



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 5550

Date: Thursday May 04, 2017
Page No: 1

Final Comment

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

Attention: Ms Karen Versfeld
Aurecon - Head Office
PO Box 494
Cape Town
8000

Basic Assessment for the proposed construction of a 132 kV transmission line corridor adjacent to the existing Eskom transmission line from Longyuan Mulilo De Aar 2 North Wind Energy Facility (WEF) to the Hydra Substation in De Aar, Northern Cape

The 132kV Transmission Power Line adjacent to the existing Eskom Transmission Power Line from Longyuan Mulilo De Aar 2 North Wind Energy Facility to the Hydra Substation, Northern Cape Province was granted Environmental Authorisation on the 11 August 2014, and amended on the 14 March 2016.

As part of the conditions of the comment issued by SAHRA on the 22 May 2014, a qualified palaeontologist was appointed to conduct monitoring of the construction of the pylons for the approved transmission line. Dr Gideon Groenewald was appointed to conduct the monitoring.

Groenewald, G. 2017. Phase 1 Palaeontological Assessment of the Proposed Development of the Eastern Plateau 132kV Power Line referred to as the Hydra-Ndhlovu Line at De Aar, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Sema District Municipality, Northern Cape Province.

The palaeontologist inspected the route and noted a few occurrences of poorly defined fossils such as fossil wood and trace fossils, and were rated as resources of low significance. A well-preserved set of vertebrate tracks was identified within a siltstone bed; however this site will not be impacted by the development. The potential for finding significant fossils in any excavation into sediments of the Ecca and Beaufort Groups is high. No fossils will be associated with areas underlain by dolerite.

It is noted that a possible grave was identified at GPS point 965.

- The ECO and Eos have been informed of the fact that a High Palaeontological sensitivity was allocated to the areas of the development underlain by rocks of the Ecca Group and a Very High Palaeontological sensitivity is allocated to areas underlain by rocks of the Beaufort Group. Although

Our Ref: 9/2/025/0001



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 5550

Date: Thursday May 04, 2017
Page No: 2

highly weathered, trace and plant fossils were recorded during the Phase 1 field investigation. All areas allocated a red, orange or green colour in Figure 4 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. A protocol for the chance find of fossils has been discussed with the ECO on site;

- These recommendations were included in the EMP of this project; and
- No significant fossils were recorded during the construction period for the project and no further mitigation for Palaeontological Heritage is recommended for this development.

Final Comment

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the monitoring report and the recommendations contained therein. The recommendations of the palaeontological report and the following conditions must be adhered to:

- The possible grave located at GPS point 965 must be avoided with a 30 m buffer and clearly demarcated. A management and monitoring programme must be developed and implemented as part of the construction, operation and decommissioning phase. This programme must include procedures for reporting and must be submitted to SAHRA for record keeping; and
- 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 APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/John Gribble 021 462 5402) must be alerted. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately. A professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. 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.

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

Yours faithfully

Our Ref: 9/2/025/0001



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 5550

Date: Thursday May 04, 2017
Page No: 3

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/163275>
(DEA, Ref: DEA REF: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1166)

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.