

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
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Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
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CaseID: 20141

Date: Friday August 11, 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: Luckhoff Solar 3 (Pty) Ltd

The activities entail the development of photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure on the Farm Rorich's Hulp No. 505, the Farm Vijeboom No. 714 and the Farm Klein Palmietfontein No. 370, Registration Division Fauresmith, situated within the Letsemeng Local Municipality area of jurisdiction. The town of Luckhoff is located approximately 3km south of the proposed development. The project entails the generation of up to 240MW electrical power through photovoltaic (PV) panels. The total footprint of the project will approximately be 480 hectares (including supporting infrastructure on site).

Environamics Environmental Consultants has been appointed by Luckhoff Solar 3 (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed 240 MW photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure on the Farm Vijeboom No. 714, Farm Rorich's Hulp No. 5, Farm Klein Palmietfontein No. 370, and Farm De Dorpsgronden Van Luckhoff No. 577 in Fauresmith, Free State Province (DFFE Reference No. : 14/12/16/3/3/2/2286).

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) and the 2017 amended NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development footprint is 510 hectares for the entire project including supporting infrastructure. A further 2.3 ha was assessed for the proposed 132 kV overhead powerline which will connect the on-site facility substation at Luckhoff Solar 3 to an off-site collector substation about 250 m east of the facility at Luckhoff Solar 1.

J A van Schalkwyk and Banzai Environmental (Pty) Ltd were 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).

Van Schalkwyk, J. 2022. Phase 1 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: The Development Of The Luckhoff Solar 3 Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility, Near Luckhoff, Free State Province

No heritage resources were identified within the proposed development area. It is recommended that the

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proposed project be allowed to continue.

Butler, E. 2023. Palaeontological Desktop Assessment: Luckhoff Solar 3 Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility, Near Luckhoff, Free State Province

The study area is overlain by the Quaternary aeolian sand as well as calcrete which could be underlain by the Tierberg Formation (Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup) at depth. Quaternary deposits are important due to the palaeoclimatic changes that are reflected in the different geological formations. It is considered that the proposed development will not lead to damaging impacts on the palaeontological resources of the area.

SAHRA issued a final comment dated 07/07/2023 which requested that the conditions of the final comment be included in the final EIA and the along with the EMPr. It was also requested that the Final EIA and EMPr be submitted to the case on SAHRIS along with the decision regarding the EA application. The EMPr and the FEIA were attached to the development application on SAHRIS on the 10/07/2023 and it is noted that the conditions of the final comment are not included.

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 EA Report and Final EMPr:

38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Application Unit (DAU) has no objections to the proposed development;

38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No further conditions are recommended 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 DAU 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;

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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:

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;

As this comment has been issued after the finalisation of the final EIA, this comment must be forwarded directly to the competent authority, and proof of the delivery and receipt thereof must be provided to SAHRA on the SAHRIS application;

Should the project be granted Environmental Authorisation, SAHRA must be notified and all relevant documents 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

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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/609168>

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.