

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
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Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha

Date: Friday January 15, 2021

Page No: 1

Email: sngcatsha@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 15827

Interim Comment

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

Attention: Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd is proposing the construction and operation of the 75 MWac Vrede Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Energy Facility (SEF) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), near the town of Kroonstad in the Moqhaka Local Municipality (Fezile Dabi District) of the Free State Province of South Africa. The proposed development traverses two (2) farm parcels namely: » Farm Vrede, No. 1152, Remaining Extent; » Farm Uitval, No 1104, portion 1

South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd appointed Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Environmental Authorisation application for the proposed construction and operation of the 100 MW Vrede Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure located near Kroonstad in the Moqhaka Local Municipality, Fezile Dabi District in the Free State Province.

A draft Scoping Report (SR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA; Act No. 107 of 1998) and the NEMA 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended. The project site has an extent of 538ha and will be located within the Remaining extent of the Farm Vrede No. 1152, and Portion 1 of the farm Uitval No. 1104, It will be connected to the grid via a separately authorised grid connection solution.

The infrastructure associated with the facility includes solar PV array, inverters and transformers, cabling, on-site facility substation, battery energy storage system (BESS), site offices and maintenance buildings, laydown areas and access roads, fencing around the development area and telecommunication infrastructure, stormwater channels; and water pipelines.

CTS Heritage has been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA application 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).

Proposed development of the Vrede Solar Energy Facilities near Kroonstad, Free State Province

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Lavin, J. 2020. Heritage Screening Assessment for the Proposed development of the Vrede Solar Energy Facilities near Kroonstad, Free

The study area is underlain by the Adelaide Subgroup (Karoo Supergroup) and Jurassic Dolerite intrusions and overlain by Quaternary Sands (Qs). The areas proposed for development are underlain by sediments of moderate to very high palaeontological sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity Map. Based on other heritage finds in the broader Kroonstad area, potential exists for archaeological resources within the development area.

It is likely that the proposed development will negatively impact on significant archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources. As such, it is recommended that an HIA is required.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite unit notes the Heritage Screening Assessment along with the recommendations provided therein. It is noted that a Heritage Impact Assessment inclusive of an Archaeological and Palaeontological Impact Assessment is recommended. The SAHRA supports the recommendations of the Heritage Screening Assessment awaits the submission of the pending HIA.

The HIA must comply with section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA). Additionally, the archaeology and palaeontology specialist reports must comply with the SAHRA 2006 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Component of Impact Assessments, and the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Component of Heritage Impact Assessments. The HIA should also incorporate the results of the Visual Impact Assessment and any heritage related public comments received during the Public Review period.

The Final Scoping Report must be submitted to the SAHRIS Case application once completed for record purposes. Additionally, the draft EIA and all appendices must be submitted to SAHRA at the start of the Public Review period so that an informed comment may be issued.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above.

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

Yours faithfully

**Proposed development of the Vrede Solar Energy Facilities near Kroonstad,
Free State Province**

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Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite Intern
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/546559>

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.