



Final Decision

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

Attention: Andrea Gibb
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2128

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION LINE, A SUBSTATION AND SWITCHYARDS ON A REMAINDER OF THE FARM 469 (HUMANSRUS) AND PORTION 1 OF LEMOENKLOOF NEAR POSTMASBURG, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

Solar Reserve (Pty) Ltd has proposed the creation of a 132kV overhead power line to link the proposed Jasper Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Power Plant to the existing ESKOM power line near Owendale in the Northern Cape Province. The power line will traverse a portion of the remainder of Farm 469 and Portion 1 of Lemoenkloof and consist of steel monopole towers approximately 200m apart. This project will also entail the construction of a substation on a portion of the remainder of the Farm 469, Humansrus, and switch yard near the proposed power plant and access roads. Three alternative routes are proposed for the power line, northern 5.8km long Option 1A (preferred), central 5.2km long Option 1B and southern 8.3km long Option 1C. Only one location site was considered for the construction of the substation.

The study area is currently used as grazing and is vegetated with typical local scrub and bushes. The topography is largely flat with undulating land to the west and rocky ridges to the east. A stream to the south and south west has created a pan area that is flooded during high rainfall.

The archaeologist conducted a literary review as well as a two day field survey on foot. The literary review revealed that most archaeological finds in the Northern Cape occur close to water sources such as rivers and pans, as well as on hills and in rock shelters. Early, Middle and Later Stone Age material may be represented within the study area, while rock engravings are also present locally. The area was settled by Sotho-Tswana people in the seventeenth century who were then displaced by the Korana in the eighteenth century. On a survey diagram of 1878, the Humansrus farm is identified only by its farm number and no farm buildings are depicted. A wagon route established in 1816 is shown to traverse the alignment alternatives 1B and 1C.

The field assessment yielded only one heritage site (Site HR1), which was a small informal cemetery (10m by 15m) with four graves aligned east to west. The cemetery was 350m east of the current farmhouse and was fenced, although the fence was in disrepair and the graves were overgrown. One grave was outlined in brick and cement with a cement headstone; two were indicated by mounds of stone, one rectangular with a stone marker, the other oblong with no marker. The final grave was marked only with an upright rock as headstone. The cemetery falls within the alignment of Option 1A, the preferred alignment.





The palaeontologist noted that the study area is underlain by Late Precambrian Transvaal Subgroup sediments of the Ghaap Group (Asbestos Hills Supergroup) that are sparsely fossiliferous, containing occasional microbial assemblages. Most of the area is mantled by Quaternary calcretes and downwasted rubble of the Gordonia Formation, all of which are of low to very low palaeontological significance, although they can contain fossil rhizoliths, termitaria, ostrich eggshell and land snails. The palaeontologist recommends no further palaeontological studies for this development.

Case Decision:

SAHRA supports the recommendations of the author and requires that:

- The fence around the cemetery should be repaired and the cemetery should be avoided by at least 15m by altering the alignment of Option 1A. An archaeologist should be notified of the new alignment of the power line. The graves should be restored where these are dilapidated, protected and conserved in perpetuity. For this purpose, a proper fence must be built around them including entry gates to allow visits from relatives and family friends. The fence must be placed 2 meters away from the perimeter of the graves. No development is allowed within 15 meters from the fence line surrounding the graves.
- Should substantial fossils be uncovered, these should be left *in situ*, safeguarded by the Environmental Control Officer and reported to SAHRA and a professional palaeontologist.

Decisions on Built Environment and associated Living Heritage must be made by the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Northern Cape (Mr. Andrew Timothy, ratha.timothy@gmail.com) to whom this Archaeological Review Comment will be copied.

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

Yours faithfully

Kathryn Smuts
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
South African Heritage Resources Agency





Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/421)

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.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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