

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: Wednesday April 19, 2017
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Final 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

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

SAHRA had issued a comment on the proposed development dated 27 January 2017 requesting that a suitably qualified palaeontologist conducts an impact assessment on palaeontological resources within the proposed Bakenberg and Tshamahansi Water Pipeline in addition to amending the Heritage Impact Assessment report to assess the potential impacts to heritage resources identified in another HIA report. Dr Loyd Rossouw was appointed by Heritage Contracts and Consultancy on behalf of Tekplan Environmental Consulting (Pty) Ltd to conduct the Desktop Study referenced below and Mr Jaco Van der Walt submitted an amended HIA report to the case for commenting.

Van der Walt, J. February 2017. Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Bulk Water Supply Line from Piet-se-Kop Reservoir to Tshamahansi and Witrivier/Phafola to Bakenberg, Limpopo Province.

The author amended the Initial Heritage Impact Assessment report as per SAHRA Interim Comments to include a cumulative assessment of the proposed development on the heritage resources and to verify whether any heritage resources identified in the Molokong Magnetite mine are not located within either proposed alternatives in the Bakenberg section of the water pipeline. The author found in the assessment of cumulative impacts in the region to be negligible and supports Bakenberg Alternative 2 as the preferred route for the pipeline because the proposed bulk water pipeline will underground and will be constructed in existing infrastructure in some sections and where there will be no impacts to heritage in other sections. In a particular heritage sensitive area in the Bakenberg section, the pipeline must be rerouted south to avoid heritage sites that would be impacted by both proposed alternatives.

The following recommendations are provided:

- A consultation with the community must be conducted to identify whether site 599 is a grave site or not.
- The ECO must monitor the construction of the pipe line in the Tshamahansi section by sites 599 and 600

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so no unintended impact occurs as the sites are less than 20m away from the proposed pipeline route for both alternatives. The route cannot be moved as there is existing pipeline infrastructure.

- An archaeologist must monitor construction of the pipeline in the heritage sensitive zone (Figure 35 of the amended HIA report) of the Bakenberg section where the pipeline will be re-route south of both alternatives 1 and 2.

Rossouw, L. February 2017. Palaeontological Desktop Study of the proposed new Bakenberg and Tshamahanzi water pipelines near Mokopane, Limpopo Province.

The study area is underlain by unfossiliferous rocks of the Bushveld Complex, but the Tshamahanzi pipeline route is in close proximity to an outcrop of the Timeball Hill Formation (Transvaal Group) consisting of quartzite, and finely laminated ferruginous shale with thin stromatolitic carbonate interbeds. The possibility of finding alluvium fossil material is slim as the superficial overburden lacks substantial alluvium deposits in the Bakenberg pipeline footprint. The author recommends no palaeontological resource mitigation but the ECO should adhere to the Chance Finds procedure outlined in the report.

Final Comment

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the Palaeontological Desktop Study and the Revised HIA report recommendations provided therein. SAHRA has no objections to the project if the following conditions are adhered to:

- A consultation with the community must be conducted to identify whether site 599 is a grave site or not.
- The ECO must monitor the construction of the pipe line in the Tshamahanzi section by sites 599 and 600 so no unintended impact occurs as the sites are less than 20m away from the proposed pipeline route for both alternatives. The route cannot be moved as there is existing pipeline infrastructure.
- An archaeologist must monitor construction of the pipeline in the heritage sensitive zone (Figure 35 of the amended HIA report) of the Bakenberg section where the pipeline will be re-route south of both alternatives 1 and 2.

- If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary, and a permit will be needed before mitigation. You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8652),

- and if any unmarked human burials are uncovered then please contact the SAHRA BGG Unit (Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490).

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- All the above conditions should be included in the EMPr.

- If any damage or disturbances to the heritage resources identified in the HIA are foreseen and the recommendations within this Final Comment cannot be adhered to then a motivation letter should be submitted to SAHRA as an additional document in a new permit application.

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

Yours faithfully

Nokukhanya Khumalo
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/383403>

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.

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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.