



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 8728

Date: Wednesday June 22, 2016

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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Namane Generation (Pty) Ltd

Environmental Authorisation Application for the Namane Generation Independent Power Producer Plant, near Lephalale, Limpopo Province

Digby Wells (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Namane Generation (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment including a Heritage Impact Assessment in support of an application for Environmental Authorisation for the proposed construction of a 600 MW coal-fuelled power plant, and associated infrastructure on the farm Duikerpan 249 LQ in Lephalale Local Municipality of Limpopo Province. The proposed project will involve the construction of a Coal-Fired power plant, a 400kV transmission power line to connect to an existing Eskom transmission line and within the same project area of the proposed power plant will be an ash disposal area, the entire plant project area will be 320ha. The length of the preferred transmission power line is 37km.

The development was assessed for heritage resources by the Digby Wells in house archaeological specialist unit and the report was submitted to SAHRA for commenting.

Du Piesanie, J. and Higgitt, N. February 2016. Heritage Impact Assessment of Namane Generation Independent Power Producer and Transmission Line Project, Lephalale, Limpopo Province.

The author assessed the development for heritage resources and found six heritage resources that will be impacted by the proposed Spitzkop 400kV transmission power line alternative. Three sites are Middle Stone Age sites of low significance and the other two are Later Iron Age sites also of low significance and the last one is a LIA site of medium significance.

Sites MSA-001 and MSA-002 are surface sites near a ferricrete outcrop which is by a large pan that spans between Duikerpan 249 IQ and Twistpan 265 IQ. 002 is a low density scatter and about 20km away is an isolated find (001) in the pan. None of the stone tools found were diagnostic tools.

Site MSA-003 has a low density surface scatter of stone tools and LIA ceramics within the buffer area of the Spitzkop transmission line located on Mooipan 325 IQ.



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Sites LFC-001 consist of exposed ceramics by animal burrowing, no further deposits were observed in the soil profile from the burrow. Site LFC-002 is a single undiagnostic potsherd located 30 m away from LFC-001.

LFC-003 consists is a multi-component site located outside the 100m buffer zone for the Spitzkop power line on Duikerpan 249 LQ and Twistpan 265 IQ. It has LIA ceramics and undiagnostic stone tools which suggests deeper deposits underground, the site is listed as having medium significance.

All the heritage resources sites connected to the pan complex identified in the HIA are located within and close to the proposed Spitzkop 400kV transmission line alternative. The proposed coal-fired power plant project area is not going to impact on any heritage resources and neither are the two proposed ash disposal dump alternatives on Duikerpan 249 LQ. However the preferred 400kV transmission power line (Spitzkop) if selected will impact on a significant heritage landscape and Phase II mitigations will have to be conducted before construction can go ahead. The report recommends phase two mitigation of the sites including extensive mapping of the site and test pit excavations to identify the extent of the archaeological deposit.

According to the SAHRIS Palaeo-map (<http://www.sahra.org.za/sahris/map/palaeo>) the development is located in a Very High to moderate palaeontological sensitive zone, as such SAHRA will require a Palaeontological Impact Assessment.

Interim Comment

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the recommendations made in the heritage report however the following additional studies are still required for the proposed project:

A Palaeontological Impact Assessment needs to be conducted for the project area that will assess potential impacts to fossiliferous rocks. The assessment must be conducted by a suitably qualified palaeontologist.

If Steenbokpan power line route alternative is chosen then no further mitigation will be needed as it has the least impact on the landscape. If the Spitzkop alternative is chosen then the identified archaeological sites will need to be mitigated in Phase II after obtaining a permit from SAHRA. SAHRA suggests that Steenbokpan transmission line alternative is chosen as it has less cumulative impacts.

SAHRA still needs a final walk down of the 400kV transmission power line once it is finalised to be conducted before any construction or excavation activities commence. A report of the walk down must be compiled and submitted to SAHRA for commenting.

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

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above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Nokukhanya Khumalo
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
SAHRA Head Archaeologist (Acting)
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/343669>
(DEA, Ref:)

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.