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South African Heritage Resources Agency
111 Harrington Street
Cape Town
8001

04 August, 2016

Our Ref: **F311**
Your Ref: 9599

F311_SAHRA_Response_LET_rB_sbob_20160802

Attention: Ms Nokukhanya Khumalo

Dear Madam

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED MATLA-GLOCKNER LOOP-IN AND LOOP-OUT 400 KV TRANSMISSION LINES TO CONNECT THE KIPOWER INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCER (IPP) POWER PLANT TO THE NATIONAL GRID

DEA REF NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/876/ SAHRA CASE ID: 9599

Jones & Wagener (Pty) Ltd Engineering and Environmental Consultants (J&W) acknowledges your letter dated 05 July 2016, regarding the proposed Matla-Glockner loop-in and loop-out 400 kV transmission lines to connect the KiPower Independent Power Producer (IPP) power plant to the national grid. Please find below J&W's responses to comments made by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

1.1 Mitigating impacts on heritage resources

All heritage artefacts that have been identified as indicated in the Heritage Report that are found to be within or surrounding the approved corridor will be monitored for vandalism, removal or possible damage as a result of the construction of the power lines. The SAHRA will be contacted in the event of any further heritage findings, or if the relocation or protection of resources is needed. Conditions regarding mitigation of impacts on heritage resources have been included in the Environmental Management Programme.

1.2 Palaeontological Impact Assessment

In response to your comment for a need to conduct a Palaeontological Impact Assessment, J&W appointed Professor Marion Bamford, a Palaeobotanist, from the University of the Witwatersrand to assess the palaeontological resources at a desktop level and indicate the need for Palaeontological Impact Assessment. The findings from the desktop study are detailed below.

1.2.1 Geology and Palaeontology

The power line project 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, No 5, is very thin and is more than 20 m below the surface (Snyman, 1998). Fossils within coal itself are of very little

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scientific value because they are compressed, altered and unidentifiable. Leaf impressions may occur in the shales between coal seams.

1.2.2 Palaeontological 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. Please refer to the attached letter from Professor Bamford.

1.3 **Way forward**

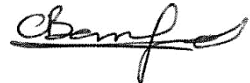
As the findings of the palaeontologist indicated that in this project area, the risk of uncovering fossil bearing rocks is low the Final Environmental Impact Report FEIR will be submitted to the SAHRA for final comment and the DEA for approval of the project. The palaeontological assessment will be attached to the FEIR and will be made available to stakeholders along with the FEIR.

Please contact us should you have any queries

Yours faithfully



Sibongile Bambisa
for Jones & Wagener



Olivia Bamford

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Document template: corLet_16r4_50year