



Enquiries: Kathryn Smuts
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CaseID: 111

Date: Friday July 13, 2012

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Final Comment

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

Attention:

Mrs Gabriele Wood
Savannah Environmental
PO Box 148
Sunninghill
2157
Gauteng

Proposed Southern Cross Solar Energy Facility, Northern Cape

Gaigher, S. May 2012. *Heritage Impact Assessment Report - Basic Assessment Phase: Proposed Establishment of the Southern Cross Solar Energy Facility Located West of Upington on the Farm Southern Cross Farms 425, Northern Cape Province.*

Tiquen Trading (Pty) Ltd is proposing the establishment of a 20 MW Photovoltaic facility on 20 ha of Southern Farms 425. The panels will be connected via underground cables and the development will link to the Schmidtsdrift Substation via an overhead 132kV 3.5km long power line. There will also be internal access roads and an office/workshop building. No alternative site location has been proposed for the facility, while two alternative alignments have been proposed for the power line.

The archaeologist conducted background research and a site visit. The background research indicated that Early, Middle and Later Stone Age material is known from the area, with only a few rock art sites known. The larger region, the Richtersveld, is also significant in terms of its cultural landscape and has been awarded World Heritage Status. This development is located outside the Richtersveld World Heritage Site and is beyond the buffer zone.

The field survey identified three isolated, *ex situ* stone artefacts in an eroded area of site. The artefacts were two scrapers on Cryptocrystalline Silicate and a possible broken blade on a feldspar-like material.

Although no palaeontological study was conducted, the study area is located on the Namaqua and Natal Metamorphic gneisses which are unfossiliferous and there is unlikely to be any impact on significant palaeontological resources.

Decision:

SAHRA requires that a walk down of the alignment of the power line is conducted by a suitably qualified archaeologist once the final layout has been decided. SAHRA requests that a specialist in Stone Age archaeology, with appropriate qualifications and experience is employed to conduct the walkdown. The results of this work must be submitted in report form to SAHRA for comment. Depending on the outcome of the walk



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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down, SAHRA will either allow for the development to proceed or require mitigation in terms of Section 35 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999).

No significant archaeological resources were identified within the footprint of the proposed solar facility itself, however, and the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit has no objection to the development (in terms of the archaeological palaeontological components of the heritage resources) of the solar panel component of this project on condition that, if any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources are found during development, 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) 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

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/581)

Terms & Conditions:



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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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