



Our Ref:

Enquiries: Jenna Lavin
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: jlavin@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 1146

Date: Monday January 28, 2013

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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 Limited
P O Box 1091
JOHANNESBURG
2000

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT LICENCE APPLICATION FOR CONTINUED ASHING AT THE EXISTING ASH DISPOSAL FACILITIES, AT MAJUBA POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

J. van Schalkwyk. September 2012. Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed continuation of the Majuba Ash Disposal Facilities, Mpumalanga.

Eskom is proposing a new ash disposal facility situated south of Amersfoort in Mpumalanga. The above HIA was submitted to SAHRA in December 2012 for assessment.

The HIA indicates that the area proposed for development is underlain with shale, and has dolomite outcroppings to the north and south of the study area. The cultural landscape has been identified as rural, consisting of rolling hills and a number of smaller rivers. The predominant land use in the area is agricultural sheep grazing.

No stone age or iron age archaeology was identified. The only heritage identified in the HIA is an old farm labourers homestead showing the remains of rondavel hut structures, situated on the boundary of the study area, and two adjacent graves. The HIA indicates that the homestead likely extends to the west, outside of the study area, however no reasoning or evidence for this conclusion is provided.

The HIA indicates that the identified homestead will not be impacted by the proposed development, however, the graves immediately adjacent to the homestead will be impacted. It is unclear in the HIA how this is possible as no development footprint is provided in the HIA. The HIA is also lacking in that no clear photographs of the landscape, the site of the proposed development, the identified structures or of the graves is provided. The HIA did not include track paths of the area surveyed. Although a brief geological description was provided, no assessment of the impact of the proposed development to palaeontological material was included in the HIA. As such, the submitted study does not satisfy Section 38(3) of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999).

Decision

The submitted HIA does not provide sufficient information for SAHRA to make an adequate assessment of the



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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impacts of the proposed development to heritage resources. Please submit an amended HIA to SAHRA at your earliest convenience that includes the following;

1. A map of the proposed development footprint in relation to the identified heritage resources
2. A clear scope of the proposed work to take place on site and what infrastructure is proposed.
3. The reasoning behind the conclusion that the identified homestead extends west outside of the proposed development area
4. Clear photographs of the landscape to be impacted by the development, the homestead as well as the identified graves
5. Track paths of the area surveyed
6. Site specific mitigation measures and a plan for the mitigation of the identified graves
7. Palaeontological assessment that must be undertaken by a professional palaeontologist or a letter of exemption from further palaeontological studies if the specialist deems it sufficient;

The report must reflect the scope of the proposed project. It is advisable that the specialist receives all available information regarding the proposed project before the field survey is conducted.

SAHRA APM Unit awaits the updated report before issuing further recommendations regarding this case.

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

Yours faithfully

Jenna Lavin
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency





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ADMIN:

(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/3/53)



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