

**AMENDMENT EA AUTHORISED ROUTE FTHE 132 kV POWERLINE BETWEEN
THE EXISTING BOTHASHOEK/SPECULATE 132kV POWERLINE AND
WOESTALLEEN TRACTION STATION**

Our Ref: 13709



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: 13709

Date: Tuesday May 14, 2019

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Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Tebogo Chauke

Eskom Distribution Division

P O Box 223

Witbank

1035

Eskom Holding SOC LTD (Mpumalanga Operating Unit) proposes to amend the EA route (alternative 1) to the proposed amendment route (alternative 2) due to agricultural challenges Eskom has encountered on the EA approved route (alternative 1) for the proposed development of an approximately 560 m long 132 kV chickadee powerline between the existing Bothashoek/Speculate 132 kV powerline and the proposed and Woestalleen Traction Station within the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality in Mpumalanga Province.

Enviroolution Consulting has been appointed by Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd to amend an approved Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the proposed 132KV Chickadee Power line between the existing Bothashoek/Speculate 132KV power line and the proposed Woestalleen Traction Station within the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

The initial draft Basic Assessment Report (dBAR) submitted to SAHRA was approved and now Eskom proposes to amend the approved power line route (Alternative 1: 450 m in length) to the proposed Alternative 2 (650m in length). Social Consultation is being undertaken for the proposed amendment in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA), and the NEMA 2017 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations.

Dr van Schalwyk was appointed to conduct the heritage component of the BAR which has been resubmitted for the amendment social consultation.

Van Schalwyk, 2017. Phase 1 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: The Construction of a 132kv Chikadee Power Line on the Farm Woestalleen 477JS, Southeast of Middelburg, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality,

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Mpumalanga Province.

No heritage resources were identified within the proposed route alternatives. Alternative 1 is supported. Recommendations provided in the report include the should archaeological sites or graves be exposed during construction work, it must be immediately reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

SAHRA issued an Interim Comment on Case ID 12131, whereby an assessment on palaeontological heritage must be undertaken. This assessment was never submitted to SAHRA for comment.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that a field based Palaeontological Impact Assessment be conducted by a qualified palaeontologist prior to construction, as the proposed route is located within an area of very high palaeontological sensitivity. It should be noted that SAHRA had issued an interim comment dated 09/03/2018 requesting a palaeontological study, and this request still stands.

The field based Palaeontological Impact Assessment report must comply with the 2012 SAHRA Minimum Standards for Palaeontological Component of Heritage Impact Assessments.

The EA Amendment application must also be submitted to the case.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above reports.

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

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/522574>
(DEA, Ref: heritage reports)