



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 14336

Date: Monday October 21, 2019

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Final Comment

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

Attention: Mr Khuliso Mudau

Nsovo Environmental Consulting

748 Richards Drive

Elite Park

Halfway House

1685

The Dipaleseng Local Municipality has proposed to develop the Siyathemba 20MVA 88/22kV substation and associated infrastructure in order to increase power supply in the area.

Eskom Holdings SOC (Pty) Ltd are proposing to construct a substation on Portion 5 of the Farm Vlakfontein 556 IR, Dipaleseng Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. Two substation alternatives were also investigated on the same farm. Construction will include ground clearance of 100 x 100m to accommodate 4 x 88kV bays, and 6 x 22kV bays, a 5m wide gravel access road and 500m long.

Nsovo Environmental Consulting (Pty) Ltd have submitted a draft Basic Assessment report (BAR) on behalf of the applicant, in support of an Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA), as amended, for listed activities in the NEMA 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended.

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

Mabuda, M.M. May 2018. Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Proposed construction of Siyathemba 20MVA88/22kV substation and its associated infrastructure within the jurisdiction of Dipaleseng Local Municipality in the Mpumalanga Province.

The author undertook a field survey of the general area proposed for the Siyathemba 20MVA 88/22kV substation and did not identify any heritage resources. But due to known heritage resources in the area the author determines that there is a low likelihood that Later Iron Aged settlement remains may occur on site. Furthermore, the visibility of the ground was low due to dense vegetation cover and the field survey did not



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assess the exact development footprint. Therefore, the author recommends induction training for the construction crew in how to identify heritage resources likely to occur in the area.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the HIA report and notes the limitations experienced during the field survey. As such, the SAHRA requires a walk down assessment of the finalised substation to be undertaken, by a suitably qualified archaeologist or heritage practitioner, preferably in Autumn/Winter when the vegetation is sparse. The heritage walk-down assessment must be undertaken prior to construction. Furthermore, a general fossil finds procedure relevant to this area must be included in the EMPr for implementation during construction and for it to be used as a induction guide for the construction crew.

A report of the walk down assessment must be uploaded to this case.

An amended EMPr with the fossil finds procedure included in it must be uploaded to this case.

In the unlikely 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).

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).

**Draft Basic Assessment Report for the proposed development of Siyathemba
20MVA 88/22kV substation**

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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

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/528599>
(DARDLEA, Ref: 1/3/1/16/1 G- 132)