



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: 15560

Date: Wednesday October 07, 2020

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Final Decision

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

Attention: Ms RENDANI PHADAGI

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd, Limpopo Operating Unit (LOU) intends to construct the powerline for the above-mentioned project. The powerline will be connected to the existing powerline (refer to the Span plan sheets and the Coordinates for more information) traversing Sekhukhune District Municipality of the Limpopo Province. Environmental Screening of the powerline route was conducted during mapping of the village and pegging of the route the by Survey team and site verification by Environmental Practitioner which lead to the generation of the servitude planning documents [Distribution Environmental Screening Document (DESD), Wayleave, Span plan and coordinates attached for your reference]. No Heritage resources outlined on item 6.3 of the DESD were observed on site.

Eskom SOC Ltd, Limpopo Operating Unit (LOU) 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 power line will be 584m starting at Hoogenoeg 22 kV feeder, on the remainder of the farm Waterkop 113 KT, in the Fetakgomo Local Municipality of Limpopo Province. The power line will be supplying electricity to a smallholder farm.

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. However, the area is relatively undisturbed, and any construction close to the dry stream bed must be monitored by the construction manager. The area is also located in a blue palaeo-sensitivity area and the power line will have negligible impact on the palaeo-heritage.

Final Decision

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



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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:

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.

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 012 320 8490).

The following procedure must be considered in the event that previously unknown fossils or fossil sites are exposed or found during the life of the project:

1. Surface excavations should continuously be monitored by the Eskom's Environmental Officer and any fossil material be unearthed the excavation must be halted.
2. If fossiliferous material has been disturbed during the excavation process it should be put aside to prevent it from being destroyed.

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3. The EO then has to take a GPS reading of the site and take digital pictures of the fossil material and the site from which it came.
4. The EO then should contact a palaeontologist and supply the palaeontologist with the information (locality and pictures) so that the palaeontologist can assess the importance of the find and make recommendations.



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5. If the palaeontologist is convinced that this is a major find an inspection of the site must be scheduled as soon as possible in order to minimise delays to the development.

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/541036>

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.