

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 20607

Date: Friday March 10, 2023  
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## Interim Comment

### In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Ms Deidre Herbst  
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd  
P O Box 1091  
JOHANNESBURG  
2000

### **The proposed establishment of a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station, Mpumalanga Province**

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd have been appointed by Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed construction of a solar photovoltaic and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at the Komati Power Station, near Komati, Mpumalanga Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) was submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA EIA Regulations (As amended). The proposed development will include the construction of PV panels, overhead or underground cabling between components, collector substations, access roads, BESS, perimeter roads, meteorological station, operation and maintenance building, warehouse and workshop, hazardous chemical store, security building, parking areas and roads, temporary laydown areas, temporary concrete batching plant, construction camp and onsite substations within an application area of 200 – 250 ha.

Dr Heidi Fourie and APelser Archaeological Consulting have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process in terms of section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

*Fourie, H. 2022. Eskom Komati Power Station Solar PV and BESS ESIA: Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Phase 1 Field Study*

The proposed development area is underlain by the Vryheid Formation that may contain plant fossils, aquatic

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reptiles, fossil fish and insects. A field assessment will be undertaken.

*Pelser, A. 2022. A desktop Heritage Impact Assessment Report for the Eskom Komati Power Station Solar PV ESIA*

The proposed PV facility will be located in areas that have been heavily disturbed and therefore the likelihood of in-situ heritage resources is low. It is recommended that a site visit be undertaken.

### Interim Comment

The SAHRA notes the submitted heritage reports and awaits further heritage reports during the EIA phase. As portions of the Komati Power Station are older than 60 years, the HIA must consider the historical structures associated with the Komati Power Station and any historical structures in the surrounding residential areas that may be impacted by the proposed development.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the EIA and associated appendices.

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

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**ADMIN:**  
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