



SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY
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FOR ATTENTION: **PHRA: Northern Cape**

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SAHRA File No: **9/2/055/0002**
Date Received: **27 January 2011**.....
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SAHRA Contact Person: **Dr Mariagrazia Galimberti**
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REVIEW COMMENT ON PALAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

BY ARCHAEOLOGY/ PALAEOLOGY UNIT OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

South Africa has a unique and non-renewable archaeological and palaeontological heritage. Archaeological and palaeontological sites are protected in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999) and may not be disturbed without a permit. Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIAs) and Palaeontological Impact Assessments (PIAs) identify and assess the significance of the sites, assess the potential impact of developments upon such sites, and make recommendations concerning mitigation and management of these sites. On the basis of satisfactory specialist reports SAHRA or the relevant heritage resources agency can assess whether or not it has objection to a development and indicate the conditions upon which such development might proceed and assess whether or not to issue permission to destroy such sites. AIAs and PIAs often form part of the heritage component of an Environmental Impact Assessment or Environmental Management Plan. They may also form part of a Heritage Impact Assessment called for in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act No. 25, 1999. They may have other origins. In any event they should comply with basic minimum standards of reporting as indicated in SAHRA Regulations and Guidelines.

This form provides review comment from the Archaeologist of the relevant heritage resources authority for use by Heritage Managers, for example, when informing authorities that have applied to SAHRA for comment and for inclusion in documentation sent to environmental authorities. It may be used in conjunction with Form B, which provides relevant peer review comment.

- A. PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY: **Northern Cape**.....
- B. AUTHOR(S) OF REPORT: **Mr John Pether**
- C. PALAEOLOGY CONTRACT GROUP:
- D. CONTACT DETAILS: **PO Box 48318, Kommetjie, 7976, Tel: 021 783 3023, Cel: 083 744 6295, Email: jpether@gmail.com**
- E. DATE OF REPORT: **17 January 2011**
- F. TITLE OF REPORT: **Brief Palaeontological Impact Assessment (Desktop Study) Proposed Kathu & Sishen Solar Energy Facilities Portions 4 & 6 Of The Farm Wincanton 472 Kuruman District, Northern Cape**
- G. Please circle as relevant: Palaeontological component of **EIA** / EMP / HIA / CMP/ Other (Specify) DSR
- H. REPORT COMMISSIONED BY (CONSULTANT OR DEVELOPER): **Savannah Environmental**
- I. CONTACT DETAILS: **Ms Tammy Kruger, PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157. Tel: 011 234 6621, email: tammy@savannahsa.co.za**
- J. COMMENTS:

Please see comment on next page.....

REVIEW COMMENT ON PALAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**John Pether****Dated: January 2011, Received: January 2010****Brief Palaeontological Impact Assessment (Desktop Study) Proposed Kathu & Sishen Solar Energy Facilities Portions 4 & 6 Of The Farm Wincanton 472 Kuruman District, Northern Cape**

Two different commercial solar facilities with related infrastructures are proposed in the Northern Cape by Renewable Energy Investments South Africa (Pty) and VentusSA Energy (Pty). They will be located on two adjacent properties, the first one 16 km SE of Kathu and the second one 23 km SE of Sishen. Both energy facilities will generate a maximum of 100MW each. The activities which might affect palaeontological material are the PV panel's foundations to a depth of 30-40cm and the underground cabling between panels to 0.4-1.0m depth.

SavannahSA Environmental is responsible for the Environmental Impact Assessment process and had already submitted an Archaeological Impact Assessment undertaken by Mr David Morris, which was commented on by SAHRA in January 2011. A Palaeontological Assessment was requested at the same time and commissioned not much later to Mr John Pether in the form of a desktop study.

Geologically the area earmarked for the development is underlain by sediments of the Kalahari Group with the calcretes of the Mokalanen Formation and the Obobogorop Formation, mostly overlying the calcrete. In turn these two are overlaid in few areas by the red aeolian sand of the Gordonia Formation.

The palaeontological significance of all these formations is generally low, but there are slim chances that fossil material may be identified especially along pans. It is important to remember that, since fossils are rare in this area, their discovery would be of high significance. Therefore, SAHRA requires that foremen and/or the EO are trained by a professional palaeontologist in order to be able to identify possible fossils uncovered during excavation.

If any new fossils or palaeontological resources are found during development, construction or mining, SAHRA (Tel: 021 462 4502) and a professional palaeontologist must be alerted immediately.

SIGNATURE OF ARCHAEOLOGIST PROCESSING REPORT: 

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NAME OF HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY: SAHRA

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COMMENT (ABOVE OR APPENDED) CONSTITUTES THE COMMENT OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY ARCHAEOLOGIST AND THAT ANY DEVELOPMENT THAT INVOLVES DESTRUCTION OF ANY ARCHAEOLOGICAL/PALAEONTOLOGICAL SITE IS STILL SUBJECT TO A PERMIT/PERMISSION FOR DESTRUCTION OF SUCH SITE GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPER BY THE RELEVANT HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALAEONTOLOGICAL PERMIT COMMITTEE (THIS WILL BE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE PHASE 2 OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL/ PALAEONTOLOGICAL MITIGATION AS NECESSARY). THIS REPORT MAY BE TAKEN ONLY AS APPROVAL IN TERMS OF SECTION 35 OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT. THE PROVINCIAL MANAGER OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY MUST ADVISE AS TO APPROVAL IN TERMS OF HERITAGE ISSUES ENCOMPASSED BY OTHER ASPECTS OF THE LEGISLATION, SUCH AS ISSUES OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (STRUCTURES (E.G. FARM HOUSES), OVER 60 YEARS), INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS OR OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES AS THIS IS NOT WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGIST.

PLEASE NOTE THAT SAHRA IS NOW RESPONSIBLE FOR GRADE I HERITAGE RESOURCES (AND EXPORT) AND THE PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GRADE II AND GRADE III HERITAGE RESOURCES, EXCEPT WHERE THERE IS AN AGENCY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY.