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CaseID: 18241

Date: Thursday October 06, 2022

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## Final Comment

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

Attention: Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners

PO Box 2070  
George  
6530

### Themeda PV, North West Province

Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Cape EAPrac) has been appointed by Themeda PV (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Themeda PV facility on Portion 7 of the Farm Elandsfontein 34, Ditsobotla Local Municipality, Dr. Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality, North West Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014. The proposed development will include PV facility with associated infrastructure such as BESS, auxiliary buildings, onsite substation, inverter stations, and internal roads over an estimated area of 200ha.

The proposed Themeda PV development application is related to the Aristida PV (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/aristida-pv-north-west-province>) also undergoing the EA process.

Beyond Heritage and Prof. Marion Bamford have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EIA process 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).

*van der Walt, J. July 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Themeda PV Facility and Associated Infrastructure, North West Province.*

The specialist undertook both a desktop and field survey of the project area. It is observed that the study area is characterised by agricultural activities, mainly grazing and limited cultivation from the 1970s. The project areas was surveyed as part of the larger project for the Elandsfontein PV Cluster. Heritage finds were limited to a low-density Stone Age scatter mostly dating to the MSA with few formal tools and are considered as



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background scatter (Orton 2016) that is of low significance. The impact on heritage resources is low and the project can be authorised provided that the recommendations in this report are adhered to based on the SAHRA's approval.

The following is recommended:

- Implementation of a Chance Find Procedure for the project,
- Monitoring of the project area by ECO.

*Bamford, M. February 2022. Site Visit Report (Phase 2): Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the Proposed Elandsfontein Energy Cluster, Lichtenburg, North West Province.*

The proposed site lies on the potentially very highly fossiliferous rocks of the Malmani Subgroup, (Chuniespoort Group, Transvaal Subgroup), particularly the Oaktree Formation. The site visit and walkthrough by the archaeologists for the this project found that there were good exposures of dolomite but no stromatolites were present. Nonetheless, a Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the EMPr. It is therefore, recommended that no further palaeontological impact assessment is required unless fossils are found by the developer/environmental officer/ other designated responsible person once excavation/drilling activities have commenced. From a palaeontological point of view the project should be authorised.

## 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 EIA and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No further additional specific conditions are provided for the development;
- 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

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concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Elijah Katsetse/Phillip Hine 021 462 4502) 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/Ngqalabutho Madida 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;
  - The Final EIA and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
  - The decision regarding the EA 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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Elijah Dumisani Katsetse  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine

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

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/594592>

**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.