

## **Final Comment**

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

Attention: Mulilo Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 50  
CAPE TOWN  
7525

#### **Proposed Mulilo Photovoltaic (Solar) Energy Plant near Augrabies, Northern Cape**

Orton, J. and Webley, L. February 2012. *HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED AUGRABIES SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, KENHARDT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, NORTHERN CAPE*

Almond, J. February 2012. *PALAEONTOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT: RECOMMENDED EXEMPTION FROM FURTHER PALAEONTOLOGICAL STUDIES: Proposed Photovoltaic Solar Plant on the Farm Rooipad No. 15 near Augrabies, Northern Cape Province*

The above heritage reports were submitted for the proposed development of the Augrabies Solar PV Plant. The proposed PV facility will have an output of 10MW and will consist of an array of 3m high black panels covering 19.9ha. A 22kV power line will connect the facility to an existing 22kV power line that runs to Blouputs Substation. Existing farm tracks will be used and the facility will connect to the existing farm water pipeline infrastructure. Two alternative have been proposed for this development.

According to the HIA, the site proposed for development is situated along the southern border of the Augrabies Falls National Park. Much of the site is covered by a low density scatter of stone artefacts likely from the Middle Stone Age. A few concentrations of higher density artefacts were also identified, including the site RPD2011/001, which is located within the footprint of Site alternative 1.

Site RPD2011/003 represents a large, low density artefact scatter around a small koppie situated outside of the footprint of Site alternative 1. RPD2011/004 and 005 represents a similar scatter along the north eastern margin of the Site alternative 1 study area. These resources have moderate heritage significance.

A flat-roofed farm building (RPD2011/007) and an associated sheep dip (RPD2011/006) and modern grave (RPD2011/008) were identified outside of the primary footprint areas of both Site alternatives 1 and 2. The structure and sheep dip have low heritage significance. This grare dates to 1955 and therefore does fall within the mandate of the National Heritage Resources Act.

Site RPD2011/002 describes a large pile of stones that is likely to indicate the presence of a pre-colonial burial. This stone cairn therefore has high heritage significance.

According to the letter of exemption from conducting further studies from the palaeontologist, the study area is underlain by ancient Precambrian gneisses of the Namaqua-Natal Metamorphic Province. These gneisses are approximately 1.5 billion years old and are not fossiliferous. Superficial drift sediments may contain the occasional fossil however it is unlikely that significant palaeontological resources will be impacted by the proposed development.

## Final Comment

Based on the submitted information, SAHRA has no objection to the proposed development as it is unlikely that significant heritage resources will be impacted on condition that;

- Rocky ridges and prominent outcrops are not impacted by the proposed development. Should this not be possible, strong motivation for the destruction of known heritage resources must be provided to SAHRA and a Phase 2 mitigation excavation may be required.
- The structure and grave are not impacted by the proposed development. Any alterations or proposed demolition of structures older than 60 years are subject to a permit in terms of Section 34 of the NHRA.
- The stone cairn is not impacted or disturbed by the proposed development.
- Should any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, **stone artefacts**, **ostrich eggshell fragments**, marine shell and charcoal/ash concentrations), unmarked human burials, **fossils** or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed activities, SAHRA APM Unit (Jenna Lavin/Colette Scheermeyer 021 462 4502) must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary.

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

Yours faithfully



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Jenna Lavin  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency



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Colette Scheermeyer  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/137438>  
Edit view (DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/453)

**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.

