

# HIA - 132kV transmission lines from the South & North Wind Energy Facilities on the Eastern Plateau (De Aar 2)

Our Ref:



Enquiries: Jenna Lavin  
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CaseID: 1141

Date: Tuesday January 29, 2013

Page No: 1

## Final Comment

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

Attention: Aurecon South Africa  
Aurecon South Africa  
PO Box 74381  
Lynnwood Ridge  
0040

### Heritage Impact Assessment - Proposed construction of two 132kV transmission lines from the South & North Wind Energy Facilities on the Eastern Plateau (De Aar 2) near De Aar, Northern Cape.

Fourie, W. December 2012. *Heritage Impact Assessment Report for the proposed construction of two 132kV transmission lines from the South and North Wind Energy Facilities on the Eastern Plateau (De Aar 2) near De Aar, Northern Cape.*

Groenewald, G. December 2012. *Palaeontological Desktop Assessment - Proposed construction of two 132kV transmission lines from the South & North Wind Energy Facilities on the Eastern Plateau (De Aar 2) near De Aar, Northern Cape.*

Mulilo Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd proposes construct two 132kV overhead powerlines to connect the North and South Wind Energy Facilities on the Eastern Plateau to the national grid via the newly proposed Solar Capital substation. The proposal includes one 21km line and one 18km line. The lines will be supported by monopole towers that measure 17.4m to 21m in height. The tower sizes and positions will be finalised as part of the Environmental Authorisation.

The above HIA was submitted to SAHRA for assessment. The HIA assessed a 500m corridor along the route of the proposed lines. The HIA indicates that the proposed development will impact on the Permian sedimentary rocks of the Karoo Supergroup. Jurassic dolomite sills dominate the hilltops, while low-laying areas consist of recent quaternary alluvium deposits. The HIA indicates that the Tierberg Formation of the Ecca Group and the Abramskraal Formation of the Adelaide Subgroup of the Beaufort Group will also be impacted. It is known that low diversity fossils occur throughout the Tierberg Formation. These have not been identified as having any particular significance. However, the Abramskraal Formation is known for its significant diverse fossil fauna consisting of therapsids, reptiles and trace fossils.

The HIA identified three archaeological sites. Site DAP 1 consists of a low density scatter of mostly Middle Stone Age material. This site was identified as having low heritage significance. Site DAP 2 consists of a low to medium density scatter of mostly Later Stone Age material, also of low significance. Site DAP 3 consists of a Later Stone Age core located close to the Poortjie buildings on Farm Maatjies Fountain. The proposed development is therefore unlikely to impact on significant heritage resources.

The viewsheds associated with this proposed development are described as extensive and unobstructed however the landscape is already compromised by a number of 132kV and 400kV powerlines. The HIA notes that the Jakkalsfontein Farmstead may be visually impacted by the proposed development.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

Street Address: 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town 8000 \* Postal Address: PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000  
\* Tel: +27 21 462 4502 \* Fax: +27 21 462 4509 \* Web: <http://www.sahra.org.za>

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According to an Addendum submitted with the HIA, a portion of the alignment assessed in the HIA was not viable due to ecological reasons. As such, Corridor Alternative B was proposed. Corridor Alternative B will have less of an impact on the Jakkalsfontein Farmstead.

## Decision

Considering the information provided in the Heritage Impact Assessment Report and in the Palaeontological Impact Assessment Report, SAHRA has no objection to the proposed development on heritage grounds provided that:

1. Corridor Alternative B is preferred.
2. The new alignment of the powerlines and any subsequent deviation of the route of the powerlines will require an archaeological foot survey to determine what archaeological resources may be impacted by the development and a report submitted to SAHRA
3. Due to the high likelihood of impacting on significant fossil material associated with the Abramskraal Formation, a palaeontologist is required to monitor all bulk earthworks undertaken in the portions of the alignment identified as having medium and high sensitivity. This includes Corridor Alternative B. The palaeontologist must apply to SAHRA for a palaeontological collection permit.

If any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources is identified during development, construction or mining, work must cease and SAHRA (Jenna Lavin, Tel: 021 462 4502) must be alerted immediately.

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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Jenna Lavin  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency



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Colette Scheermeyer  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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## ADMIN:

(DEA, Ref: DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/785 NEAS reference: DEA/EIA/0001601/2012)

## 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.



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