



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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CaseID: 8856

Date: Thursday April 20, 2017
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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Eskom - Megawatt Park

PO Box 1091
Johannesburg
2001

Eskom proposes to construct a 765kV transmission power line of approximately 880km from Perseus substation in Free State to Kronos to Aries to Helios substation in Northern Cape and ending at Juno substation in the Western Cape. The proposed power line would be associated with upgrades at the substations to accommodate the line. The main purpose for proposed power line is to improve the transmission network supply by linking the Western Cape and Gauteng Province.

Mokgope Consulting was appointed by Eskom Holdings SOC Limited to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the four transmission power lines spanning over the Free State Province, Northern Cape Province and Western Cape Province. Draft Impact Assessment Reports were completed for the Perseus – Kronos 765kV route, the Kronos – Aries 765kV route, Aries – Helios 765kV route and the Helios – Juno 765kV route. These reports were completed in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014. SAHRA can only provide comments on projects in the Northern Cape. Comments must be sought from Heritage Western Cape on sections of the project located within the Western Cape Province.

In an Interim Comment issued by SAHRA on the 22/02/2016, SAHRA requested that Palaeontological Desktop Studies be completed for each power line route, and a Heritage Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) must be completed for Perseus – Kronos route. Dr Marion Bamford was appointed to conduct the Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) for the project.

Bamford, M. 2016. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the Proposed Perseus – Kronos 765KV Transmission Power Line and Substations upgrade, Northern Cape and Free State Provinces.

Bamford, M. 2016. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the Proposed Kronos - Aries 765KV Transmission Power Line and Substations upgrade, Northern Cape Province.

Bamford, M. 2016. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the Proposed Aries - Helios 765KV Transmission



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Power Line and Substations upgrade, Northern Cape Province.

Bamford, M. 2016. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the Proposed Helios - Juno 765KV Transmission Power Line and Substations upgrade, Western and Northern Cape Provinces.

Perseus – Kronos route: No fossils occur in the Marydale Group, Ventersdorp Group or the granites. There is a low chance of finding fossils in the Dwyka and Eccca Groups. There is a slightly greater chance of fossil occurring in the Prince Albert Formation and Whitehill Formations.

Kronos – Aries route: There is an extremely low chance of finding fossils in the sediments of the Dwyka group. There is a slightly greater chance of fossils occurring in the Prince Albert Formation. There is a slight chance of finding Quaternary aged fossils within the palaeodrainage channels, watercourses or around pans.

Aries – Helios route: There is an extremely low chance of finding fossils in the sediments of the Dwyka group. There is a slightly greater chance of fossils occurring in the Prince Albert, Whitehill and Tierberg Formation. There is a slight chance of finding Quaternary aged fossils within the palaeodrainage channels, watercourses or around pans.

Helios – Juno route: There is a chance of finding fossils in the Nama and Vanrhynsdorp Group sediments. There is an extremely low chance of finding fossils in the sediments of the Dwyka group. There is a slightly greater chance of fossils occurring in the Whitehill and Tierberg Formation. There is a slight chance of finding Quaternary aged fossils within the palaeodrainage channels, watercourses or around pans.

Recommendations included in the reports include the following:

- Once the route has been finalised and the sites for road access and excavation of foundation of towers have been determined, a geologist or environmentalist is engaged to monitor the work;
- If fossils are found by the geologist or environmental officer monitoring the construction work, then a palaeontologist should be engaged to check the potential fossils and decide what should be removed and preserved (with the relevant permit from SAHRA or Heritage Western Cape);
- The rescued fossils would then be housed and catalogued in a recognized institution such as the McGregor Museum in Kimberley or Iziko Museum in Cape Town.

Interim Comment

It has been brought to the attention of the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit that

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further heritage reports have been conducted for the proposed projects i.e. Orton, J. 2017. Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed 765KV Helios – Juno Power Line and Substations upgrade, Calvinia, Vredendal and Vanrynsdorp Magisterial Districts, Northern and Western Cape.

SAHRA requests that the most recent heritage studies conducted for the project must be submitted to the case before further comments can be issued.

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

Yours faithfully

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/350465>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/438; 14/12/16/3/3/2/439; 14/12/16/3/3/2/440; 14/12/16/3/3/2/441)

[Terms & Conditions:](#)

Northern Alignment 765kV Power Lines, Free State, Northern and Western Cape Provinces

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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.