



**eTHEMBENI
CULTURAL
HERITAGE**

Amafa aKwazulu-Natali
195 Jabu Ndlovu Street Pietermaritzburg 3200
Telephone 033 3946 543
bernadetp@amafapmb.co.za

10 October 2015

Attention Bernadet Pawandiwa

Dear Ms Pawandiwa

**Proposed Ezakheni-Pomeroy 132kV Kingbird line Establishment
Mzinyathi and Uthukela District Municipalities, KwaZulu-Natal**

Project description

Eskom is proposing to install a 132kV transmission line between the existing Ezakheni and Pomeroy Sub-Stations within the Uthukela and Mzinyathi District Municipalities respectively. There are three route alignment options under review over the some 50km between the two substations. (See Figure. 1 SAHRIS Case File.)

The relevant 1:50 000 map sheets are 2829 DB and 2830CA.

The Sub Station coordinates are as follows:

Pomeroy Sub Station	28°33'42.35"S	30°25'39.35"E
Ezakheni Substation	28°36' 03.75"S	29°54'34.75"E

See kml. File loaded to SAHRIS Case.

eThembeni staff have conducted three visits to the proposed route alignments on 25 February, 08 May and 21 May respectively. The purpose of the field evaluations was to identify the most feasible alignment from a heritage perspective. All three alignment options variously traverse areas of largely dispersed rural settlement with some aggregation of settlement in the lower valley areas. Hilltop plateaux and interfluvies between drainage basins demonstrated little to no settlement.

Due to extensive land disturbance by settlement and agriculture in the valley bottoms the potential for *in situ* significant archaeological sites and other discrete heritage resources in these areas is medium to low, while traditional burial places are typically located in homestead precincts. Further, discrete resources such as archaeological sites or traditional burial places are usually amenable to successful mitigation, entailing small-scale changes to the project layout and/or recording/relocation of the heritage resources.

Given the linear distance of the proposed route alignment we recommend that once tower positions have been surveyed along the final selected power line servitude, that a heritage practitioner should complete a 'walk-through' of the servitude and all other activity areas (access roads, construction camps, etc.), prior to the start of any construction activities. Further the heritage practitioner should at this stage identify what monitoring requirements will be required during the construction and commissioning phases.

The SAHRIS Palaeosensitivity Map indicates that the area has variously high to medium sensitivity. A palaeontological assessment must also be commissioned once the final servitude has been determined

Accordingly, we request that Amafa endorse the principle of the "recommended walk down" prior to any construction activity along a selected servitude and once the requisite tower positions have been surveyed and mapped, and the commissioning of a palaeontological assessment..

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Len van Schalkwyk', written in a cursive style.

Len van Schalkwyk
Principal Investigator.

Appendix

Protocol for the Identification, Protection and Recovery of Heritage Resources During Construction and Operation

It is possible that sub-surface heritage resources could be encountered during the construction phase of this project. The Environmental Control Officer and all other persons responsible for site management and excavation should be aware that indicators of sub-surface sites could include:

- Ash deposits (unnaturally grey appearance of soil compared to the surrounding substrate);
- Bone concentrations, either animal or human;
- Ceramic fragments, including potsherds;
- Stone concentrations that appear to be formally arranged (may indicate the presence of an underlying burial, or represent building/structural remains); and
- Fossilised remains of fauna and flora, including trees.

In the event that such indicator(s) of heritage resources are identified, the following actions should be taken immediately:

- All construction within a radius of at least 20m of the indicator should cease. This distance should be increased at the discretion of supervisory staff if heavy machinery or explosives could cause further disturbance to the suspected heritage resource.
- This area must be marked using clearly visible means, such as barrier tape, and all personnel should be informed that it is a no-go area.
- A guard should be appointed to enforce this no-go area if there is any possibility that it could be violated, whether intentionally or inadvertently, by construction staff or members of the public.
- No measures should be taken to cover up the suspected heritage resource with soil, or to collect any remains such as bone or stone.
- If a heritage practitioner has been appointed to monitor the project, s/he should be contacted and a site inspection arranged as soon as possible.
- If no heritage practitioner has been appointed to monitor the project, the head of archaeology at Amafa's Pietermaritzburg office should be contacted; telephone 033 3946 543.
- The South African Police Services should be notified by an Amafa staff member or an independent heritage practitioner if human remains are identified. No SAPS official may disturb or exhumate such remains, whether of recent origin or not.
- All parties concerned should respect the potentially sensitive and confidential nature of the heritage resources, particularly human remains, and refrain from making public statements until a mutually agreed time.
- Any extension of the project beyond its current footprint involving vegetation and/or earth clearance should be subject to prior assessment by a qualified heritage practitioner, taking into account all information gathered during the initial assessment.