



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 11361

Date: Thursday August 17, 2017
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Interim Comment

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

Attention: AECOM SA - Head Office

P O Box 3173
Pretoria
0001

Aries Power Line

Nsovo Environmental Consulting was appointed by Transnet Freight Rail (TFR) to conduct a Basic Assessment Process for the proposed upgrade of the Eskom Aries Substation and the construction of 5km 50kv powerline from Aries to the proposed new Transnet Traction Feeder, Kai !Garib Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province. A Basic Assessment Report was submitted in support of an Environmental Authorisation Application in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA), NEMA 2010 EIA Regulations. The proposed development was authorised by the Department of Environmental Affairs on 31 March 2015 (Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1243).

It is noted that the Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) submitted for the case is referenced in SAHRIS Case ID 6857, the original application as part of the BAR process (<http://sahra.org.za/sahris/cases/proposed-construction-transnet-aries-tfs-and-5km-50kv-power-line>). No comments were issued by SAHRA on this case.

The AIA conducted as part of the BAR was completed by Vhubo Archaeo-Heritage Consultants.

Magoma, M. 2014. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report for the Proposed Construction of Transnet 5 KM 50kv Power Line from Eskom Aries Substation to the Proposed New Transnet Aries Traction Feeder Substation within the jurisdiction of Kai! Garib Local Municipality of ZF Mgcawu District, Northern Cape Province.

Middle Stone Age artefacts occurrences of medium to high significance were identified within the powerline route.

Recommendations provided include that the area proposed for a powerline is subjected to a heritage walk-down study once all the final pylon placements have been made. The walk down will focus on the



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individual pylon positions to see if any pylons will negatively impact on any archaeological sites. It should also concentrate on servitude and access roads that will be used during the construction.

An Archaeological Walk-down Survey was conducted in fulfillment of the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

Van der Walt, J. 2017. Archaeological Walk-down Survey for the Proposed Aries 50kv Power Line near Kenhardt, Kai! Garib Local Municipality of ZF MgCawu District, Northern Cape.

Numerous stone artefacts were identified along the power line route. A single lower grinding stone with several flakes/blades were identified between tower 9 and 10 (Site name: Aries 1). A chance finds procedure was recommended.

The 2015 Construction EMPr has the following mitigation measures with regards to heritage resources:

- Tower 13: Phase 2 archaeological mitigation of the site is recommended. In addition, a destruction permit must be sought to destroy the site;
- Tower 14: Archaeological monitoring during the first construction stage is recommended. Should significant material be exposed, further mitigation work may be required;
- Tower 18: Phase 2 archaeological mitigation of the site is recommended. In addition, a destruction permit must be sought to destroy the site;
- Tower 19: An archaeological monitoring must be undertaken during construction of Tower 19, to ensure that no negative impact result on the noted sites. In addition, Eskom must take note of the site and its position and ensure that no negative impact take place during construction;
- Tower 20: An archaeological monitoring must be undertaken during construction of Tower 20, to ensure that no negative impact result on the noted sites. In addition, Eskom must take note of the site and its position and ensure that no negative impact take place during construction;
- Tower 25: Monitoring during construction of tower no. 25 to determine if whether the density of these isolated tools are consistently low, or not.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests clarity on the heritage resources at the towers as noted above in the CEMPr. There is no correlation between the heritage reports written and the recommended mitigation measures at towers 13, 14, 18, 19, 20 and 25 in the CEMPr. Please provide descriptions of the heritage resources including statement of significance, photographs and impact

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assessments.

Additionally, SAHRA APM Unit requests that a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment be conducted for the project by a qualified palaeontologist as the development is located within an area of moderate sensitivity.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above.

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

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
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/405808>