



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: Nokusho Ngobeni
Tel:
Email: nngobeni@sahra.org.za
Case ID: 21386

Date: Tuesday, 14 November, 2023

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: LTM Green Energies (Pty) Ltd

Nemai Green (Nemai) was appointed by LTM Green Energies (Pty) Ltd to conduct the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Grootvlei 600MW Solar Plant, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and Grid Connection Project north west of Ventersdorp, in the North West Province.

A draft EIA was submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA EIA Regulations (As amended). The electricity generated by the Project will be transmitted through Option 1 which consists of 2 x 132kV powerlines, approximately 14km kilometres (km) in length, from the new facility 33kV substation to new 400/132kV Main Transmission Substation (MTS) to Loop In Loop Out (LILO) of the Pluto – Watershed 275kV power line and Option 2 that comprises of 2.8km 132 kV line from the new facility 33kV substation facility 33kV substation to the Makokskraal Substation.

Nitai Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed to conduct the heritage component of the EIA process.

Kitto, J. 2023. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Grootvlei 600MW Solar Plant, Battery Energy Storage Systems & Grid Connection Project, near Ventersdorp, JB Marks Local Municipality, North West Province

The proposed Grootvlei Solar PV project could impact on heritage resources as four heritage resources were identified within or adjacent to the project footprint area: two historical structure sites (Groot 01, Groot 04) and two archaeological sites (Groot 02, Groot 03). However, the Alternative layout has been adjusted to specifically avoid these heritage resources.

The recommendations below are provided to mitigate the potential impact of the proposed PV project on the identified heritage resources:

Historical Structures (Groot 01, Groot 04)

- A buffer of at least 20m (25m from the centre for the Kraal) must be placed around both sites to ensure

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that during construction there is no indirect impact, which could damage any structures;

- The materials demarcating the buffer must be highly visible and made of durable material;
- If any impact is anticipated, then a permit will be required for the alteration or destruction of any of the structures (from NW PHRA or SAHRA).

Archaeological material (Groot 02, Groot 03)

- A buffer of at least 30m must be placed around both sites to ensure that during construction there is no indirect impact, which could damage any archaeological material;
- The materials demarcating the buffer must be highly visible and made of durable material;
- If any impact is anticipated, then a permit will be required for the alteration or destruction of any of the structures (from SAHRA).

Butler, E. 2023. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Grootvlei 600MW Solar Plant, Battery Energy Storage Systems Project near Ventersdorp, JB Marks Local Municipality, North West Province

The proposed development footprint is entirely underlain by the Precambrian dolomites and associated marine sedimentary rocks of the Malmani Subgroup (Chuniespoort Group, Transvaal Supergroup). A site-specific field survey of the development footprint was conducted on foot and by motor vehicle on 31 May 2023 where outcrops of weathered stromatolites were discovered on the development. Stromatolites may be better preserved elsewhere in the area and thus mitigation is not suggested. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final EIAR:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Application Unit (DAU) has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations provided by the heritage specialists are supported and must be adhered to. There are no further additional comments;
- 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash

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concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA DAU (Nokusho Ngobeni/Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with this section of the NHRA is an offence in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;

- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA DAU (Nokusho Ngobeni/Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with this section of the NHRA is an offence in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
- The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

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

Yours faithfully

Nokusho Ngobeni

South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Natasha Higgitt
Manager: Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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.

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.org.za/node/253671>