

# Proposed 240 MW Onderstepoort Solar 1 Photovoltaic Project north west of Rustenburg, North West Province

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](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha  
Tel: 0212028663  
Email: [sngcatsha@sahra.org.za](mailto:sngcatsha@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 21731

Date: Friday August 04, 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: Onderstepoort Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd

101 Block A Building, 7 West Quay Rd, Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, Cape Town, 8001

**Onderstepoort Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd (the “Applicant”) has proposed the development of the 240MW Onderstepoort Solar 1 Photovoltaic (PV) Project near Rustenburg, in the North West Province (the “Project”). The Project is located approximately 9 km to the west of Rasimone’s central business district (CBD) and falls within Ward 1 of the Rustenburg Local Municipality (RLM). The electricity generated by the Project will be transferred via 132 kV powerlines from the Eskom collector switching station, located adjacent to the facility substation, to the Ngwedi Main Transmission Substation (MTS). A separate environmental process is being undertaken to assess the grid connection infrastructure required to evacuate the energy from the Eskom collector switching station to the national grid.**

Onderstepoort Solar 1 (PTY) LTD appointed Nemai Consulting (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed development of the 240MW Onderstepoort Solar 1 Photovoltaic Project on the Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Onderstepoort 98 and a portion of Portion 2 of the Farm Onderstepoort 98, North West of Rustenburg, North West Province (14/12/16/3/3/2/2319).

The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment 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 area is approximately 400 ha.

Nitai Consulting and Banzai Environmental were appointed to provide heritage specialist input for the as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of

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1999 (NHRA).

*Kitto, J. 2023. Heritage Impact Assessment; Proposed 240MW Onderstepoort Solar 1 Photovoltaic Project North West of Rustenburg, North West Province*

No heritage resources were observed during the site visit.

*Butler, E. 2023. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed 240MW Onderstepoort Solar 1 Photovoltaic Project North West of Rustenburg, North West Province*

The study area is underlain by Quaternary aeolian sand as well as the Silverton Formation and Rustenburg Layered Suite. Based on the desktop research, it is concluded that fossil heritage of scientific and conservational interest in the development footprint is rare. A medium Palaeontological Significance has been allocated for the construction phase of the PV development pre-mitigation and a low significance post mitigation.

## 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 Report and 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

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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 DAU Unit (Sityhilelo Ngcatsha/Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660), 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: 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 Report 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 development application case.

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

Yours faithfully

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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

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## ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/619587>  
(DFFE, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2319)

## 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.