

Duvha Power Station Ash Dam, Raw and Ash Water Return Dams Seepage Interception Drains in Mpumalanga Province.

Our Ref: 14324



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 14324

Date: Thursday January 23, 2020

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Final Comment

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

Attention: Nema Consulting

PO Box 1673
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2157

Eskom propose to install seepage interception drains in four areas in the Duvha Power Station, Mpumalanga Province (Figures 1 and 2). The Duvha Power Station is located in the Emalahleni Local Municipality and the Nkangala District Municipality. The seepage drains are located on the Remaining Extent of Farm Duvha Kragstasie 337 JS. The Ash Dam is located 1.7km east of the Witbank Dam.

Eskom Holdings (SOC) Ltd are proposing to construct subsoil groundwater seepage interception drains and cut-off interceptor drains at their existing Ash Dam, Low Level Ash Water Return Dam, and High Level Ash Water Return Dam in order to prevent ground water pollution and potential pollution of the Witbank dam. The ash dams are located on the remainder of the farm Duvha Kragstasie 337 JS in the Mpumalanga Province.

Nema Consulting (Pty) Ltd have submitted a draft Basic Assessment report on behalf of the applicant, in support of an Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA), as amended. A Water Use License in terms of the National Water Act, No. 36 of 1998 (NWA), and section 22 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA) (As amended). In respect of listed activities in the NEMA 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended for an integrated EA application.

In order to meet the requirements of SAHRA for commenting in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA), a Heritage Impact Assessment by PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd has been submitted to SAHRA for commenting.

Fourie, W. May 2019. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Ash Dam Seepage Drains at Duvha Power Station, Emalahleni Municipality, Mpumalanga.

The author undertook a field survey of the proposed ash dam areas and did not identify any heritage resources. However, two sites were identified outside the study area, namely DUV 001 and 002. These sites are a demolished farmstead (DUV 001) and a cemetery with 11 graves (DUV 002) and they are of low and

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high significance respectively. The author recommends that the graves are fenced, and the fence should demarcate the 20 m buffer zone.

Butler, E. September 2019. Palaeontological Desktop Assessment of the Proposed Seepage Interception Drains at Duvha Power Station, Emalahleni Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

The proposed seepage construction of the HLAWRD and two camp sites located in the south of the study area is underlain by the Vryheid Formation, Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup. This formation is of very high palaeontological significance, with a high chance of *Glossopteris* flora fossils occurring in the shale rocks; however this part of the development area is very small and previously disturbed. The proposed seepage construction of the LLAWRD and the northern camp site is underlain by the Selons River Formation of the Rooiberg Group, which is of very low palaeontological significance. The overall impact significance is low and the author recommends the Fossil Chance Finds Protocol, included under section 11 of the Palaeontological Desktop Assessment, must be included in the EMPr to be implemented by the ECO.

Final Comment

South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the amended HIA and the PIA reports submitted to the case for commenting and has no objection to the development going ahead.

- The Chance Finds Fossil Procedure as detailed in the PIA must be included in the EMPr.
- In the event that fossils are uncovered during construction then construction must cease within the 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).

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The Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit accepts the recommendations for the burial grounds identified in the HIA report. Before fencing may occur, permission from the family members must be sort.

- This must be done by undertaking a social consultation process to identify the family members of the site as is required in terms of Chapter IX of the NHRA Regulations and section 36(3) of the NHRA.
- The ECO must monitor all construction within 50 metres of the burial grounds. 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 and its appendices must be submitted to the case and once a Record of Decision from the competent authority is issued, it must also be submitted to the case. This comment must be forwarded to the competent authority and proof of submission must be uploaded 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

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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/528403>

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.