

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: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
Tel: 0212028663
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CaseID: 19270

Date: Thursday November 24, 2022
Page No: 1

Final Comment

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

Attention: Paleso Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd.

The activity entails the development of grid connection infrastructure which consists of 132kV single/double-circuit overhead power line (with the associated infrastructure) to enable the connection and evacuation of the generated electricity of the authorised Paleso Solar Power Plant (DFFE ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2365), Siyanda Solar Power Plant (DFFE ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2369) as well as the Ngwedi Solar Power Plant (DFFE ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2535), to the national grid network. A 200m wide on average (and up to 800m in some instances) and 11km long grid connection corridor is being assessed for the placement of the power line route. The power line is proposed to connect into the existing Eskom Mercury Substation. A service road associated with the power line is also proposed to be developed. The grid connection corridor is approximately 27km north-west from the town of Viljoenskroon and falls within the Moqhaka Local Municipality of the Fezile Dabi District Municipality, Free State Province.

Paleso Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd appointed Environamics to undertake the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed development of a grid connection infrastructure which consists of 132kV single/double circuit overhead power line with the associated infrastructure on the farms Pretorius Kraal No. 53 (Portion 23, 24 & RE), Grootdraai No. 468 (RE of Portion 1 & Portion 1), Mispah No. 274, Kleinfontein No. 472, Chrystalkop No. 69, RE Doornkom-West No. 446, Edom No. 277, Moab No. 279, Zuiping No. 394 (Portion 1, 3,4, 5, RE) and Zaaiplaats No. 190 (Portion 2 & 3) in the Moqhaka Local Municipality, Free State Province (Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2369).

The Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted in terms National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the NEMA 2014 EIA Regulations. The powerline will be 11km and the grid connection corridor width will be 200m wide on average, up to 800m. The development footprint will be approximately 373 hectares in extent and a twin track gravel road of up to 5m wide will be used during the development.

SAHRA issued an interim comment dated 12/08/2022 which requested that a HIA inclusive of a field-based PIA and AIA be undertaken by qualified specialist and be submitted to the case on SAHRIS along with the EIA documents. The draft BAR, PIA and HIA were subsequently submitted to the case on the 19/10/2022.

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J A van Schalkwyk Heritage Consultant and Banzai Environmental were 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 Schalkwyk, J. 2022. Phase 1 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MERCURY POWER LINE NEAR VILJOENSKROON, FREE STATE PROVINCE

No heritage resources were identified within the development area and no impact on heritage resources is anticipated.

Butler, E. 2022. PALAEOONTOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT MERCURY POWER LINE NEAR VILJOENSKROON IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE

The study area is underlain by Quaternary sands, Precambrian dolomites and associated marine sedimentary rocks of the Malmani Subgroup (Chuniespoort Group, Transvaal Supergroup) along with the Vryheid Formation (Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup). No fossiliferous outcrops were detected in the proposed development area and it is recommended that the development be permitted as impact to palaeontological resources will be low. A Chance Find Protocol has been attached to be implemented by the ECO/site manager in charge of these developments.

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 EMP:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) and the Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Units 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 concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed

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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/ Ngqabutho 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 of the NHRA regarding offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - With reference to the mitigation work noted above, a qualified archaeologist must be appointed to undertake the work in terms of the permit applied for as noted above;
 - 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 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

Sityhilelo Ngcatsha

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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/602852>

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.