

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 19353

Date: Monday September 19, 2022
Page No: 1

Interim Comment

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

Attention: WKN Windcurrent SA (Pty) Ltd

P.O. Box 762
Wilderness
6560

Proposed Development of a 110 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility on Portion 9 of the Farm Commandants Pan No. 382, Farm Tafel Baai No. 413 and Portion 12 of the Farm Nooit Gedacht No.74, Khauta South Solar PV Facility, Near Riebeeckstad , Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Free State Province.

Enviroworks has been appointed by Khauta South Solar PV Facility RF (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed development of the Khauta South Solar Photovoltaic Facility on Portion 9 of the Farm Commandants Pan No. 382, Farm Tafel Baai No. 413 and Portion 12 of the Farm Nooit Gedacht No.74, near Riebeeckstad, Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Free State Province.

A Draft Scoping Report has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA Act No. 107 of 1998) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014 (as amended 2017). The Solar Photovoltaic Facility will have an output capacity of 110 MW and it will include the PV modules and mounting structures, stormwater management infrastructure, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), Site- and internal access roads, Auxiliary buildings along with Ablution facilities and associated infrastructure, laydown area, On-site 33/132 kV substation and associated 33/132 kV collector transmission line, Grid connection infrastructure, Perimeter fencing along with water storage tanks and associated water transfer infrastructure. The development footprint is approximately 168 ha in extent.

Agency for Cultural Resource Management and Natura Viva cc have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA application in terms of section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA as required by section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999



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(NHRA).

Almond, J. 2021. Palaeontological Heritage Screening Input: Proposed Khauta Solar PV Cluster Near Welkom, Free State Province

The development area is underlain by basinal mudrocks of the Volksrust Formation (Ecca Group) that are of Low to Medium Palaeosensitivity. Most of the development area is disturbed by agricultural activities. No pans are visible on satellite images of the solar project area, while some large pans (Kommandantspan, Rietpan) are mapped outside its margins. It is likely that bedrock exposure is limited and the sediments are weathered near surface, so these areas are not considered to be major sensitivities.

Kaplan, J. 2021. DESKTOP HERITAGE SCREENING ASSESSMENT, THE PROPOSED KHAUTA SOLAR PV CLUSTER NEAR WELKOM, FREE STATE PROVINCE

No fieldwork has been undertaken, however Colonial Period sites, historical structures, burial sites and farmsteads were identified in the adjacent farms and there is a high probability of identifying these in the proposed development area.

Kaplan, J. 2022. VERIFICATION REPORT, PROPOSED KHAUTA SOLAR PV CLUSTER NEAR WELKOM, MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE

A field assessment was undertaken for the development footprint and an isolated Middle Stone Age (MSA) quartzite core was identified alongside the proposed 44kV powerline corridor and it is of low archaeological significance. Two grave sites were identified; a graveyard with 40-50 barely visible graves and a grave site with two graves, along with an Outspan.

The grave site (Point 0026) with between 40-50 graves is located within the development area along with the outspan located about 200m from the grave site. The majority of graves are without headstones or footstones while a few have headstones.

Recommendation

The graveyard (Point 0026) on the Farm Commandants Pan 382/9 must be avoided. A 50m buffer around the graveyard is proposed. The site must be fenced off and protected throughout the Construction, Operational and Decommissioning Phase of the development.

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The Outspan (Point 0036) on the Farm Commandants Pan 382/9 must be avoided and a 150m wide buffer is proposed.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite (APM) Unit notes the heritage studies and the recommendations provided therein. Further comments will be issued once the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report has been submitted to the case.

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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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/603932>
(DFFE, Ref: 2022-06-0040)