



Final Comment

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

Attention: Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

Mainstream Springfontein Wind Energy Facility DEA Ref No 14/12/16/3/3/2/365

Gaigher, S. 15 October 2012. Heritage Impact Assessment Report: Proposed establishment of a Wind Energy Generation Facility near Springfontein in the Free State Province.

and

Durand, F. October 2012. Desktop Palaeontology Report: Proposed wind and solar energy facility at Springfontein, Free State.

The proposed development entails a commercial wind energy facility within the Kopanong Local Municipality, approximately 12km from Springfontein. Up to 74 wind turbines are proposed over an area of approximately 83 square kilometres. The turbines will have a capacity of between 1.4MW and 4MW and will consist of a concrete foundation (20m x 20m x 2m), a steel tower and a hub between 80m to 120m above the ground, and three blades. Existing farm roads will be upgraded up to 10m in width to provide access, and a workshop and substation, both measuring approximately 100m x 100m also form part of the project.

The archaeological assessment identified no sites of heritage potential within the study area.

The Palaeontological Desktop Assessment notes that the area proposed for development is characterised by low hills and koppies capped by doleritic sills. Dolerite dykes and sills are common in the area and are not fossiliferous. In general, however, the study area is dominated by the sedimentary rocks of the Adelaide Subgroup of the Beaufort Group of the Karoo Supergroup. In particular, the study area falls within the Cistecaphalus Assemblage Zone and the Dicynodon Assemblage Zone. Both of these zones are characterised by both vertebrate skeletal and plant fossils. The author notes that construction of wind turbines on ridges and hills is likely to impact only the dolerite dykes and sills and therefore is unlikely to impact on significant fossil material, but that the construction of access routes, facilities, substations, pylons and buildings will likely impact on the fossiliferous Adelaide Subgroup.

Case Decision

In terms of archaeological resources, 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 component of the heritage resources) provided that the locations of the final turbine position be decided in consultation with the heritage specialist. If any new evidence of





archaeological sites or artefacts, graves or other heritage resources are found during development, SAHRA or an archaeologist must be alerted immediately.

In terms of palaeontological resources, SAHRA requires a site visit and surface survey of the area proposed for development in order to identify fossiliferous no-go areas as well as areas where development may occur that will not impact on fossil material. This surface survey must be done prior to any construction activities and must be submitted to SAHRA for approval.

Please note that decisions on Built Environment (e.g. structures over 60 years), Cultural Landscapes and associated Living Heritage (e.g. Sacred Sites) must be made by the relevant Provincial Heritage Authority.

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

Yours faithfully

Andrew Salomon
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/92540>

[Terms & Conditions:](#)



Springfontein Wind Energy Facility - 365

Our Ref: 9/2/332/0001

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CaseID: 692

Date: Monday April 29, 2013

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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.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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