



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: 17294

Date: Friday January 21, 2022
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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Miss Asandiswa Bongo
Eskom SOC Limited
69 Memorial Road, Monument Heights
Kimberley
8301

Eskom is intending to construct a 5km 22 kV powerline that is going to tap off from an existing 22 kV powerline and supply a customer at Vaalharts Kartoen. The development will take place under the Phokwane local municipality near Hartswater in the the Northern Cape.

Eskom has submitted an application in terms of section 38(1) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) for a proposed 22kv powerline to be constructed near Hartswater, Northern Cape Province.

The proposed powerline will be 5 km long and adjacent to existing roads and canals. The surrounding area has been disturbed by farm roads and agricultural activities.

SAHRIS Case ID 8795

(<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/phase-i-ii-hia-vaalharts-irrigation-project-canal-reconstruction>) contains an Heritage Impact Assessment that describes the canals located in the project area that form part of the historical Vaalharts Irrigation Scheme. These canals form part of one of the largest irrigation scheme in the world built in the 1930s associated with job creation after the Anglo Boer War and the great depression of the 1930s. In the Phase II HIA it is proposed that the Scheme be considered to be a heritage resource of Grade 1/National Significance, while the Northern Canal has been transformed and modernized since the early 1990s and should be considered to be a heritage resources of Grade IV C significance.

The proposed development footprint is underlain by areas of moderate palaeosensitivity.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 22/10/2021, SAHRA requested that a Heritage Impact Assessment be conducted for the proposed development. No further assessment of the impact to palaeontological resources would be required due to the disturbed nature of the soil. Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, an HIA has been submitted for review (31/12/2021).



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Sebogodi, W. 2021. Heritage Impact Assessment Report for the proposed 5km of 22 kV powerline that is going to tap off from an existing 22kV powerline and supply a customer at Vaalharts Kartoen.

*It must be noted that while the report was compiled by a qualified archaeologist at Eskom, the report was reviewed by Abenicia Henderson, a qualified archaeologist at the McGregor Museum.

The proposed powerline will run adjacent to the historical canals that form part of the Vaalharts Irrigation Scheme rated as a heritage resource of Grade 1 significance and no other heritage resources were identified along the proposed route. Recommendations provided in the report include that construction crews must be properly inducted to ensure they are fully aware of the significance of the Scheme.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests a track log of the survey be included in a revised HIA that must adequately assess the impact of the proposed development as required in section 38(3)c of the NHRA. Each proposed activity and each phase of the project, including construction, maintenance and decommissioning must be assessed for impacts to the highly significant heritage resource. Additionally, a more in-depth literature review of the Vaalharts Irrigation Scheme must be conducted, as only four lines in the submitted HIA is not sufficient.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of a revised HIA.

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/585229>