Our Ref: 10554



an agency of the Department of Arts and Culture

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Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo Tel: 021 462 4502 Email: nkhumalo@sahra.org.za CaseID: 10554 Date: Monday February 27, 2017 Page No: 1

## **Interim Comment**

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

Attention: ACWA Power Khanyisa Thermal Power Station (RF) (Pty) Ltd ACWA Power Khanyisa Thermal Power Station (RF) (Pty) Ltd 90 Grayston Drive Sandton 2196

## Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Report: Khanyisa Coal Fired Power Station, eMalahleni, Mpumalanga Province

Aurecon Environmental (Pty) Ltd contact SAHRA APM Unit case officer (Nokukhanya Khumalo) on the 27th of January 2017 to re-issue a 2011 SAHRA comment for the Khanyisa IPP Power Station developmen,t as they cannot locate the original document. The 11 March 2011 comment filed in SAHRA registry has been attached to the case on SAHRIS however this is a follow up interim comment as SAHRA has not received and commented on the Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA).

The 11 March 2011 comment stated:

"Where bedrock is to be affected, or where there are coastal sediments, or marine or river terraces and in potentially fossiliferous superficial deposits, the developer must ensure that a professional Palaeontological Desk Top study is undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon palaeontological resources. If this is deemed unnecessary, a letter of recommendation for exemption from a professional Palaeontologist is needed. If the area is deemed sensitive, a full Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be required and if necessary a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary (see attached list of accredited Palaeontologists)".

From palaeo-technical reports that were compiled for the Palaeomap on SAHRIS, post issuance of the comment, found the area for the proposed Khanyisa IPP coal-fired power station to be Very Highly sensitive for fossil bearing shales and sandtone rocks of the Vryheid Formation.

## **Interim Comment**

A PIA or a Letter of Exemption written by a palaeontologist was not submitted to SAHRA or the comment, as both documents are not in our records. As the initial comment (dated March 2011) is in our records it implies that a PIA was never submitted for commenting on this project. As such, a field based PIA study must be conducted by a suitably qualified palaeontologist. This report must be submitted to SAHRA for comment.

Khanyisa IPP Project, eMalahleni, Mpumalanga Province

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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/384528 (DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/2067)