



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 7364

Date: Thursday April 23, 2015
Page No: 1

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: 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:

Thank you for notifying SAHRA of the proposed 65MW photovoltaic solar energy facility by Eskom Holding SOC to be 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, to the total project area of 96.9ha that 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.

A heritage scoping report was submitted to the case as well as a desktop palaeontological assessment.

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

Mr van der Walt conducted an archaeological desktop study of the proposed development area, and found the presence of a cemetery and some potentially historical buildings the possibility of finding MSA stone tools. The recommendations brought forward were that a full Heritage Impact Assessment should be conducted for the project area.

Milsteed, B. November 2014. *Desktop Palaeontological Heritage Impact Assessment Report on the site of a Proposed 65 MW Solar Energy Facility (The Majuba Solar Energy Facility) to be located on Portion 1, 2 and 6 of the Farm Witkoppies 81 HS, Mpumalanga Province.*

The Paleontological Desktop assessment was conducted by Dr Milsteed with the aim of documenting the fossiliferous potential of the underlying geology of the proposed project area. It is found that the geology of the



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Page No: 2

study area is completely overlain by the Volkrust formation. The recommendations brought forward are that a Palaeontological field based Impact Assessment should be conducted, with a strong focus on the south –eastern sections of the proposed Majuba Solar PV facility.

SAHRA Interim Comment

SAHRA agrees with the recommendation made in both the reports referenced above.

SAHRA will make further comments once the following is submitted to the case:

- A full field based Heritage Impact Assessment that should contain an assessment on the built environment, graves and archaeology. This assessment should be conducted by a suitably qualified professional archaeologist.
- A field based Palaeontological Impact Assessment that should be conducted by a suitably qualified professional palaeontologist.

SAHRA awaits these studies before any further comment can be made.

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

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Page No: 3

Phillip Hine
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)