

Our Ref: 12975



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
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CaseID: 12975

Date: Tuesday October 02, 2018

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## Final Decision

### In terms of Section 38(2) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Mr Alex Neethling

Lucas Joubert Engineering Surveys

124 Genl. Muller Street

Welgelegen

Polokwane

### **New Eskom overhead power line to be erected from existing overhead power line to electrify Dopeni Village. Properties are as follow: Unregistered State Land (Thulamela Municipality)**

Eskom SOC Ltd, Limpopo Operating Unit (LOU) is requesting on behalf of their applicant, that SAHRA grant them an exemption from conducting heritage studies for this proposed power line development. According to the documents submitted to the case, the proposed power line will be starting at the Tshitavha 22 kV feeder and constructed within gravel road servitudes on the outskirts of a rural village and within natural bushveld vegetation in certain sections. The power line will supply electricity to various houses in Dopeni Village, on unregistered stateland, in Thulamela Local Municipality of Limpopo Province.

Under sections 34, 35 and 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999), heritage resources are protected. These resources are for instance burial grounds, unmarked and marked graves that are older than 60 years, built structures that are older than 60 years old, archaeology (stone tools, stone walled sites, prehistoric and historic pottery sherds, ash grounds etc.) and palaeontology (fossils of plant and animal material).

The photos provided to the case do not show any surface heritage features therefore, the potential impact on heritage resources is considered low. The construction of a 22 kV power line that is less than a kilometre in length will not change the character of the landscape. The likelihood of heritage artefacts being uncovered from the foundation excavations is low. However, the area is relatively undisturbed and any construction close to the dry stream bed must be monitored by the construction manager.

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## Final Decision

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts Eskom Holdings (SOC) Ltd LOU's request for an exemption from further heritage assessments for this proposed power line route. Therefore, 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 a Heritage Impact Assessment.

SAHRA has no objections to this proposed development going ahead and this Final Decision applies to the provisions of the NHRA only.

The following conditions still apply and need to be added to Appendix C 1.22:

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 8654).

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

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Nokukhanya Khumalo  
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/513011>

**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.