

AIA FOR THE PROPOSED BULK WATER SUPPLY LINE FROM PIET-SE-KOP RESERVOIR TO TSHAMAHANSI AND WITRIVIER/PHAFOLA TO BAKENBERG

Our Ref: 10484



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 10484

Date: Friday January 27, 2017

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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Tekplan Environmental
PO Box 55714
Polokwane
0070

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED BULK WATER SUPPLY LINE FROM PIET-SE-KOP RESERVOIR TO TSHAMAHANSI AND WITRIVIER/PHAFOLA TO BAKENBERG, AS PART OF THE MOGALAKWENA WATER MASTER PLAN, MOGALAKWENA MUNICIPALITY AREA, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

Tekplan Environmental (Pty) Ltd been appointed by the Mogalakwena Local Municipality of the Limpopo Province to draw up a Basic Assessment report in support of an Environmental Authorisation application for the proposed Bulk Water Supply Line from Piet-se-kop Reservoir to Tshamahansi and Witrivier/Phafola to Bakenberg. The water pipeline will cross the Remainder of the farms Macalacaskop 243 KR and Turfspruit 241 KR for the Tshamahansi section, and the farms Gillimberg 861 LR, Drenthe 778 LR, Groningen 779 LR, Vriesland 781 LR, Vliegekraal 783 LR and Hellem Bricksteen 761 LR for the Bakenberg Section. The application is made because the development triggered listed activities in terms the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 2014 Regulations of the National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA). Tekplan Environmental (Pty) Ltd has appointed Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting cc, on behalf of their client, to conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) as part of the specialist studies in terms of the EIA Regulations. The water pipeline in the Tshamahansi section will be 400 mm diameter, 3.2 km in length starting at the piet-se-kop reservoir. The Bakenberg section will be 600 mm diameter, 16.6 km in length, starting at Witrivier/Phafola pipelines.

Van der Walt, J. November 2016. Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed Bulk Water Supply Line from Piet-se-kop Reservoir to Tshamahansi and Witrivier/Phafola to Bakenberg, as part of the Mogalakwena Water Master Plan, Mogalakwena Municipality area, Limpopo Province.

The author conducted a field assessment of the two alternative routes of both sections of the proposed water pipeline development, to identify potential heritage resources that may be impacted by the proposed development. The assessment uncovered 23 heritage features in pipeline route alternative 1 and 13 heritage features for alternative 2. The two alternative routes are 10 m apart for both sections of the water pipelines.

The following sites have been rated as being of high significance:

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Field site no. 585-591, 597, 600, 601 and 602 consist of cemeteries, with 619 being a single grave. These sites must be retained *in situ* and the pipeline route should retain a 30 m buffer area away from the

The following sites have been rated as being of medium significance:

Field site no. 583, 588 and 595 are Later Iron Age stone walled sites and 620 is a stonewalled rectangular ruin which may have infant remains in the foundation. These sites should be retained *in situ* and these sites must not be mitigated in order to make way for the pipeline development as the whole site would need to be recorded well. A buffer area of 20 m around each site must be demarcated by danger tapes to prevent any damage.

Field site no. 606 is an open air African church which should not be disturbed by construction activities.

The following sites have been rated as being of low significance:

Field site no. 622 and 623 are ruins of recent rectangular house foundations including site 620 which is in better preservation condition has a low to medium significance rating. Field site no. 584, 593, 598 and 599 may possibly be graves, although the author of this report is not sure if they are graves. The sites should be avoided during construction with a buffer area equal to the cemeteries.

Additional Recommendations:

In sections where the pipeline route needs to be rerouted outside the proposed alternatives 1 and 2, an additional survey must be conducted as there may be more heritage features. However considering the recommendations of this report, alternative 2 should be chosen as it has less impact on the identified heritage resources.

Interim Comment

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit cannot support the water pipeline routes as they are planned because of the following:

The Bankenberg section of the water pipeline lies in an area under a mine right application, and the HIA report does not reference the heritage report compiled for the mine right application. The significance of the stonewalled sites 582, 583, 592 and 595 should be rated higher as it relates to the Molokong stone walled site complex, particularly site 595.

SAHRA can only support the recommendation that the pipeline is rerouted away from these heritage

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resources. Also the area between the two hills had MSA stone tool sites identified in the heritage report for the mine right application on SAHRIS as case ID 7331. The cumulative impacts on the heritage resources within this section is very high and any new pipeline routes will need to be assessed again.

SAHRA requires an assessment of area in the Bankenberg Section that will assess the cumulative impacts of the heritage resources identified in this report and other reports in the immediate area. There is a very high likelihood that the second alternative may impact on additional heritage resources identified in this HIA and the sites identified in case ID 7331. If the buffer areas in Tshamahansi cannot be implemented then the water pipeline route in the chosen alternative needs to be rerouted and the new route chosen for the Tshamahansi section must be assessed by a qualified archaeologist.

A desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) needs to be conducted for the proposed development. The PIA should be conducted by a qualified palaeontologist and the report should also contain a detailed fossil finds procedure. The procedure should outline processes that must be undertaken by the ECO or construction manager if any fossils are uncovered during construction. The procedure should contain fossil images as a guide in recognising fossils to aid the construction manager and/or ECO in identifying potential fossil rocks. This document should be uploaded to the case and the procedure should be included in the EMPr document.

SAHRA as a commenting authority under section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) requires all environmental documents, compiled in support of an Environmental Authorisation application as defined by NEMA EIA Regs section 40 (1) and (2), to be submitted to SAHRA. As such the Basic Assessment report and its appendices must be submitted to the case as well as the EMPr, once it's completed.

If Environmental Authorisation has been granted then the ROD must also be uploaded to the case.

SAHRA will comment further on this case once the above mentioned reports are submitted to the case.

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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John Gribble
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South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/383403>