Basic Assessment for the Eskom Roodepoort Strengthening Project

Our Ref:

Enquiries: Andrew Salomon

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Email: asalomon@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 903

Date: Thursday April 10, 2014

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Final Comment

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

Attention: Mr Tsepo Lepono

Fourth Element Consulting (Pty) Ltd

Digby Wells Environmental (Digby Wells) has been appointed by Fourth Element to conduct a Heritage Statement for six alternate transmission line routes and three alternate substation sites as part of the Roodepoort Strengthening Project. This Heritage Statement forms part of the Basic Assessment Report (BAR).

Higgitt, N. & Nel, J. February 2014. Heritage Impact Assessment For The Roodepoort Strengthening Project, 2527dd, Roodepoort, Gauteng

The proposed development entails providing the new Demeter substation to supply power to the Load Centre (Cosmos City) and its surrounds. The new substation will have a capacity of 400/88kV MTS and will be strengthened with a 400kV Power line looping in and out of the existing Apollo-Pluto 400kV line. In addition the project includes telecommunication towers, an access road, a control building and an oil dam.

The assessment identified the following heritage resources:

- Farm werf: a farm homestead area with dilapidated structures approximately 50 to 56 years old. The authors state that this feature is of low to negligible heritage value.
- Burial ground (Site S.36-001) containing approximately 100 burials. Grave dressings include both commercial granite headstones and stone-packed cairns. A farmworker that was consulted stated that family members still visit the burial ground on religious holidays. The site is located 200 m to the west of the proposed power line route and 100 m from the buffer zone.

The authors recommend that the burial ground (Site S.36-001) should be avoided and that construction workers must be sensistised to the value of the site; that access to this site must be restricted and alternative access to it be arranged if required (along with consultation with affected families). The site must be monitored during construction of the nearby power line.

The authors further recommend that Chance Finds Procedures must be implemented during the construction phase if subsurface heritage resources are uncovered. These include Palaeontological resources that may be found in sandstone outcrops.

Final Comment

As there is apparently no evidence of any significant archaeological or palaeontological material in this area, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objection to the development. The SAHRA APM Unit supports the recommendations of the authors that Chance Finds Procedures must be



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an agency of the Department of Arts and Culture

implemented during the construction phase, and if any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources is found during development, SAHRA and an archaeologist and/or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be alerted immediately. The SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves Unit supports the recommendations of the authors relating to the burial ground (Site S.36-001).

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

account

Colette Scheermeyer

SAHRA Head Archaeologist

South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: http://www.sahra.org.za/node/104446

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.

