



Att: Charles Norman
Manager, Environmental and Planning, Aurecon

19 May 2020

RE: AMMENDED BOSA ALLIGMENT

G&A Heritage Properties (Pty) Ltd was asked to comment on a proposed variation to the planned BOSA powerline corridor alignment. The intention is to combine the BOSA and Pluto corridors for a distance of around 13km starting at the substation at the end of the Pluto line.

G&A Heritage Properties (Pty) Ltd was previously tasked with the heritage component of the ESIA study for the proposed BOSA line. As part of this variation evaluation the original heritage impact assessment (HIA) for the Pluto powerline corridor compiled by *Integrated Specialist Services (Pty) Ltd* in September 2018 was studied. No further fieldwork was performed. The possible further impacts on heritage resources are evaluated as well as the cumulative effects anticipated with the combining of the two powerline corridors into one.

EVALUATION OF PLUTO CORRIDOR HIA

The HIA performed by *Trust Mlilo* from *Integrated Specialist Services (Pty) Ltd* applies here. Due to a lack of any location maps for heritage sites listed in the report the global positioning system (GPS) coordinates supplied for the 14 sites identified during this HIA was plotted on a GIS platform. None of the sites identified were within the vicinity of the proposed combined corridor and as a result no impact on these sites will result in combining the corridors. It should however be noted that the table containing the sites and coordinates, list several variations in the GPS citations. Variously the following versions are given;

- E 27° 24.' 110"
-E 26° 37 '10.6"
-E 26° 55. ' 5.2."

These variations result in uncertainty as to the validity of the readings.

The author of the above HIA also give no indication of any special heritage sensitivities within this specific area of the Pluto corridor.

At this stage it will however be prudent to comment on the comprehensiveness and resolution of this HIA. It is the opinion of this author that the HIA report is questionably

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lacking in identified sites. To only identify 14 sites within 250km of powerline corridor alignment (most of which are fairly modern structures – 3 of which are burial sites) seems extremely sparse for an area with known heritage significance.

Although the report mentions the wartime history of Mahikeng (Mafikeng), no indication is given as to what impacts could be expected from the development of the nearby corridor – such as damage to conflict sites, visual impacts etc.

A large cemetery is located at the village of Miga less than 1km from the corridor, however this is not mentioned in the report.



Figure 1. Cemetery at Miga Village

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ANTICIPATED CUMALATIVE EFFECTS

The major cumulative effect that is anticipated when combining the two powerline corridors is a visual impact. The combination of the two powerlines into one corridor is however expected to have less of a visual impact than two separate corridors. The existing planned corridor will already impact on the visual attributes of the area and the cumulative effect of adding the BOSA line to this would be negligible.

Furthermore, the combined use of shared access roads and other infrastructure related impacts will be lessened by combining the two corridors.

It is therefore expected that the cumulative effect of combining the corridors will be less than if two individual corridors with their distinct impacts were to be constructed. Environmental management and monitoring will also be easier with a combined corridor.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is expected that combining the two corridors as proposed will lessen the heritage impact on this area compared to having two separate corridors with their individual impacts.

Due to the poor quality and resolution and low confidence level in the original Pluto Corridor HIA Report, it is however recommended that the new proposed combined corridor undergoes a walk-down survey after pylon placements have been plotted to ensure that no sites of heritage significance or community importance is impacted upon. The same approach would be recommended for the complete Pluto Line, although this is not the subject of this comments document.