:

Misteed, B.D. November 2014. Desktop Palaeontological Heritage Impact Assessment Report on the site of a proposed solar production power production facility (the Tutuka Solar Energy Facility) to be located on Portions 4,10,11 and 12 of farm Pretorius Vley 374 IS, Mpumalanga Province.

Dr Milsteed undertook a Desktop assessment of the proposed development with the aim of determining the possible palaeontological impacts the proposed development will have on the underlying geology.

The proposed development area and its alternative overlie strata of the Vryheid formation and lie in a zone of Very High palaeontological sensitivity (<http://www.sahra.org.za/sahris/map/palaeo>). Nevertheless, the site surfaces have been extensively modified and any fossils would have been damaged due to recent human activity. Excavations for the foundations of the PV solar facility and subsequent facilities will directly impact on fossiliferous rock and mitigation measures are suggested by the author.

Van der Walt, J. November 2014. Archaeological Scoping Report for the Proposed Establishment of the Tutuka Solar PV facility, Mpumalanga.

The author undertook a desktop assessment of the proposed development with the aim of finding any documented heritage resources that may be located within and outside the proposed development area. No field assessment was conducted at this phase.

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SAHRA agrees with the recommendations made in the Palaeontological desktop assessment and the Heritage



Scoping Report:

1. The deep excavations for the foundations, or any activities for this proposed development, should be monitored by the ECO.
2. If any fossils are uncovered during construction of this proposed project, then a professional palaeontologist should be contacted and a Phase 2 palaeontological investigation should be conducted with the permission of SAHRA by obtaining a permit.
3. A field based archaeological assessment needs to be conducted, to find and assess any heritage resources that may be located in the proposed development area.

SAHRA awaits the requested assessment before further comment is made to the case.

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/254890>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/754)

