

# Development of a new 132kV Power Line, 132kV switching station and associated infrastructure for the Sutherland & Rietrug WEFs, Northern Cape Province

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  
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Date: Tuesday December 14, 2021  
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CaseID: 17529

## Final Comment

**In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

Attention: South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd

P.O. Box 45063  
Claremont  
7753

**South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd, is proposing the development of a new 132kV powerline, 132kV substation and related infrastructure for the authorised Sutherland ( DEA Ref.: 12/12/20/1782/2) and Rietrug (DEA Ref.: 12/12/20/1782/1) Wind Energy Facilities (WEFs) known as the Sutherland Cluster.**

Nala Environmental Consulting Firm has been appointed by South African Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed establishment of a 132kV powerline and 132kV Switching Station for the Sutherland and Rietrug Wind Energy Facilities, in the Western and Northern Cape Provinces. It must be noted that a small portion of the grid corridor is located in the Western Cape Province. SAHRA does not have jurisdiction to provide comments for any portion of the development located in the Western Cape. The following comment is applicable for the Northern Cape section of the development only.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the EIA Regulations. The proposed activities include the construction of 132 KV switching station (200 m x 200 m), a new 132 kV powerline (approximately 0.46 km – 1.35 km based on the alternatives with a 100 m assessment corridor) and access tracks up to 4 m wide within the powerline corridor.

Natura Viva CC and ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed to provide heritage specialist input into the EA process as per section 24(4)b(iii) of the NEMA and section 38(3) and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

*Almond, J. E. 2021. Proposed New 132kV Powerline, 132kV Switching Station with a 33kV/132kV Substation and Related Infrastructure for the Authorised Sutherland Cluster Wind Energy Facilities on the Remaining Extent of Nooitgedacht Farm 148, Sutherland Magisterial District, Northern Cape Province.*

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The proposed development area is underlain by fluvial sediments of the upper Abrahamskraal Formation which are known to contain biotas of the *Tapinocephalus* Assemblage Zone. While there are known palaeontological sites within the Nooitgedacht farm, no fossils were recorded in the powerline or substation footprint areas. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended to be followed.

*Orton, J. 2021. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed 33kV/132kV Substation, 132kV Powerline with a 132kV Switching Station and Associated Infrastructure for the Sutherland and Rietrug Wind Energy Facilities, Sutherland Magisterial District, Northern Cape.*

No heritage resources were identified within the switching station alternative. One heritage resource was identified within the Alternative 2 location for the substation. The site is described as a single stone-walled structure of low heritage significance. No other heritage resources were identified.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Alternative 1 of the 33kV/132kV substation footprint is preferred from a heritage point of view.
- If Alternative 2 substation footprint is selected and the stone-walled site can be protected then it should be fenced off during construction with a 30 m buffer and all construction activities must stay outside of this zone; 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.

It is noted that the DBAR has not included the recommendation for the 30 m buffer or fencing around the identified heritage site, however, has included the site on the maps provided in the DBAR.

## Final Comment

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 EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;

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- 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:
- The FBAR must include the heritage specialist recommendation as noted above;
- 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 regarding offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
- 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 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

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Natasha Higgitt

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Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/588895>  
(DEA, Ref: )

**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.