

Proposed establishment of 132kV powerline to evacuate power from the Karreebosch WEF to the National Grid in the Western and Northern Cape

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 17397

Date: Thursday January 27, 2022
Page No: 1

Final Comment

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

Attention: WSP Environmental Pty Ltd - Cape Town

3rd Floor
35 Wale Street
Cape Town
8001

The development of a 132kV overhead power line to connect the Karreebosch Wind Energy Facility (WEF) Energy Facility to the national grid via the existing Eskom Komsberg substation. The powerline is approximately 20 km long. The project is situated north of the town of Matjiesfontein in the Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality and the Laingsburg Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province and Western Cape Province. The 132kV grid connection crosses the following properties: Wilgebosch Rivier 188 Remainder Ekkraal (Nuwekraal) 199 Portion 2 Klipbanksfontein 198 Portion 1 and Remainder Bon Espirange 73 Portion 1 and Remainder Rietfontein 197 Ekkraal (Nuwekraal) 199 Portion 1 and Remainder Standvastigheid 210 Portion 2 (Komsberg Substation) The OHL will be a 132kV steel single or double structure with kingbird conductor (between 15 and 20m in height – above ground level). Standard overhead line construction methodology will be employed – drill holes (typically 2 – 3m in depth), plant poles, string conductor. It is not envisage that any large excavations and stabilized backfill will be required however this will only be verified on site once the Geotech has been undertaken at each pole position (part of construction works). Linked to CASE 17682

WSP Environmental (Pty) Ltd – Cape Town has been appointed to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed establishment of a 132kv powerline from the Karreebosch WEF to the national grid, located in the Northern and Western Cape Provinces. It must be noted that SAHRA does not have the jurisdiction to provide comments on development located in the Western Cape Province. All comments issued by SAHRA with regards to this development application are only applicable to the Northern Cape Province.

A Heritage Screener has been submitted by CTS Heritage as part of an application in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as it applies to the EA Application process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA), NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations as amended.

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Lavin, J. 2021. Heritage Screener: Proposed establishment of 132kV powerline to evacuate power from the Karreebosch WEF to the National Grid in the Western and Northern Cape.

The Heritage Screener has identified that the proposed development area may impact on heritage resources such as stone walled structures, historical farmhouses, graves and historical middens. The development footprint is located in an area of very high sensitivity for palaeontological resources as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. The Heritage Screener notes that several palaeontological assessments have been conducted over the development footprint, and that little information is likely to be gained from further palaeontological fieldwork. The landscape is located in a gazetted Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ) and the impact of the proposed powerline on the landscape will be negligible.

The Heritage Screener recommends that a Heritage Impact Assessment is conducted that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA with special focus on impacts to significant archaeological heritage.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 22/11/2021, SAHRA requested that the pending HIA be submitted with the draft EA documents. Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, a separate SAHRIS application was created to which the HIA and DBAR was uploaded to (See SAHRIS Case ID 17682: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/bon-espionage-komsberg-powerline>). On the 21/02/2022, SAHRA issued a Final Comment on Case ID 17682, noting no objections and provided conditions (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/590491>).

Final Comment

As Case ID 17682 is a duplication of the same EA application as described in Case ID 17397, the Final Comment issued on SAHRIS Case ID 17682 is relevant for Case ID 17397. Please refer to the Case ID 17682 for the Final Comment pertaining to proposed development of a 132kV powerline from the authorised Bon Espirange substation near Matjiesfontein in the Western Cape Province to the existing Komsberg substation, near Sutherland, Northern Cape Province.

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

Yours faithfully

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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/587777>

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.