

Our Ref: 19373



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 19373

Date: Wednesday October 05, 2022

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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Eskom Distribution

26 Turnbull Street
Empangeni
3880

Application for amendment of the environmental authorisation for the construction of the Borutho Major Transimission station project (5 x power lines) near Mokopane town within Mogalakwena Local Municipality in the Waterberg District of Limpopo Province.

Eskom Holdings (SOC) Ltd is proposing to amend 10km in length of power line from the approved 28km power line from existing Potties Substation to Borutho Substation. The furthest width from the approved power line is approximately 600 meters. The proposed amendment consists of three (3) diversions from the approved route.

They have appointed Evau 77 Consulting (Pty) Ltd to undertake the amendment application process in support of an amended Environmental Authorisation application in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA), as amended for listed activities in the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

The amendment motivation report, desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA), and Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) by Mbofho Consulting and Project Managers cc have been submitted to SAHRA in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999 for commenting.

Silidi, M.A. March 2022. DRAFT PHASE I HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF APPROXIMATELY 16KM 132KV OVERHEAD POWER LINE FROM THE EXISTING BORUTHO SUBSTATION TO POTTIES SUBSTATION NEAR MOKOPANE IN MOGALAKWENA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE WATERBERG DISTRICT OF LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

A field based study was undertaken by Mbofho Consulting and no heritage resources were identified. The author assesses the proposed residential development to have very low impact on heritage resources. The proposed power line route crosses through and around an existing mine right area, housing developments. The site is located within the urban edge on land previously used for agricultural purposes. Any heritage that

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may have existed would have been disturbed/destroyed by recent activities as such the authors recommend no further field assessments for all types of heritage and chance finds procedures to be included in the construction management plan.

Bamford, M. April 2022. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Boruthro – Potties substation 132kv OHL realignment, Limpopo Province.

The study area is mostly underlain by non-fossiliferous igneous rocks of the Rustenburg Layered Suite of the Bushveld Igneous Complex. Only a short section of the central deviation lies on potentially fossiliferous rocks of the Chuniespoort Group. The author assesses that the overall impact to potentially sensitive fossiliferous rocks will be low because the study area has been changed by agriculture and housing development. The geology is not distinct enough to determine which stratum of the Chuniespoort Group is present. Only the Malmani Subgroup has any chance of preserving stromatolites (trace fossils of algal colonies). Therefore, the author recommends a Fossil Chance Finds Procedure to be used if any fossils are uncovered during construction, and included in the EMPr.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, and Meteorites (APM) Unit cannot provide comments on the proposed development because the Heritage Impact Assessment report does not use easily available information from previous heritage studies to inform this study. The farm Palmietfontein is known to contain archaeological sites. Some of the photos contained in the report (ashy soil, and presence of aloes) potentially indicate archaeological sites.

The HIA must be amended to include a review of previous HIA studies for the Platreef Mine and surrounding areas and mines identified numerous heritage resources and graves that are not discussed in this HIA. The SAHRA suggest the use of SAHRIS to find these additional study and to cross reference with the location of the power line route.

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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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/604057>
(DFFE, Ref: 12/12/20/2263AM2) (DFFE, Ref: 12/12/20/2263AM2)

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.