

SCOPING HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN TERMS OF SECTION 38(8) OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT, 1999 (ACT 25 OF 1999)

PROPOSED HOTAZEL SOLAR AND GRID CONNECTION ON REMAINING EXTENT (PORTION 0) OF THE FARM YORK A 279, DISTRICT OF HOTAZEL, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE



On behalf of: ABO WIND HOTAZEL PV (PTY) LTD

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REFERENCES and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Nilssen, P. (2018). *Phase 1a Archaeological Impact Assessment*. Proposed Hotazel Solar and Grid Connection on Remaining Extent (Portion 0) of the Farm York A 279, Portion 0 of Hotazel 280, Portion 11 of the Farm York A 279, and Portion 3 of the Farm York A 279, District of Hotazel, Northern Cape Province. Mossel Bay, pp.7-11.

Atlantic Energy Partners (2018). *Technical Layout Development Report For The Hotazel Solar Facility*. Cape Town, pp.1-8.

ABBREVIATIONS

1. NGSi – National Geo-Spatial Information, Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, Mowbray
2. HWC – Heritage Western Cape
3. NHRA - National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999)
4. HIA – Heritage Impact Assessment
5. HWC – Heritage Western Cape

1 INTRODUCTION

PERCEPTION Planning was appointed by *ABO Wind Hotazel PV (Pty) Ltd* to undertake an Integrated Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999) as part of a proposal to establish a commercial solar energy facility - currently referred to as Hotazel Solar - on the farm known as the Remaining Extent (Portion 0) of the farm York A 279, located within the Joe Morolong Local Municipality, which is part of John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. The entire property is about 636 ha in extent, while the affected portion of the property is approximately 275 ha in extent and is situated about 3.6km SE of the town of Hotazel in the Northern Cape Province. *This Scoping HIA serves as preliminary desktop study/ plan of study for scoping as input to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) currently underway and managed by Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd.*

2 STATEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE

With relation to the authors' appointment as an independent specialists responsible for the compilation of an Integrated Heritage Impact Assessment in terms of Section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999) for this project, it is hereby declared that the undersigned:

- Acts as an independent specialist in this application;
- Regards the information contained in this report as it relates to my specialist input/study to be true and correct;
- Have and will not have any vested interest in the proposed activity proceeding;
- Does not have and will not have any financial interest in the undertaking of the activity, other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the NEMA, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 and any specific environmental management Act;
- Have disclosed, to the applicant, EAP and competent authority, any material information that have or may have the potential to influence the decision of the competent authority or the objectivity of any report, plan or document required in terms of the NEMA, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 and any specific environmental management Act;
- Is fully aware of and meet the responsibilities in terms of NEMA, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (specifically in terms of regulation 13 of GN No. R. 982) and any specific environmental management Act, and that failure to comply with these requirements may constitute and result in disqualification;
- Is aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 of GN No. R. 982.

It is certified that SE de Kock has 21 years professional experience as urban planner (3 years of which were abroad) and 13 years professional experience as professional heritage practitioner. He is professionally registered/ affiliated as follows:

- Professional Heritage Practitioner (Association for Professional Heritage Practitioners)
- Professional Planner (South African Council for Planners, South African Planning Institute)

It is certified that GJR Narainne has 5 years professional experience as urban planner and 4 years professional experience as candidate heritage practitioner. He is professionally registered/ affiliated as follows:

- Candidate Heritage Practitioner (Association for Professional Heritage Practitioners)
- Candidate Planner (South African Council for Planners)

3 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA

3.1 Context

The irregular-shaped conceptual area (± 275 ha in extent) falls within the jurisdiction of the Joe Morolong Local Municipality, and is situated on farm known as the Remaining Extent (Portion 0) of the farm York A 279. From a broader context, the proposed development site is located about 3.6 km south-east of the town of Hotazel and some 50km NE of the Northern Cape town of Kuruman, in the province of the Northern Cape, as seen in Figure 1 below. Hotazel Solar facility is bound to the west and south by the R31 road while an unnamed district road runs immediately east of the eastern boundary. The Hotazel manganese mine is situated to the north as is undeveloped agricultural or rural land. The western extent of the property is truncated by the Hotazel to Sishen railway line.

