



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: 15220

Date: Friday July 31, 2020

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Final Comment

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

Attention: Eskom - LOU

HIA for the Eskom Merensky-Uchoba Project A 17km power line will be constructed close the town of Steelpoort in the Limpopo Province. No heritage resources of significance were found.

Eskom Holdings (SOC) Ltd (Limpopo Operating Unit) is proposing to construct a new 132kV power line from Mampuru substation to Uchoba substation. The power line will be crossing various farms in a 1 km metre corridor that will be 17 km long and include the proposed route and two alternatives.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) by Landscape Dynamics (Pty) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) for activities that trigger listed activities in the NEMA EIA Regulations 2017 as amended.

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 (HIA) by Archaetnos cc has been submitted to SAHRA for commenting.

Van Vollenhoven, A.C. March 2020. A Report on an Archaeological Impact Assessment for the Eskom Merensky-Uchoba Project, Mpumalanga Province.

The author undertook the assessment of the power line corridor including the proposed two alternatives. Isolated finds of ESA, MSA and LSA stone tools were identified along the Steelpoort river banks including an area where significant erosion had occurred. In the same eroded area, the author identified a isolated hammer stone and undecorated potsherds that he determines are from the Later Iron Age, as well as a dilapidated mud brick house from recent history. This site is also of low significance, located 40m from the preferred power line route. These finds are listed as low significance as they are most likely out of context, and no impact will occur to the sites as they located far from the proposed power line routes. However, the author recommends a walk down survey of the finalised power line route to assess the area marked for the pylon footings.

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South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the HIA and the recommendations provided therein.

- SAHRA requires that the recommended walk down report be submitted to SAHRA for comments prior to the construction phase commencing.
- The Chance Finds Fossil Procedure must be drafted and included in the EMPr as proposed power line is located in a low sensitivity zone on the SAHRIS palaeo-sensitivity.
- If any historical buildings will be impacted by the proposed development, then comment and permits in terms of section 34 must be sought from the Limpopo Heritage Resources Authority (LIHRA).

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).

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.

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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/537827>
(, 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.