



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 10555

Date: Friday February 17, 2017

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## 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

### **Proposed Bulk Water Supply Pipeline connecting the eMalahleni Reclamation Plant with Khanyisa Power Station, eMalahleni, Mpumalanga**

Anglo Operations (Pty) Ltd was granted Environmental Authorisation in 2013 for the Khanyisa Coal-Fired Power Station as an IPP. However, the company transferred all rights to a second party (ACWA Power Khanyisa Thermal Power Station (RF) (Pty) Ltd), who is proposing to realign the approved water pipeline outside the authorised assessed area. The water pipeline route is proposed to be 4.4 km in length running alongside the existing coal conveyor belt. The pipeline will connect the Khanyisa IPP Project with the eMalahleni Water Reclamation Plant and will cross Portions 0 and 3 of the farm Groenfontein 331 JS, eMalahleni Local Municipality of Mpumalanga Province.

ACWA Power Khanyisa Thermal Power Station (RF) (Pty) Ltd (subsidiary of Pavestar Trading 32) has appointed Aurecon (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Basic Assessment to amend the existing Environmental Authorisation to include the realignment of the Bulk Water supply pipeline route in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 2014 Regulations of the National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998), as amended (NEMA). Aurecon Appointed Kudzala Antiquity cc to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed development. South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) will comment on this development as a regulatory body in terms of section 38 (8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) to ensure no heritage resources are negatively affected by during construction of the water pipeline.

*Celliers, J.P. July 2015. Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment on the Farm Groenfontein 331 JS in respect of the proposed realignment of a water pipeline connecting the Khanyisa Power Station with the eMalahleni Water Reclamation Plant, Witbank, Mpumalanga Province.*

The author undertook a field assessment of the proposed bulk water supply pipeline route and the existing water pipeline and identified no preservation concerns and identified no heritage resources that may be

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impacted in the construction of the water pipeline. The author walked and drove the length of the proposed new route which is adjacent to the existing conveyor belt route, the ground and immediate subsurface in these areas have been disturbed by the construction of the conveyor belt.

## Interim Comment

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit cannot provide comments on this development with the documents provided to the case. The case title is about the amendment of the water pipeline however, the Environmental Authorisation RoD is dated 2016 and the Heritage Report is for a realignment of a water pipeline dated 2015. It reads like this HIA was an assessment for the EA that is uploaded to the case. If a new realignment of the water pipeline environmental authorisation application was applied for in 2016/2017 then the HIA report must be amended to reflect that. In addition, the Basic Assessment report map on the proposed water pipeline route is labelled power line and substation route, the exact same water pipeline route was taken and adapted in the HIA.

Please clarify whether or not this is an assessment of the substation and power line route or if its the realigned water pipe line route. An assessment of the palaeontological resources was not conducted for this proposed development. The area is underlain by bedrock that is highly sensitive to fossiliferous rocks of the Vryheid Formation and a Palaeontological Impact Assessment, by a suitably qualified palaeontologist needs to be carried out. The resultant report must be submitted to SAHRA for commenting in addition to the amended 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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Nokukhanya Khumalo  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/384530>  
(MDEDET, Ref: 1/3/1/16/1N-40)

**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.