

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 21203

Date: Monday July 17, 2023
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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: Blue Crane Environmental

The activities entail the development of an up to 150 MW photovoltaic solar energy facility and associated infrastructure (including an on-site substation, grid connection, access roads and battery storage system). The facility will be located on Remainder of Portion 1 of the Farm Spes Bona No. 2355, Portion 10 of the Farm Spes Bona No. 2355, Registration Division Bloemfontein RD, situated within the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality area of jurisdiction. The city of Bloemfontein is located approximately 14km east of the proposed development (refer to the attached locality map). The project entails the generation of up to 150MW electrical power through photovoltaic (PV) panels. The total extent of the project will be approximately 320hectares (including supporting infrastructure on site). The property on which the facility is to be constructed will be leased by Acrux Solar PV Project Two (Pty) Ltd from the property owner, for the lifespan of the project (minimum of 20 years)

Blue Crane Environmental (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Acrux Solar PV Project Two (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed development of the Acrux Solar PV Project Two with its associated infrastructure on the Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of Farm Spes Bona No. 2355, Portion 10, of Farm Spes Bona No. 2355, and the Remaining Extent of the Farm Wolfkop 2353, Bloemfontein, Free State Province (DFFE Ref Nr: 2023-04-0011).

The Draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) and the 2017 amended NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The development area will have an extent of 2000 hectares for the entire development including supporting infrastructure and Grid connection infrastructure two 200m wide and about 6 km long grid connection corridors are also under assessment. The generation capacity of the Acrux Solar PV Project Two project will be up to 650 MW.

J A van Schalkwyk and Banzai Environmental (Pty) Ltd were appointed to provide heritage specialist input for the 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).

van Schalkwyk, J. 2023. Cultural Heritage Desktop Assessment: The Proposed Acrux 1, Acrux 2 And Acrux 3

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Solar Photovoltaic (Pv) Projects West Of Bloemfontein, Free State Province

A desktop assessment was conducted for ACRUX 1, ACRUX 2 AND ACRUX 3 Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Projects and according to a significant number of heritage impact assessments that were done in the immediate vicinity of the project areas, there is a low presence of cultural heritage sites and features in the region.

Butler, E. 2023. Palaeontological Impact Assessment Proposed Acrux Solar Pv Project Two Near Bloemfontein, Free State Province

The proposed Acrux Solar PV Project is underlain by Jurassic dolerite and mostly the Balfour Formation (Adelaide Subgroup, Beaufort Group, Karoo Supergroup) which are mantled by Quaternary superficial sediments. No fossiliferous outcrops were detected in the proposed development. The construction of the development may be permitted in its whole extent, as the development footprint is not considered sensitive in terms of palaeontological resources. A Chance Find Protocol has been attached and must be implemented by the ECO/site manager during the development.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Development Application Unit (DAU) notes the heritage studies along with the recommendations provided therein. A field based Archaeological component of the HIA must be undertaken and the HIA must follow the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological Component of Impact Assessment Report.

Further Comments will be issued upon receipt of the field based HIA along with the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and its appendices.

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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Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
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South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
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South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/616786>

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.