

NATURA VIVA cc
Palaeontological Impact Assessments & Heritage Management,
Natural History Education, Tourism, Research

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ADDENDUM

Proposed amendment of the authorised grid connection between the renewable energy Project DAO and the existing Garona Substation near Groblershoop, Northern Cape Province

1. Background

This letter serves as an Addendum to the Palaeontological Heritage Assessment for the Bokpoort Solar Power Facility on the Remaining Extent of Farm Bokpoort 390 near Groblershoop, Northern Cape Province submitted by the author (Almond 2020a) and to the subsequent Part 2 Amendment comment (Almond 2020b). The solar facility comprises seven sites and is now known as Project DAO.

2. Purpose of the EA Process

ACWA Power Project DAO (RF) Pty Ltd, on behalf of Eskom, is undertaking an EIA process for the expansion of the existing 400kV Garona Substation and the installation of a single 400 kV loop-in loop out power line to enable the authorised Project DAO to connect to the national grid (*N.B.* The previously authorised and assessed layout envisaged a total of 10 x 132 kV power lines).

3. Project Description

The proposed scope of work for the amended grid connection includes:

- a) Upstream scope of work at Garona Substation:
 - Establish a 400 kV busbar at Garona Substation;
 - Establish and equip 2 x 400 kV feeder bays, and
 - Loop in (FER/GAR 356-360) and out (GAR/NIE 1-3) of Ferrum -Nieuwehoop 400 kV lines (approx. 2 x 1 km) into Garona Substation.

- b) Shared scope of work at Garona Substation (expansion of the substation):
 - Extend the 132 kV busbar at Garona Substation (to accommodate the 400/132 kV transformer);

- Install a 500 MVA 400/132kV transformer with associated transformer bays, and
 - Provide space for 1 future 400/132 kV transformer.
- c) Dedicated scope of work at Garona Substation:
- Equip and commission the 1x 132 kV feeder bay.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

With regard to the proposed amended grid connection of the authorised Project DAO, there is no (zero) change to the assessed significance rating compared with the original Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Palaeontological Heritage report and no additional impacts on palaeontological heritage are envisaged. Furthermore, no new mitigation measures are required.

The proposed amendment is expected to have a neutral effect from a palaeontological heritage impact perspective *i.e.* no advantages or disadvantages are expected.

There are no objections on palaeontological heritage grounds to approval of the proposed amendment, subject to the conditions and recommendations as stipulated in the original Environmental Authorisation, and according to the Environmental Management Programme and suggested mitigation measures, as outlined in the original Palaeontological Heritage Assessment report (Almond 2020a).

Please feel free to contact me at any time, should you have any queries.

Yours faithfully,



Dr John E. Almond
(Palaeontologist)
Natura Viva cc

REFERENCES

ALMOND, J.E. 2020a. Proposed Bokpoort II Solar Power Facility on the Remaining Extent of Farm Bokpoort 390 near Groblershoop, Northern Cape Province. Palaeontological impact assessment: desktop study, 17 pp. Natura Viva cc, Cape Town.

ALMOND, J.E. 2020a. Part 2 Amendment Process for the Development of Eight 200MW PV Plants on the Farm Bokpoort in the Northern Cape Province. Palaeontological heritage comment, 3 pp. Natura Viva cc, Cape Town.