

Proposed decommissioning of the Transnet Durban to Johannesburg Pipeline (DJP) after deactivation, i.e. product (hydrocarbon) displacement and cleaning.

Our Ref:



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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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
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CaseID: 14872

Date: Friday July 03, 2020
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Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Transnet Pipelines a division of Transnet SOC Limited

Proposed decommissioning of the Transnet Durban to Johannesburg Pipeline (DJP) and associated infrastructure. Decommissioning means take out of active service permanently or dismantle partly or wholly, or closure of a facility to the extent that it cannot be readily re-commissioned. Sections of the pipeline and certain depots will be decommissioned. Decommissioning will take place after deactivation which would involve the displacement of product (removal of product) and cleaning (purging of pipeline with preferably an inert substance such as nitrogen). At the decommissioning phase, the pipeline is therefore classified as empty and clean. *the kml file has been removed as it was too complex for the system. The .kmz file is still available for reference purposes. The file must not be re-uploaded to the GIS layer*****

HydroScience CC has been appointed by Transnet Pipelines to undertake a Basic Assessment Process for the decommissioning of the Durban to Johannesburg Petroleum Pipeline, crossing the Kwa-Zulu Natal Province, Free State, Gauteng and into the North West Province.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include the demolition and dismantling of several depots, filling of pipelines, with limited sections of the pipeline to be lifted where it may inhibit future developments (to be identified). Rehabilitation will be the final phase of the project where the removal of unnatural structures, slopes and materials will result in conditions for vegetation to re-establish.

Archaetnos Culture and Cultural Resource Consultants have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process as per section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA.

Van Vollenhoven, A. C. Smit, J. 2019. A report of Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Decommissioning of Transnet Pipelines from Durban to Johannesburg (DJP).

The specialist did not identify any heritage resources that may be impacted by the proposed decommissioning.



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It is noted that the area was disturbed when the pipeline was constructed in 1965.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- It should be noted that although all points could not be visited, the entire line is deemed a low risk for containing heritage sites. This is due to the area around the line and servitude being disturbed when it was commissioned in 1965;
- A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be followed.

A Final Comment was issued on the 06/04/2020, noting that SAHRA had no objections to the proposed development and provided conditions for the project. Once of these conditions included the following:

“Sections of the pipeline that will be lifted as noted that are still to be identified in the DBAR, that are located within areas of moderate, high and very high sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map must be subjected to a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment. This is to ascertain whether when the pipeline was constructed in 1965, it may have uncovered palaeontological material that could be rescued as part of the decommissioning.”

Since the issuing of the Final Comment, a Palaeontological Desktop Study has been submitted to the SAHRIS application for review.

Durand, J. F. 2020. Palaeontological Desktop Study: Decommissioning of Transnet Pipelines Durban – Johannesburg.

The development will be underlain by sedimentary rocks of the Witwatersrand, Ventersdorp, Transvaal, Karoo Supergroups and the Natal Group. Of these, the Karoo Supergroup and Transvaal Supergroup are the most fossiliferous and vulnerable. Fossils known to be present within the Transvaal Supergroup include stromatolites. The Karoo Supergroup fossils include the most extensive sequence of terrestrial and lacustrine sedimentary deposits in the world. The report divided the route of the pipeline into 9 sections. Geological deposits of very high sensitivity were noted in sections B, C, D, E, F, G, H and; high sensitivity within section A, B, C, D, F, G and I; moderate within section A, B, C, F, G, H and I; low sensitivity within sections A, B, F, G, H and I.

The pipeline sections B-C and F-I run through the Ecca Group formation of the Karoo Supergroup. The Ecca

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Group is known for vast quantities of fossilized plant remains, insects, bivalves and fish scales. The Beaufort Group Formation of the Karoo Supergroup is present within sections C-F and is known for animal and plants fossils such as the *Dicynodon*, as well as trace fossils. The Molteno Formation is present within sections D-E and contains a diverse assemblage of fossil plant and insect remains. The Elliot Formation is present within sections D & E and contains fossils that would have lived in a lake or river environment, including trace fossils, with an important prosauropod fossil, *Massospondylus* include the eggs.

The Beaufort and Elliot Formations of the Karoo Supergroup are the most vulnerable to development in areas where the bedrock is exposed or in areas where the soil cover is shallow.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- A Palaeontologist should be appointed to inspect the decommissioning procedures at intervals in the KZN area between Escourt and Van Reenen because of the high probability that highly sensitive fossiliferous strata will be compromised during the decommissioning process;
- A Chance Finds Procedure must be followed and is provided in the report.

Final Comment

It must be noted that the following comments are only relevant for the sections of the pipeline located in the Free State Province, the Gauteng Province and the North West Province. Comments must be sought for the Kwa-Zulu Natal section from the KZN Amafa and Research Institute.

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit is satisfied with the results and recommendations of the palaeontological specialist in terms of the sections of the pipeline within the Free State Province, the Gauteng Province and the North West Province. The recommendations for development activities within these three provinces are supported and must be adhered to. The recommendations of the specialist must be incorporated into the EMPr for the development.

The following conditions from the Final Comment issued on the 06/04/2020 are reiterated:

- 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*

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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:*
- *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;*
- *The Final BAR and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;*
- *The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.*

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/534585>
(DEA, 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.