



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
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CaseID: 13672

Date: Tuesday April 30, 2019

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## Final Decision

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

Attention: Khuliso Rasimphi  
Eskom SOC Limited  
E1 Bokmakierie Flat, Kriel, 2271

**Kriel Power Station is planning to install an underground MV cable within a stretch which is estimated to be around 400 metres long. The area to be excavated is estimated to be around 500mm deep and 500mm wide. As indicated below, this activity will be taking place within the power station in an area which is already disturbed.**

Eskom (SOC) Ltd is proposing to construct an underground power line from 11kV station board 4 in the Kriel Power Station Complex, to the 11kV Effluent Plant Ring Main, still within the power station complex. The underground power line will cross heavily modified area between the cooling tower and power station buildings. Eskom has submitted a Letter of Recommendation for Exemption from Heritage Studies by PGS Heritage and a Palaeontological Desktop Study by Banzai Environmental in support of their Application to SAHRA in terms of section 38(1).

The submitted Heritage reports are for the Kriel Lime Softening Plant that is in the planning phases, which will be located very close to the proposed power line route.

*Smeyatsky, I. February 2019. Request for Exemption from a Heritage Impact Study: Kriel Power Station Lime Plant Upgrade Project, Kriel, eMalahleni Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.*

The author assessed the proposed development area and proposed Kriel Lime Softening Plant footprint area according to the request SAHRA issued in the Interim Comment and determines that no heritage will be impacted by the proposed development.

*Butler, E. February 2019. Palaeontological Desktop Assessment of the Proposed Kriel Power Station Lime Plant Upgrade, Mpumalanga Province.*

The author undertook a desktop assessment of the proposed Kriel Lime Softening Plant upgrade area and found that although the area is underlain by very highly sensitive Permian Ecca rocks of the Vryheid



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Formation, Karoo Supergroup. There is only a moderate possibility of fossils being uncovered during excavations due to the small development footprint area and the modified nature of the landscape and any potential impact is rated as low. The provided Chance Finds Protocol (section 12 of the report) must be implemented by the ECO in the event that fossils are identified in fresh excavations into the Vryheid Formation.

## Final Decision

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the Letter of Exemption from Heritage Studies and the Desktop Palaeontological Assessment report submitted to the case in terms of section 38 (2)a and 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999 (NHRA) and has no objection to the development going ahead on condition that the Chance Finds Fossil Procedure as detailed in the Desktop Palaeontological Assessment report (Under section 12 of the report) must be included in the EMPr. This Final Decision applies to the provisions of the NHRA only.

The following additional conditions still apply:

In the unlikely event that fossils are uncovered during construction then construction must cease within the immediate vicinity, a buffer of 30 m must be established, and a palaeontologist called in to inspect the finds. The palaeontologist must obtain a section 35(4) permit in terms of NHRA and Chapter IV NHRA Regulations, before any fossils are collected.

If there are any new heritages resources are 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 (Thingahangwi Tshivase/Mimi Seetelo 072 802 1251).

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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

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/522394>  
(, Ref: )

**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.