

Ms. Annlin Matabane  
Burial Grounds Graves: Intern  
South African Heritage Resources Agency  
432 Paul Kruger Street  
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0001

Date:  
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Enquiries:  
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Dear Ms. Matabane

### **EROS VUYANE NEPTUNE 400kV TRANSMISSION POWERLINE: MOTIVATION FOR A HERITAGE PERMIT TO UNDERTAKE GRAVE RELOCATIONS**

The above – mentioned powerline is currently operational in the Eastern Cape province and it was part of the strengthening scheme for the province. As part of the construction process for the powerline, Eskom had to undertake household relocations for the houses affected by the servitude of the line. Culturally some households had graves in the backyard and expressed that relocation of their homes must also take into account the graves. Eskom appointed Envirolution Consulting in 2016 to undertake the grave relocation process. As part of this process, the Heritage Specialist (Jaco van der Walt) applied for a Heritage permit which was issued in 2017 with a validity period of one (1) year (refer to Case ID: 10255).

Eskom was supposed to complete the grave relocations in September 2018 in order to comply with the permit. Unfortunately due to procurement issues the main contracting partner was blocked by CSD and Eskom could not effect payments for the grave relocation process to Envirolution Consulting. Eskom has since resolved the procurement matters and have paid Envirolution Consulting the grave relocations fees in November 2018. At the time of payment the original permit had expired and the relocation process could not be undertaken.

Efforts to try and get the permits renewed by the original Heritage specialist proved to be fruitless as he mentioned he could not get hold of SAHRA. There was no progress on the renewal of the permit which led to the project team making a decision to appoint NGT Consulting to undertake the permit application / renewal. The delays in finalising the permit application by the previous specialist and the subsequent relocation of the graves are continuing to negatively impact the relationship between Eskom and the affected households. The delays have further led to the families reporting Eskom to the media (SABC radio journalists). NGT Consulting have worked on several grave relocation processes for Eskom and we are confident they will be able to finalise the process.

We hereby recommend that the permit renewal be approved so as to enable Eskom to complete the process for relocating the graves. Finalisation of this matter will help restore the relationship between Eskom and the affected households. It is envisaged that as soon as the permit is received Envirolution will expedite the payment of the wake fees, re-burial costs, etc as they have been paid already and there is no anticipation of further delays.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annah Kawadza', with a stylized initial 'A'.

Annah Kawadza

**PROGRAMME MANAGER (ACTING): LAND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**