

Our Ref: 14077



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: 14077

Date: Wednesday July 31, 2019

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Final Decision

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

Attention: Ms Mahlatse Shiloane
Eskom Distribution- LOU
92 Hans van Rensburg Street
P.O Box 3499
Polokwane
0700

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd, Limpopo Operating Unit (LOU) intends to construct the powerline for the above-mentioned project. The powerline will include 316.3m MV which will be connected to the existing powerline in the area (refer to the Span plan sheets and the Pegging Coordinates for more information) both traversing Thohoyandou, Thulamela Local Municipality of the Limpopo Province. Environmental Screening of the powerline route was conducted during mapping of the village and pegging of the route the by Survey team and site verification by Environmental Practitioner which lead to the generation of the servitude planning documents [Distribution Environmental Screening Document (DESD), Wayleave, Span plan and Pegging coordinates attached for your reference].No Heritage resources outlined on item 6.3 of the DESD were observed on site.

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 new power line will be starting at the Thohoyandou/Univecity 11 kV feeder located in the Thohoyandou/Thulamela Local Municipality of Limpopo Province. The power line will be supplying electricity to a boarding school in Thohoyandou, and it will be constructed close to existing power lines and parallel to a tarred road.

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 11 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 072 802 1251).

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/526287>

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.