



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 9119

Date: Thursday March 10, 2016
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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Sivest - Gauteng
PO BOX 2921
Rivonia
2128

Proposed Construction of the Thlisitseng 1 and Thlisitsenf 2 75MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facilities near Lichtenburg, North West Province

SiVEST Environmental division commissioned PGS Heritage to conduct a Heritage Scoping Report as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment conducted for BioTherm Energy (Pty) Ltd for the proposed development of the Thlisitseng Projects. *Fourie, 2014. Biotherm Energy (Pty) Ltd. Two 75MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facilities - Thlisitseng Projects.*

The proposed development will take place on Portion 25 of the Farm Houthaalboomen No 31. The farm is located approximately 6km north of the town of Lichtenburg, in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District of the North West Province. The application site covers approximately 1000ha, with the development footprint being substantially smaller and directed by the findings and recommendations given in the scoping phase of the EIA.

The proposed Thlisitseng Solar development consists of two 75MW solar PV facilities. These will be named Thlisitseng 1 and 2. In addition to the PV solar development, 132kV power lines will be constructed to connect them with the Thlisitseng substation.

The development footprint falls in an area that is palaeontologically very sensitive. The Monte Christo formation (Malmani Subgroup of the Transvaal Sequence) is highly significant as stromatolites and constituent breccia containing fossiliferous materials which may contain hominid fossils may occur. The author suggests a full Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) to be completed.

Archival research conducted on the area indicates that there is a chance of finding Heritage resources, although analysis of aerial photographs did not immediately indicate any within the proposed area (Fourie, 2014). One farmstead was located within the plan and will need to be assessed along with those in close proximity which may be impacted by the development.

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SAHRA accepts the Heritage Scoping Report and its recommendations and requires the following studies:

- - A full PIA is conducted to assess the development area as it is situated in a region of very high palaeontological significance.
- - A field survey is required during the EIA phase of the project. Should any finds be made during the field survey, they must be assessed according to the methodology stipulated in Appendix C of the Heritage Scoping Report (Fourie, 2014), and a HIA be submitted for comment.

SAHRA requires the location of the project to be submitted either through SAHRIS or as a KML file.

Final comments will be issued when the above has been completed. Please submit the Final Scoping Report and/or Environmental Impact Assessment 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

Nokukhanya Khumalo
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/356388>

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(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/890 and 14/12/16/3/3/2/889)

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.