

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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CaseID: 22068

Date: Friday October 13, 2023
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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Rudolph Solar PL 1

The activity entails the development of grid connection infrastructure which consists of 132kV single/double-circuit overhead power line with the associated infrastructure on the Remaining Extent of the Farm Rudolph No. 48. A 400m wide (including temporary working area), on average and 15.71km 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 Eskom Mercury Substation. A service road associated with the powerline is also proposed to be developed. The grid connection corridor is approximately 21km north-west from the town of Viljoenskroon and falls within the Moqhaka Local Municipality of the Fezile Dabi District Municipality, Free State Province

Solis-Environmental has been appointed by Rudolph Solar Power Plant (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the development of a 132kV overhead power line and up to two 132kV switching substation/s to connect the proposed Rudolph solar energy facilities to the national grid on the Remaining Extent of the Farm Rudolph No. 48 within the Moqhaka Local Municipality in the town of Viljoenskroon, Free State Province.

The Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) 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 will include a 400m wide and 15.4km long grid connection corridor and 5ha assessment area for the switching substation/s for the placement of the proposed grid connection infrastructure. The proposed development is related to the Rudolph Solar PV 1 Facility development (Case ID 21880, <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/rudolph-solar-pv-1>).

CTS Heritage was 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).

Lavin, J. 2023. Heritage Impact Assessment In terms of Section 38(8) of the NHRA for the Proposed

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Development Of Grid Connection Infrastructure For Rudolph Powerline 1 Near Viljoenskroon

The proposed grid connection alternatives are located around the Paradys Koppie which has a number of stone-walled structures and kraals located on top (Sites 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15). It is recommended that each of these identified sites have a no-development buffer area of 100m implemented around them and that the entirety of Paradys Koppie be considered as a sensitive archaeological resource.

Historic farm infrastructure (Sites 046 and 047), which are of low levels of local significance and have been graded IIIC, have been identified close to the grid corridor. It is recommended that a no-development buffer of 50m is implemented around these sites.

A burial site (Site 010) which has a high levels of local significance and are graded IIIA, has been identified with the the grid corridor, however, it is recommended a 100m no development buffer be implemented around these sites.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Development Application Unit (DAU) notes the heritage studies along with the recommendations provided for the mitigation of the identified sites. It is noted that an Archaeological and Palaeontological Impact Assessments (AIA and PIA) have been undertaken, however these have not been attached to the development application case on SAHRIS.

Please attach the AIA and PIA documents before further comments can be issued.

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

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South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/621825>

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.