



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: Nokukhanya Khumalo

Tel: 021 462 4502

Email: nkhumalo@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 20262

Date: Monday December 19, 2022

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## Interim Comment

### In terms of Section 38(2) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Mr Khathutshelo Nesindande  
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd  
90 Hans Van Rensburg Street.  
Polokwane,  
0700

**Eskom SOC Limited is proposing the development of electrical infrastructure to connect the Thabazimbi Combined Substation with a 132kV transmission power line to the new proposed MCWAP2 substation, and to ensure that the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) are able to supply the water demand and needs for the general area. The proposed transmission line and associated infrastructure would include a 132 kV transmission line, an on-site substation, and the use of existing service and access roads for maintenance purposes. In terms of the NEMA and the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended) promulgated in Government Gazette 40772 and GN R326, R327, R325 and R324 on 7 April 2017, a Basic Assessment (BA) Process is required for the construction of the proposed transmission line and electrical infrastructure. An Application for EA will be lodged with the DFFE with the submission of the draft BA Report for the transmission line project.**

Eskom Holdings (SOC) Ltd have appointed NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Basic 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, for activities that trigger the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 2014 Regulations, as amended for the construction of a 132kV powerline connecting the Thabazimbi substation to the proposed MCWAP substation, along with the construction of the MCWAP substation.

Eskom is proposing the construction of 100X100 m (1 Hectare) of 2x20MVA 132kV MCWAP new substation (Study Buffer zone of 2 Hectare); Installation of 2x20MVA 132/11kV fully equipped transformer bays, 132kV busbar and 2x132kV line bays (one equipped initially with the other for future use); Building a control room adequate to cater for all secondary plant equipment; Construction of a 12km of 132kV Kingbird Power line (Study Corridor for 1km of which will be 500m from the centre of the power line both site); and Building an Access Road of 6m width and 200m length. All located on

A Heritage Impact Assessment report has been submitted to SAHRA for commenting in terms of section 38 of

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the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

*Marais, L. May 2022. Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed construction of a +/- 12km 132kV powerline combined to a new MCWAP substation, Thabazimbi, Limpopo Province.*

The author undertook a field assessment of the study area and did not identify any heritage resources that may be impacted by the proposed substation and power line. The author recommends chance finds procedures which have been included in the EMPr.

#### **Interim Comment**

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, and Meteorites (APM) Unit cannot make an informed decision on this application because not all the heritage related reports were submitted to the case. The study areas is located within a region of Very High, and High sensitivities on the SAHRIS palaeomap and according to the palaeomap policy a field based assessment must be undertaken by a suitably qualified palaeontologist.

It is noted in the BAR (page 28 of the draft BAR) that a palaeontologist was appointed for the EA application however the subsequent report was never submitted.

In addition, the HIA report must be amended to include the a map of the foot survey tracklog.

The SAHRA will comment further on this application once an amended HIA report, PIA report and the draft BAR appendices are 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

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Nokukhanya Khumalo  
Heritage Officer

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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/609992>

(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2642)