

Amendment Authorisation issued for Irene Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Energy Facility near Dealesville, in the Free State Province.

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 20553

Date: Monday February 13, 2023
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Letter

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

Attention: SLR Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd

Amended Environmental Authorisation (EA) for 120 Megawatts (MW) Irene Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Energy Facility (SEF) and its Supporting Electrical Infrastructure (Originally Authorised Under: 14/12/16/3/3/2/718, and as amended under: 4/12/16/3/3/2/718/AM1).

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) was appointed by South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Environmental Authorisation (EA) application for the development of a photovoltaic facility known as Irene Solar, and associated infrastructure, on the Farm Klein Begin 1463 and the Farm Irene 1183, south west of Dealesville in the Free State Province.

The Draft Environmental Impacts Assessment (DEIA) was submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The project will have a generation capacity of 100 MW and would require ~400 ha of land. This development application case is related to case ID 6558 (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/irene-solar-pv>)

Orton, J. July 2015. HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT: 11 Solar PV Facilities and Supporting Electrical Infrastructure near Dealesville in the Free State Province Proposed by Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd.

The author states that the facility lies on flat terrain with very few heritage resources, and that the primary concern is palaeontology. A pre-construction site inspection must be done by a palaeontologist once final layouts have been determined and prior to construction in order to pin-point any particular areas of concern so that these can be monitored during construction if required. The identified Stone Age archaeological resources have low heritage significance and thus do not require mitigation or avoidance.

SAHRA issued a final comment dated 22/09/2015 which requested that the pre-construction survey be

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undertaken by a palaeontologist once final layouts have been determined and prior to construction, the report was however not submitted.

An Amendment Environmental Authorisation (EA) document was submitted on the 24/01/2023 for the generation capacity of the project to be increased from 100 to 120 Megawatts (MW) and its Supporting Electrical Infrastructure (Originally Authorised Under: 14/12/16/3/3/2/718, and as amended under: 4/12/16/3/3/2/718/AM1). The Amendment EA was granted on the 18/01/2023.

SAHRA awaits the submission of the Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) report prior to construction.

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/612155>
(DFFE, Ref: DFFE)