



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 11943

Date: Monday November 27, 2017
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Final Comment

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

Attention: Eskom - FSOU

Proposed 132 kV powerline from Melkspruit Substation, in Aliwal North, Walter Sisulu Local Municipality, Free State to Rouxville Substation in Rouxville, Mohokare Local Municipality, Free State Province.

The proposed project entails the development of a 132kV powerline from Melkspruit Substation in Aliwal North, Eastern Cape Province, to Rouxville Substation, Free State Province, as a replacement of the existing 66kV line. A draft BAR and draft EMPR, HIA and PIA were submitted with the application.

It must be noted that SAHRA will only comment on the Free State section of the proposed development. Separate comments for the Eastern Cape section have to be requested from ECPHRA.

Rossouw, L. 2017. Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment of a proposed new Eskom 132kV power line between the Rouxville substation in the Free State Province and the Melkspruit substation in Aliwal North, Eastern Cape Province.

The author found no evidence of intact Stone Age localities or artifacts, prehistoric structures or remains, rock art, graves, graveyards or historically significant structures older than 60 years within or in the immediate vicinity of the linear footprint. Several historical ruins, one small graveyard and two Voortrekker Centenary memorials recorded during the survey will not be impacted by the proposed development. The area is degraded by previous or current farming activities. Both routes are regarded as of low archaeological significance and are assigned a rating of Generally Protected.

Butler, E. 2017. Palaeontological Impact Assessment of the Proposed Eskom 132kV Powerline from Melkspruit Substation in Aliwal North within Walter Sisulu Local Municipality in Eastern Cape Province to Rouxville Substation within Mohokare Local Municipality in the Free State Province.

The proposed area is underlain by sediments of the Middle Triassic Katberg and Burgersdorp Formations (Tarkastad Subgroup, Beaufort Group, Karoo Supergroup), well known for their abundance of fossils (*Lystrosaurus* and *Cynognathus* Assemblage Zone), unfossiliferous Karoo dolerite as well as Late Cenozoic superficial deposits. A Chance Finds Procedure was included. A medium palaeontological sensitivity is

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allocated to the development footprint as a few isolated loose and poorly preserved fossil fragments were observed.

Recommendations:

No further palaeontological heritage studies are required.

Should fossil remains be discovered during any phase of construction, either on the surface or exposed by fresh excavations, the ECO responsible for these developments should be alerted immediately. Such discoveries ought to be protected (preferably *in situ*) and the ECO should alert SAHRA so that appropriate mitigation (e.g. recording, sampling or collection) can be taken by a professional paleontologist.

Final comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objection against the proposed development. The following conditions must be adhered to and must be incorporated into the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for implementation:

1. Should any objects of archaeological or palaeontological remains be found during construction activities, work must immediately stop in that area and the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) must be informed.
2. The ECO must inform the South African Heritage Recourse Agency (SAHRA) and contact an archaeologist and/or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the find, to assess the importance and rescue them if necessary (with the relevant SAHRA permit). No work may be resumed in this area without the permission from the ECO and SAHRA.
3. If the newly discovered heritage resource is considered significant a Phase 2 assessment may be required. A permit from the responsible heritage authority will be needed.
4. The Chance Finds Procedures must be implemented ensure that standard protocols and steps are followed should any heritage and/or fossil resources be uncovered during all phases of the project. These procedures should outline the steps and reporting structure to be followed in the instance that heritage resources are found. This must be included in the Environmental Awareness Plan.

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5. The final EIA and appendices must be submitted to SAHRA upon submission to DEA. Should the project be granted Environmental Authorisation, SAHRA must be notified and all relevant documents submitted to the case file.

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

Yours faithfully

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/415907>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1847)

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.