

The proposed development of the Springhaas Solar Facility 3 and associated infrastructure near Dealesville, Bloemfontein.

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 18422

Date: Wednesday May 04, 2022
Page No: 1

Final Comment

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

Attention: Springhaas Solar Facility 3 (Pty) Ltd

The proposed development of Springhaas Solar PV Facility 3 with a capacity of up to 150MWac. The facility will cover an area of 225Ha and consists of solar PV arrays, internal underground electrical reticulation, internal and external access roads, electrical infrastructure compound (substation, additional collector infrastructure, battery energy storage system), perimeter fencing, auxiliary buildings and a temporary laydown area. The facility is located on farms Alsace No. 1181, Oertel's Rest No. 1184 (access road only), Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality

GIBB Environmental (Pty) Ltd was appointed to undertake the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed development of Springhaas Solar Facility 3 with associated infrastructure on farms Alsace No. 1181, Oertel's Rest No. 1184 near Dealesville, Bloemfontein, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State (14/12/16/3/3/1/2524)

The Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) was submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act 107, 1998) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The solar facility will have a capacity of up to 150MWac and will cover an area of 225Ha and it will consist of solar PV arrays, internal underground electrical reticulation, internal and external access roads, electrical infrastructure compound (substation, additional collector infrastructure, battery energy storage system), perimeter fencing, auxiliary buildings and a temporary laydown area.

ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd and Prof Marion Bamford were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA application 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).

Orton, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Development Of The Springhaas Solar Pv Facilities Consisting Of Seven New Solar Pv Facilities And Associated Infrastructure Near Dealesville In The Free State Province



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Impacts to archaeological resources at SPH3 are limited to the possible destruction of isolated background scatter artefacts which have very low to no cultural significance. Stone Age and historical archaeological resources were discovered in the wider study area, however these will not be impacted by the development.

Graves were recorded in four locations, an informal graveyards and another marked as a possible grave. Some of the graves are stone-packed mounds with no head or footstones, while others have informal headstones, and others are formalised with grave surrounds and carved headstones. The site was surveyed prior to the development of the facility layout and all significant heritage resources including graves have been avoided.

Recommendation

- No materials may be removed from any of the ruined and/or demolished structures falling outside the various project and associated infrastructure footprints anywhere in the wider site;
- All known and unfenced graves within any farm portion affected by construction (waypoints 362, 404) must be fenced with farm-style fences and pedestrian gates with the fences located a minimum of 5 m from the graves;
- If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development then work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.

Bamford, M. 2021. Desktop Study (Phase 1): Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed development of the Springhaas PV facilities consisting of nine new solar PV facilities and associated infrastructure near Dealesville, Free State Province

The study area is underlain by Quaternary deposits along with the Tierberg Formation (Early Permian Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup) and Jurassic Dolerite intrusions. Quaternary calcretes can preserve fossils and artefacts when associated with palaeo-pans and dunes or palaeo-springs. The project archaeologist surveyed the Pans that were noted in the study area and no fossils were noted on the surface of the pans and channels or the site at large.

It is unlikely that fossils are preserved in the sands Quaternary deposits and there is a small chance that trace

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fossils may occur in the Tierberg Formation, therefore the attached Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the EMPr.

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 BAR and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections 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:
- A 50m buffer zone must be maintained around the graves during construction.
- 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 (Sityhilelo Ngcatsha/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/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 with regards to offences;
- 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 BAR and EMPr must be updated to include conditions provided by SAHRA in this comment;

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- The Environmental Authorisation (EA) must be submitted to SAHRA for recorded purposes.

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

Yours faithfully

Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite Assistant
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/596067>
(DFFE, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2524)