

Our Ref:

Enquiries: Mariagrazia Galimberti
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Email: mgalimberti@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 1886

Date: Monday April 15, 2013

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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
92 Hans Van Rensburg Street
Polokwane
0699

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW 400kV POWER LINE BETWEEN THE EXISTING NEPTUNE AND POSEIDON SUBSTATIONS

van Schalkwyk, J., April 2011. Heritage impact assessment for the proposed Eskom 400kv Electricity Transmission Line, Neptune to Poseidon Substations, East London to Cookhouse, Eastern Cape Province.

Eskom Transmission Soc. received in July 2012 an environmental authorization for the construction of a 400kV power line between East London and Cookhouse from the Poseidon to the Neptune substations, in the Eastern Cape. The preferred route in the original environmental impact report submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs was accepted as the final route.

The entire length of the power line will be about 190km with 1km servitude and two turn in lines of 5km each. Upgrading of the two substations and upgrading and establishment of new access roads are also proposed.

The environmental assessment practitioner informed SAHRA of the process and a response to the Draft Scoping report phase was provided, however, no comments were provided at the environmental impact report phase, which included a heritage impact assessment.

SAHRA has therefore reviewed the heritage impact assessment only after being notified of the issuing of the environmental authorization. The heritage impact assessment, as received by SAHRA, does not comply with the minimum standards for undertaking archaeological impact assessments and no palaeontological impact assessment was undertaken. The report can be considered as a scoping report, but it does not provide sufficient information on the presence of heritage resources identified along the proposed power lines corridors.

SAHRA recommendations:

Based on the information provided in the HIA and in the EIR, SAHRA recommends that:

- a palaeontological impact assessment be undertaken before construction of the power line starts.
- the palaeontological impact assessment be then submitted to the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (Email: smokhanya@ecphra.org.za) for further comments before construction of



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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the power line starts.

- SAHRA supports the walk through by a specialist of the final preferred route to clearly identify where the heritage resources are located and which type of mitigation is requested. The walk through must include the positions of all pylons, of access roads and inspection of the sites where upgrade of the substations is expected.
- all identified heritage resources, including burial grounds and graves, must be clearly demarcated on a map along with the power lines and associated infrastructures.
- a report from the walk through must be submitted to the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority for further comments before construction starts.
- if during the walk through heritage material of significance is identified, the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority may require mitigation of the site. The provisions of s. 35(4) and 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 apply and the specialist will be required to apply to the ECPHRA for a permit.

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

Yours faithfully

Mariagrazia Galimberti
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
South African Heritage Resources Agency



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Neptune and Poseidon 400kV power line, Eastern Cape



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Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

(DEA, Ref: 12/12/20/1439)

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.



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