

NATURA VIVA cc
Palaeontological Impact Assessments & Heritage Management,
Natural History Education, Tourism, Research

Attn: Ms Caroline Evans
EOH Coastal & Environmental Services
67 African Street
Grahamstown, RSA

Date: 3 October 2019

PALAEONTOLOGICAL HERITAGE RESOURCES COMMENT:

**Coleskop Wind Energy Facility near Middelburg, Pixley ka Seme & Chris Hani
District Municipalities, Northern and Eastern Cape.
(DEA Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2039)**

Dear Ms Evans,

An initial combined desktop and field-based palaeontological heritage assessment of the original Umsobomvu Wind Energy Facility (WEF) near Middelburg, Eastern Cape, was submitted by Almond (2015). A palaeontological assessment for the revised Coleskop WEF was subsequently submitted by Almond (2018). This second report, which addressed the specific infrastructure for the Coleskop WEF, concluded that:

- Due to (1) the general scarcity of fossil remains, especially in the upland areas where the majority of the infrastructure will be situated, (2) the moderately high levels of near-surface bedrock weathering and baking of sediments by dolerite intrusions, as well as (3) the extensive superficial sediment cover observed within most of the study area, the overall impact significance of the construction phase of the proposed alternative energy project is assessed as LOW.
- Given the low impact significance of the proposed Coleskop WEF near Middelburg as far as palaeontological heritage is concerned, no further specialist palaeontological heritage studies or mitigation are considered necessary for this project, pending the potential discovery or exposure of substantial new fossil remains during development. There are no objections on palaeontological heritage grounds to authorization of the amended WEF development.

This letter is to confirm that these conclusions also apply to the revised infrastructure for the Coleskop WEF, as depicted in the latest kmz files provided by EOH and addressed in the most recent report by Almond (2018). These infrastructural developments include the following components:

- Creating a new access point and upgrading existing jeep tracks and farm roads of approximately

NATURA VIVA cc (Reg. No. 2000/019296/23)
Members: Dr J.E. Almond (British)(Managing), M.L. Tusenius
P.O. Box 12410 Mill Street, CAPE TOWN 8010, RSA
Tel / Fax: +27 (21) 462 3622 E-mail: naturaviva@universe.co.za

5.7 km in length to create new access road routes. These roads will be expanded to 12 m in width during the construction phase and rehabilitated to 5 m in width during the operational phase;

- The construction of three (3) concrete batching plants, temporary laydown areas and construction areas. Each will consist of a concrete and/or steel batching plant of approximately 11 250 m², a temporary laydown area of approximately 22 500 m² and a construction compound area of approximately 11 250 m². The combined total area to be cleared for these three (3) concrete batching plants, temporary laydown areas and construction areas is approximately 135 000 m² (13.5 ha);
- The construction of electrical infrastructure which includes an Operation and Maintenance Services (OMS) building of up to 60 m x 60 m, requiring the clearance of up to 3 600 m² (0.36 ha); and
- Two (2) 500 m corridors for the construction of a 132 kV overhead line of approximately 7.6 km in length, which will be routed from the Coleskop Substation to the MTS Substation. This will include a double circuit, twin Tern 132 kV



Dr John E. Almond
Palaeontologist
Natura Viva cc

KEY REFERENCES

ALMOND, J.E. 2015. Umsobomvu Wind Energy Facility near Middelburg, Pixley ka Seme & Chris Hani District Municipalities, Northern and Eastern Cape. Palaeontological specialist assessment: combined desktop and field-based study, 77 pp. Natura Viva cc, Cape Town.

ALMOND 2018. Coleskop Wind Energy Facility near Middelburg, Pixley ka Seme & Chris Hani District Municipalities, Northern and Eastern Cape. Palaeontological specialist assessment: combined desktop and field-based study, 83 pp. Natura Viva cc, Cape Town.

NATURA VIVA cc (Reg. No. 2000/019296/23)
Members: Dr J.E. Almond (British)(Managing), M.L. Tusenius
P.O. Box 12410 Mill Street, CAPE TOWN 8010, RSA
Tel / Fax: +27 (21) 462 3622 E-mail: naturaviva@universe.co.za