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A HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) STUDY FOR A  
PROPOSED NEW 22kV POWER LINE ON THE FARM  
KAMEELRIVIER 160JR NEAR SIYABUSWA IN THE  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Eskom intends to establish a 22kV power line from an existing line and pole on the borders of Portion 5 and Portion 6 (AMW119/32) of the farm Kameelrivier 160JS to a newly built community centre (Moroka Graph Centre) near Siyabuswa in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa. The proposed new power line corridor was subjected to a HIA.

A single grave and a cemetery were observed near the proposed new power line corridor. The single grave is located approximately 10m to the south of the proposed new power line while the cemetery with three graves is situated to the south of the Moroka Graph Centre.

Both these sensitive remains will not be affected by Eskom's proposed development project.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

This document contains the report on the results of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study done for Eskom's proposed new 22kV power line on the farm Kameelrivier 160JR near Siyabuswa in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa.

## 2 AIM OF THIS REPORT

Eskom intends to establish a 22kV power line from an existing line and pole on the borders of Portion 5 and Portion 6 (AMW119/32) of the farm Kameelrivier 160JS to a newly built community centre (Moroka Graph Centre) near Siyabuswa in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa (Figure 1).

In order to comply with legislation, Eskom requires knowledge of the presence, relevance and the significance of any heritage resources that may occur near or in the proposed new power line corridor. Eskom needs this information in order to take pro-active measures with regard to any heritage remains that may be affected, damaged or destroyed when the proposed new power line is built. Eskom therefore commissioned me to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the study area to be affected by the proposed new power line corridor. The aim of the HIA study is:

- to establish whether any heritage resources do occur near or in the proposed new power line corridor and, if so, what the nature, the extent and the significance of these remains are (see Box 1);
- to determine whether such remains will be affected by the proposed development project; and
- to evaluate what appropriate actions could be taken to reduce the impact of the development activities on such remains.

**BOX 1: TYPES AND RANGES OF HERITAGE RESOURCES AS OUTLINED IN THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT (ACT NO 25 OF 1999)**

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999, Art 3) outlines the following types and ranges of heritage resources that qualify as part of the national estate, namely:

- (a) places, buildings structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- (b) places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- (c) historical settlements and townscapes;
- (d) landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- (e) geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- (f) archaeological and paleontological sites;
- (g) graves and burial grounds including-
  - (i) ancestral graves;
  - (ii) royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
  - (iii) graves of victims of conflict
  - (iv) graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;
  - (v) historical graves and cemeteries; and
  - (vi) other human remains which are not covered by in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No 65 of 1983)
- (h) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
- (i) moveable objects, including -
  - (i) objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and paleontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
  - (ii) objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
  - (iii) ethnographic art and objects;
  - (iv) military objects;
  - (v) objects of decorative or fine art;
  - (vi) objects of scientific or technological interest; and
  - (vii) books, records, documents, photographs, positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No 43 of 1996).

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999, Art 3) also distinguishes nine criteria for places and objects to qualify as 'part of the national estate if they have cultural significance or other special value ...'. These criteria are the following:

- (a) its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
- (b) its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (c) its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (d) its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
- (e) its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- (f) its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- (g) its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- (h) its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa;
- (i) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa

### 3 **METHODOLOGY**

The area where the HIA study was done is not well known with regard to the presence or absence of heritage resources as no HIA studies have yet been done in this area.

The study area where the proposed new power line is to be established was subjected to survey on foot.

### 4 **THE STUDY AREA**

#### 4.1 **Location**

Eskom's proposed new 22kV power line is located on the farm Kameelrivier 160JS, approximately 8km to the west of Siyabuswa in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa.

The area where Eskom intends to establish the power line is flat and is marked by a reservoir on a slight rise in the south and the newly built Moroka Graph Centre in the west. The power line is to be built next (to the south) of the tar road between Wolwekraal in the west and Kgobokwane in the east.

#### 4.2 **Brief historical context**

The study area is situated in the previous homeland of Kwandebele. This homeland is occupied predominantly by people of Ndebele descent.

Figure 1. The location of the proposed new 22kV power line on the farm Kameelrivier 160JS to the west of Siyabuswa in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa.

## 5 THE HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA)

The proposed new 22kV power line runs from an existing power line and pole (Nr AMW119/34) near a reservoir (in the east) to the newly established Maroka Graph Centre (further to the west). The proposed new power line is approximately 0,424km long and is straight. The HIA study was conducted along this single stretch of the proposed new power line corridor.

### Heritage resources observed

The HIA study revealed the presence of a single grave and a small cemetery near the proposed new power line. Whilst the cemetery (with three graves) is located behind (to the south) of the Graph Centre, the single grave (outlined by upright stones) is located approximately 10m to the south of the proposed new power line corridor (Figures 1 & 2).

The new power line will not affect these features, as both are located at a safe distance from the proposed new power line corridor:

Figure 1. The single grave located near the proposed new power line between pole AMW119/32 and the Graph Centre.



Figure 2. The cemetery with three graves located behind (to the south) of the Moroka Graph Centre. The photograph depicts the collapsed tombstone of one of the graves. The remaining two graves are covered with stones.

## **6 CONCLUSION**

A single grave and a cemetery were observed in Eskom's study area. The single grave is located approximately 10m to the south of the proposed new power line corridor while the cemetery with three graves is situated to the south of the Graph Centre.

Both these sensitive remains will not be negatively affected by Eskom's proposed development project.

**DR JULIUS CC PISTORIUS**