The statement below was drafted by Dr. Peter Nilssen in the Scoping Archaeological Impact Assessment (2018:11):

"Topographically, the surroundings of Hotazel are essentially flat with minor undulation. The exceptions are the Ga-Mogara River some 5km to the west and the Kuruman River about 10 to 15km

to the NE. Vegetation is generally open, but not sparse, and consists of a cover of grass, bush, patches of swarthaak (*Acacia dentinens*) and a scatter of acacia trees”.

3.2 Current Access to the study area

Access to the study area is via the R31, towards to the north, then south-west still along the R31.



Figure 1: Location of property and proposed site in relation to Hotazel and direct environs (Source: GoogleEarth)

3.3 Surrounding Land Uses

The surrounding land use includes manganese mining and associated village of Hotazel, agricultural, rural and undeveloped. Recent human related disturbances to the environment include mining, roads (R31), railway line, vehicle tracks, fencing and overhead power lines. Natural disturbances include animal tracks and burrowing by large and small mammals.

4 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

Hotazel Solar is to consist of solar photovoltaic (PV) technology with fixed, single or double axis tracking mounting structures, with a net generation (contracted) capacity of 100 MW, as well as associated infrastructure, which will include:

- On-site switching-station / substation;
- Auxiliary buildings (gate-house and security, control centre, office, warehouse, canteen & visitors centre, staff lockers etc.);
- Inverter-stations, transformers and internal electrical reticulation (underground cabling);
- Access and internal road network;
- Laydown area;
- Overhead 132kV electrical distribution line / grid connection connecting to the Hotazel Substation, or to connect with a loop-in-loop-out of the 132kV under construction on the site boundary;
- Rainwater tanks; and
- Perimeter fencing and security infrastructure.

However it is customary to develop the final / detailed construction layout of the SEF only once an Independent Power Producer (IPP) is awarded a successful bid under the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP), after which major contracts are negotiated and final equipment suppliers identified. However, the purpose of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) should be in accordance with the minimum requirements prescribed by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), and two alternative layouts have been identified- as presented below:

Layout Alternative 1 constitutes a preliminary layout area within the initial/ conceptual area restricted to the east of the Property.



Figure 2: Layout Alternative 1 (Source: Atlantic Energy Partners, 2018)

Layout Alternative 2 includes a bit more sensitive habitat in the west with a higher abundance of *Acacia haematoxylon*, however it would have a shorter grid connection to the Hotazel substation.



Figure 3: Layout Alternative 2 (Source: Atlantic Energy Partners, 2018)

The ecologist advised that the far west and far eastern sides of the site should be avoided as these areas have a high tree density.

5 METHODOLOGY

Compilation of the Integrated HIA report for the proposed development activity (including relevant development alternatives), will include the professional inputs from the following specialist reports sanctioned as part of the HIA process:

- Basic archival background research, Cultural landscape assessment, Built environment analysis and assimilating inputs from various specialist report (*Perception Planning, S. de Kock*);

- Archaeological Impact Assessment (*Dr. Peter Nilssen*);
- Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment (*Natura Viva, Dr. J. Almond*);
- Visual Scoping Assessment Specialist Report (*VRM Africa*).

The Integrated HIA, which will be submitted to the relevant competent authorities in due course, will contribute to the overall EIA process through the following professional inputs/ components:

- Field work carried out by various specialists;
- Liaison with project manager, environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) and various specialist consultants;
- Assimilating findings and recommendations emanating from specialist inputs into HIA;
- Identification of heritage-related issues and concerns;
- Analysis of development site and its environs;
- Identification of contextual spatial informants;
- Establishing cultural significance, based on criteria set out in NHRA;
- Identification of heritage-related design informants based on the above;
- Focused public participation process (PPP) aimed at soliciting heritage-related comments (to be coordinated with PPP to be managed by EAP);
- Address outcomes from focussed public participation process, if any;
- Assess conformity of final proposed site layout to design informants identified;
- Submission to competent authority.

6 RECOMMENDATION

Having regard to the above, it is recommended that an Integrated Heritage Impact Assessment, including the various professional inputs set out in Section 5 of this report, be undertaken and submitted to the relevant competent authorities for adjudication.

PERCEPTION Planning

25th June 2018

SE DE KOCK

Hons (TRP) EIA Mgmt (IRL) PrPln PHP

GJR NARAINNE

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