



Letter

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

Attention: Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
92 Hans Van Rensburg Street
Polokwane
0699

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE ASH DAMS AT HENDRINA POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA.

Van Schalkwyk, J. November 2011. Heritage impact assessment for the proposed development of the Hendrina Wet Ash Ashing Facility on Portion 8 of the Farm Boschmanskop 154IS, Mpumalanga

The above HIA was submitted for the proposed expansion of the wet ash disposal facilities at Hendrina Power Station. The proposed footprint of the expansion will be 209ha, with 139 ha for the wet ash disposal facilities and 70ha for associated infrastructure. This infrastructure includes the ash water return dam system, pipelines, solution trenches, seepage water collection systems, pump stations and a seepage recovery dam. The area proposed for development is situated on Portion 8 of the Farm Boschmanskop 154IS and the current land use is agricultural but within the broader context of the coal-fired Hendrina Power Station.

A number of sites were considered for development, and Alternative E was identified as the preferred alternative. The development of this alternative will necessitate the relocation of existing powerlines and pipelines. This Alternative was assessed in the above HIA. No heritage assessment of the other alternatives was provided.

No Stone Age or Iron Age archaeology was identified in the HIA. One informal cemetery was identified consisting of approximately 5 graves. This cemetery is located within the development area and as such, is likely to be impacted by the proposed development. One other grave was identified. This grave belongs to the former landowner of the property and is located close to the alternative alignment for the powerline. However, this grave will not be impacted by the proposed development.

According to the information provided in the Draft EIR, the project area is underlain by the Vryheid Formation of the Eccca Group of the Karoo Supergroup. The sandstones of the Vryheid Formation are known to contain fossils of plants and trace fossils of some significance.

The Soil and Agricultural Potential Study provided as part of the Draft EIR indicates that there is an abandoned dwelling in the northern part of the development area (south of the power station). This structure was not



Hendrina Wet Ash Disposal

Our Ref: 9/2/242/0020

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Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: jlavin@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 1641

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identified in the HIA. In addition, the submitted HIA did not contain any track paths and as such, SAHRA is unable to determine whether or not this part of the development area was investigated for heritage resources.

SAHRA therefore requires that a Palaeontological Impact Assessment by a suitably qualified professional be submitted for the proposed development. SAHRA also requires that track paths of the area surveyed are submitted as well as an assessment of the abandoned dwelling identified in the Soil and Agricultural Potential Study. This assessment should include photographs, a brief description, an assessment of significance as well as appropriate mitigation measures.

The SAHRA BGG Unit recommends that the cemetery and grave identified in the above HIA should be fenced and a 15m buffer zone implemented around these sites to prevent any negative impact or disturbance by the proposed development. A Conservation Management Plan must be developed for these sites and included in the EMP for this development to ensure the ongoing protection and management of these resources.

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

Yours faithfully

Jenna Lavin
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
(DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/2175)

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

Street Address: 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town 8000 * Postal Address: PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000
* Tel: +27 21 462 4502 * Fax: +27 21 462 4509 * Web: <http://www.sahra.org.za>

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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.



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