



Final Comment

In terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Mr Roelof Letter
EScience Associates (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 2950
Saxonwold
2132

Proposed Development of a Photo-voltaic Solar Power Generation Plant on the Farm Konkoonsies near Pofadder in the Northern Cape

Rubidge, B. April 2011. *KONKOONSIES 91, POFADDER - PALAEOANTHROPOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT*
Pelser, A. April 2012. *A REPORT ON A HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) FOR THE PROPOSED PHOTO-VOLTAIC SOLAR POWER GENERATION PLANT ON KONKOONSIES 91, POFADDER DISTRICT, NORTHERN CAPE*

Aurora Power Solutions and Bio Therm Energy are proposing the establishment of a further solar energy plant on Farm Konkoonsies 91. An earlier development on this site was addressed in an AIA (Mr Pelser 2011) and a heritage report (Mr de Jongh 2011). That AIA identified many archaeological sites near the hills and outcrops, which led to the development footprint being moved to safeguard them. SAHRA provided a review comment on these reports on 23 March 2011. Subsequent to that, SAHRA received a Palaeontological report (Prof. Rubidge 2011) and provided a letter of exemption (15.05.2012) from further palaeontological studies.

The archaeologist surveyed the newly proposed development area on foot and identified five sites. The surface visibility was indicated as good due to the flat, sandy terrain with only patches of grass and shrubs. Site 1 consisted of a scatter of ostrich eggshell consistent with the remains of a water flask. Site 2 consisted of a scatter of quartz, some flaked and one point. Similar scatters occurred throughout the area. Site 3 contained further scattered ostrich eggshell fragments, possibly indicating another broken water carrier. Site 4 was an ephemeral, low, packed stone wall that was possibly a windbreak; no stone tools were found in association with the feature. Site 5 consisted of a third discrete scatter of ostrich eggshell. Site 4 and 5 are unlikely to be impacted by construction as they are located on ridges which will not be developed.

As indicated in the Letter of Exemption (15 May 2012), the proposed development area is underlain by granite and gneiss, which are unfossiliferous.

Decision:

SAHRA supports the recommendations of the authors and requests that:

- The areas identified around hills and outcrops where stone tool scatters occur should be preserved. For this reason a buffer zone of 30m is required around outcrops and identified archaeological sites. If this is not deemed possible, a Phase 2 mitigation might be required: SAHRA will require that, in terms





Enquiries: Kathryn Smuts
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: ksmuts@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 292

Date: Monday September 03, 2012

Page No: 2

of s.38(4)(b&c) of the National Heritage Resources Act, the provisions of s 35 apply as appropriate. The specialist will require a mitigation permit from the relevant Heritage Resources Authority. On receipt of a satisfactory mitigation (Phase 2) permit report from the archaeologist, the heritage authority will make further recommendations in terms of the site. Very often permission is given for the destruction of the remainder of the archaeological or palaeontological sites. Very rarely, if a site has high heritage significance the authority may request that it be conserved, that mini-site management plans, interpretive material and possibly protective infrastructure be established

- This mitigation, if it is required, should include collection of the ostrich eggshell scatters in order that potential rim-sherds can be identified and refitting can be attempted.

If the recommendations made in the specialist report and in this comment are adhered to, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit has no objection to the development (in terms of the archaeological and palaeontological components of the heritage resources).

If any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, graves or other heritage resources are found during development, construction or mining, SAHRA (Katie Smuts/Colette Scheermeyer, Tel: 021 462 4502) and a professional archaeologist must be alerted immediately.

Decisions on Built Environment (e.g. structures over 60 years) and Cultural Landscapes and associated Living Heritage (e.g. sacred sites) must be made by the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Northern Cape (Mr. Andrew Timothy, email: ratha.timothy@gmail.com) to whom this Archaeological Review Comment will be copied.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Kathryn Smuts
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
South African Heritage Resources Agency



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

Street Address: 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town 8000 * Postal Address: PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000
* Tel: +27 21 462 4502 * Fax: +27 21 462 4509 * Web: <http://www.sahra.org.za>



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Page No: 3

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
(DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/2443)

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.



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