

PROPOSED DEVIATION OF THE ESKOM JUNO-GROMIS 400kV TRANSMISSION LINE

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 10347

Date: Friday January 27, 2017
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Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(2) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Rudzani Ranwedzi

DRAFT BAISC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVIATION OF THE ESKOM JUNO-GROMIS 400kV TRANSMISSION LINE, IN THE NORTHERN AND WESTERN CAPE PROVINCES

Nsovo Environmental Consulting was appointed by Eskom Holdings SOC Limited to conduct a Basic Assessment Process for proposed deviations for the approved Juno-Gromis 400kV Transmission Line. The Transmission Line received a Record of Decision (ROD) from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism on the 6th of November 2007. The Transmission Line will be 230 km in length with a 55 m wide servitude. It will run between the Juno Substation located near Vredendal, Western Cape Province and the Gromis Substation located near Kleinsee, Northern Cape Province. A draft Basic Assessment Report (dBAR) has been completed in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, No 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014.

The three proposed deviations are to avoid three areas:

- Landing Strip in Lutzville which will result in a deviation of approximately 4.1 km;
- Tronox Mine Namakwa Sands which will result in a deviation of approximately 3 km; and
- A new mine in Kamiesberg which will result in a deviation of 7.2 km.

It must be noted that SAHRA cannot provide comments for the sections of the development located within the Western Cape Province. Comments for the Western Cape sections must be sought from Heritage Western Cape (HWC).

Following an Interim Comment issued by SAHRA on the 28/11/2016, a Palaeontological Desktop Study has been completed.

Durand, J.F. 2017. Juno-Gromis 400kV powerline deviations (Western Cape and Northern Cape Province: Palaeontology Report

Deviations 1 and 2 are located within the Western Cape Province, and therefore SAHRA cannot provide

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comments on these. The discussion below only pertains to Deviation 3.

Deviation 3 is located within areas of high palaeontological sensitivity. Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- An accredited palaeontologist with the necessary experience of Cenozoic deposits is appointed to do a surface inspection of the whole route, including three deviations of the power line;
- A palaeontologist has to be present when excavations are done along Deviations 3 because of the high palaeontological sensitivity of the section; and
- In all cases fossil discoveries should be documented. Fossil localities should be GPS validated and recorded. Fossils should be salvaged as far as possible. The fossils that are collected should be catalogued and taken to a recognized fossil repository such as the Iziko South African Museum for Natural History in Cape Town.

Interim Comment

It must be noted that the Palaeontological Report does not conform to Section 38(2)a, section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999)(NHRA) or SAHRAs Minimum Standards for Archaeological and Palaeontological Reports.

A Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) inclusive of a field assessment must be completed and submitted to SAHRA prior to the construction phase.

It must be noted that as per the previous Interim Comment issued on the 28/11/2016, clarification on whether the HIA assessed the deviations or the areas the deviation are to avoid must be submitted, and appendix A of the dBAR and map the deviations on the GIS Layer of the SAHRIS Case application. Additionally, please provide declaration of independence for all specialists.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested report and clarification of the HIA.

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
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South African Heritage Resources Agency

John Gribble
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South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/375153>
(DEA, Ref:)