

Proposed grid connection infrastructure from the proposed Kokerboom 1, 2 and 3 Wind Energy Facilities to the existing Eskom Helios Substation, near Loeriesfontein in the Northern Cape: Draft Basic Assessment Report

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 16764

Date: Thursday August 05, 2021
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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: Business Venture Investments No. 1788 (Pty) Ltd.

Basic Assessment process for three new transmission lines and switching stations connecting the Kokerboom 1, 2 and 3 WEFs to the Eskom Helios MTS. The sites of the Kokerboom 1, 2 and 3 WEFs which the proposed transmission line will connect to, will be located approximately 53 km north of Loeriesfontein, 85 km west of Brandvlei and 160 km South-east of Springbok in the Northern Cape. The three transmission lines will be connecting to the Helios MTS which will feed into the existing national Eskom electricity grid.

Zutari (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Business Venture Investments No. 1788 (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed development of the Kokerboom 1, 2 and 3 transmission lines and switching stations near Loeriesfontein, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) Report has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include the construction of three 132KV overhead transmission lines within a 300 m assessed corridor and three switching stations with associated infrastructure such as access tracks, temporary laydown and site camps.

Natura Viva C and ASHA Consulting were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Almond, J. E. 2021. Palaeontological Heritage Comment: Site Sensitivity Report & Letter of Exemption from further Specialist Studies. Kokerboom 1, 2 and 3 Transmission lines and Switching Stations near Loeriesfontein, Namaqua District Municipality, Northern Cape.

The proposed development area is underlain by potentially fossiliferous igneous rocks of the Ecca Group that are intruded by the unfossiliferous rocks of the Early Jurassic Karoo Dolerite Suite. The Ecca groups are poorly exposed and have been baked by the dolerite intrusions. Low diversity trace fossils of no scientific interest are known to occur in the area. No palaeontological resources were identified as part of the conducted field-work. The proposed development will have a very low to low impact significance on local palaeontological

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heritage and Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented and is provided in the report.

Orton, J. 2021. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Grid Connection Infrastructure to support the Kokerboom 1, Kokerboom 2 and Kokerboom 3 Wind Energy Facilities, Calvinia Magisterial District, Northern Cape.

A total of nine (9) heritage resources were identified as part of the HIA. These include a broken lower grinding stone, Stone Age lithics surface scatters and historical ceramic fragments of very low heritage significance, a stone piled circle with tortoise bone and ostrich eggshell fragments (site 527) and Stone Age lithics surface scatters of low heritage significance, and two surface scatters of Stone Age lithics (sites 526 and 1952) of low-medium heritage significance.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The developer must contract an archaeologist to review the final alignment of the powerlines. Any locations that are likely to be sensitive (e.g. hilltops, pan margins) must be checked on the ground if they have not already been covered by the survey reported in the present report, to inform micro-siting and confirm if any sites require pre-construction mitigation work (i.e. sampling/ recording);
- The developer must contract an archaeologist to carry out mitigation work as required once the final alignment has been confirmed and reviewed. This must happen well in advance of construction to allow time for the permit process, actual work, and approval of the report by SAHRA;
- The environmental control officer (ECO) should ensure that all work occurs within the authorised footprints;
- Any unsurveyed portions of the final alignment that cross hilltops or other potentially sensitive areas (e.g. pans, low rock outcrops) must be surveyed before construction to inform micro-siting and/or to determine preconstruction mitigation requirements as appropriate;
- Any significant sites that might be impacted must be sampled and recorded prior to construction. This includes those at 526, 527 and 1952 if they are to be impacted; and
- If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development then work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.



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The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final BAR and EMP:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows:
- A report of the survey of the final alignment must be submitted to SAHRA prior to the construction phase;
- Sites 526, 527 and 1952 must be avoided with a no-go bufferzone of 30 m;
- Should it not be possible to avoid sites 526, 527 and 1952, the sites must be mitigated subject to a permit application in terms of section 35 and 48 of the NHRA and Chapter II and IV of the 2000 NHRA Regulations;
- 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 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 of the NHRA for offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
- With reference to the mitigation work noted above, a qualified archaeologist must be appointed to undertake the work in terms of the permit applied for as noted above;
- 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

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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

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/577553>

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.

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3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.