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Date: 31 July 2022
References: Wag 'n Bietjie
Your Ref: Case ID: 17776

Ms Natasha Higgitt
SAHRA
P O Box 4637
Cape Town, 8001

Dear Ms Higgitt

With reference to your Interim Comment on the assessment MTS LiLo lines connecting the new MTS to an existing 400kV power line A grid connection that connect the Wag 'n Bietjie MTS and the Vetlaagte MTS.

Landscape Dynamics has been appointed by Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed development of electrical infrastructure for the approved (EA has lapsed) solar facilities on the Wag 'n Bietjie Farm, near De Aar, Northern Cape Province.

In response to your request that a desktop Palaeontological Impact be completed, I, as the palaeontologist who did the desktop PIA report for this project (Bamford, 2021), request that a site visit (field-based assessment) is not necessary. Dr John Almond did a site visit and report for the adjacent farm and project, Vetlaagte (Almond, 2012).

First of all, Dr Almond is the most experienced PIA specialist and if anyone can find fossils, he can. He found very few fossils and considered the area to be of low potential for fossils. Secondly, Vetlaagte and Wag 'n Bietjie are adjacent to each other with the same geology and topography, so are most likely to have the same fossils, if any. Thirdly, the updated biostratigraphy indicates that both the *Endothiodon* and the *Tapinocephalus* Assemblage Zones occur around De Aar (Smith et al., 2020). From their Figure 2, it should be noted that the type sections are in the southern part of the Karoo, far from De Aar. In addition, the boundary on the map between these two Assemblage Zones is a gently curved line (i.e. joining the few dots of occurrences of index fossils) instead of a more detailed boundary based on actual fossil occurrences. Therefore, confirming Almond's observations that fossils are rare. Fourthly, the footprint of power lie poles is small. Finally, the Fossil Chance Find Protocol given by Bamford (2021) that is recommended for inclusion in the EMPr, will ensure that if there are any fossils found below the land surface they will be rescued.

Based in the above information, I recommend that no site visit is required for the Wag 'n Bietjie area of the project, and that the recommendations already provided in the existing reports are sufficient to protect our fossil heritage.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Bamford', with a horizontal line underneath.

Prof Marion Bamford
PhD Palaeontology (Wits, 1990)

References cited:

Almond, J.E. 2012. Palaeontological specialist study combined desktop and field-based assessments: Proposed solar power generation facilities on the remaining extent of the farm Vetlaagte No. 4, De Aar, Northern, Cape Province.

Bamford, M. 2021. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed development of the Vetlaagte and Wag 'n Bietjie infrastructure associated with the authorised PV Facilities near De Aar, Northern Cape Province.

Smith, R.M.H., Rubidge, B.S., Day, M.O., Botha, J., 2020. Introduction to the tetrapod biozonation of the Karoo Supergroup. South African Journal of Geology 123, 131-140. doi:10.25131/sajg.123.0009