



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 22069

Date: Monday October 23, 2023
Page No: 1

Interim Comment

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

Attention: Utopia 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 Portion 1 of the Farm Mooiwater No. 408. A 400m wide (including temporary working area), on average and 13.71km 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 22km 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 Utopia 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 Utopia Solar energy facilities to the national grid on the Remaining Extent Bresiefontein No.173, Portion 1 of Kleinfontein No. 369, Remaining Extent of Uitval No. 457, RE of Farm Smaldeel No. 157, Remaining Extent of Utopia No. 137, Portion 1 of Jackalsfontein 443, Remaining Extent of Vlakfontein No. 15, Remaining Extent of Zaaiplaats No. 190, Portion 2 of Zaaiplaats No. 190 and Portion 3 of Zaaiplaats No. 190 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 13.4km 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 Utopia Solar PV 1 Facility development (Case ID 21881, <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/utopia-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 Utopia Powerline 1 Near Viljoenskroon

No significant heritage resources have been identified within or in close proximity to the area proposed for development.

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

Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite Assistant
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/621828>

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.