



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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CaseID: 7955

Date: Thursday October 07, 2021
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Final Comment

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

Attention: Eland Photovoltaic (Pty) Ltd

10MW Harmony Eland PV Solar Facility on the Farm Tochgekregen RE/99, Rietpan RE/17, Mijannie 162 and Fregul 443, in the Matjhabeng Local Municipality and the Lejweleputswa District Municipality, Odendaalsrus, Free State Province.

On the 24/08/2021, a request was made to amend the Final Comment issued on 26/06/2021 to include the update to property description to include Farm Fregul 443 and Farm Mijannie 162. It is noted that the power line will have a maximum capacity of 33kV and it does not trigger a listed activity in terms of the EIA Regulations promulgated under NEMA, and as a result, Fregul 443 is not included in the list of affected properties within the amended EA. Farm Mijannie 162 was not included in the final Basic Assessment Report and the original EA issued for the project as it was established post 2015 through consolidation of Portion 5 of the Farm Rietpan 17, Portion 3 of Farm 66 and Portion 2 of Wesselia 101.

The project entails the construction of a small-scale photovoltaic (PV) facility Eland and associated infrastructure on the Farms Rietpan RE/17, Tochgekregen RE/99, Farm Fregul 443 and Farm Mijannie 162 near Odendaalsrus, Free State Province. This PV facility is part of a larger project "Harmony" of three PV facilities in total.

A Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) and an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) were submitted to the application:

VAN DER WALT, J. JUNE 2015. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED HARMONY GOLD ELAND PV FACILITY IN WELKOM FREE STATE PROVINCE.

As the proposed preferred area for the Eland PV facility was moved after the author undertook a field survey, the new area was subjected to superficial observations and a desktop study only. The new area contains buildings that may be older than 60 years.

The author undertook a desktop and field study on the previously proposed preferred area adjacent to the new area to assess the archaeological components. He identified, due to the disturbed nature of the area, no



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surface indicators of archaeological heritage resources. Demolished remains of mining related structures, probably less than 60 years old, occur. In their vicinity stone and brick cairns, postdating the mining structures, occur, which may indicate informal graves.

BAMFORD, JULY 2015. PALAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THREE PROPOSED PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR FACILITIES FACILITIES FOR HARMONY GOLD MINING COMPANY, ODENDAALSRSUS, FREE STATE PROVINCE.

The author summarises that the area of the proposed PV facility occurs within layers of the Permian Volksrust Formation, the potentially fossiliferous coals of which are of poor quality and lie too deep to be affected by the proposed development.

The updated EMPr, a heritage walk-down report for the final layout and supplementary letter as well as a letter confirming the developer's name change to Eland Photovoltaic (Pty) Ltd were submitted to the application.

VAN DER WALT, J. 2020. HERITAGE WALK-DOWN FOR THE PROPOSED ELAND SOLAR PV FACILITY NEAR WELKOM, FREE STATE PROVINCE.

No heritage features or sites of significance were identified. The author recommends the implementation of a chance finds procedure.

An updated PIA that was conducted by Lavin & Bamford in 2020 was subsequently submitted as requested by SAHRA.

LAVIN & BAMFORD. 2020 DESKTOP PALAEOLOGICAL SPECIALIST STUDY - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF ELAND SOLAR PV STEP-UP FACILITIES AND SUBSTATION, NEAR WELKOM, FREE STATE PROVINCE.

The proposed area is underlain by Quaternary aeolian sands and palaeontological sensitive coal deposits of the Volksrust Formation. Due to the low depth of the proposed infrastructure it is unlikely that significant palaeontological material will be affected. A Chance Finds Procedure must be implemented.

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As there are no changes to the development application, the conditions of the previously issued Final

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comment are still valid ([290009](#) | [SAHRA](#)).

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://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/289357>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1471)

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.