

Our Ref:

Enquiries: Phillip Hine
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CaseID: 2391

Date: Monday August 25, 2014

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Final Comment

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

Attention: Ms Ria Pretorius
Texture Environmental Consultants
P.O. Box 36593
Menlo Park
0102

Eskom Holdings (SOC) Limited (Eskom) plans to construct a new 132 KV powerline between the Lemara and Ohrigstad Substations and a new Leboeng distribution size Substation in the Limpopo Province. The full scope of work includes the construction of: - A new Lemara 132kV line for future use out of the Lemara Substation; - A new proposed 132 kV power line from the existing Lemara Substation to the new Leboeng Substation; - A 132kV power line from the new Leboeng Substation to the existing Ohrigstad Substation; - A 22kV Phiring-Blyde line from Phiring Village to Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve.

Pistorius, J. April 2013. A Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) Study for Eskom's Proposed New 132kv Power Line Between the Lemara Substation And the Ohrigstad Substation Near Hoedspruit and Ohrigstad in the Mpumalanga Province

Pistorius, J. May 2013. A Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment (Hia) Study For Eskom's Proposed New 22kv Power Line Between The Phiring Substation And The Blyde River Near Ohrigstad In The Mpumalanga Province

Fourie, H. June 2013. Lemara Leboeng Ohrigstad – Eskom Limpopo and Mpumalanga Provinces Farms: Rietvley 413KF, Claremont 414KT, Richmond 604KT, Liverpool 202KT, Nooitgedacht 237KT: Palaeontological Exemption Letter

Eskom proposes the construction of a new Lemara 132kV line for future use out of the Lemara Substation; - A new proposed 132 kV power line from the existing Lemara Substation to the new Leboeng Substation; - A 132kV power line from the new Leboeng Substation to the existing Ohrigstad Substation; - A 22kV Phiring-Blyde line from Phiring Village to Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve. An archaeological impact assessment and a palaeontological desktop assessment was undertaken.

In terms of the archaeological assessment the survey was undertaken by flyover with a helicopter and also by vehicle. Sections of the project falls within the Limpopo Province and Mpumalanga Province.

132Kv Power Line between Lemara Substation and Leboeng Substation:

Two alternatives for the power line and two alternatives for the substation have been investigated. No





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archaeological or any other heritage resources were identified during the assessment. The author indicated that both power line corridors and substation alternatives are acceptable.

132kv power line between Leboeng Substation and Ohrigstad:

Three alternatives (Alternative 01, Alternative 02 and Alternative 3) were identified for the power line corridor. According to the author, Alternative 2 and 3 cross mountainous terrain in the north, whilst Alternative 2 follows the high eastern slopes of the Drakensberg in the south where the area was restricted to the use of a helicopter. It is noted that Alternative 1 and 3 follow more open and accessible routes, while the central part of Alternative 1 runs between Bushmen Rock Shelter and Echo Caves.

The author indicated that all three alternatives are suitable for the power line, however, Alternative 1 may have a visual impact on Bushmen Rock Shelter and Echo Caves. The author also indicated that due to the inaccessibility of Alternative 2, this alternative is not preferred. The author notes that the best alternative for the power line is a corridor that follows Alternative 2 and 3 in the north and Alternative 1 and 3 in the south.

The following heritage resources were identified along this proposed alignment, however, it appears that none of these resources will in fact be impacted by the power line.

1. A graveyard located on farm Nooitgedacht and which is situated west of Alternative 1. The author did not specify the amount of graves on the property.
2. Bushman Rock Shelter which has long Middle Stone Age and Later Stone Age occupation is located on the farm Klipfontein 407KT. The site will not be affected by both alternatives of the power line.
3. Echo Caves is also located on the farm Klipfontein 407KT. It is used for tourism purposes because of its geological formations. It will not be affected by the development of the power line.
4. The fort of Faugh-a-Ballagh is located on the farm Faugh-a-Ballagh 306KT. It is situated west of Alternative 1. The fort was built during the second Sekhukhune War to command the pass through the Steelpoort Valley. The fort is located to the West of Alternative 1.
5. An Historical Residence on the farm Longsight 307KT is located to the west of Alternative 1.
6. The remains of the historical Ohrigstad is located towards the east of the Alternative 2. The site was abandoned soon after it was established in 1845 due to the high prevalence of malaria.

22kv Power Line Between the Phiring Substation and the Blyde River:

Two alternatives have been considered for the proposed power line. Both of these have been surveyed by the specialist. No archaeology or any other resources were identified, however, the author indicated that both alternatives are suitable for the power line. However, he did note that alternative 2 would be preferred due to the fact that the line follows a services road.

Palaeontological Desktop Assessment:

A palaeontological desktop assessment was undertaken by Dr Heidi Fourie. The Desktop Assessment



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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investigated all three power line developments as well the alternatives at a desktop level. According to the specialist report the area is underlain by rocks of the Transvaal Super Group, Pretoria Group. The specialist indicated that the development will result in zero palaeontological impact as the area do not contain palaeontologically significant fossils. No further work was recommended by the palaeontologist for this project.

Final Comment:

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objection to the proposed development in terms of the archaeological and palaeontological components of the heritage resources, provided that the recommendations contained in this comment and those contained in the author's report are adhered to.

SAHRA supports the recommendations of the Basic Assessment report that Alternative 3 be used for section 3 (Leboeng Substation and Ohrigstad). The use of Alternative 1 will likely result in negative visual impacts on Bushmen Rock Shelter and Echo Caves.

Once the preferred routes have been finalised, these should be subject to a final walk-down, in particular pylon locations.

If any other heritage resources are discovered during construction activities SAHRA APM Unit (Mr Phillip Hine/Mrs Colette Scheermeyer, tel. 021 462 4502) or an archaeologist/palaeontologist depending on the nature of the find must be contacted immediately. If the newly discovered heritage resource is considered to be significant then a Phase 2 mitigation assessment may be required.

Decisions in terms of Built Environment that falls within Mpumalanga must be referred to the Mpumalanga Provincial Heritage Authority (Mr Benjamin Moduka, bmoduka@mpg.gov.za).

Decisions in terms of Built Environment that falls within Limpopo must be referred to the Limpopo Provincial Heritage Authority (Mr Donald Lithole, litholek@sac.limpopo.gov.za).

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully



Phillip Hine



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Heritage Officer

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/120105>

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.



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