



Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt  
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CaseID: 9049

Date: Tuesday February 02, 2021  
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## Final Comment

### In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Sonbesie Solar Power Plant (Pty) Ltd

#### **Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed Sonbesie Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility near Vryburg, Ratlou Local Municipality, North West Province**

Environamics has been appointed by Sonbesie Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Amendment Application process for the authorised Sonbesie Solar Power Plant, near Vryburg, North West Province (DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/915).

A Draft Motivation Report has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed amendment will include the installation of a battery energy storage system (BESS) within the authorised footprint covering approximately 2 ha, increasing the height of the panels, increasing the number of inverters, the DC capacity of the plant, the number of modules and a revised layout plan.

In a previous comment issued on the 31/08/2016, SAHRA noted that the quality of the report did not allow SAHRA to provide an informed comment and did neither endorse nor deny the proposed development. Several conditions were provided (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/368660>) which were reiterated in further comments issued on the 06/01/2017 (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/384409>) and 02/06/2017 (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/398992>).

Natura Viva CC and Dr van Schalkwyk has been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA Amendment application report as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

*Almond, J. E. 2020. Specialist Input for the Part 2 Amendment of the Environmental Authorisation (EA): As Part of the Sonbesie Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Power Project near Vryburg in the North West Province*

The specialist confirmed that the proposed amendments will not result in any additional impacts and will not increase the level or nature of the impact on palaeontological heritage resources. The previously provided mitigation and management measures are still valid.



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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*Van Schalkwyk, J. A. 2020. Specialist Input for the Part 2 Amendment of the Environmental Authorisation (EA): As Part of the Sonbesie Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Power Project Near Vryburg in the North West Province*

The specialist confirmed that the proposed amendments will not result in any additional impacts on heritage resources. The previously provided mitigation and management measures are still valid.

## Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final Motivation Report and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed amendment to the authorised development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows;
- The conditions contained within the Final Comment issued on the 31/08/2016 (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/368660>) are valid and must be adhered to;
- 38(4)c(i) – 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 as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
  - i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;

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- The Final Motivation Report must be uploaded to the SAHRIS application for record purposes;

The decision regarding the EA Amendment Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

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

Yours faithfully

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Natasha Higgitt  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine  
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/354788>  
(, Ref: )

**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.