



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 7364

Date: Tuesday April 26, 2016

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Final 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: Majuba Solar Energy Facility, Applicant: Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd Proposed Activity: Construction of a 65MW solar energy facility and associated infrastructure within the Majuba coal fired power station boundary near Amersfoort in Mpumalanga Province. The proposed facility will comprise:

Eskom Holdings (SOC) Limited is proposing to establish a 65MW photovoltaic solar energy facility named the Majuba Solar Energy Facility. The project involves the construction of PV solar panels mounted on rammed steel with pre-manufactured concrete footings, an internal transformer, switching station and power line from the substation to Majuba Power Station, internal access roads and workshop admin area. The total project area is 96.9ha and lies adjacent to the existing Majuba coal fired power station. The Majuba Solar Energy Facility is located on Portions 1, 2 and 6 of the farm Witkoppies 81 HS, Seme Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

Thank you for submitting the Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) and Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to SAHRA as requested in the Interim Comments dated 23 April 2015 and 14 June 2015.

Van der Walt, J. September 2015. Archaeological Impact Assessment for the Proposed Establishment of the Majuba Solar PV Facility, Mpumalanga Province.

The author undertook a field assessment of the proposed solar facility and found there were no archaeological material, graves or historical structures older than 60 years of age, as mentioned to be a possibility in the heritage scoping report by the same author (2014). SAHRA noted that the chance finds procedure provided in the HIA was incorporated into the EMP.

Butler, E. September 2015. Palaeontological Impact Assessment Report-Eskom Holdings (SOC) Limited's proposed Majuba Solar Energy Facility near Amersfoort, Mpumalanga Province.

A field assessment as requested in the desktop palaeontological study by Millstead (2014) was conducted to assess the potential impacts by the proposed development on a potentially sensitive outcrop of the Volkrust



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Formation. No fossils or palaeontological sensitive zones were identified due to dense vegetation cover throughout the study area. Although this formation is listed as Highly Sensitive to fossilised glossipterids, cordaitaleans and other seed ferns, this type of development has a low impact on fossiliferous rocks also because the area has been disturbed by previous agricultural activities. SAHRA noted that the chance finds procedure provided in the PIA was incorporated into the EMPr.

Final Comment

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit agree with the recommendations made in the HIA and PIA reports. As such SAHRA has no objection to this proposed development on the condition that the chance finds procedures in the EMPr will be adhered to.

If any newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary, and a permit will be needed before mitigation is carried out. You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8652). If any unmarked human burials are uncovered then please contact the SAHRA BGG Unit (Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490).

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

Phillip Hine



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SAHRA Head Archaeologist (Acting)
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/254922>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/752)

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.