

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
Tel: 0212028663
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CaseID: 19408

Date: Friday December 09, 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: Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

The development of a renewable energy facility, overhead powerline and associated infrastructure is proposed by FREEGOLD HARMONY PTY LTD. The project entails the development of a Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Energy Facility and associated infrastructure with a capacity of up to 30MW over 75ha of land and will be known as Harmony Central Plant Solar PV, the facility will include a grid connection and other associated infrastructure. H Harmony One Plant Solar PV is based near Harmony 1 Gold Plant operations located in the Town of Welkom and ~14km Northwest of the town of Virginia within the Matjhabeng Local Municipality respectively, and within the Lejweleputswa District Municipality, Free State Province.

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Free Gold Harmony (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed development of Harmony One Solar PV Facility on the remaining extent of the Farm Marmageli 20 and the remainder of Extent of the Farm welkom 80 near Virginia, Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Free State.

The Scoping Report has been submitted in terms of the Nation Environmental Management Act (NEMA Act No. 107 of 1998) and the 2014 NEMA EIA regulation. The development footprint is about 310ha and the capacity of the PV facility will be 30MW. The associated infrastructure for the development includes a grid connection and other associated infrastructure.

CTS Heritage and Prof Marion Bamford were appointed to provide heritage specialist input into the EA process as per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA.



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Lavin, J. 2022. Heritage Screener: Proposed development of the Harmony PV Facility near Welkom

It is unlikely that significant heritage resources will be impacted by the development, however burial grounds may be present within the development area, therefore it is recommended that a specialist is appointed to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment which assesses likely impacts to archaeological and palaeontological heritage. The development area is underlain by the Adelaide Subgroup of the Beaufort Group and Quaternary Sands. There is a very small chance that fossils from the Adelaide Subgroup below the ground surface may be disturbed and it is recommended that a Fossil Chance Find Protocol be implemented during development.

Lavin, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed development of the Development of 18MWac Harmony Joel Solar PV Facility, Theunissen, Free State Province

Out of context stone artefact scatters (HM1-HM3) along with demolished and dilapidated historical structures (HM5-HM8) were identified. These are of low heritage significance. Site HM4 is a concentration of Middle Stone Age artefacts with a grade IIC significance.

Recommendations

Site HM4 is located in the alternative area for the proposed development and a 30m buffer is recommended to be maintained around it.

Bamford, M. 2022. Desktop Study: Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed development of the Harmony Harmony PV Facility, southwest of Welkom, Free State Province

The preferred development site lies on the potentially fossiliferous Adelaide Subgroup (Beaufort Group, Karoo Supergroup) and the alternative site lies on moderately sensitive Quaternary sands and alluvium. The area has been disturbed by farming and mining activities and no vertebrate fossils have been reported. No potential traps for Quaternary fossils are visible from the satellite imagery. A Fossil Chance Find Protocol has been attached and it should be added to the EMP.

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SAHRA issued an interim comment dated 07/09/2022 which noted the provided heritage specialist studies along with the recommendations provided therein and requested that the Draft EIA report and its appendices be submitted to the case before further comments are issued. The Draft EIA report was subsequently submitted to the case on the 14/11/2022.

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. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows:
- If site HM4 cannot be avoided in the course of development, a destruction permit must be applied for from the Free State PHRA.
- 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/ 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;

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- 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 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

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

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/604266>