

Our Ref:



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: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
Tel: 0212028663
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CaseID: 15613

Date: Friday January 21, 2022
Page No: 1

Final Decision

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

Attention: Miss Thabelo Mugwedi
Eskom - FSOU
Eskom Centre building
120 Henry street
Wesdene
Bloemfontein
9301

Proposed re-routing of the Tahiti-Fontein powerline with most of the line running along the same servitude and dismantling of the old structures of the Tahiti-fontein feeder. Build new powerline to replace the line to be dismantled.

Eskom Distribution wants to repair and restructure the 11kV Tahiti-Fontein powerline. The project includes re-routing of the powerline (constructing new powerline) and dismantling of the old structure of the Tahiti-fontein feeder. The length of the new proposed powerline is 7104.12m and most of it will be running along the same servitude.

The power line layout identifies three grave sites that are located very close to the proposed development areas. There is a burial ground near the powerline between the poles TF 108-165-1 and TF 108-165-2 about 22m from the farm fence and the poles will be erected about 5-7m outside of the Grootfontein Farm fence. There is a fenced and marked gravesite close to the proposed pole TF 108-135-13 approximately 30m from the closest grave to the line. There is an existing pole which is less than 10m outside the of the fence where the a grave is located, however, in this area work will be done on the existing pylons without them being moved. It is recommended that during construction as well as preparation for construction, the grave sites is sealed off with danger tape to ensure that no driving, walking or any other associated activities happen within this sites.

The soil type in the area is predominantly loam soil with some areas, especially the wetland areas being mainly clay. The proposed development area is located mainly within an area of very high palaeontological sensitivity and low sensitivity.

Durand, J.F. 2021. PALAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Proposed rebuilding of the existing Tahiti

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Fontein (TF) powerline route in the farming area east of the N1 Vaal tollgate, Free State

The study site is underlain by the unfossiliferous undifferentiated granite and gneiss of the Archaean Basement along with Shales and quartzites of the of the Hospital Hill Subgroup (Witwatersrand Supergroup) and the Vryheid Formation (Ecca Group of the Karoo Supergroup). The study area has been intruded by unfossiliferous diabase.

No fossils were identified during the site assessment and no fossils have been reported from the Hospital Hill Subgroup in the Free State and it is less likely that they will be identified in the study area. There is a high probability that Permian fossils could be found in the bedrock of the Vryheid Formation if exposed in the southeastern part of the study area during development. If a particularly fossiliferous area is discovered during development, the ECO should follow the guidelines as stipulated under the Chance Find Procedure.

Final Decision

The SAHRA notes the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and the Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) along with the recommendations provided therein. It is noted that the proposed development will not have an impact on significant heritage resources.

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No further additional specific conditions are provided for the development;
- 38(4)c(i) – 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 (Sityhilelo Ngcatsha/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Ngqalabutho Madida 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;

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- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA regarding offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
- i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. 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

Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite Assistant
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/541686>

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.