

**Appendix E6 – Correspondence with Organs of State:
SAHRA**

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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Enquiries: Ragna Redelstorff
Tel: +27 (0)21 202 8651
Email: rredelstorff@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 15046

Date: Friday April 17, 2020
Page No: 1

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Enviroafrica CC

PO Box 5367
Heilderberg
7135

Four, solar PV projects are proposed on the Farm Visserspan No. 40 near Dealesville (Figure 4). Each stand-alone facility will have a maximum generating capacity of 100MW and include the following infrastructure: Solar panels covering an area of about 200ha. The solar arrays will be raised approximately 500mm above ground level and will have single axis tracking systems. Transmission and distribution lines for connection to the Eskom Perseus substation; Invertor-transformer stations on concrete beds. Offices, workshops, stores, maintenance sheds, ablution facilities, and Security/fencing

The proposed project entails the construction of a total of four Solar PV projects including associated infrastructure (transmission and distribution lines for connection to the Eskom Perseus substation; invertor-transformer stations on concrete beds; offices, workshops, stores, maintenance sheds, ablution facilities and security/fencing) over an area of approximately 800ha on the Farm Visserspan 40 near Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province. An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) and a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) were submitted with the application. It must be noted that SAHRA will provide a separate comment for each of the four projects as each of them constitutes a separate NEMA application. **This comment is issued specifically for Visserspan Solar PV Facility - Project 4.**

KAPLAN, J. 2020. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED VISSERSPAN SOLAR PV FACILITY ON THE FARM VISSERSPAN NO. 40 NEAR DEALESVILLE, TOKOLOGO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE.

A field survey revealed the following results for Solar PV Project 4:

- A dispersed scatter of weathered hornfels MSA tools (flakes, blades, chunks, cores) on an eroded and heavily trampled land surface, on the margin of a large pan near the south eastern boundary of the



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proposed development site;

- A very thin scatter of MSA hornfels flakes and chunks on patches of hard sand below the coversands near the southern boundary of the proposed site;
- A small, abandoned graveyard containing five graves that is of high significance.

Author's Recommendations:

- 1. No mitigation of archaeological resources is required prior to construction activities commencing.*
- 2. The pan/dispersed scatter of archaeological resources in proposed Solar PV Project 4 (waypoint 2715) must be screened out of the development proposal.*
- 3. A buffer of 10m must be established around the small grave yard (waypoint 623) in proposed Solar PV Project 4. The site must be fenced off. The applicant must establish 'ownership' of the graves, and consult with surviving family members. The graveyard must be protected throughout the Construction, Operational and Decommission Phase of the proposed development.*
- 4. Historic (c. 1899), calcrete and clay, sheep and cattle enclosures within the farm werf must not be disturbed, damaged or altered in any way by development activities. The structures are protected under Section 34 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 29 of 1999) and cannot be disturbed in any way without a permit issued by SAHRA.*
- 5. If any human burials are uncovered during construction activities then work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and will require inspection by a professional archaeologist.*
- 6. The above recommendations must be included in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed development.*

ALMOND, J. 2020. PALAEOLOGICAL SPECIALIST STUDY: COMBINED DESKTOP & FIELD-BASED ASSESSMENT - FOUR PROPOSED SOLAR PV PROJECTS ON FARM VISSERSPAN NO. 40 NEAR DEALESVILLE, TOKOLOGO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE.

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It is noted that the proposed associated grid connection to Eskom's Perseus substation has not been assessed in the PIA.

The proposed area is underlain by sediments of the Tierberg Formation (Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup) that are extensively disrupted and veined by Quaternary calcrete as well as baked by dolerite intrusions of the Karoo Dolerite Suite, and as such are of low sensitivity. They are mantled by Quaternary to Holocene orange sands, in part of aeolian origin. The calcrete hardpans encountered within the study area are of low palaeontological sensitivity.

A few small blocks of petrified fossil wood – reworked from Tierberg bedrocks – were found among surface gravels around the margins of a pan in the SE corner of Visserspan No. 40, which fall outside the solar PV project area.

