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| 12 December 2011 |  |  |
| **7.1 RIM Old**  **Power Station (Village**  **PowerStation)** Mrs.Sonja Warnich-Stemmet | Mr. Ron Viney introduced the matter of the Old PowerStation on Robben Island. He indicated that it was to be used as storage for the RIM. The space is to be climate-controlled hence the submission with its related changes such as the introduction of a concrete floor and a partial mezzanine level. In his presentation he indicated that the building was the subject of a number of changes over time. The building had some changes done in 1970 with the addition of the transformer room. The role of the PowerStation was as backup electricity supply to the maximum security prison. A tracing, dated 1963, done by the Public Works Department showed some ground floor level detail. The double volume internal space of the building allows for the introduction of a partial mezzanine floor. In execution of the work the engineers are proposing to remove a number of features such as a number of internal trenches which were used to house a series of channels that lead to the cooling ponds next to the building. The existing floor will thus be demolished and a new floor, approximately 250 mm lower than the current one, cast. In order to facilitate the mezzanine the number of columns are to be reduced and columns, 600X600, introduced. The column bases will be below the surface It also appears that there was tentative information regarding the presence of a gantry within the building. The key question that arose was what the actual significance of the building was. It appears that the electricity had been done for over 50 years hence the building together with the related content amounted to an issue of industrial heritage. Concerns were raised in regard to the retention of at least one of the channels which appears to be problematic. A further concern was the introduction of climate controlling raising the issue of location of air-conditioning equipment. Concern was expressed that the removal of a whole floor and used as footing became problematic as it was seen as overdesign, economically unviable and deleterious to the heritage resource identified as of industrial heritage significance. A further concern was whether the building was of adequate size to accommodate the material. It was then suggested that a proposal has been put forward to use an additional dwelling, adjacent to the PowerStation as administrative office.  | **Comment**The committee is unable to support the removal of large scale material as footing for the proposed mezzanine. It was further felt that accommodation for the air-conditioning plant and related climate control be placed in the roof or clerestory. There is also concern vis-à-vis the requirement for differing storing conditions and how this is to be handled.It was also felt that the introduction of a contemporary industrial language in regard to the mezzanine and its undergirding structure should be explored.  |