



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 5525

Date: Wednesday April 19, 2017

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## Final Comment

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

Attention: Mrs Karen Low

Longyuan Mulilo De Aar Wind Power (Pty) Ltd

#### **Application for Amendment of Environmental Authorisation for the proposed construction of a 132 kV transmission line corridor adjacent to existing Eskom transmission line from Longyuan Mulilo De Aar Maanhaarberg Wind Energy Facility to the Hydra Substation near De Aar, Northern Cape.**

SAHRA had issued a comment on the proposed development dated 24 November 2015 requesting that a suitably qualified palaeontologist monitors the excavations for the pylons and a report is submitted to SAHRA once the Hydra-Phiri 132kV Overhead power line construction is completed. Instead a field based Palaeontological Assessment report has been submitted to the case on SAHRIS that was conducted and compiled by Dr Gideon Groenewald, the findings of his assessment are detailed below.

*Groenewald, G. March 2017. Phase 1 Palaeontological Assessment of the Proposed Development of the Maanhaarberg 132kV Power Line Referred to as the Hydra-Phiri line at De Aar, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province.*

The study area is underlain by greenish shale and non-marine mudstones of the Tierberg Formation (Ecca Group), blue-grey mudstone, sandstone and siltstone of the Abramskraal Formation (Adelaide Subgroup, Beaufort Group). The hilltops in the region consist of Jurassic aged Dolerite sills and the lower lying areas consist of recent Quaternary Alluvium deposits. The rocks of the Abramskraal Formation and the Tierberg Formation are of Very High palaeontological sensitivity with a high chance of fossilised invertebrates, vertebrates and plants being uncovered during construction. Trace fossils were identified in portions of the power line route making the overall impact on palaeontological resources Very High. Areas deemed most significant have been visited by a suitably qualified palaeontologist, or an accredited assistant, during excavations of trenches exceeding 1.5m in depth into sediments of the Ecca and Beaufort Groups.

In addition the author has discussed with the ECO a fossil finds procedure which was not included in the report.

#### **Final Comment**

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the report and the recommendations provided therein. The following additional recommendations must be included in the EMPr:

Our Ref: 9/2/025/0001



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A written report of the fossil finds procedure discussed with the ECO must be uploaded to the case.

If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments and charcoal/ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed activities, construction must stop in the immediate vicinity and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings.

The following conditions still apply to the development:

- If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary, and a permit will be needed before mitigation. You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8652),
- and if any unmarked human burials are uncovered then please contact the SAHRA BGG Unit (Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490).
- The conditions listed within this comment do not supersede the conditions within the SAHRA Final Comment dated 19 May 2014, but should be add/adhered to in conjunction with them.
- If any damage or disturbances to the heritage resources identified in the HIA are foreseen and the recommendations within this comment and the Final Comment dated 19 May 2014 cannot be adhered to then a motivation letter should be submitted to SAHRA as an additional documents in a new permit application.

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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Nokukhanya Khumalo  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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John Gribble  
Manager: Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit / Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/163105>  
(DEA, Ref: DEA REF: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1165/AM1)

**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.