Scoping and EIA for the Proposed Development of a 75 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility north-east of Kenhardt, Northern Cape Province (Kenhardt PV 3)

Our Ref: 8206



an agency of the Department of Arts and Culture

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Date: Thursday May 12, 2016

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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 8206

Final Comment

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

Attention: Scatec Solar SA 163 (PTY) Ltd

Scatec Solar SA 163 (PTY) Ltd is proposing to develop three 75 Megawatt (MW) Solar Photovoltaic (PV) power generation facilities and associated electrical infrastructure (including 132 kV transmission lines for each 75 MW facility) on the remaining extent of Onder Rugzeer Farm 168 and the connection points to the substation on the remaining extent of Portion 3 of Gemsbok Bult Farm 120. A separate full Scoping and EIA Process is being undertaken for each proposed 75 MW Solar PV facility. A separate BA Process is being undertaken for each transmission line (and associated electrical infrastructure). An integrated Public Participation Process has been undertaken for the proposed projects. Separate Applications for Environmental Authorisation have been submitted for each proposed 75 MW Solar PV facility and transmission line (and associated electrical infrastructure). Separate BA, Scoping and EIA Reports have been compiled for each project. The proposed project will take place approximately 80 km south of Upington and 30 km north-east of Kenhardt within the Northern Cape Province. The proposed 75 MW Solar PV projects are referred to as: Kenhardt PV 1, Kenhardt PV 2 and Kenhardt PV 3 respectively. The Project Applicant is Scatec Solar SA 330 (PTY) Ltd for Kenhardt PV 1, Scatec Solar SA 350 (PTY) Ltd for Kenhardt PV 2 and Scatec Solar SA 370 (PTY) Ltd for Kenhardt PV 3. This specific application will entail the construction of the proposed 75 MW facility and will be referred to as Kenhardt PV 3.

The Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (FEIR) for the Proposed Development of a 75 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility (Kenhardt PV 3) has been submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for consideration for the Environmental Authorisation application process.

While the comment issued on the 5 April 2016 during the draft EIA Phase has been included into Appendix G: Copies of correspondence from I&AP's during the scoping and EIA phases, SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes that these recommendations have not been included into Chapter 16: Conclusions and Recommendations of the final EIAr as submitted.

The recommendations provided by the heritage specialist in the submitted HIA have been included into the FEIAr.

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SAHRA APM issued a final comment on 5 May 2016 which endorsed the development provided the following additional conditions were adhered to:

- A 30 m buffer must be maintained around the possible grave until it can be tested. Testing should take the form of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). A report detailing the testing must be submitted to SAHRA, following which the appropriate permits can be applied if necessary;
- Waypoints 234, 224 and 229 should be avoided with either a 25 m or a 40 m buffer as indicated in the AIA or Phase 2 Archaeological Excavations must be conducted. A permit must be applied for in terms of section 35 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (NHRA);
- If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Itumeleng Masiteng/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately. A professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required.

The above conditions need to be reflected in the final Environmental Management Programme report (EMPr) and submitted to SAHRA, in order for the heritage component of the FEIR to be compliant.

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

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt Heritage Officer

South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine

SAHRA Head Archaeologist (Acting)

South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: http://www.sahra.org.za/node/319862 (DEA, Ref:)

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.