



Free State
Provincial Heritage Resources Authority

Ref: S38(8)-Viljoenskroon-Eskom(1)

Enquiries: Ms N Mbatha

Date: 6 June 2017

Interim Comment

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

Attention: Eskom - FSOU

Cc: Natanya Whitehorn (Aurecon)

Lynette Herbst (Aurecon)

Basic Assessment for Environmental Authorisation for the construction and strengthening of Eskom infrastructure in the Viljoenskroon area

Eskom Distribution (Free State Operating Unit) proposes various infrastructure activities in the Viljoenskroon area. The activities are associated with network strengthening, refurbishment and electrification. Two general work packages are planned to be undertaken, triggering two listed activities under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (GN R 982 of 2014) and associated Listing Notice (LN) (GN R 983).

A BAR as well as the following heritage report were submitted to Heritage Free State:

Archaeological Scoping Study: Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed line from Viljoenskroon Munic Substation to Senwesco Substation in the Free State Province.

Interim Comment

Heritage Free State has reviewed the aforementioned heritage report and found it lacking in both quality and quantity of sufficient information to make an informed decision on the impact the proposed activities might have on our local heritage. We accordingly require the following:

1. A fully revised heritage impact assessment report that meets the required minimum standards for archaeological reporting¹;
2. The report must include the results of a site inspection that covers at minimum the entire area within the buffer zone of the development area as indicated in the BAR, and not only certain points as in the submitted heritage report.
3. The background history must contain sufficient information on the local area for the reviewer of the report to come to a reasonable conclusion on potential heritage in the immediate area of the development and the potential impact of the latter thereon.
4. The heritage report should be a complete and independent unit in and of itself without the need for the reader to consult external reports or documents for vital information on the project, e.g. nature and footprint of the development, etc.
5. The report should include the following professional information of the person(s) who conducted the field research as well as the author of the report:
 - a. ASAPA registration number
 - b. Abbreviated CV
 - c. Declaration of independence

Heritage Free State welcomes all suitably qualified heritage specialists to conduct contractual research in the Free State, with the understanding that reports should reflect a sound knowledge of the history and geography (two vital components in identifying potential heritage) of this province, in particular of the areas that are reported on. Reports of poor professional quality will be reported to the relevant professional body.

Yours sincerely



LOUDINE PHILIP

Heritage Free State: Chief Archaeologist

¹ Minimum Standards: Archaeological and palaeontological components of impact assessment reports [SAHRA]