



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 11031

Date: Thursday June 22, 2017

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## Interim Comment

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

Attention: Ms Deidre Herbst  
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd  
P O Box 1091  
JOHANNESBURG  
2000

### PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ASH DISPOSAL FACILITY, KRIEL POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA

PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd and Palaeo Field Services (Pty) Ltd were appointed by Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd on behalf of Kriel Power Station to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment and a Palaeontological Desktop Study for the proposed Kriel Ash Dam facility. These studies are in support of an Environmental Authorisation application in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no. 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014. The Kriel Power Station is proposing to construct an additional ash disposal facility (Ash Dam 4) to expand their ash storage facility until 2045. Construction will involve the Ash Water Return pipeline infrastructure, ash water return dam and transfer dam, power lines, access roads and clean and dirty water channels. The extent of the proposed ash dam facility will be 172 ha located on the farms Driefontein 69 IS, Kriel Power Station 65 IS and Onverwacht 70 IS in the Emalahleni Local Municipality of Mpumalanga Province.

*Birkholtz, P. May 2017. Proposed Expansion of the Existing Kriel Ash Dam Facility, Kriel Power Station, Kriel (Ga-Nala), Emalahleni Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.*

*Rossouw, L. Palaeontological desktop study of the proposed new Ash Disposal Facility at the Kriel Power Station near Kriel, Mpumalanga Province.*

The project area is underlain by Permian aged sandstone, mudstone and shale of the Vryheid Formation, Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup. This formation is very highly sensitive to the occurrence of fossiliferous plant and ichno fossils. However, due to the disturbed backfilled areas from old coal mines the chances of uncovering fossils is low. If any excavations of infrastructure are in undisturbed fresh sedimentary rocks then a qualified palaeontologist must monitor the excavations and in case of fossil finds, must apply for a section 35 permit in terms of the NHRA for the collection of the fossils.

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No Heritage resources were identified during the field survey because the project area lays partially on an old opencast mine that has since been rehabilitated. Mr Birkholtz recommends no further mitigation if the development of the ash dam facility remains within the proposed project extent.

## Interim Comment

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit agrees and endorses the recommendations provided in HIA report referenced above. SAHRA APM Unit does not accept the palaeontological desktop study as it does not adhere to the palaeontological impact assessment minimum standards, it does not contain a geological map and the author has not included his declaration of independence. A Final Comment will only be issued to the case once the EIA report and its appendices is uploaded to the case and the amended PIA report.

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/398428>  
(DEA, Ref: DEA:14/12/16/3/3/3/217)