



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 12793

Date: Friday August 31, 2018

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Final Decision

In terms of Section 38(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Mr Livhuwani Mukwevho
Ilima Coal Company (Pty) Ltd
32 Liter Street,
Industrial Area,
Middleburg,
1050

Ilima Coal Company (Pty) Ltd (referred to as Ilima) has a mining right and associated environmental authorisations in various farm portion near Carolina town. In order to allow safe continuation and optimisation of the mine at TZP2, a 22kV Eskom Powerline will need to be re-routed. The powerline will be re-routed in/to Portion 2 of the farm Paardeplaats 12 IT, near Carolina, Albert Luthuli Local Municipality, Gert Sibande District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

Eskom SOC Ltd, Mpumalanga Operating Unit (MOU) is requesting on behalf of their applicant, that SAHRA grant an exemption from conducting heritage studies for this proposed power line development. A heritage Impact Assessment conducted for Ilima Colliery was uploaded to the case and where the power line will be re-routed to will not impact on any of the identified heritage sites. According to the other documents submitted to the case, the proposed power line will be constructed along agricultural fields from an existing farmstead to the boundary of the Ilima Colliery. The power line will be crossing between a natural pan and a wetland, areas that are sensitive to the presence of heritage resources.

Proposed Extension of the Mining Operations at the Existing Ilima Colliery (Old Pembani Colliery), Near Carolina, Albert Luthuli Local Municipality, Gert Sibande District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

The HIA was commissioned for the Environmental Authorisation application for the Ilima Colliery and they have re-submitted the HIA for the relocation of a 22kV power line that will be crossing between a natural pan and wetland area. Because the power line will be crossing within 50 m of a wetland area, it requires General Authorisation from the Department of Water Affairs and since it will be over 300m in length it requires approval from SAHRA in terms of Section 38(1) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999.

The route proposed for the power line footprint was not surveyed in the HIA but the route is located close to future proposed opencast pits which have been surveyed by the authors of the HIA. In addition to this, the applicant has provided photos of the power line route that do not indicate the presence of heritage resources.

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SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts all documents submitted to the case as part of the application and determines that the likelihood of any heritage resources being identified is very low. In terms of section 38(2)*b* of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999 (NHRA), the proposed development is granted an exemption from undertaking an additional Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed power line route.

SAHRA has no objections to this proposed development going ahead and this Final Decision applies to the provisions of the NHRA only. A 50 m buffer zone away from the pan must be maintained at all times during construction and maintenance of the power line. The conditions for heritage management recommended by the author and SAHRA in the Ilima Colliery still apply along with the following additional conditions

The following conditions still apply and need to be added to Appendix C 1.22 of the Eskom EMP:

If there are any new heritage resources discovered during construction and operation phases of the proposed development, then a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings at the expense of the developer.

If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required at the expense of the developer. Mitigation will only be carried out after the archaeologist or palaeontologist obtains a permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999). You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8652).

If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the police find them to be heritage graves then mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be contacted for processes to follow (Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490).

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

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Heritage Officer
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/510747>

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.