



Final Comment

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

Attention: Iliso Consulting (Pty) Ltd
P.O. Box 68735
Highveld
0169

Eskom applied and was issued with a positive Environmental Authorisation (EA) in April 2011 for the construction of the Steelpoort to Wolwekraal 400 kV Powerline. Subsequent to the authorisation, Eskom renamed the project to Tubatse to Marblehall (Silimela) 400 kV Powerline. One of the conditions of the EA was that Eskom must appoint specialists to conduct walkthroughs along the line and update the Construction Environmental Management Programme (CEMP), which would be submitted for approval by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). One of the findings of the walkthroughs was that Eskom would need permits for possible impacts on some heritage sites along the line.

Van Schalkwyk, J. (May 2009). Heritage Impact Scoping Report for the Proposed Eskom Highveld North, West Lowveld Strentghening Project, Mpumalanga and Limpopo Provinces

Van Schalkwyk, J. (December 2012). Compilation of Construction Environmental Management Programmes for the Steelpoort to Marbelhall 400kv Power-Line and the Steelpoort Integration Project: Heritage Resources Assessment

Van Schalkwyk, J. (January 2013). Compilation of Construction Environmental Management Programmes for the Steelpoort to Marbelhall 400kv Power-Line and the Steelpoort Integration Project: Heritage Resources Assessment

Environmental Authorisation was granted in 2011 for the construction of a 400kV power line from Steelpoort to Marblehall. One of the conditions of authorisation required Eskom to appoint a heritage specialist to conduct a final walkthrough of the proposed power line route in order to update the Construction Environmental Management Plan. This Environmental Authorisation was based on an HIA completed in 2009 (above). It is unclear whether SAHRA commented on this report before EA was granted.

The required walkthrough was conducted in December 2012. The above report identified a number of archaeological resources including a number of formal and informal cemeteries and burials. All of these are located inside the power line corridor, or very close to it. The report identified an old farmstead of low heritage significance, however graves are likely to occur in the vicinity of this farmstead. The report also identified a number of Late Iron Age stone walled sites along the corridor route. Most of these stone walled sites are unlikely to be directly impacted by the proposed development however a few require additional mitigation.



Tubatse to Marblehall (Silimela) 400 kV Powerline

Our Ref: 16/1/5/9 Tubatse to Marblehall Powerline



Enquiries: Jenna Lavin
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CaseID: 2225

Date: Friday May 10, 2013
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T/Site 06 is a stone walled initiation site that presented evidence of having been used in the recent past. This site will be directly impacted by Tower 84. No evidence was provided to SAHRA of consultation with the community regarding the impact of the proposed development on this site. T/Site 15 is close to the proposed location of Tower 188. The position of this tower will likely impact this archaeological site. At T/Site 12, 13 and 14, the report indicated the presence of a large stone walled settlement including agricultural terracing, spanning approximately 400x500m. This site has high archaeological significance. The Steelpoort Substation was proposed for this location.

Due to the significance of the archaeological site at T/Site 12, 13 and 14, Eskom proposed to move the location of the Steelpoort Substation a few 100m to the north to mitigate the impact of the proposed development. This new location was investigated in the report dated January 2013. Some Late Iron Age stone walling occurs in the vicinity of the new location for the substation, however this occurs mostly in the west of the site.

Comment

SAHRA has no objection to the proposed development of the 400kV power line along the identified route and SAHRA has no objection to the development of the proposed Steelpoort Substation at the location identified in the January 2013 report on condition that;

- The identified formal and informal cemeteries and burials remain *in situ* and are not impacted by the proposed development. All of these sites must be marked with danger tape during construction activities and a 10m buffer of no development is required around these sites.
- A 50m buffer of no development is required around the identified old farmstead
- The mitigation measures proposed for the stone walled sites included in the above December 2012 and January 2013 reports are applied. This includes demarcating stone walled sites with danger tape and applying a buffer zone of between 10m and 50m where appropriate.
- Tower 188 be moved so that it no longer impacts site T/Site 15.
- Tower 84 be moved so that it no longer impacts site T/Site 06. Consultation with the affected community is required regarding the impact of the powerline and tower on site T/Site 06. Archaeological monitoring is required for construction activities for the Steelpoort Substation. A monitoring report must be submitted to SAHRA once construction is completed.

Should it not be possible to adhere to the above conditions, the applicant must consult with SAHRA regarding the reasons for non-compliance. We look forward to hearing from you.

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



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Yours faithfully

Jenna Lavin
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/118781>
(DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/1341)

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.



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