



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 11301

Date: Wednesday November 21, 2018
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Interim Comment

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

Attention: NGT Consulting (Pty) Ltd

No. 2 Windsor Place
Princesses Avenue
Randburg
2194

Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed Sorata-Witsieshoek 132 Power Transmission Line, in Phutadithjaba, Free State Province

The proposed project entails the construction of a new 30km long 132kV distribution powerline from the existing Sorata Switching Station to Witsies Substation, located within Phuthaditjhaba in the Free State Province. Two different route options are suggested in the BAR. An HIA was submitted with the application. In an interim comment from 20 July 2018, SAHRA reviewed the HIA and requested an amendment thereof, to include more detailed maps that mark the precise locations of each of the identified heritage sites, the tracklog from the survey and detailed mapping for all the stone walled sites. In addition, SAHRA requested a Heritage Management Plan (HMP) and monitoring plans to be developed and submitted to SAHRA once the layout is finalised, as well as a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA). A PIA was uploaded subsequently, together with the final BAR and draft EMP.

GROENEWAALD, G. 2017. PHASE 1 PALAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND "CHANCE FIND PROTOCOL" FOR THE PROPOSED SORATA –WITSIESHOEK (ESKOM HOLDINGS (PTY) LTD) POWER LINE CONSTRUCTION, MALUTI-A-PHOFUNG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, THABO MOFUTSANYANE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE.

The proposed area is underlain by sedimentary rocks of the Normandien Formation (Adelaide Subgroup), the Katberg and Burgersdorp Formations (Tarkastad Subgroup, Beaufort Group) as well as unfossiliferous igneous dolerite of the Drakensberg Group (Karoo Supergroup). They are mantled by Quaternary alluvium.

Significant plant, vertebrate and invertebrate trace fossils are known to occur in the study area and a survey revealed the presence of highly significant trackways of fossils. The potential for finding significant fossils in the Normandien, Katberg and Burgersdorp Formations is very high, and moderate in the Quaternary alluvium.

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Recommendations:

The EAP and ECO must be informed of the very high and moderate Palaeontological in the respective sections of the development A short information session must be arranged to inform the site managers and ECO of the fossils that might be expected.

A professional palaeontologist must be appointed to inspect the site during the very first week of construction and then at least once a month during the on-going weeks of excavation for the infrastructure and a "Chance Find Protocol" document (CFP, included with this report) must be updated on a monthly basis for the duration of the excavation activities.

If fossils are recorded, the appointed palaeontologist must inspect all areas where excavation of deeper than 1,5m is made into sediments of Normandien, Katberg and Burgersdorp Formations.

These recommendations must be included in the EMPr of this project.

Interim comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has reviewed the PIA and endorses the recommendations therein. However, SAHRA will only issue a final comment when the amended HIA, as requested in the interim comment from 20 July 2018, has been submitted.

For built environment, the provincial heritage authority Heritage Free State (HFS) please contact Ms. Loudine Philip (loudinep@gmail.com).

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

Yours faithfully

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Ragna Redelstorff
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/405420>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/795)

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.