

Our Ref:



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: 15222

Date: Friday July 31, 2020

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Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Eskom - Megawatt Park

PO Box 1091
Johannesburg
2001

Eskom's Grootvlei Power Station MES Suspension Application and AEL Variation Request, near Balfour, Mpumalanga Highveld

Eskom appointed Naledzi Environmental Consultants (NEC) to make an application for the suspension of the requirement to meet the new plant limit for NOx and SO2 and propose an alternative limit for Grootvlei Power Station. Grootvlei lies 15km southwest of Balfour in the Gert Sibande District of the Mpumalanga Province.

A Draft Atmospheric Impact Report (AIR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004) (NEMAQA). Eskom Grootvlei Power Station was granted postponement in respect of Particulate Matter (PM), Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) and Sulphur Dioxide (SO2) by the Department of Environmental Affairs effective from 1 April 2015. However, this changed as more stringent emission limits came into effect from 1 April 2020. Eskom is now submitting a second round of postponement applications to ensure it can maintain this compliance status stations licence.

The area surrounding the power station is primarily agricultural and the station is located within the Highveld Priority Area (HPA) in terms of the NEMAQA. Eskom has installed a Fabric Filter Plant (FFP) at Grootvlei power station to reduce the station's particulate emissions.

Once all the units at a Grootvlei power station are shut down (no later than 2030), the required decommissioning process will begin which involves dismantling the power station and rehabilitating the site.

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The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final AIR. The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes that there will not be any development in the power station, therefore no heritage will be impacted. There are no objections to the proposed development.

The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application along with the final AIR.

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

Yours faithfully

Nokukhanya Khumalo
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/537829>

(, Ref:)

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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.