

Our Ref: 20360



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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Final Comment

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

Attention: Eskom - LOU

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (the applicant) appointed Setala Environmental (Pty) Ltd as the independent environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for a proposed electricity strengthening project. The National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) issued Environmental Authorisation for the construction of a 132kV power line from the existing Paradise Substation to the proposed Fondwe Substation, on 05 October 2015, (DEA Ref 14/12/16/3/3/1/1337) and a subsequent amendment authorised on 25 March 2019. DEA Ref 14/12/16/3/3/1/1337/AM3. Following on the above, an application for authorisation for deviation of a section of the above-mentioned power line is submitted to the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014, as amended.

Eskom Holdings (SOC) Ltd have appointed Setala Environmental (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 a section of the 132kV power line between the existing Paradise Substation to the Fondwe Substation, located on the farm Tondonwe 198 MT in Thulamela Local Municipality of Limpopo Province. They are proposing to amend the authorised power line routes at pylon tower points 72 to 82.

A Heritage Impact Assessment report by Integrated Specialist Services (Pty) Ltd and a Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment report by Prof Marion Bamford has been submitted to SAHRA for commenting in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Mann, N. August 2022. PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR PROPOSED 132 KV PARADISE SUBSTATION TO FONDWE SUBSTATION POWERLINE LINE DEVIATION IN THULAMELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, VHEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

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The author undertook a field survey of the proposed amended power line route between tower points 72 to 82 and did not identify any archaeological resources however, there is a burial ground (BS01) around 200m from tower points 78 and 79. The site of high significance and must be impacted by the proposed development activities. Due to the site being located far from the proposed power line there will be no direct impacts on the site. The author recommends the following:

A 30m buffer zone must be maintained by the construction crew to prevent any damage to the site.

Bamford, M. February 2022. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Paradise-Fondwe 132kV powerline, Limpopo Province.

The proposed power line route is underlain partially by conglomerate, quartzite and sandstones of the Nzhelele Formation and Wyllieis Formation, Soutpansberg Group, and mostly on potentially fossiliferous Quaternary sands and alluvium. It is unlikely that any fossils of any importance would occur in the sands because the surrounding rocks have very low palaeontological potential. Nonetheless, a Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the EMP. Based on this information it is recommended that no further palaeontological impact assessment is required unless fossils are found by the contractor, environmental officer or other designated responsible person once excavations or drilling for pole foundations have commenced.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) notes and accepts the submission of the draft BAR, desktop PIA and HIA reports. SAHRA has no objections to the proposed development on the following conditions:

38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) and the Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;

38(4)b – The recommendations provided by the heritage specialists are supported and must be adhered to. These further additional comments apply:

BGG Comments:

Although impact to site BS01 is unlikely, a buffer zone of 30m must be strictly adhered to

If Eskom is unable to retain BS01 *in situ* then a social consultation process as regulated in terms of Chapter XI of the NHRA must be carried out to identify the next of kin and confirm if these are grave sites and a grave relocation process must be undertaken,

Any grave relocations must be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist who will apply for a section 36 of the

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NHRA permit application in terms of Chapter XI of the NHRA 2000 Regulations.

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 DAU (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence 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/Ngqalabutho Madida 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;

38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;

38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:

i) 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 appendices must be submitted to the case for record keeping 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

Nokukhanya Khumalo
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/611141>

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.