

Proposed upgrading of VGG pipeline sections, from Roscoe Reservoir to Blackrock

Our Ref:

Enquiries: Phillip Hine
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: phine@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 6149

Date: Tuesday September 16, 2014

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an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

Interim Comment

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

Attention: Mr I.M. Hasenjager
Sedibeng Water
Private Bag X1
Delportshoop
8377

Proposed upgrading of sections of the Vaal Gamagara bulk water supply scheme from Roscoe Reservoir to Blackrock Reservoir, Northern Cape Province

Dreyer, C. January 2014. First Phase Archaeological & Heritage Assessment Of The Proposed Vaal-Gamagara Water Pipeline Project, Northern Cape Hotazel Alternative Water Pipeline

Dreyer, C. December 2013. First Phase Archaeological & Heritage Assessment Of The Vaal-Gamagara Water Pipeline Project, Northern Cape Revisit To The Kathu Pan Archaeological Site

September 2012. First Phase Archaeological And Heritage Assessment Of The Proposed Vaal-Gamagara Water Pipeline Project, Northern Cape

Sedibeng Water proposes the upgrading and replacing a section of the existing Vaal-Gamagara pipeline within the Gamagara Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province. According to the Basic Assessment Report the existing pipeline between Kathu and Hotazel will not be removed, but a new pipeline will be placed next to the existing pipeline within the same servitude.

According to the Draft BAR the pipeline will be divided into two sections:

- From Roscoe (near Assmang's Khumani iron ore mine) to the Sishen Western Expansion Project (SWEP) pipeline (900mm pipeline).
- From Kathu Reservoir to Mamatwhane Reservoir, to Hotazel Reservoir ending at Blackrock Reservoir (700mm pipeline).

The section between Kathu and Hotazel is considered the more sensitive and likely to impact on significant archaeological resources. This pipeline will traverse the Kathu Pan Complex which has recently been graded as a Grade 1 site. Kathu Pan is significant for its assemblage of Early and Middle Stone Age artefacts and faunal material. The stratigraphy of the area is difficult to understand and interpret due to the complex local geology. Due to this complexity it is always preferred that an archaeologist with proven experience of the stone age of the area undertake the survey of the area. The nomination for Kathu Archaeological Complex as a



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National Heritage Site can be viewed at Case ID_2645 on SAHRIS
(<http://www.sahra.org.za/cases/national-heritage-site-nomination-kathu-ar...>).

The initial assessment for this project is dated September 2012. Mr Dreyer undertook a second site visit to the Kathu Pan Complex in December 2013. According to the report the initial site visit took place in January 2012. Although the significance of Kathu Pan is highlighted in the report, the author indicated that the center of the pan could be moved up to 300 meters west of the pipeline. The rationale for this inference is not well explained. It is also unclear to which Kathu Pan Mr Dreyer is referring to, whether to Kathu Pan 1, which is the most important site, at today, within the Complex, or to the Complex itself. It seems that personal observation is used as a determining factor as well as the the excavations that was done by Beaumont (1990).

The reports on the Kathu-Hotazel section are failing to address pertinent points such as:

- all excavations undertaken at Kathu Pan after 1990 including the current excavation. Moreover, no images of this excavation are provided in any of the reports;
- the extent of the current Grade I area, which is delineated in the nomination dossier mentioned in the report.

The author indicated two options for the alignment of the pipeline:

- A deviation of 7 km following the R380 northwards beyond the Sishen Airport, where it will connect with the existing pipeline.
- The preferred alignment running through the center of Kathu Pan.

Based on available information regarding the Kathu Archaeological Complex, the deviation of 7 kilometers will have the least amount of impact on the site and it is SAHRA preferred option.

Comment:

1. Kathu Pan is considered one of the most significant archaeological sites in South Africa, especially for its Earlier Stone Age context. It is for this reason that SAHRA do not support the proposed alignment that will result in a new pipeline running through the center of the Pan. The deviation that was proposed that will result in a deviation of 7 kilometers is supported. This deviation will run along the R380 northwards and will eventually connect with the existing pipeline. If this is not feasible, the opinion of an archaeologist with proven experience in the area should be sought to advise the client on the best possible alignment.
2. The deviation will have to be assessed by an archaeologist with experience in the archaeological



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sequence of Kathu Pan. An archaeological impact assessment related to this option must be submitted to and commented by SAHRA before construction may proceed.

3. SAHRA has no objections to the alignment of the rest of the pipeline
4. If any significant archaeological or any other heritage resources are found during construction, SAHRA must be notified immediately. If the newly discovered heritage resource is considered significant, a mitigation assessment may be required and a permit will have to be sought from the responsible heritage authority.
5. According to the SAHRA fossil sensitivity map the area is considered to have a high to moderate palaeontological sensitivity. A palaeontological desktop assessment will therefore be required that will advise on the protocol for finds. This report must be submitted before before approval for the project is granted.

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
Heritage Officer

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/170657>
(DENC, Ref:)

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.



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