

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 19694

Date: Monday October 10, 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: Keren Energy Doornrivier 2 (Pty) Ltd

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (DOORNRIVIER SOLAR 2) ON THE FARM, DOORNRIVIER 330 PORTION 5, VIRGINIA, MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, LEJWELEPUTSWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE

EnviroAfrica cc has been appointed by Keren Energy Doornrivier 2 (Pty) Ltd for the proposed development of the Doornrivier 2 Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility on Portion 5 of Farm Doornrivier No. 330, Virginia, Free State.

A Draft Scoping Report has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the NEMA EIA 2014 regulations. The project entails the development of a Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Energy Facility and grid connection along with other associated infrastructure with a capacity of up to 87MW. The development footprint will be about 260ha in extent.

UBIQUE Heritage Consultants has been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Engelbrecht. J, Fivaz. H, Fairhurst. S. 2022. PHASE 1 HIA DOORNRIVIER SOLAR 2 VIRGINIA PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (DOORNRIVIER SOLAR 2) ON THE FARM, DOORNRIVIER 330 PORTION 5, VIRGINIA, MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, LEJWELEPUTSWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE

An undisturbed historic farmstead of high heritage significance (DRV02-001) with remains of stonewalled kraals, outbuilding, circular structures and numerous intact middens along with cultural material which are visible on the surface dating from the late 19th to early 20th century has been identified within the study area.

A number of graves and possible graves were identified on the development area (DRV02-002, DRV02-003,

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DRV02-004, DRV02-005, DRV02-006, DRV02-007). The graves fall outside the finalised project layout and it is important to note that graves could be present anywhere in the landscape.

Recommendations

- Site (DRV02-001) must be conserved and considered a No-Go zone. The current project layout considers this sensitive area and will avoid these areas.
- 30m buffers must be maintained around sites (DRV02-002, DRV02-003, DRV02-004, DRV02-005, DRV02-006, DRV02-007). The current project layout considers this sensitive area and will avoid these areas.

Butler, E. 2022. PALAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT Doornrivier Solar PV 2 near Virginia in the Free State

The proposed study area is underlain by Quaternary deposits and Adelaide Subgroup sandstone and shale. Fragmented petrified wood fossils were detected in the Doringrivier floodplain and a buffer zone will be implemented along the Doringrivier. The proposed PV development will not have an effect on the fossils of the area, and an overall medium palaeontological significance is allocated to the development footprint. A Chance find Protocol is however attached and must be implemented immediately if palaeontological heritage is uncovered during surface clearing and excavations.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite (APM) Unit notes the heritage specialist studies along with the recommendations provided therein. Further comments will be issued once the Draft EIA document along with its appendices is submitted to the case on SAHRIS.

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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Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/606003>