

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
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CaseID: 11967

Date: Thursday February 08, 2018
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Letter

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

Attention: Ms Andrea van Gensen
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd
Eskom Centre
120 Henry Street
P.O.Box 356
Bloemfontein

Proposed upgrading of the 66kv network to 132kv network in the Hotazel, Kuruman And Kathu area, including the construction of new substation and switching station and upgrading of existing substations, Northern Cape Province

Thank you for informing SAHRA about the current construction of the 66kV Powerline near Kuruman, Northern Cape Province. It is further noted that the Letter issued on the 15/12/2017 stated that a Palaeontological Walk-Down should have been conducted before construction commenced.

In the letter submitted by Zitholele Consulting on the 19/01/2018, dated 18/01/2018, details have been provided regarding possible mitigations measures and the way forward discussed telephonically with the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit Case Officer Ms Natasha Higgitt on the 17/01/2018.

These mitigation measures include:

- Immediate appointment of a qualified palaeontologist to monitor current excavations associated with the construction of the powerline pylons;
- The appointed palaeontologist would also undertake a walk-down of the remaining powerline route;
- A report detailing the findings of the construction monitoring and walk-down will be uploaded to SAHRIS for SAHRA assessment upon completion.

Comment

The SAHRA APM Unit accepts the above recommendations and thanks Zitholele Consulting for their co-operation in this regard. Additional conditions that must be adhered to include the following:

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- No further excavations should occur in areas where the palaeontological walk down has not yet been conducted;
- The report pertaining to the monitoring of current excavations must be submitted as soon as possible.

Eskom is reminded that the following conditions in the Letter issued on 15/12/2017 still apply and must be addressed as soon as possible:

- A no-go buffer zone of 30 m should be demarcated around the identified heritage sites, with monitoring procedures in place. Monitoring reports must be submitted to SAHRA upon completion of the construction phase;
- With regards to Site K12, the occupied/in use historical structures, and the Provincial Heritage Site, the Northern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority must be contacted to provide comments/decision on these sites;
- If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately. A professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA.

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

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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/449493>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1376)