

Proposed Altina 120MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) & 40MW Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Project near the town of Orkney, Free State 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
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
Email: sngcatsha@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 21772

Date: Thursday August 31, 2023
Page No: 1

Final Comment

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

Attention: energyTEAM (Pty) Ltd

EnergyTEAM (Pty) Ltd (the Applicant) has proposed the development of the Altina 120MW Solar PV with 40MW BESS Project near the town of Orkney, in the Free State Province (the Project). The electricity generated by the Project will be injected into the existing Eskom 132 kV distribution system. The Applicant intends to bid for the current and REIPPPP bid windows.

energyTEAM (Pty) Ltd appointed Nema Consulting (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the construction of the 120MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) and 40MW Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Project on portion 0 of the farms Batsfontein 290, Altona 50 and Rietvlei 539, and portion 4 of the farm Barberspan 452 near Orkney, in the Free State Province.

The Draft Basic Assessment Report has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). The total development footprint of the project will approximately be 195 hectares, including supporting infrastructure and about 800m powerline that connects the PV facility to the Eskom 132 kV distribution system. The electricity generated by the proposed PV facility will be transferred to the existing.

J A van Schalkwyk (D Litt et Phil) 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).

van Schalkwyk, J. 2022. Phase 1 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: The Proposed Altina 120MW Solar Photovoltaic Project Near The Town Of Orkney, Free State Province.

During the survey no sites, features or objects of cultural significance were identified.

Proposed Altina 120MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) & 40MW Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Project near the town of Orkney, Free State 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
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
Email: sngcatsha@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 21772

Date: Thursday August 31, 2023
Page No: 2

Butler, E. 2022. Palaeontological Desktop Assessment Altina 120 Mw Solar Photovoltaic Project Near Orkney In The Free State

The proposed development is underlain by Quaternary superficial deposits which mantle sediments of the Ecca and Transvaal Supergroup at depth. Quaternary fossils include mammalian remains, ostrich eggshells, tortoise remains, ostracods, diatoms, and reptilian skeletons, trace fossils. Foliage, pear, wood and pollens along with microfossils and vertebrate remains are often found in Quaternary deposits.

A Moderate Palaeontological Significance has been allocated to the development footprint and it is considered that the proposed development will not lead to detrimental impacts on the palaeontological resources of the area.

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 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 DAU Unit (Sityhilelo Ngcatsha/Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the

Proposed Altina 120MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) & 40MW Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Project near the town of Orkney, Free State Province



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
www.sahra.org.za

Our Ref:

Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
Tel: 0212028663
Email: sngcatsha@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 21772

Date: Thursday August 31, 2023
Page No: 3

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 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
Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite Assistant
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

Proposed Altina 120MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) & 40MW Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Project near the town of Orkney, Free State 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
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
Email: sngcatsha@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 21772

Date: Thursday August 31, 2023
Page No: 4

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/619797>
(DFFE, Ref: To be assigned)

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.