

Ms S Gumbi  
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Dear Ms Gumbi

**AMENDMENT: EIA APPLICATION FOR CSP IN BOKPOORT, NORTHERN CAPE**

An EIA study was undertaken for the 75MW CSP plant in Bokpoort, Northern Cape and approved by Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). In accordance with Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, a heritage study was completed and submitted to SAHRA and was subsequently accepted by that authority:

- Dreyer, C. 2006. *First phase archaeological and cultural assessment of the proposed Concentrated Solar Thermal Plant (CSP) at the farms Olyfenhouts Drift, Upington, Bokpoort 390 and Tampansrus 294/295, Groblershoop, Northern Cape*. Bloemfontein: Unpublished report.

The following was extracted from an email received from Royal HaskoningDHV on 2 March 2018, regarding the amending of the validity of the Environmental Authorisation that was issued for the above project:

ACWA power is now proposing to build a 4MW PV Plant with a footprint of 12ha (9ha PV and 3ha Laydown area). This footprint is within the 382ha footprint of the CSP. The entire site for the PV facility and PV laydown area falls within the development footprint of the CSP facility and was thus previously physically altered/impacted as a result of the CSP development. DEA advised that a Part 2 amendment of the Environmental Authorisation be undertaken which include the revision of specialist's studies to identify potential impacts and recommend mitigation measures where required.

I have reviewed the original report (Dreyer 2006) as well as the maps and *.kml* files submitted to me by Royal HaskoningDHV regarding the above matter. In addition, I have reviewed all other available heritage assessment reports pertaining to the same area, as well as the immediate surroundings of the Bokpoort CSP (Dreyer 2007, 2014, 2015; Morris 2012, 2014; Van der Walt 2015; Van Ryneveld 2007).

Based on the above review, it is possible to conclude that the region has a low presence of heritage sites and features, with the only recurrent theme being low density surface scatters of mostly Middle Stone Age tools occurring in places; Later Stone Age material represents an even smaller occurrence.

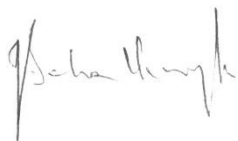
Linked to this is the fact that the area where the planned expansion is to take place has already being impacted on by the original development of the CSP facility, which would have destroyed any heritage features that might have occurred here in the past.

I can, therefore, with a high degree of confidence state that the new development, located within the previously investigated footprint of the CSP would not lead to any impact on sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance and that an amendment to the Environmental Authorisation would be in order, on condition of SAHRA's acceptance of this review.



However, considering the fact that archaeological sites in many cases occur below ground surface, if, during construction, archaeological site or graves are discovered, work must immediately be suspended and a heritage specialist must be consulted to assess the finds.

Yours sincerely



J A van Schalkwyk (D Litt et Phil)

### Sources consulted

Dreyer, C. 2007. *First phase archaeological and cultural assessment of the proposed Garona – Mercury transmission power line, Northern Cape, North-west Province and Free State*. Bloemfontein: Unpublished report.

Dreyer, C. 2014. *First phase archaeological and heritage investigation of the proposed PV energy developments at the farm Sanddraai 391 near Groblershoop, Northern Cape Province*. Bloemfontein: Unpublished report.

Dreyer, C. 2015. *First phase archaeological and heritage impact assessment of the proposed Bokpoort II 300MW combined 2 x 75 PV and 150 MW CSP Tower Solar development on the remainder of the farm Bokpoort 390, Groblershoop, Northern Cape Province*. Bloemfontein: Unpublished report.

Morris, D. 2012. *Archaeological Impact Assessment, Phase 1: 15km water pipeline across farms Sanddraai 391 and Bokpoort 390 near Groblershoop, Northern Cape*. Kimberley: Unpublished report.

Morris, D. 2014. *Archaeological Impact Assessment – ACWA Power Solafrica Bokpoort CSP Power Plant (Pty) Ltd: Amended Alignment: Bokpoort water pipeline, Groblershoop, Northern Cape*. Kimberley: Unpublished report.

Van der Walt, J. 2015. *Archaeological impact assessment for the proposed Tewa Isitha Solar 2 PV facility east of Upington, Northern Cape Province*. Unpublished report.

Van Ryneveld, K. 2007. *Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment: Portion of the farm Bokputs 118, Groblershoop District, Northern Cape, South Africa*. Danhof: Unpublished report.

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