Author's Recommendations:

Should fossil remains such as bones, teeth, shells or petrified wood be discovered before or during the construction phase, these should be safeguarded (preferably in situ) and the ECO should alert the South African Heritage Resources Agency, SAHRA (Contact details: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town. PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000, South Africa. Phone: +27 (0)21 462 4502. Fax: +27 (0)21 462 4509. Web: www.sahra.org.za). This is so that appropriate mitigation (e.g. recording, sampling or collection) can be taken by a professional palaeontologist (See tabulated Chance Fossil Finds Procedure appended to this report). The specialist involved would require a collection permit from SAHRA. Fossil material must be curated in an approved repository (e.g. museum or university collection) and all fieldwork and reports should meet the minimum standards for palaeontological impact studies developed by SAHRA (2013).

Final comment

It must be noted that this comment is issued specifically for Visserspan Solar PV Facility - Project 4, that covers an area of around 238ha. The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has reviewed the AIA and PIA. SAHRA APM has no objections against the proposed development subject to the specialists' recommendations and the conditions as outlined below that must be adhered to and must be incorporated into the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for implementation.

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The SAHRA Burial Ground and Graves (BGG) Unit has reviewed the AIA and has no objection to the proposed development. The provided conditions must be adhered to.

Conditions:

1. The identified graveyard must be fenced with an access gate. Families of the deceased must be consulted for this purpose.
2. A Heritage management plan (HMP) must be drafted for the identified graveyard and submitted to SAHRA for review. This must be done in consultation with the families of the deceased.
3. The 10m buffer-zone around the graveyard as recommended by the heritage specialist must be increased to 30m. If this is not possible, a qualified archaeologist must be appointed to initiate a grave relocation process in terms of section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act.
4. Should development activities uncover unknown graves, all development activities on site must stop, the SAPS and SAHRA BGG must be notified.
5. The pan/dispersed scatter of archaeological resources (waypoint 2715) must be screened out of the development proposal.
6. Should any objects of archaeological or palaeontological remains be found during construction activities, work must immediately stop in that area and the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) must be informed.
7. The ECO must inform the South African Heritage Recourse Agency (SAHRA) and contact an archaeologist and/or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the find, to assess the importance and rescue them if necessary (with the relevant SAHRA permit). No work may be resumed in this area without the permission from the ECO and SAHRA.
8. If the newly discovered heritage resource is considered significant a Phase 2 assessment may be required. A permit from the responsible heritage authority will be needed.
9. A Chance Finds Procedures must be developed for the project to ensure that standard protocols and steps are followed should any heritage and/or fossil resources be uncovered during all phases of the project. These procedures should outline the steps and reporting structure to be followed in the instance that heritage resources are found. This must be included in the Environmental Awareness Plan.
10. The final BAR and appendices must be submitted to SAHRA upon submission to DEA. Should the project be granted Environmental Authorisation, SAHRA must be notified and all relevant documents submitted to the case file.

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

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above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Ragna Redelstorff
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/535982>
(, Ref:)

Terms & Conditions:

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.

Vivienne Thomson

From: Sandra de Witt <sandra@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: 27 January 2020 12:42
To: 'Vivienne Thomson'
Subject: FW: Visserspan Solar PV 1-4

Sandra de Witt



Administrator

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w: www.enviroafrica.co.za e: sandra@enviroafrica.co.za

From: Ragna Redelstorff <rredelstorff@sahra.org.za>

Sent: Monday, 27 January 2020 8:48 AM

To: admin@enviroafrica.co.za

Subject: Visserspan Solar PV 1-4

Good morning,

Thank you for the notification for the proposed Visserspan Solar PV Facilities (Projects 1-4), Dealesville Farm No 40, Tokologo Local Municipality.

You are kindly reminded that SAHRA does not accept hardcopies, emails or website links as submissions. Please submit an application on the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS). Please follow the step-by-step tutorial videos on the SAHRIS homepage (<http://sahra.org.za/sahris/>) and upload all documents to the case file.

Kind regards,

Ragna Redelstorff

Ragna Redelstorff, Ph.D.

Heritage Officer Archaeology, Palaeontology & Meteorites Unit

South African Heritage Resources Agency

· A nation united through heritage ·

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