



## Final Comment

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

Attention: Mr Bongani Khupe  
Savannah Environmental  
PO Box 148  
Sunninghill  
2157  
Gauteng

### Proposed O'Kiep 3 PV Solar Energy Facility on a Site on O'Kiep Copper Mine in O'Kiep near Springbok, Northern Cape Province

Gaigher, S. May 2012. *Heritage Impact Assessment Report Basic Assessment: Proposed Establishment of the O'Kiep 3 Photovoltaic Solar Facility on a Portion of the Farm Brakfontein 133 near Springbok in the Northern Cape Province*

Botha-Brink, J. August 2012. *Palaeontological Impact Assessment of the Proposed O'Kiep 3 PV Solar Energy Facility Project, Northern Cape Province*

Ilio Energy (Pty) Ltd has proposed the development of the 14.4 MW O'Kiep 3 Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility, on less than 20 ha of the Farm Brakfontein 133, 10km north of Springbok. The project forms one part of a larger Solar Energy Facility development on the property. In addition to the solar panels and their concrete foundations, this development will include an on site switching station and an overhead power line; cabling laid underground, where possible, to link the panels; internal access roads and a maintenance and storage workshop. Two alternatives have been proposed for the overhead power line, with one connecting the facility to the nearby Nama Koi Substation to the south and the other to connect to the Groenbank/Nama 1 66 kV power line to the west. In terms of site location, Alternatives A and B were put forward, but only A was considered as feasible. The proposed location is adjacent to the O'Kiep Mine tailings dam and is degraded due to previous mine-related activities.

Background research by the archaeologist revealed that the area has been inhabited since the Early Stone Age, with Later Stone Age sites being the most commonly represented. Historically, the area came to prominence after the discovery of copper in the region in 1850, and was again of strategic importance during the South African War. The Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape World Heritage Site celebrates the long-term land management processes of the pastoralist Nama of the area, and, although this project does not fall within the WHS or its buffer zone, it does form part of this landscape.

The site survey identified no archaeological heritage resources. A single, occupied tin dwelling with associated livestock pens was noted on the property, as was a circular cement platform with vertically placed stones around its perimeter.

The palaeontological desk-based assessment identified the underlying geology of the area as Modderfontein





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and Nabapeep gneiss, which are igneous and not fossiliferous. These are mantled by Quaternary sands, scree and rubble surface deposits which are unlikely to contain fossils.

**Decision:**

SAHRA requests that:

- The circular platform be avoided by construction and protected during development activities by a fence that should be erected 5m from its perimeter.

As there is apparently no evidence of any significant archaeological material in this area, 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) on condition that, if any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources are found during development, construction or mining, SAHRA and an archaeologist and/or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be alerted immediately.

Decisions on Built Environment (e.g. structures over 60 years) 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](mailto: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

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Colette Scheermeyer  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/510)

**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.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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