

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: 16926

Date: Friday September 03, 2021
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Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Eskom - NOU

P O Box 3499
Polokwane
0700

Basic Assessment process for the proposed development of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure at the Cuprum Substation located within Copperton, near the town of Prieska, Northern Cape Province.

Aecom SA (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Eskom SOC (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Amendment Application for the proposed development of a Battery Energy Storage Facility (BESS) and associated infrastructure at the Cuprum Substation, Copperton, Northern Cape Province (DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2372).

A draft Basic Assessment Report has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA EIA Regulations. The proposed developments include a BESS, realignment of the Cuprum/Karoo 66KV and Cuprum/Kronos 11kv lines, extension of the fence, extension of the existing road and rerouting of the water pipeline.

Sativa Travel and Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA, and in terms of section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as required by section 38(8) of the NHRA.

Miilo, T. 2021. Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment Report: The Proposed development of a Battery Energy Storage Facility (BESS) and associated infrastructure at the Cuprum Substation located within Copperton, near the town of Prieska, Northern Cape Province.

No heritage resources were identified within the proposed development area.

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Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- It is also advised that the Archaeology, Palaeontology and SAHRA Meteorites Unit is alerted when site work begins;
- Strict and clear reporting procedures for chance findings must be followed by applicant and contractors throughout the whole period of construction.

Interim Comment

As the proposed development footprint is located in an area of moderate sensitivity for palaeontological resources (as noted in the HIA), a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment must be conducted as part of the EA process. The desktop PIA must be conducted by a qualified palaeontologist and must comply with the 2012 SAHRA Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.

The applicant is advised to extend the EA process in terms of section 19(1)b of the NEMA EIA regulations in order to comply with this comment. The DBAR must be revised to include the results of the desktop PIA. Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested report.

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: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/579642>