

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
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CaseID: 10024

Date: Tuesday November 01, 2016
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Final Comment

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

Attention: Eskom Distribution Division

Power lines: Construction of 2 x 400kV power lines from the Orange River to Oranjemund Substation – approximately 2km of which a 3 km wide corridor are being investigated and authorised Substation: The construction of a new substation adjacent to the existing Oranjemund Substation The footprint of the existing substation site is 2,5ha. An additional 4 hectares is required. Final footprint will be 6,5ha

Landscape Dynamics was appointed by Eskom to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application process for the proposed Kudu-Oranjemund Project located near Alexander Bay, Northern Cape Province. A draft Scoping Report has been completed terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014. The proposed development will include the upgrading of the existing Oranjemund MTS Substation with the construction of a 400kV yard (final footprint of 6.5 ha, installing a 315MVA 400/220kV transformer and create 4 x 400kV line bays for future development; two 400kV powerlines (each 2 km long and a total servitude of 90 m wide) from the Namibian Side of the Orange River, a new access road to the existing Oranjemund Substation, the R382 road deviation and a two track service road between the new powerlines within the servitude. The proposed development is situated near Oranjemund, Northern Cape Province.

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was conducted by Archaetnos Culture and Cultural Resources Consultants.

Van Vollenhoven, A.C. 2016. A Report on a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Eskom Kudu-Oranjemund Project in the Northern Cape Province.

No heritage sites were identified as part of the site visit conducted for the HIA; however, a number of Stone Age lithics identified as background scatter were noted within the development area.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- A Walk-Down study should be implemented once the pylon positions are known, to ensure minimal impact on stone tools in the area. It may even be necessary to have an archaeologist present on site

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when construction of the pylons and the demolition of the indicated hill is being implemented, but the walk-down study will give the necessary guidance in this regard;

- The latter would aim at collection of a representative sample of stone tools from the area since it is *terra incognita* as far as research goes and would therefore assist in elucidating this part of history;
- Only after the mentioned study has been done and pending the outcome thereof as well as SAHRA's approval, the proposed development may continue.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts and promotes the recommendations provided in the HIA. The recommendations provided in the HIA and the following additional conditions must be incorporated into the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the project:

- The Walk-Down Study must be conducted prior to the construction phase of the development. A Walk-Down Report detailing the results of the walk-down must be submitted to SAHRA for comments prior to the commencement of the construction phase. No work may commence without comments from SAHRA;
- The Final Scoping Report and all appendices must be submitted to the case file once submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA);
- The EIA and all appendices must be uploaded to the case file once submitted to the DEA;
- If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/John Gribble 021 462 4502) must be alerted. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Itumeleng Masiteng/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately. A professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required;
- Should the proposed development be granted an Environmental Authorisation, SAHRA must be informed and the decision letter must be uploaded 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

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Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

John Gribble
Manager: Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit / Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and
Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/368523>
(DEA, Ref:)

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.