



Final Comment

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

Attention: Ms Ria Pretorius
Texture Environmental Consultants
P.O. Box 36593
Menlo Park
0102

Basic Assessment Report: Eskom Camcoll-Jericho 88kV line

Fourie, H. June 2012. Eskom Camcoll-Jericho 88kV line

SAHRA received a letter from a palaeontologist regarding the palaeontological sensitivity of the abovementioned project. Since this letter does not meet the minimum requirements for a Desktop study, SAHRA considers this to be a preliminary study which will need to be followed by further assessments.

The assessment was conducted for the proposed construction of the 45 km Camcoll-Jericho Power line. Alternatives 1 and 2 were considered. The project entails the following:

- Construct an 88 kV chickadee line from the existing Camcoll Substation to the existing Jericho Substation;
- establish 1 x 88Kv feeder bay at Camcoll Substation;
- establish 1 x 88kV feeder bay at Jericho Substation;
- construct an access/ construction road of 8 meters wide for the line;
- obtain a servitude area of 31metres wide for the line.

The project area is underlain by mainly sandstones, shale, coal belonging to the Vryheid Formation of the Ecca Group and dolerite. The specialist notes that the sensitivity of the Karoo Supergroup, of which the Ecca group is part, is rated as moderate to high.

The construction of an 8m wide road may lead to exposure, damage, disturbance, or destruction of valuable Ecca fossils, mainly plants and trace fossils and therefore the author indicated that it may be necessary to do a Phase 1 PIA to determine if the planting of the pylons and the construction of the road will impact on palaeontological material. Considering this recommendations, it is unclear why a Phase 1 was not undertaken during this stage of the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

Decision:

SAHRA recommends that a Phase 1 PIA is undertaken before the development may proceed. This must include a physical survey of the construction of roads and the positions of the pylons. SAHRA further supports the recommendation that Alternative 1 be chosen for the proposed project since this seems to have the least impact on palaeontological resources.





Enquiries: Phillip Hine
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: phine@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 164

Date: Thursday October 04, 2012

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Please note that the current report does not provide a good description of the proposed project or the palaeontological sequence of the project area. The report also contains no geological map which is a minimum requirement for palaeontological assessments.

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

Yours faithfully



Phillip Hine
Heritage Officer



Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
(DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/2650)

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.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

Street Address: 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town 8000 * Postal Address: PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000
* Tel: +27 21 462 4502 * Fax: +27 21 462 4509 * Web: <http://www.sahra.org.za>