



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 19632

Date: Friday March 17, 2023

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## Letter

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

Attention: Ms Munzhedzi Mudau  
Eskom Distribution- LOU

**The Merensky Uchoba Power line was approved for construction by the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries in 2020. The line is approximately 18km long and will be constructed in Steelpoort which is under the jurisdiction of Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality, Sekhukhune, Limpopo.**

Eskom Holdings (SOC) Ltd (Limpopo Operating Unit) appointed Landscape Dynamics (Pty) to undertake a Basic Assessment process in support of a Environmental Authorisation (EA) application for a new 132kv power line from Mampuru substation to Uchoba substation. The EA application is in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) for activities that trigger listed activities in the NEMA EIA Regulations 2017 as amended.

The SAHRA as a commenting authority in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA), provided a Final Comment dated 31/01/2020 (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/538351>) on case ID 15220 (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/eskom-merensky-uchoba-project>), based on information provided in the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) by Archaetnos cc that was submitted to SAHRA for commenting.

The HIA was summarised as follows:

*Van Vollenhoven, A.C. March 2020. A Report on an Archaeological Impact Assessment for the Eskom Merensky-Uchoba Project, Mpumalanga Province.*

The author undertook the assessment of the power line corridor including the proposed two alternatives. Isolated finds of ESA, MSA and LSA stone tools were identified along the Steelpoort river banks including an area where significant erosion had occurred. In the same eroded area, the author identified a isolated hammer stone and undecorated potsherds that he determines are from the Later Iron Age, as well as a dilapidated mud brick house from recent history. This site is also of low significance, located 40m from the preferred power line route. These finds are listed as low significance as they are most likely out of context, and no impact will occur to the sites as they located far from the proposed power line routes. However, the author recommends a walk

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down survey of the finalised power line route to assess the area marked for the pylon footings.

SAHRA conditions state the following:

South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the HIA and the recommendations provided therein.

SAHRA requires that the recommended walk down report be submitted to SAHRA for comments prior to the construction phase commencing.

The Chance Finds Fossil Procedure must be drafted and included in the EMP as proposed power line is located in a low sensitivity zone on the SAHRIS palaeo-sensitivity.

If any historical buildings will be impacted by the proposed development, then comment and permits in terms of section 34 must be sought from the Limpopo Heritage Resources Authority (LIHRA).

The walkdown report by Archaeos cc was submitted to SAHRA as a condition of the Final Comment.

Van Vollenhoven, A.C. September 2022. A REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WALKDOWN IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE ESKOM MERENSKY-UCHOBA PROJECT, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

The field assessment of pylon positions identified 3 sites. Site 1 is about 120m from the nearest pylon, site 2 is about 50 m from the nearest pylon and site 3 is about 30m from the nearest pylon site. Surface scatter of stone tools identified in the HIA report is located 30m away from pylon 30 and 31. All sites are considered of low heritage significance, but care should be taken not to damage these sites during the construction process.

### **SAHRA response to the walkdown report**

The SAHRA Development Application Unit (DAU) notes and accepts the submission of the Heritage walkdown report. The SAHRA accepts the recommendations in the walkdown report and it fulfills the conditions set out in the Final Comment. The other conditions still stand and has no objections to the proposed development.

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

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Natasha Higgitt  
Manager: Development Applications Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/605715>

**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.