Our Ref: 14088



an agency of the Department of Arts and Culture

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Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo

Tel: 021 462 4502

Email: nkhumalo@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 14088

Date: Thursday September 19, 2019

Page No: 1

## **Final Decision**

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

Attention: Galaletsang Motlalekgosi

Eskom-MOU

Eskom Distribution Mpumalanga Operating Unit is proposing a project of electrifying households at Hillaria village near Tekwane North. The project is within the farm Nyamasaan 647 JU, Mpumalanga province, Ehlanzeni district munic, Mbombela Local munic. The project will involve digging of 2X2m and 2.4 m deep holes to plant 14m wooden poles

Eskom SOC Ltd, Mpumalanga Operating Unit (MOU) 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 MV power line will be 5.18 km and the LV power line will be 14.13 km in length and will be supplying electricity to the Nyamasan village. The proposed new power line will be located on the farm Nyamasaan 647 JU in the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality of Mpumalanga Province.

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 22 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.

#### **Final Decision**

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts Eskom Holdings (SOC) Ltd MOU'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:

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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.

Page No: 2

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

Nokukhanya Khumalo

Heritage Officer

South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine

Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit

South African Heritage Resources Agency

# **Hillaria Electrification**

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Khumalo Date: Thursday September 19, 2019

Page No: 3

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### ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: http://www.sahra.org.za/node/526365 (, 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.