



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nkhumalo@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 13742

Date: Friday November 29, 2019
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Final Comment

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

Attention: Eskom - LOU

Heritage Impact for the proposed Eskom Transnet Freight Rail Project

Eskom Holdings (SOC) Ltd and Transnet Freight Rail are proposing to construct a new heavy haul railway line and expansion of the existing railway line network in the Waterberg Coal Fields area and to electrify the diesel railway line between Lephalale and Thabazimbi. The project includes the construction of 4 x 132kV Traction Stations (Lephalale, Diepspruit, Matlabas and Marekele); 4 Communication towers; 7km 132kV power lines from the from Medupi to proposed Lephalale Traction Station; 26km 132kV line from Lephalale Traction Station to existing Theunispan Substation; 15km 132kV line from Theunispan Substation to Theunispan T-off; 132kV line bays at Theunispan Substation; Loop-in-out the 132 kV traction stations as follows:

- Lephalale Traction –2 x 40 m 132kV lines from the new Medupi Theunispan line,
- Diepspruit Traction –2 x 1 km 132kV lines from the existing Medupi Thabazimbi line,
- Matlabas Traction –2 x 1 km 132kV lines from the existing Medupi Thabazimbi line,
- Marekele Traction –2 x 2.5 km 132kV Lines from the existing Medupi Thabazimbi line.

Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd have submitted a draft Basic Assessment report (BAR) on behalf of the applicant, Eskom Holdings (SOC) Ltd and Transnet Freight Rail (SOC) Ltd, in support of an application for Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) for in respect of listed activities in the NEMA 2014 EIA Regulations as amended.

In order to meet the requirements of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA), a Heritage Impact Assessment by Archætnos Culture and Cultural Resources Consultants has been submitted to SAHRA for commenting.

Van Vollenhoven, A.C. May 2019. A Report on a Heritage Impact Assessment for the Eskom Transnet Freight Rail Project, Limpopo Province.

The author undertook a field survey of the proposed development areas and did not identify any heritage resources within the development area. Due to the extent of the project, the author recommends a final walk



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down of the finalised development route and location of the traction substations.

The SAHRA issued an Interim Comment dated 3/07/2019 requesting the HIA be amended and that a Palaeontological Desktop Study is undertaken by a suitably qualified palaeontologist.

Van Vollenhoven, A.C. October 2019. A Report on a Second Additional Heritage Impact Assessment for the Eskom Transnet Freight Rail Project, Limpopo Province.

The author undertook a field survey on certain sections of the proposed development due to access constraints and did not identify any heritage resources that will be impacted by the proposed development. The author recommends a final walk down of the pole positions before construction of the power line and substations.

Bamford, M. May 2019. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Eskom-Transnet Freight Rail Project west of Lephalale, And southwards to Thabazimbi, Limpopo and Northwest Provinces Desktop study.

The proposed power line will cross over areas underlain by formations of the upper Waterberg basin, namely the Sandriviersberg and Mogalakwena Formations, Kransberg Subgroup in the first three sections of the proposed development. Section 4 Matlabas substation is underlain by the Langkloof Formation (old name and probably equivalent to the Skilpadkop and Setlaole Formations) of the Matlabas Subgroup. Section 6 Marakele substation lies on rocks of the Waterberg Group, but on the Alma Formation, Nylstroom Subgroup. Trace fossils can be found in the fine grained sandstones but unlikely in coarse grained sandstones that are prevalent throughout this proposed project. The potential impact to fossiliferous rocks is zero and no further mitigation measures are recommended.

Final Comment

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the second HIA and the PIA reports submitted to the case for commenting, and has no objection to the development going ahead on the following conditions:

A final walk down of the proposed power line route must be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist before the construction phase of the proposed development. A report of this assessment must be submitted to SAHRA for comments prior to work beginning on site.

In the unlikely event that fossils are uncovered during construction then construction must cease within the



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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).

The Final BAR must be amended to include SAHRA's conditions and the amended FBAR must be submitted to SAHRA along with its appendices. Once a Record of Decision from the competent authority is issued, it must also be submitted to the case.

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
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Our Ref: 13742



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Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/523005>
(, 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.