

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: 20135

Date: Friday November 18, 2022
Page No: 1

Interim Comment

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

Attention: Khwezi Solar PV (RF) Pty Ltd

The activity entails the development of grid connection infrastructure which consists of 132kV single/double-circuit overhead power line (with the associated infrastructure) to enable the connection and evacuation of the generated electricity of the proposed Khwezi Solar Power Plant, to the national grid network. A 100m wide and 16km long grid connection corridor is being assessed for the placement of the power line route. The power line is proposed to connect into the existing Merapi Substation. A service road associated with the power line is also proposed to be developed. The start of the grid connection corridor is approximately 10km northwest of the town of Excelsior and falls within the Mantsopa Local Municipality of the Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality, Free State Province (refer to the attached locality map) Various properties are affected by the grid connection corridor, which includes: The farms Koppiesdam No. 511, Noodshulp No. 2052, Nooitgedaght No. 2308 (Portion 1), Burton No. 657, Geluk No. 994, Somme No. 1962, Samewerking No. 1858, Uitstoot No. 1825 (Portion 1), Linana No. 1303 (Remaining Extent and Portion 2), Jagtkraal No. 1578 (Remaining Extent and Portion 1), Erfstuk No. 1579 (Remaining Extent), Excelsior No. 358 (Remaining Extent, Portion 30 and numerous residential erwen) and Moedersgift No. 566 (Portion 12).

Thank you for notifying the SAHRA of the proposed development of Kwhezi Solar Grid Connection Infrastructure which consists of an Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) 132kV single/double-circuit overhead power line with associated infrastructure on the arms Koppiesdam No. 511, Noodshulp No. 2052, Nooitgedaght No. 2308 (Portion 1), Burton No. 657, Geluk No. 994, Somme No. 1962, Samewerking No. 1858, Uitstoot No. 1825 (Portion 1), Linana No. 1303 (Remaining Extent and Portion 2), Jagtkraal No. 1578 (Remaining Extent and Portion 1), Erfstuk No. 1579 (Remaining Extent), Excelsior No. 358 (Remaining Extent, Portion 30 and numerous residential erwen) and Moedersgift No. 566 (Portion 12) near Excelsior within the Mantsopa Local Municipality, Free State.

The project is to enable the connection and evacuation of the generated electricity of the proposed Khwezi Solar Power Plant, to the national grid network. The power line is proposed to connect into the existing Merapi Substation and a service road associated with the power line is also proposed to be developed. A 100m wide and 16km long grid connection corridor is being assessed for the project.

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As the proposed development is undergoing an EA Application process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, it is incumbent on the developer to ensure that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is done as per section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA). This must include an archaeological component, palaeontological component and any other applicable heritage components. The HIA must be conducted as part of the EA Application in terms of NEMA and the NEMA EIA Regulations.

The archaeological component of the HIA should follow the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological Component of Impact Assessment Report. The quickest process to follow for the archaeological component would be to contract a qualified archaeologist (see www.asapa.co.za or www.aphp.org.za).

The proposed development area is located mostly within an area of very high sensitivity in terms of palaeontological resources as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist (See <https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html> for a list of qualified palaeontologists). The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.

Any other heritage resources as defined in section 3 of the NHRA that may be impacted, such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.

The NEMA EIA documents and appendices must be submitted at the start of the public review periods in order for an informed comment to be issued that can be incorporated into the final reports for submission to the competent authority.

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/609147>