



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
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CaseID: 13768

Date: Wednesday November 20, 2019  
Page No: 1

## Final Decision

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

Attention: Mulalo Michael Muelelwa  
Eskom - CROU  
22 Goue Weg, Town and Townlands  
Klerksdorp  
2571

**Eskom Holdings Soc Limited- North West Operating unit has been requested to electrify Greater Ganyesa extensions by Kagisano Molopo Local Municipality. The project falls within Dr Ruth Mompoti District Municipality in North West Province. The project comprises of 404 stands, with the houses of Tin and Brick types and is 100% occupied.**

Eskom Holding Soc Limited North West Operating Unit has submitted an application in terms of section 38(1) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) for a proposed 22kV powerline to be constructed to electrify Greater Ganyesa.

The proposed development is located in an area of moderate palaeontological sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. Aerial satellite imagery shows that the proposed powerlines are to be located on the outskirts of Ganyesa in disturbed and undisturbed areas.

In a comment issued on the 10/05/2019, SAHRA requested that the Distribution Environmental Screening Document (DESD), the spatial plan of the proposed powerline and ground level photographs of the proposed routes to be submitted to the application. Additionally, as graves were previously identified within the surrounding areas as part of an earlier SAHRIS application (SAHRIS Case ID 6471 - <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/mookodi-integration-phase-2-mookodi-ganyesa>), SAHRA requested that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) as per section 38(3) of the NHRA be conducted that includes archaeological and palaeontological components. Since the issuing of the above comment, all of the above requested documents have been submitted for review.

*Mlilo, T. 2019. Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for Eskom's proposed Ganyesa Electrification project in Kagisano MolopoLocal Municipality in the Dr Ruth Mophati District Municipality of the North West Province.*



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A total of two formal burial grounds were identified within the proposed development route of the powerlines. These burial grounds consist of graves younger than 60 years and the powerline route has been amended to avoid the graves. No other heritage resources were identified.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Construction workers must be inducted on the significance of graves and potential impacts of their activities to the affected graves as well as procedures for handling accidental damage to graves during construction;
- The Ganyesa communities should be informed about the construction of powerlines in the vicinity of two township cemeteries and should be informed about the potential impacts of the proposed development activities;
- Construction activities must be stopped should they be a burial or ritual ceremony at any of the two graveyards, disruption of such activities will not be tolerated by local communities; and
- Eskom ECO must induct construction workers regarding the potential risks associated with the construction of particularly the MV line and at the end to verify if any grave was affected by the project. This will minimize the chances of communities claiming undocumented damages to their family graves.

*Durand, J. F. Palaeontological Desktop Study: Proposed development of the Ganyesa electrification project, Northwest Province.*

The proposed development area is underlain by the Gordonia Formation of the Kalahari Group that has a moderate palaeontological sensitivity. Fossils that are known to be present in this formation include root casts, burrows, ostrich eggshells, mollusc shells and isolated bones, however few have been found in the proposed project area. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended and has been provided in the report.

In an Interim Comment issued on 16/09/2019, SAHRA requested that the identified graves be mapped relative to the proposed development, and photographs of the graves be provided in an amended HIA before further comments are issued.

Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, a revised HIA has been submitted with the requested information.

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The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 38(4) of the NHRA:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit and the Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations provided by the heritage specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further specific conditions are provided for the development as follows;
- A no-go bufferzone of 30 m must be adhered to around the identified burial ground;
- 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
  - i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA.

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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Natasha Higgitt  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine  
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/523163>

**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.