



Interim Comment

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

Attention: Transnet SOC Ltd
P.O. Box 72501
Parkview
South Africa
2122

Environmental Impact Assessment in terms of Section 24 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 for the proposed upgrades and construction related to the Swaziland Rail Link Project which is being dealt with as three separate applications as per the following sections of the railway line: 1. Upgrade to the existing Davel Yard and connections in Mpumalanga; 2. Upgrade to existing and construction of new line between Davel and Nerston [Swaziland border] Mpumalanga; 3. Upgrade to the existing line from Golela to Nsezi on Kwa-Zulu Natal

Van Schalkwyk, J. September 2013. *Cultural heritage impact assessment for THE PROPOSED SWAZILAND RAIL LINK, WESTERN SECTION, MPUMALANGA REGION*

Thank you for informing SAHRA of the proposed upgrades and associated construction related to the proposed Swaziland Rail Link Project. The proposed upgrade will include doubling of the line, new alignments that may fall outside of the rail reserve, realignment within the rail reserve as well as formation repairs.

The submitted Heritage Assessment identified a number of structures that are likely to be impacted by the proposed upgrade including railway stations and associated infrastructure, bridges as well as stone culverts. No information was provided in the submitted assessment as to whether or not these identified structures would be impacted by the proposed development.

One formal and six informal burial grounds were identified. The formal burial ground is unlikely to be impacted by the proposed development. However, the six informal burial grounds were all located within or directly adjacent to the railway servitude and are therefore likely to be impacted by the proposed development. According to the submitted report, no archaeological resources were identified that may be impacted by the proposed development.

It is noted that no assessment of impacts to palaeontological resources has been submitted to SAHRA. The proposed development is situated within an area of very high palaeontological sensitivity and as such, it is very likely that significant palaeontological heritage resources will be impacted by the proposed development.

Interim Comment

SAHRA is unable to issue a final comment on the likely impact of the proposed development on heritage resources as insufficient information has been provided. As such, SAHRA requires that;

- Due to the likely impact to significant palaeontological heritage, a field-based palaeontological impact assessment be conducted. This assessment must include a protocol for chance finds.



EIA for Swaziland Rail Link Davel Yard, Davel to Nerston Mpumalanga and Golela to Nsezi Kwa-Zulu Natal
Our Ref: 9/2/222/0002



Enquiries: Jenna Lavin
Edit view Tel: 021 462 4502
Edit view Email: jlavin@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 3017

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an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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- The informal burial grounds identified in the heritage assessment may not be impacted by the proposed development and should be clearly demarcated throughout the construction phase. A Conservation Management Plan for the continued preservation of the burials must be drafted.
 - Any impact to the identified structures requires a permit from the Mpumalanga Provincial Heritage Authority.

SAHRA looks forward to receiving the additional requested information before commenting further.

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

Yours faithfully

Jenna Lavin
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/125190>
Edit view (, Ref:)



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

Street Address: 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town 8000 * Postal Address: PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000
* Tel: +27 21 462 4502 * Fax: +27 21 462 4509 * Web: <http://www.sahra.org.za>