

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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CaseID: 20111

Date: Monday December 12, 2022

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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: Delta Solar Power Plant (Pty) Ltd.

The Delta Solar Power Project has been selected as the preferred bidder and will form part of the DMREs Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement (REIPPP) Programme. The REIPPP Programme aims to secure 14 725 Megawatts (MW) of new generation capacity from renewable energy sources, while simultaneously diversifying South Africa's electricity mix. According to the 2021 State of the Nation Address, Government will soon be initiating the procurement of an additional 11 800 MW of power from renewable energy, natural gas, battery storage and coal in line with the Integrated Resource Plan 2019 and fulfilling their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement which include the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Eskom, the largest greenhouse gas emitter of South Africa, has committed in principle to net zero emissions by 2050 and to increase its renewable capacity. In response to the above, an 84 MW PV solar facility namely Delta Solar Power Plant was proposed and consequently approved on the Remaining Extent of the farm Kareefontein 340, Registration Division HO, North West situated within the Lekwa-Teemane Local Municipality area of jurisdiction (the "Original Delta Site"). This application relates to the addition to the approved project. The additional site will comprise an area of 19.9 hectares (including supporting infrastructure on site) to generate approximately 19.9 MW. The site proposed for the addition is located adjacent the eastern boundary of the original Delta SPP site. The town of Bloemhof is located approximately 9 km east of the proposed development (refer to Figure A and B for the locality and regional map). The total footprint of the project will approximately be 200 hectares (including supporting infrastructure on site). The site was identified as being highly desirable due to its suitable climatic conditions, topography (i.e., in terms of slope), environmental conditions (i.e., agricultural potential, geology and archaeology), proximity to a grid connection point (i.e., for the purpose of electricity evacuation), as well as site access (i.e., to facilitate the movement of machinery, equipment, infrastructure and people during the construction phase).

Environamic Environmental Consultants have been appointed by Delta Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for addition to the approved Delta SPP project by developing an additional site to generate approximately 19.9 MW on the Remaining Extent of the Farm Kareefontein No. 340, Registration Division HO, Lekwa-Teemane Local Municipality, Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Municipality, North West Province.

Proposed addition to the Delta Solar Power Plant, near Bloemhof, North West province

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A Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2017 (as Amended). The scope of work entails the generation of approximately 19.9 MW electric power through the operation of PV panels and up to 100 MW, including the authorised footprint. The project area covers an estimated 19.9 ha.

This project relates to the following applications SAHRIS case application (ID 5718), approved the project (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/delta-solar-pv>), Delta SPP amendment applications SAHRA approved changes, SAHRIS case (ID 16047), (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/delta-part-2-amendment-application>), and SAHRIS case (ID 20078), (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/part-2-amendment-proposed-delta-solar-...>).

J.A van Schalkwyk and Banzai Environmental have been 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 Schalkwyk, J. A. August 2022. Phase 1 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: The Addition to the Delta Solar Power Plant Near Bloemhof, North West Province.

The specialist undertook a field survey of the proposed area for the expansion of the Delta SPP. It is stated that during field work dense and high vegetation that covered the project area limited ground visibility. No sites, features or objects of cultural significance were identified.

Butler, E. 2022. Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Delta Solar Power Plant North West Province.

The proposed development is underlain by Tertiary to Quaternary calcrete. The PalaeoMap of the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) indicates that the Palaeontological Sensitivity of these calcretes is High. A site-specific field survey of the development footprint was conducted on foot on 16 July 2022. No visible evidence of fossiliferous outcrops was found in the development footprint and thus an overall Low palaeontological significance is allocated to the development footprint. It is therefore considered that the proposed development will not lead to detrimental impacts on the palaeontological reserves of the area and construction of the development may be authorised in its whole extent.

Final Comment

The SAHRA's APM Unit has received the draft BAR as part of the Environmental Authorisation process,

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attached to the BAR are heritage specialist studies. SAHRA supports the recommendation made in the reports by respective specialists and has no objections to the project.

SAHRA inserts the following comments 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 Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed expansion;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No further additional specific conditions are provided 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 APM Unit (Elijah Katsetse/Phillip Hine 021 462 4502) 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;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - i) 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.

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

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Yours faithfully

Elijah Dumisani Katsetse
Heritage Officer
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/608945>

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.