



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 17152

Date: Wednesday November 17, 2021
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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Eskom Distribution Division

Eskom Westrand Strengthening Phase II Project located between the Westgate substation, Roodepoort Johannesburg and westwards towards Pluto substation close to Carletonville, Gauteng

Smeyatski, I. & Kitto, J. January 2019. Westrand Strengthening Project, Spanning Randfontein, Krugersdorp & Westonaria, Westrand District Municipality, Gauteng Province. Phase 1 – Heritage Impact Assessment

The proposed development entails the new 400-kV Transmission line from the Pluto Substation to the Westgate Substation and for the loop inns/outs connecting the Hera-Westgate 400-kV line. West Rand District Municipality, Gauteng.

The archaeological assessment yielded 12 burial grounds and 11 historical structures or dwellings,

The authors recommend:

That a heritage practitioner should be appointed to develop a heritage induction program and conduct training for the Environmental Control Officer, as well as team leaders, in the identification of heritage resources and artefacts. An appropriately qualified archaeologist must be identified to be called upon in the event that any possible heritage resources or artefacts are identified. Should an archaeological site or cultural material be discovered during construction (or operation), the area should be demarcated, and construction activities be halted. The qualified archaeologist will then need to come out to the site and evaluate the extent and importance of the heritage resources and make the necessary recommendations for mitigating the find and impact on the heritage resource.

For the Burial Grounds – Demarcate sites with a 50-meter buffer and avoid them. Stakeholder engagement will need to be implemented. If this is not possible a detailed grave relocation process must be implemented as required under the NHRA and National Health Act regulations.

For the Historical Structures – The sites should be avoided with at least a 20 m buffer if activities should occur near them. If the sites will be affected directly, they will need to be documented before a destruction permit can be applied for at the provincial heritage resource authority (Gauteng). If any other heritage resources are uncovered SAHRA should be contacted and a qualified archaeologist appointed to evaluate the finds and make appropriate recommendations.

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The SA Palaeontological Sensitivity Map indicates that parts of the study area have Low, Moderate and Very High fossil sensitivity. In terms of palaeontology, the authors note that the proposed Westrand Strengthening Project Phase II, is underlain by the following geological sediments:

The Malmani Subgroup, Chuniespoort Group of the Transvaal Supergroup.

The Black Reef Formation of the Transvaal Supergroup.

The Klipriviersberg Group of the Ventersdorp Supergroup.

The Turffontein Subgroup, Central Rand Group of the Witwatersrand Supergroup.

Government and Jeppestown Subgroup, Westrand Group of the Witwatersrand Supergroup.

The authors recommend that an EIA-level palaeontology report be conducted to assess the value and occurrence of fossils in the development area and the effect of the proposed development on the palaeontological heritage.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit supports the authors' recommendation that an EIA-level palaeontology report be conducted to assess the value and occurrence of fossils in the development area and the effect of the proposed development on the palaeontological heritage. Once this study has been submitted, SAHRA will be able to provide further comments.

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

Yours faithfully

Andrew Salomon
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
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: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/584527>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2080)

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.