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06 August 2015
Your ref: 8026

Ms Nokukhanya Khumalo
SAHRA
P O Box
Cape Town 8000

Dear Ms Khumalo

**RE: CaseID: 8026 Grootpan-Brakfontein re-alignment of Power lines -
Palaeontological Impact Assessment**

As requested by Royal Haskoning DHV, I have completed a Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment for their client Eskom Holdings (SoC) Pty Ltd (Eskom Distribution – Mpumalanga Operating Unit). They propose to dismantle a portion of an existing double-circuit power line and construct two (2) 7 km 88 kV (Loopin-Loop out) overhead power lines within a 2 km corridor between Grootpan and Brakfontein near Ogies Mpumalanga Province.

Eskom Holdings (SOC) is proposing to construct two 88KV (Loop-in-Loop-out) LILO power lines that are intended to be 7km in length within a 2km corridor between the areas of Grootpan and Brakfontein, located on the farms Kleinzuikerboschplaat 5 IS, Zondagsvlei 9 IS and Klipfontein 3 IS, Emalahleni Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. Also the developer intends to dismantle an existing 88KV power lines in the GlencoreXstrata mine area.

Findings from Phase 1 PIA:

In this part of the Vryheid Formation, Witbank coal area, the uppermost seam is around 45m below the surface, and if any fossil plants are associated with this coal seam they will be either just above or just below this coal seam. Foundations for the pylons will not penetrate to this depth so any fossil material will not be impacted upon. There are no records of fossils from this area in the published literature or in the unpublished

database of the evolutionary studies Institute, University of the Witwatersrand. Although the SAHRIS sensitivity map indicates that this area is red, i.e. highly sensitive, this particular construction will not harm or destroy the fossil heritage.

Recommendation

As far as the palaeontological heritage is concerned this proposed project may continue and no further palaeontological impact assessments are required. If, in the extremely unlikely event that fossils are discovered during any excavations, then a palaeontologist should be called to review and possibly rescue them.

Yours sincerely

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

Prof Marion Bamford
Head of Division: Palaeoenvironments
Evolutionary Studies Institute
President: Palaeontological Society of Southern Africa