



Our Ref:

Enquiries: Kathryn Smuts
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: ksmuts@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 936

Date: Friday December 07, 2012

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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Ms Veronique Evans

Sivest
PO BOX 2921
Rivonia
2128

Heritage Scoping for the Proposed Solar PV and Wind Farm Facility for Renosterberg Wind Energy Company (RWECC) near Petrusville, Northern Cape Province

2012-12-07 Fourie, W. November 2012. *Renosterberg Wind Energy Company (RWECC) Heritage Scoping for the Proposed Solar PV Facility near Petrusville, Northern Cape Province.*

Almond, J. November 2012. *Palaeontological specialist assessment: desktop study Proposed Renosterberg Solar PV and Wind Energy Facilities near De Aar, Northern Cape Province.*

Renosterberg Wind Energy Corporation (RWECC) has proposed the development of a solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant near De Aar in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa. The project will be 250ha in size and generate up to 150 MW of power. In addition to the solar panel array, the facility will require an onsite operations building (150 to 350m²). The facility will be linked to the Eskom grid by overhead power lines, with several alternatives proposed for the alignment and length of the lines; the alternative range from 13.7kms to 45kms long.

The archaeologist conducted a Heritage Scoping Report that consulted archival resources, previous heritage reports on work conducted in the area and historical sources. This work revealed that the area has archaeological material dating from the Early Stone Age through to the Later Stone Age and contains evidence for herder use of the landscape and later settlement by white farmers during the Colonial Period. The area was also particularly significant during the South African War, and is near the site of the Battle of Colenso and the Battle of Stormberg. Finds from all of these periods are likely.

The palaeontologist compiled a desk-based assessment of the area and concluded that it is likely to be underlain by Early to Middle Permian Ecca Group rocks of the Karoo Supergroup, assigned to the Tierberg or Waterford Formation. These are palaeontologically sensitive and contain petrified wood, trace fossils and microvertebrate remains. This region is also known to contain evidence for the Ecca-Beaufort transition between subaqueous and terrestrial deposits. Lower Beaufort Group Middle Permian sediments (Adelaide Subgroup, Karoo Supergroup) also occur and can contain small therapsids, parareptiles and fossil plant and wood remains, but in the study area are largely mantled by colluvial deposits. Much of the mantling is by a succession of Late Cenozoic superficial deposits, which varies in thickness across the area and can contain sparse, low diversity fossil assemblages including rhizoliths, burrows and some vertebrate material or human teeth.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Case Decision:

SAHRA supports the recommendations of the authors and requires that:

- A full HIA, inclusive of an Archaeological and Palaeontological Impact Assessment, be compiled. The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report that will identify the archaeological sites and assess their significance and make recommendations (as indicated in section 38 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999) about the process to be followed to ensure the protection, conservation or, if necessary, mitigation of those sites. If mitigation is required, the archaeologist must apply to SAHRA for a permit for this work.
- A Palaeontological field assessment must be undertaken to record significant fossil occurrences and horizons; if a Phase 2 rescue operation is deemed necessary, the palaeontologist must apply to SAHRA for a permit for this work.
- Any other heritage resources that may be impacted such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.

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

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

(DEA, Ref: NEAS Reference: DEA/EIA/0001404/2012; DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/403)



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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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