



Letter

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

Attention: Ms Sally Titlestad
Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions
PO Box 4106
Midrand
1686

Proposed Eskom Gamma-Kappa 2nd 765kV Transmission Powerlines

Thank you for your indication that development is to take place in this area.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999, heritage resources, including archaeological or palaeontological sites over 100 years old, graves older than 60 years, structures older than 60 years are protected. They may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. This means that before such sites are disturbed by development it is incumbent on the developer (or mine) to ensure that a **Heritage Impact Assessment** is done. This must include the archaeological component (Phase 1) and any other applicable heritage components. Appropriate (Phase 2) mitigation, which involves recording, sampling and dating sites that are to be destroyed, must be done as required.

Decision:

Based on the information contained in the Notification of Intent to Develop received by SAHRA, it is apparent that the sections of the Northern Cape Province through which the above transmission line crosses have a relatively high archaeological sensitivity. Consequently, there is reasonable cause to believe that the implementation of the Gamma – Kappa 2 765 kV transmission line may impact negatively upon archaeological heritage resources along these particular sections. It is noted in the NID that a Heritage Impact Assessment, inclusive of an Archaeological and Palaeontological Impact Assessment, will be compiled. These reports should assess a corridor of no less than 4km, however, as most of the alignment falls within the Western Cape, the corridor specified by Heritage Western Cape should be adhered to for the Northern Cape portions as well.

The Phase 1 Impact Assessment Report will identify the archaeological sites and assess their significance. It should also make recommendations (as indicated in section 38) about the process to be followed. For example, there may need to be a mitigation phase (Phase 2) where the specialist will collect or excavate material and date the site. At the end of the process the heritage authority may give permission for destruction of the sites.

Where bedrock is to be affected, or where there are coastal sediments, or marine or river terraces and in potentially fossiliferous superficial deposits, a Palaeontological study must be undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon palaeontological resources - or at least a letter of exemption from a





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Palaeontologist is needed to indicate that this is unnecessary. If the area is deemed sensitive, a full Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be required and if necessary a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary. (See www.palaeontologicalsociety.co.za for a list of accredited Palaeontologists).

Any other heritage resources that may be impacted such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewscapes must also be assessed.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Kathryn Smuts
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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