



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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Tel: 0123208490
Email: BMotsodisa@sahra.org.za
Case ID: 20123

Date: Friday, 18 July, 2025

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)/In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Ecoleges Environmental Consultants has been appointed by Soventix South Africa (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed development of a 150 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility (known as Cluster 5) and associated infrastructure located on 129 Ha on the remainder of farm 149 (Good Hope) in the Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province.

A Draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include the development of an additional 100MW and the proposed development area will contain solar arrays with inverters and in-field transformers. The electricity will be distributed by underground cables and/or overhead lines to the switching yard on Cluster 3. Cluster 5 will utilise the bordering Cluster 3 infrastructure such as operations, maintenance building, switching yard and 132 kV overhead distribution lines.

APelser Archaeological Consulting has been appointed by Ecoleges Environmental Consultants to provide an assessment of the impact to heritage resources as per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Pelser, A. 2025. A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment Related to the development of Cluster 5, a 150 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm No. 149 (Good Hope) between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, For Soventix Business Development Africa (Pty) Ltd.

The author conducted a field survey in February 2024. Dense vegetation (shrub) cover in parts limited archaeological visibility on the ground.

No sites were identified by the author during the field survey.

The HIA recommends that a Chance Finds Protocol must be implemented.

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The SAHRA is not satisfied with the coverage of the conducted survey. SAHRA requests that a revised HIA be submitted with a more comprehensive survey completed.

A portion of the proposed development is located within an area of moderate and very high Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist. (See <https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html> for a list of qualified palaeontologists).

The Archaeological and Palaeontological Minimum Standards refer to a Letter of Recommendation for Exemption for further studies should the specialist deem it appropriate. SAHRA reserves the right to insist on a field-based assessment should the Letter of Recommendation not provide ample information to make an informed comment.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the revised HIA and the DEIR inclusive of appendices.

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

Yours faithfully

Boitshepo Motsodisa
Heritage Officer: Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency



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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.org.za/node/162308>