

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
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CaseID: 9708

Date: Tuesday July 12, 2016
Page No: 1

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 Sendawo 1 75MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility near Vryburg, North West Province

SiVEST Environmental Division have been appointed by Biotherm Energy (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment for the development of the 75MW Sendawo Solar 1 Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility. The proposed site for the development is situated on portion 1 of the farm Edinburgh No.735, approximately 10km south of Vryburg, within the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District of the North West Province.

The total area of the farm is 1709 hectares, of this, only 367 hectares will be used for the development of Sendawo Solar 1. The proposed 75MW facility will entail the following developments: approximately 275 000 solar panels (2m² each) covering approximately 179 hectares; a substation; operations and maintenance buildings, laydown area; internal roads; inverters, 132kV servitude power line to evacuate the generated electricity from the substation to the proposed Sendawo 400kV Common Collector Substation which will connect to the existing Eskom Mookodi main transmission substation via the proposed Sendawo 400kV Transmission power line; and fencing. SiVEST contracted PGS Heritage to conduct the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed Sendawo Solar (PV) 1 development.

Angel, J. & Fourie, W. 2016: Heritage Impact Assessment for the 75MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) energy Facility – Sendawo Solar 1 (PGS Heritage).

Two archaeological resources were identified within the proposed Sendawo Solar 1 development footprint (V.01 and V.06). These resources are both described as belonging to the stone-age period and are of low – local significance and therefore will require no further mitigation as these sites exhibit no special features beyond those of other stone-age sites in the region.

An area of well-preserved stromatolite fossils was identified around point 0522 within the south eastern section of the development footprint. This area is described as being extremely highly palaeontologically sensitive. A field rating of either Grade II (Provincial Heritage Site) or potentially even Grade I (National Heritage Site) is

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recommended. In addition there are notable associated areas with potentially significant cave breccias (0502 and 0492) and sinkholes.

The following recommendations are presented in the Heritage Impact Assessment:

- A no-go area must be maintained around point 0522;
- Based on the results of the Geotechnical survey, micro-siting in the delineated extremely high palaeontological sensitivity area and excavation / collection of fossils may be necessary should the site be mitigated;
- Geotechnical results must be provided to the heritage practitioners and palaeontologist to assess the presence of cave breccias and sink holes over the remainder of the proposed development area;
- Any excavations deeper than 1.5m must be examined by a palaeontologist; and
- Any excavation / collection of palaeontological material will require a permit from SAHRA.

Interim Comment

The following conditions apply for the proposed Sendawo 1 Solar Project and must be included in the Final EIA and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr):

- The recommendations provided in the HIA are approved and promoted, and must be included in the Final EIA and EMPr;
- It is not clear whether a qualified palaeontologist was consulted regarding the field rating of the stromatolite site 0522. SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that a qualified palaeontologist examine the sites and a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be completed. The PIA must take into account the results of the geotechnical survey and providing mitigation measures if necessary;
- 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 (e.g. trace fossils or stromatolites) or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/John Gribble 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 at the expense of the developer. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required at the expense of the developer.

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- Further comments will be issued upon the receipt of the above requested PIA.

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

John Gribble
Manager: Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit / Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/364493>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/891)

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.