

Mr J O'Brien
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Dear Mr O'Brien

**AMENDMENT: EIA AMENDMENT APPLICATION FOR THE KOLOMELA ESKOM 132KV POWERLINE,
POSTMASBURG, DISTRICT HAY, NORTHERN CAPE**

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd was issued with an environmental authorisation (EA) on 23 May 2016 (authorisation registration number: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1504) to construct the Boichoko substation and the associated 132 kV distribution power line, which will span between the proposed Boichoko substation and the existing Kolomela (Kumba) and Vaalbos substations, near Postmasburg, Northern Cape Province. *EXM Advisory Services* is undertaking an application for an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Amendment for the Kolomela Eskom 132kV Powerline.

An EIA study was undertaken for the above-mentioned project and approved by Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). In accordance with Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, a heritage impact study was completed as part of the EIA and submitted to SAHRA and was subsequently accepted by that authority:

- Van Schalkwyk, J.A. 2015. *Cultural heritage impact assessment for the proposed development of the Boichoko 132kV power line and substation, Postmasburg, Siyanda District Municipality, Northern Cape Province*. Pretoria: Unpublished report 2015JvS072

An amendment to the EA (14/12/16/3/3/1/1504/AM2) was issued to Eskom on 24 October 2018. The amendment served to make corrections to the original authorisation in terms of the affected properties as well as the co-ordinates of the starting point of the power line. Note that as part of the same amendment application, an application was made to amend a section of the power line route within Kolomela Mine.

The following was extracted from an email received from *EXM Advisory Services* on 16 November 2018, regarding the amending of the validity of the Environmental Authorisation that was issued for the above project:

The DEA did not approve an amendment to the powerline route at Kolomela Mine applied for due to the failure to undertake a Palaeontological Phase 1 assessment of the route. We are now going to launch a new application. As part of the new application we have decided to include a second amendment to the route based on objections to the part of the approved route that crosses Kalkfontein, which became apparent during our PPP.

The new, proposed route conforms to the previously identified Alternative A3 and as such formed part of the original assessment done in 2015.

I have reviewed the original report (Van Schalkwyk 2015) as well as the maps and *.kml* files submitted to me by *EXM Advisory Services* regarding the above matter. In addition, I have reviewed all other available heritage assessment reports pertaining to the same area, as well as the immediate surroundings of the power line (Magoma & Ndlovu 2013; Miller 2011; Morris 2005; Van Ryneveld 2006; Van Schalkwyk 2011).

Based on the above review, it is possible to conclude that the region has a low presence of heritage sites and features. Two recurrent themes can be identified. The first is the presence of low density surface scatters of mostly Middle Stone Age tools occurring in places, with Later Stone Age material representing an even smaller occurrence. The second theme consists of structures and features relating to historic times, e.g. farmsteads, infrastructure elements and burial sites.

I can, therefore, with a high degree of confidence state that the new alignment would not lead to any impact on sites, features or objects of cultural heritage significance and that an amendment to the Environmental Authorisation would be in order, on condition of SAHRA's acceptance of this review.

However, considering the fact that archaeological sites in many cases occur below ground surface, if, during construction, archaeological site or graves are discovered, work must immediately be suspended, and a heritage specialist must be consulted to assess the finds.

Sources consulted

Magoma, M. & Ndlovu, N. 2013. *Phase 1 archaeological impact assessment specialist study report for the proposed development of prospecting rights of zink on Portion 5, of the Farm Karabee 50, Portions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17 and the Remaining Extent of the Farm Prieska Poorts 51 in the magisterial district of Prieska, within the Siyathemba Local Municipality of Northern Cape*. Unpublished report: VhubvoArcheo-Heritage Consultant CC.

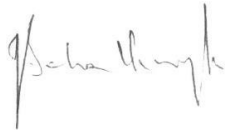
Morris, D. 2005. *Report on a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of proposed mining areas on the farms Ploegfontein, Klipbankfontein, Welgevonden, Leeuwfontein, Wolhaarkop and Kapstevel, west of Postmasburg, Northern Cape*. Unpublished report: Kimberley.

Miller, S. 2011. *Phase 2 documentation of architectural elements on the farms Leeuwfontein, Kapstevel, Welgevonden and Strydfontein in the Postmasburg district municipality of the Northern Cape Province*. Unpublished report: African Heritage Consultants.

Van Ryneveld, K. 2006. *Archaeological Impact Assessment – Vogelstruisbult 104, Prieska District, Northern Cape, South Africa*. Bloemfontein: Unpublished report.

Van Schalkwyk, J.A. 2011. *Heritage impact assessment report for the proposed establishment of a wind farm by Mainstream Renewable Power in the Prieska region, Northern Cape Province*. Pretoria: Unpublished report 2011JvS102.

Yours sincerely



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