

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
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Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
Tel: 0212028663
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CaseID: 19421

Date: Wednesday March 08, 2023
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Final Comment

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

Attention: Naos Solar PV Project Two (Pty) Ltd

The activity entails the development of a photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure. Naos Solar PV Project Two is proposed on Portion 2 of the Farm Waterford 573. The affected property falls under the Registration Division Viljoenskroon, Free State Province. The project is situated within the Moqhaka Local Municipality area of jurisdiction and the town of Viljoenskroon is located approximately 24 km south of the proposed developments. The project will have a generation capacity of up to 240MW electrical power through photovoltaic (PV) panels on a 460ha site.

Environamics Environmental Consultants has been appointed by Naos Solar PV Project Two (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the development of a photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure on Portion 2 of the Farm Waterford No. 573, Viljoenskroon within the Moqhaka Local Municipality, Free State Province.

The Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The solar facility will have a generating capacity of up to 200MW and the total development footprint will approximately be 300 hectares. The grid connection infrastructure includes a 132kV power line to connect the facility from a collector substation to the national grid by connecting into the existing 132/400kV Mercury Main Transmission Substation (MTS).

J A van Schalkwyk and Banzai Environmental (Pty) Ltd have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Butler, E. 2022. PALAEOONTOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT NAOS SOLAR PV PROJECT TWO NEAR VILJOENSKROON IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE

The development area is underlain by Quaternary sands, the Vryheid Formation (Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup) and the Hekpoort, Stubenkop Formations of the Pretoria Group (Transvaal Supergroup) along with the unfossiliferous dolerite intrusion. A field survey of the development footprint was conducted and it was

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noted that the area is disturbed by agricultural activities and no fossiliferous outcrops were identified.

van Schalkwyk, J. 2022. Phase 1 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED NAOS SOLAR PV PROJECT TWO NEAR VILJOENSKROON, FREE STATE PROVINCE

No sites, features or objects of cultural historic significance have been identified in the project area, therefore, no impact as a result of the proposed development is anticipated.

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 Environmental Management Programme (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 concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Sityhilelo Ngcatsha/Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660) 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

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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 must be uploaded to the SAHRIS application for record purposes;
- Should the project be granted the Environmental Authorisation, SAHRA must be notified and all relevant documents must be submitted to the case file.

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://sahrissahra.org.za/node/604336>

Terms & Conditions:

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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.