

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 18091

Date: Sunday May 01, 2022

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Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners

PO Box 2070
George
6530

Euphorbia PV Facility North West Province

Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Cape EA Pract) has been appointed by Euphoria PV (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed construction of a 100MW Solar PV facility on Portions 2, 3, and 4 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31, Ditsobotla Local Municipality, Ngaka Modiri Molemela District Municipality, North West Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The scope of work entails the construction of a 100 MW solar PV facility with associated infrastructure on an estimated area of 207Ha.

Beyond Heritage and Prof. Marion Bamford were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EIA process as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

van der Walt, J. March 2022. Heritage Baseline Report for the Houthaalboomen North PV Cluster (Euphoria PV, Hillardia PV and Verbena PV), Lichtenburg, North-West Province.

Heritage screening coupled with a physical survey of the site reveal that heritage resources are limited to background scatters of MSA lithic material that occur throughout the project area. This observation was also made by Orton (2016). These occurrences are primarily visible in areas where the topsoil has been cleared for small gravel roads that divide the project area into smaller grazing camps. The general artefact density increases toward the eastern boundary of the project area and seems to coincide heavily with the underlying geological formations across the landscape. Recorded heritage features were labelled numerically with the Prefix HB (table 3, pg. 33) for Houthaalboomen and are discussed in the report. Low to high density scatters

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were thus recorded in the project area with field ratings of medium significance. It is also noted in the report that sand and vegetation cover limited archaeological visibility during the field survey. It is therefore, recommended that a Phase 1 HIA be undertaken for the project area to determine the significance of the recorded finds. Mitigation of the high density scatters is recommended which could include sampling and test excavations.

Bamford, M. February 2022. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the Proposed Houthaalboomen North Energy Cluster, Lichtenburg, North West Province.

The proposed site lies on the potentially very highly fossiliferous rocks of the Malmani Subgroup, (Chuniespoort Group, Transvaal Subgroup), particularly the Oaktree Formation. The site visit and walkthrough by the archaeologists for this project found that there were good exposures of dolomite but no stromatolites were present. Nonetheless, a Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the EMP. It is therefore, recommended that no further palaeontological impact assessment is required unless fossils are found by the developer/environmental officer/ other designated responsible person once excavation/drilling activities have commenced. From a palaeontological point of view the project should be authorised.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA's APM Unit acknowledges receipt of the DSR, heritage specialist reports and the recommendations contained therein for the proposed project in terms of section 38 (3) of the NHRA (25 of 1999). The recommendations of the specialist are supported and a revised HIA must be submitted which will contain the assessment of significance of the higher density clusters as well as management and mitigation measures should any significant sites be impacted upon

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above and a draft EIA with appendices.

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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South African Heritage Resources Agency

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South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahrissahra.org.za/node/593625>