

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Date: Tuesday March 08, 2016

Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za

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CaseID: 8634

Letter

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

Attention: Longyuan Mulilo De Aar 2 South (Pty) Ltd

Proposed Wind Energy Facility situated on the Eastern Plateau (south) near De Aar in the Northern Cape Province: Application for Amendment of Environmental Authorisation (DEA Ref No.: 12/12/20/2463/AM3)

Thank you for notifying SAHRA that the proposed Amendment to the 2013 EA has been approved by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). As comments were not provided by SAHRA in the stipulated review period, no official comments will be issued for this project.

It is noted that the amendments to the 2013 EA were as follows:

- Increasing the height of the wind turbine hubs from 100 m to 120 m;
- Increasing the rotor diameters from 120 m to a range between 100 m and 160 m;
- Increasing the generation size of the turbines from a range of 1.5 MW – 2.5 MW to encompass a range of 2.3 MW – 4.0 MW;
- Amendment to the foundation size of the turbines from 16 x 16 m and 2 m deep to 18.4 m diameter that narrows up to 10.6 m at the surface and 3.5 m deep; and
- Reduction of the amount of wind turbines from 103 turbines to 61 turbines.

ACO Associates CC was appointed to complete the Heritage Report for the proposed EA amendment.

Webley and Halkett, 2015. Addendum: Proposed Wind Energy Facility Situated on the Eastern Plateau (South) Near De Aar, Northern Cape Province.

The amendments such as the height, rotor diameter and generation capacity resulted in the reduction of the number of turbines as well as the amendment to the foundation size. The Amendment Heritage report noted several areas of concern with regards to the amended layout of the development. These are as follows:

- The area around the 132kV substation is potential sensitive due to the rocky outcrops in close proximity, identified from Google Earth. There is a possibility that rock shelters with rock art and



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archaeological deposit may be present that may be impacted by the construction of the river crossing. In addition, the access road will run in close proximity to a series of stone kraals identified in the 2011 survey;

- The access road between turbines WTG47 and WTG46 runs between 30 m and 90 m from possible kraals identified on Google Earth;
- The access road between turbines WTG45 and WTG37 will run within 90 m of a series of three kraals identified from Google Earth; and
- The access road between turbines WTG21 and WTG60 is located 200 m from a square kraal, however this kraal is located outside the boundaries of the development.

The following recommendations were included in the submitted report:

- The area around the substation must be subjected to a walk-through to ensure the proposed access road will not impact on heritage resources;
- A walk down must be undertaken as part of the conditions of the EMP for the access route between turbine WTG47 and WTG46 to ensure that the proposed access road does not impact heritage resources; and
- Should the routes of the access roads between turbines WTG45 and WTG37; and WTG21 and WTG60 be adjusted closer to the identified kraals, a walk down of the new route must be completed to ensure that heritage resources are not impacted on by the proposed activity.

Almond, 2015. Palaeontological Specialist Study: Addendum. Proposed application for amendment of the Environmental Authorisation for the proposed Wind Energy Facility situated on the Eastern Plateau (South) near De Aar, Northern Cape Province (DEA Ref No: 12/12/20/2463/AM3): Addendum to Specialist Palaeontological Impact Assessment.

The Palaeontological Study noted that the increased depth of the foundation excavations would not increase the impact on palaeontological resources as it is compensated by the reduced amount of turbines. Thus, the recommendations provided in the 2012 report are applicable and still stand i.e. The ECO must monitor all substantial bedrock excavations for fossil remains and report substantial finds to SAHRA for possible specialist mitigation.

As stated in Section 3.4 of the Amendment EIA, the additional recommendations provided by the heritage specialist for the amendment will be addressed in the Final EMP. It is noted that a final amended layout of supporting infrastructure i.e. roads, distribution network, will be submitted to DEA for approval. It is recommended that a Heritage Specialist inspect any layout changes that have not been surveyed previously,

Proposed WEF situated on the Eastern Plateau (south) near De Aar: Application for Amendment of EA

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as well as the sections highlighted in the 2015 Heritage Amendment Report. A Walk-Down Report must be submitted to SAHRA prior to construction. Please provide submit the Final EMPr and the final amended layout to the case file upon completion.

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

Phillip Hine
SAHRA Head Archaeologist (Acting)
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/339855>
(DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/2463/AM3)

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.

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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.