

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: Monday May 21, 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.

In a Letter issued on 08/02/2018, SAHRA accepted the above recommendations and provided additional conditions such as:

- No further excavations should occur in areas where the palaeontological walk down has not yet been conducted;



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- The report pertaining to the monitoring of current excavations must be submitted as soon as possible.

Eskom was 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.

Since the issuing of the previous comment on 08/02/2018, a Palaeontological Walk down report has been submitted.

*Heidi, F. 2018. Palaeontological Impact Assessment Phase 1 Field Study for the Proposed upgrading of the 66kV network to a 132kV network in the Hotazel, Kuruman and Kathu area, Northern Cape Province.*

The development is currently taking place on the Kalahari Group with underlying Griqualand West Basin rocks of the Transvaal Supergroup. The Griqualand West rocks are moderately sensitive in terms of palaeontological remains, while the Kalahari Group is highly sensitive.

No fossils were identified as part of the walk-through. No map of the area surveyed with accompanying track logs was provided.

A recommendation included in the report notes that the EMP be updated to include the involvement of a palaeontologist/archaeozoologist during digging and excavation phase of the development and the

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Environmental Control Officer (ECO) to visit the site bi-weekly during construction and keep a photographic record.

## Interim Comment

The provided Palaeontological Walk-down is not clear as to which sections of the powerline were physically assessed. There is scarce information provided on already excavated foundation pits i.e. monitoring of the pits and any material removed during excavation etc.

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that the Palaeontological Walk-down be revised to clearly indicate through maps with the route of the powerlines and the areas that were surveyed, either by highlighting the relevant sections or providing the track logs of the areas surveyed.

Additionally, the excavated powerline route that has been monitored must be shown on a map that will also show the sections that still require monitoring to be conducted.

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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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

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## ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/449493>  
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1376)

## 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.