

The Relocation of Dwellers at Ingula Pumped Storage Scheme Located Within The Borders of Free State and KwaZulu Natal Provinces.

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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Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha

Date: Tuesday October 27, 2020

Page No: 1

Email: sngcatsha@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 15339

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Ms Babalwa Fatyi
Myezo Environmental Management Services
Postnet Suite B165
Private Bag X 18
Lynnwood Ridge
00400

The relocation of dwellers on the Wilge Farm at Ingula Pumped Storage Scheme New Build Programme. The project location is in the Free State Province in the Thabo Mofutsanyana District and Phumelela Local Municipality (FS195). The site is located approximately 10 kilometres north of the Ingula Pumped Storage Scheme, about 42 kilometres north-east-east of Harrismith, 26 kilometres north-east of Van Reenen and 4.5 kilometres from the Little Drakensberg escarpment. This forms the border between the Free State and Kwa Zulu-Natal Provinces and on the north-western boundary of the Ingula Nature Reserve, in the Free State Province.

Myezo Environmental Management Services was appointed by Eskom Holding SOC Limited to undertake the Environmental Authorisation application for the relocation of six families at Ingula Pumped Storage within the Ingula Nature Reserve located Wilge Farm 23km north east of Van Reenen.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (dBAR) has been submitted in terms the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) and the NEMA EIA regulations. The project includes relocating the six families to homesteads in a village setting. Each homestead will cover an extent of 12ha, alternatively each homestead will cover an extent of 23ha. The project includes upgrading of existing access roads, facilities and infrastructure for water supply including boreholes and reticulation system, waste water and sewage disposal infrastructure along with power supply and reticulation.

A comment dated 21/08/2020 was issued by the SAHRA which requested that a Heritage Impact Assessment be undertaken inclusive of a Palaeontological Impact Assessment and Archaeological Impact Assessment be undertaken and attached to the case on SAHRIS. The comment also requested that .kml file be attached to the case.

On the 19/10/2020 the draft BAR along with the appendices were attached to the case, but the requested

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heritage specialist report was not attached along with the submitted documents. The .kml file has not been attached to the case. It is noted on page 166 of the draft BAR that that a heritage specialist studies were undertaken for the Nature Reserve in 2004 and Palaeontological and Archaeological heritage resources were discovered and sent to SAHRA and the Ingula Cultural Center.

The heritage specialist report was however not submitted to the case for the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite (APM) unit to review for the proposed relocation program.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA APM unit notes that heritage specialist studies have been undertaken for the proposed development area in 2004, however, since the time the heritage studies were undertaken, changes to the surface are highly likely due to being degraded by weathering, therefore an updated assessment of heritage that reflects the current status of the environment is required.

The SAHRA therefore request that a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) and Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) be undertaken and attached to the case along with the 2004 heritage studies undertaken by Anderson and Anderson. The .kml file must also be attached to the case.

Further comments will be issued once the requested has been submitted.

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 Intern
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/538615>

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.