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Case ID: 9599

To whom it may concern
SAHRA
P O Box 4637
Cape Town 8001

Dear Sir

**RE: Palaeontological Impact Assessment for proposed power line routes
southeast of Delmas, Mpumalanga Province**

On behalf of Jones and Wagener, the designated independent EAP for KiPower (Pty) Ltd, this letter serves to confirm that *no palaeontological impact assessment is required* for the project because the area is not listed as sensitive on the SAHRIS sensitivity map (grey colour), and furthermore the excavations for foundations for the power line towers will not penetrate beyond a few meters below surface. In the area between Delmas and Leandra the uppermost coal seam is more than 20m below surface and is overlain by sandstones and dolerites which are not fossiliferous.

Background (from Jones and Wagener document: F311 D1b Updated ENG BID)
KiPower (Pty) Ltd is a subsidiary of Kuyasa Mining (Pty) Ltd and was granted an Environmental Authorisation to construct and operate a 600 MW Independent Power Producer (IPP) coal-fired power station located approximately 20 km to the south-east of the town of Delmas, Mpumalanga Province on 21 October 2015. The proposed IPP power plant requires two 400 kV loop-in and loop-out power lines to connect to the national Eskom power grid. Eskom advised KiPower that the only feasible power line available to connect the power plant to the national grid is the Matla-Glockner 400 kV power line, located approximately 24 km to the south east of the approved power plant. Therefore, in order to connect the proposed power plant to the grid, the loop-in and loop-out 400 kV power lines have to be constructed between the approved power plant and the existing Matla-Glockner 400 kV power line.

Four alternative 1 km wide corridors and a wider study area are being investigated during this Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The average length of the alternatives is around 28 km and the corridors traverse mining properties and

commercial farms. A 400 kV transmission line comprises of a series of pylons, also called towers, with an average height of 40 meters and a 55 m wide servitude (27.5 m on either side of the centre line). Since there will be two power lines, a 110 m wide servitude will be required. A 1 km wide corridor is assessed for each of the four alternatives, as well as a broader study area, although only a 110 m wide servitude is required.

Geology and Palaeontology

The area is within the Witbank Coalfield and there are up to five coal seams well below the surface. The coal seams are in the Vryheid Formation (*Glossopteris* flora but no known vertebrate fossils associated) and are capped by sandstones and dolerites. From published borehole cores it has been confirmed that the uppermost seam, No5, is very thin and is more than 20m below the surface (Snyman, 1998). Fossils within coal itself are of very little scientific value because they are compressed, altered and unidentifiable. Leaf impressions may occur in the shales between coal seams.

Recommendation

Since the coal and potential fossils are well below the surface, and the foundations for the pylons or towers are not likely to penetrate more than 2-4m below the surface, there is NO likelihood of affecting any fossils potentially occurring there. Therefore no palaeontological impact assessment is required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Bamford', with a horizontal line underneath.

Prof Marion Bamford
Palaeobotanist: PhD 1990, Wits.