



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 17545

Date: Friday August 19, 2022

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Final Comment

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

Attention: Eskom Majuba Power Station

Eskom Majuba Power Station is proposing the development of a new general waste disposal site adjacent to their existing, closed landfill site within the Majuba Power Station property boundary, located approximately 13km southwest of Amersfoort and 40km north-northwest of Volksrust, within jurisdiction of the Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality, which forms part of the Gert Sibande District Municipality in the Mpumalanga Province. Access to the site is possible via the N11, onto existing secondary loads that lead to the site.

Eskom Holdings (SOC) Ltd's Majuba Power Station have appointed Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd to restart and undertake the relapsed Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment application process in support for an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) as amended. After the Scoping phase several amendments to the project had to be reassessed as part of the EIA phase.

Eskom Majuba Power Station is proposing to establish a new waste disposal facility and its associated infrastructure that is total 6 ha. The initial proposed locations were located on Portion 6 for alternative A and Portion 1 and 2 for the alternative B of the farm Witkoppies 81 HS in the Seme Local Municipality of the Mpumalanga Province. The current amendment areas being considered for establishment of the general waste disposal site will be consist of two (2) alternative sites, namely Alternative A, located on Portion 6 of the Farm Witkoppies 81HS and Alternative B, located on Portions 1 and 2 of the Farm Witkoppies 81HS. Both sites are contained within Eskom-owned land.

The initial Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report and a Palaeontological Desktop Study were submitted to SAHRA for commenting in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA), and a Final Comment of no objection was issued on 16/03/2022. The initial HIA and Palaeontological Desktop Study are summarised below:

Van Schalkwyk, J. September 2021. Phase 1 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: GENERAL WASTE DISPOSAL SITE AT THE ESKOM MAJUBA POWER STATION, GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY,



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MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

The author undertook a field assessment of the proposed waste disposal site and did not identify any heritage resources as such there will be a low potential impact on heritage. The author recommends chance finds procedures in the event that any heritage resources, artefacts like pottery, ostrich egg shells, faunal remains or human remains are uncovered during construction of the associated facilities.

Fourie, H. January 2019. Construction and Operation of the New General Waste Disposal Site at Eskom Majuba Power Station.

Dr Pixley Ka Seme Local Municipality, Gert Sibande District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. Farm: Portion 1, 2 and 6 Witkoppies 81-HS. Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Phase 1 Field Study.

The study area is underlain by Permian aged sandstone and shale of the Volkrust Formation with the moderate potential of fossilised fish scales and wood occurring within the formation. Its also underlain by shales and sandstones of the Vryheid Formation with a Very High potential of fossilised Glossopteris Flora occurring. The author undertook a field assessment and identified some surface outcrops of shale and sandstone, they assess that Alternative A has the least surface rock exposure and potentially less impacts to fossiliferous rocks. The author also notes there will be no excavations below 1.3m.

The author recommends the chance finds procedures included as Appendix 2.

An amended HIA and PIA reports have been submitted to SAHRA for commenting because a few of the proposed activities have been amended and assessed in the EIA phase of the current EA application process. These reports must be read in conjunction with the aforementioned 2021 heritage reports.

Van Schalkwyk, J. April 2022. Phase 1 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: DEVELOPMENT OF A GENERAL WASTE DISPOSAL SITE AT THE ESKOM MAJUBA POWER STATION, DR PIXLEY KA SEME LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

The author undertook a field assessment of amendment area and did not identify any heritage resources and there will be no impact from the proposed waste facilities included in the amended report. The author recommends chance finds procedures included under section 9 of the report.

Butler, E. April 2022. PALAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE NEW GENERAL WASTE DISPOSAL SITE AT ESKOM MAJUBA POWER STATION, DR PIXLEY KA



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SEME LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

The study area is primarily underlain by Jurassic Aged Dolerite which is igneous in nature and of negligible palaeontological significance. However, recent Shape files updates (Council for Geosciences, Pretoria) indicates that the proposed waste disposal site is entirely underlain by the Volksrust Formation (Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup). There have been numerous assessments of the Majuba Power station grounds have not identified any fossils, however, if any are identified they would be significant. As the geology is similar for both proposed alternatives the recommendations will be the same and there is no preferred site for palaeontology. The author recommends the implementation of chance finds procedures included in the report under section 12.2.

Final Comment

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the amended HIA and the PIA reports submitted to the case for commenting, and has no objection to the development going ahead on the following conditions.

The Chance Finds Fossil Procedures found in the 2021 PIA report under appendix 4 and section 12.2 of the 2022 PIA report must be included in the EMPr.

In the event that fossils are uncovered during construction then construction must cease within the immediate vicinity, a buffer of 30 m must be established, and a palaeontologist called in to inspect the finds. The palaeontologist must obtain a section 35(4) permit in terms of NHRA and Chapter IV NHRA Regulations, before any fossils are collected.

If there are any new heritages resources are discovered during construction and operation phases of the proposed development, then a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings at the expense of the developer.

If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required at the expense of the developer. Mitigation will only be carried out after the archaeologist or palaeontologist obtains a permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999). You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8654).

If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the

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police find them to be heritage graves, then mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be contacted for processes to follow (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Ngqalabutho Madida 012 320 8490).

The Final EIAR and its appendices must be submitted to the case and once a Record of Decision from the competent authority is issued, it must also be submitted to the case.

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

Yours faithfully

Nokukhanya Khumalo
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/588992>

[Terms & Conditions:](#)

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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.