



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 11458

Date: Tuesday October 03, 2017
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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Eskom - LOU

The project entails the decommissioning of the existing, and construction of a new Chemie Substation as well as various 132kV power lines. The study area is mainly along the R40, south-west of Phalaborwa in the Limpopo Province.

Eskom SOC Ltd is proposing to decommission an existing substation and 2 km 132kV power line that connected the substation the the 132kV Foskor/Chemie 2 corridor route. In a separate location Eskom is proposing to construct a new Eskom Chemie substation which will be 150m x 200m in extent which includes laydown areas during construction. A single 132kV power line that will be 2.2 km in length will also be constructed to connect the new Eskom Chemie substation to the Chemie/Selati 132kV power line corridor. A single Loop-in-Loop-out 132kV power line that will be 2.8km in length will also be constructed to connect the new Eskom Chemie substation to the 132kV Foskor/Chemie 2 power line corridor. The proposed development area is on farms Schiottot 25, Makusane Location 28 and Portions 0 and 3 of Wegsteek 30, in the Phalaborwa Local Municipality of Limpopo Province.

Eskom SOC Ltd has appointed Landscape Dynamics to undertake the Basic Assessment process in support of an Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 10 of 1998 (NEMA), as amended, and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2017 as amended. SAHRA issued an Interim Comment dated 17 August 2017 requesting that the Heritage Impact Assessment summarised in the Basic Assessment report is submitted to the case as a separate report, and that a Palaeontological Impact Assessment must be conducted by a suitably qualified palaeontologist. A desktop PIA and Final Environmental Management Programme has been submitted to the case for comments.

Bamford, M. August 2017. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Eskom Chemie-Foskor project, near Phalaborwa, Limpopo Province.

The author undertook a background literature review of the geology to make an assessment of the potential palaeontological sensitivity of the proposed project area. The proposed area is underlain by the unfossiliferous Goudplaats Gneiss and possibly volcanic rocks of the Phalaborwa Complex. There is a very rare occurrence of fossilised microbes in the similar Barberton Greenstone Belt; these microbes may occur in the formations present in the proposed area, which would be represented by organic-rich black layers. The foundations for



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the power lines and substation will not impact the granite bedrock and the overlying sediments have no palaeontological potential. Therefore the palaeontological sensitivity of the area is very low with a very rare potential of fossilised microbes being uncovered in the bedrock.

The author recommends that the Fossil Chance Finds procedure in the Palaeontological Desktop Assessment is added to the EMPr and implemented in the construction phase.

Interim Comment

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit agrees with the recommendations within the Palaeontological Desktop Assessment report and the Fossil Chance Finds Procedure.

SAHRA endorses the fossil training awareness programme included in the Fossil Chance Finds Procedure and it must be developed by a palaeontologist and the programme should be implemented in the induction programmes to aid the construction workers and the ECO in identifying the fossilised microbes that may be uncovered during the construction phase.

In the event that fossilised microbes are uncovered during construction then construction must cease within the immediate vicinity, a buffer of 30 m must be established and a palaeontologist called in to inspect the finds. The palaeontologist must obtain a section 35(4) permit before any fossils are collected.

However, the HIA report has not been submitted to the case for commenting, the HIA summary in the Basic Assessment report does not contain the author, date and the author's CV and declaration of independence. Therefore it is not accepted as a report within the Basic Assessment report.

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



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South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/406507>
(DEA, Ref:)