

Our Ref : 16117-Let-001

18 January 2018

South African Heritage Resources Agency
111 Harrington Street
Cape Town
8001

Attention : Ms Natasha Higgitt

Dear Ms Higgitt

SAHRA CASE ID 11967: UPGRADE OF 66KV POWERLINE NETWORK IN KURUMAN AREA, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Your letter dated 15 December 2017 and telephonic discussion between the undersigned and Ms Higgitt on 17 January 2018 has reference. The following points were discussed:

1. Eskom is currently undertaking construction of power line infrastructure in a green zone (moderate sensitivity) as per the palaeontological sensitivity map available on the SAHRIS website, and moving towards the blue zone (low sensitivity). An excerpt of the sensitivity map indicating the position of construction activities next to the R31 between the towns of Hotazel and Kuruman.



Figure 1: Location of current construction activities

2. The main concern regarding the possible impact on palaeontological resources are excavations that must be undertaken for the base of each power line tower structure. It was furthermore confirmed that sensitive geological outcrops were of concern and has to be avoided as far as possible or monitored during construction, if it could not be avoided.
3. A further concern was raised by Ms Higgitt that due to the fact very limited knowledge of the underlying geology is available to SAHRA, no informed decision could be reached on the palaeontological sensitivity within the green and blue zones. This was the basis of the recommendation to undertake monitoring during construction and undertake a palaeontological walkdown of the remaining powerline route.
4. Eskom has committed to undertake the required actions to ensure palaeontological resources are protected. As such Eskom propose to appoint a palaeontological specialist immediately to undertake an assessment of the area under construction and monitor current construction activities. The appointed palaeontologist would furthermore undertake a walkdown of the power line alignment to identify any sensitive areas that could be avoided and monitored during construction.
5. Eskom endeavoured to provide interm feedback on the assessment of the area under construction as soon as the palaeontologist has inspected the area. A full report relating to the findings of the palaeontological walkdown would also be uploaded to SAHRIS for assessment by SAHRA once completed.

We trust that the points above correctly reflect our understanding of the points discussed with Ms Higgitt and look forward to feedback from SAHRA in order for Eskom to implement the proposed actions as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully



Mathys Vosloo
ZITHOLELE CONSULTING (PTY) LTD



Shandre Laven

Attachments : None

Mathys Vosloo

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