Douglas 9/2/038/0001

SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY
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FOR ATTENTION: **PHRA: Northern Cape**

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SAHRA File No: **9/2/038/0001**
Date Received: **June 2012**
Date of Comment: **4 July 2012**.....
Sent to Peer Review: .....
Date to Peer Review: .....
SAHRA Contact Person: **Ms Katie Smuts**
DEA Ref. no: **12/12/20/2512**

REVIEW COMMENT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

BY THE ARCHAEOLOGY, PALAEONTOLOGY AND METEORITES UNIT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

South Africa has a unique and non-renewable archaeological and palaeontological heritage. Archaeological and palaeontological sites are protected in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999) and may not be disturbed without a permit. Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIAs) and Palaeontological Impact Assessments (PIAs) identify and assess the significance of the sites, assess the potential impact of developments upon such sites, and make recommendations concerning mitigation and management of these sites. On the basis of satisfactory specialist reports SAHRA or the relevant heritage resources agency can assess whether or not it has objection to a development and indicate the conditions upon which such development might proceed and assess whether or not to issue permission to destroy such sites.
AIAs and PIAs often form part of the heritage component of an Environmental Impact Assessment or Environmental Management Plan. They may also form part of a Heritage Impact Assessment called for in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act No. 25, 1999. They may have other origins. In any event they should comply with basic minimum standards of reporting as indicated in SAHRA Regulations and Guidelines.
This form provides review comment from the Archaeologist of the relevant heritage resources authority for use by Heritage Managers, for example, when informing authorities that have applied to SAHRA for comment and for inclusion in documentation sent to environmental authorities. It may be used in conjunction with Form B, which provides relevant peer review comment.

A. PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY: **Northern Cape**

B. AUTHOR(S) OF REPORT: **Mr David Morris**

C. ARCHAEOLOGY CONTRACT GROUP: **McGregor Museum**

D. CONTACT DETAILS: **PO Box 316, 8300 Kimberley, 053 839 2706; email: mmkarchaeology@yahoo.co.uk**

E. DATE OF REPORT: **June 2012**

TITLE OF REPORT: **Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed PV solar park near Douglas, Northern Cape**.

B. Please circle as relevant: Archaeological and Palaeontological components of **EIA** / EMP / HIA / CMP/ Other (Specify)

C. REPORT COMMISSIONED BY (**CONSULTANT** OR DEVELOPER): **CSIR, Ms Lydia Cape-Ducluzeau**

D. CONTACT DETAILS: **CSIR Consulting and Analytical Services, PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599, Tel: 021 888-2429, Cell: 072 657-4719, Fax: 021 888-2693, Email: LCapeDucluzeau@csir.co.za**

E. COMMENTS: .....

Please see comment on next page .....

REVIEW COMMENT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALAEONTOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Mr David Morris
Dated and received: June 2012

INTRODUCTION

Mainstream Renewable Power South Africa (MRP) is proposing the establishment of a 100MW photovoltaic or a concentrated photovoltaic energy facility on Portion 1 of Farm Roode Kop 5. The property area covers 400ha of which 340ha will be used for the solar facility. The infrastructure required for the development includes a permanent solar resource measuring station of about 100m^2, cables to connect the solar panels, a substation, buildings, such as an operational control centre, an office, warehouse/workshop, ablution and welfare facilities, access roads, even if existing roads will be used as much as possible, and a power line to connect the facility to the 132kV Eskom line that feeds into the Ovaal Pump substation, located approximately 1km east of the site. The facility will be fenced off for security reasons.

Two alternative locations are being considered for the facility and both were assessed by the archaeologist. The site is adjacent to the Orange River and consists of a featureless plain that slopes towards the River to the east. The vegetation is sparse and the land is mainly farmland with limited agriculture along the river.

The Heritage Scoping report by Dr Morris was commented on by SAHRA on 22 February 2012, while exemption was granted from further palaeontological work on 17 May 2012.

DISCUSSION

The archaeologist found a wide spread scatters of Middle Stone Age material across the site, but concluded that none of it was in primary context and that it constituted deflated or lag deposits. No Later Stone Age material or rock engravings were encountered. The only historical period feature was a borrow pit related to the construction of the Douglas-Prieska road and no graves were identified.

SAHRA RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

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 and palaeontological components of the heritage resources) on condition that, if any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources are found during development, construction or mining, SAHRA and an archaeologist or palaeontologist according to the nature of the findings must be alerted immediately.

SIGNATURE OF ARCHAEOLOGIST PROCESSING REPORT: .....

EMAIL: ksmuts@sahra.org.za.....

SIGNATURE OF SAHRA HEAD ARCHAEOLOGIST: ...pp. Mfolimbeti.....

EMAIL: cscheermeyer@sahra.org.za .....

NAME OF HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY: SAHRA.....

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COMMENT (ABOVE OR APPENDED) CONSTITUTES THE COMMENT OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY ARCHAEOLOGIST AND THAT ANY DEVELOPMENT THAT INVOLVES DESTRUCTION OF ANY ARCHAEOLOGICAL/PALAEONTOLOGICAL SITE IS STILL SUBJECT TO A PERMIT/PERMISSION FOR DESTRUCTION OF SUCH SITE GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPER BY THE RELEVANT HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALAEONTOLOGICAL PERMIT COMMITTEE (THIS WILL BE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE PHASE 2 OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL/ PALAEONTOLOGICAL MITIGATION AS NECESSARY). THIS REPORT MAY BE TAKEN ONLY AS APPROVAL IN TERMS OF SECTION 35 OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT. THE PROVINCIAL MANAGER OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY MUST ADVISE AS TO APPROVAL IN TERMS OF HERITAGE ISSUES ENCOMPASSED BY OTHER ASPECTS OF THE LEGISLATION, SUCH AS ISSUES OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (STRUCTURES (E.G. FARM HOUSES), OVER 60 YEARS), INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS OR OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES AS THIS IS NOT WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGIST.

PLEASE NOTE THAT SAHRA IS NOW RESPONSIBLE FOR GRADE I HERITAGE RESOURCES (AND EXPORT) AND THE PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GRADE II AND GRADE III HERITAGE RESOURCES, EXCEPT WHERE THERE IS AN AGENCY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY.