



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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CaseID: 21311

Date: Monday June 12, 2023
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Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Eskom - MOU

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF 2 X 20MVA 132/22KV NKAMBENI SUBSTATION AND RELATED 132KV LOOP IN LOOP OUT (LILO) INFRASTRUCTURE IN MAHUSHE VILLAGE, MBOMBELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Envirolution Consulting (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Nkambeni Substation and associated Loop-in Loop-out powerlines at Mahushu Village, Mpumalanga Province (DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2767). The authorised location was Alternative S1. An amendment was applied for a new location for the substation (Alternative S2), which was subsequently authorised. SAHRIS Case ID 13292 is relevant here (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/eskom-nkambeni>). SAHRA did not issue comments on the amendment application in 2018. No construction had commenced, and the EA lapsed. This application is for the same site that was previously authorised.

A draft Basic Assessment Report has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include the construction of a substation and LILO powerline with servitudes, access roads, construction camp, vegetation clearance and terrace and foundations.

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

Pelser, A. 2022. Phase 1 HIA Report for the Eskom Nkambeni Substation located on Portion 115 of the Farm Burgers Hall 21JU, Mbombela Local Municipality, Mpumalanga

A total of five heritage resources were identified within the proposed development footprint. These include scatters of Iron Age pottery and upper grindstones of low heritage significance, a rocky outcrop with grinding hollows and a possible grain bin platform and an Iron Age settlement with scatters of pottery, metal, fragment of a tuyere pipe, grain bin platforms of high heritage significance.



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Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Site 2 and 5 should be avoided with 20 m bufferzones. A Cultural Heritage Management Plan should also be drafted and implemented;
- Should it not be possible to avoid site 2, it should be investigated archaeologically if it cannot be avoided by the proposed development before demolition and before demolition commences. For this an archaeological excavation permit will be required from SAHRA;
- Should it not be possible to avoid site 5, then the site needs to be mapped in detail before demolition;
- A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended.

The proposed development is located in an area of negligible sensitivity for palaeontological resources and no further assessment of the impact to palaeontological resources is required.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final BAR and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists and in the EMPr are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows:
- The recommended HMP must be submitted to SAHRA prior to the construction phase for comment. No construction may commence without comments from SAHRA in this regard;
- 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 (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660/ nhiggitt@sahra.org.za) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense 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 DAU (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51 of the NHRA regarding offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:

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- With reference to the mitigation work noted above, a qualified archaeologist must be appointed to undertake the work in terms of the permit applied for as noted above;
- 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 EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record 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

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/617254>
(DFFE, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2767.)

Terms & Conditions:

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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.