UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

EVOLUTIONARY STUDIES INSTITUTE

Palaeosciences Centre, East Campus, 1 Jan Smuts Avenue, Braamfontein, Johannesburg
Private Bag 3, WITS 2050, Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA Tel: 011 717 6682

Marion.bamford@wits.ac.za
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Dr Ragna Redelstorff
SAHRA
111 Harrington Street,
Cape Town 8001

Dear Dr Redelstorff

RE: Request for exemption from palaeontological impact assessment for: proposed short route and station near Nelspruit on portions of the farms: Boschrand 283 JT and Riverside 308 JT

On behalf of Empact Environmental Consultants and their client, Eskom, I am requesting that no palaeontological impact assessment be required for the above project because there is no chance of finding fossils in the area because the rocks are rocks are much too old and are of volcanic origin.

The proposed site is just north of Nelspruit and concerns a very short route and station (Figure 1 at the end of this letter). The underlying rocks are all Nelspruit Suite granites (Zne – brown – on the geological map; Figure 2) that were emplaced about 3105 million years ago. These volcanic rocks are not uniform but comprise gneisses and various porphyritic granitoids. Such rocks do not contain fossils of any kind. Rocks of the Karoo Supergroup that could potentially contain fossils are more150 km to the southwest of Nelspruit. This interpretation of the lack of fossils is confirmed by the SAHRIS palaeosensitivity map which shows a wide expanse of grey (= insignificant/zero).

Therefore, I highly recommend exemption from any for palaeontological impact assessment for this project.

Yours faithfully

MKBamford

Prof Marion Bamford PhD
Palaeobotanist

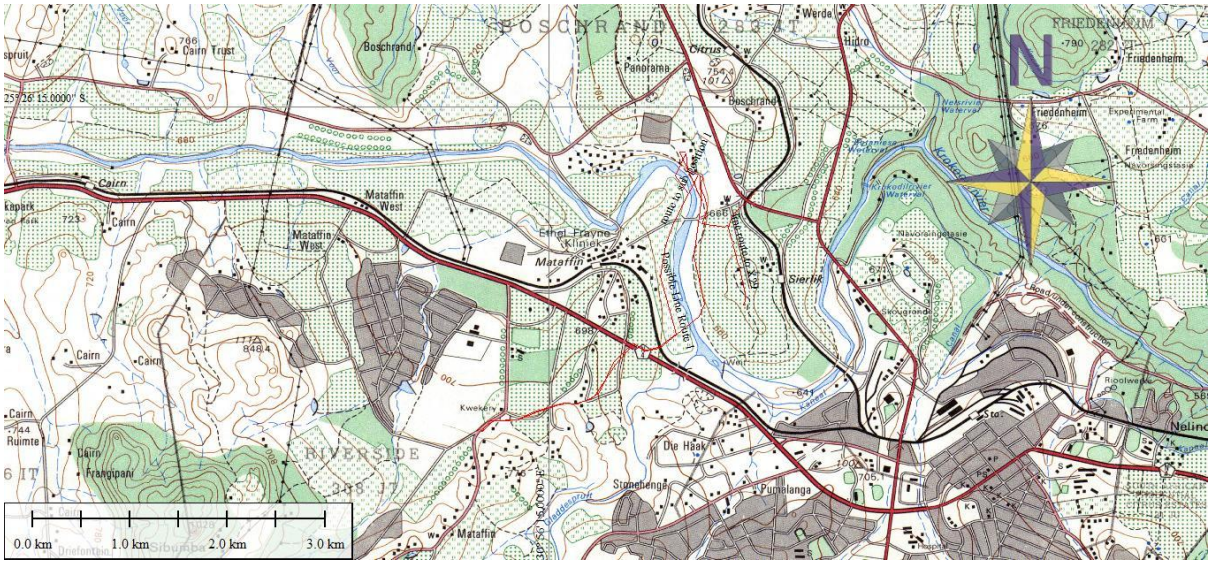

Figure 1: Proposed route for the power line and station are marked in fine red lines in the centre of the map.

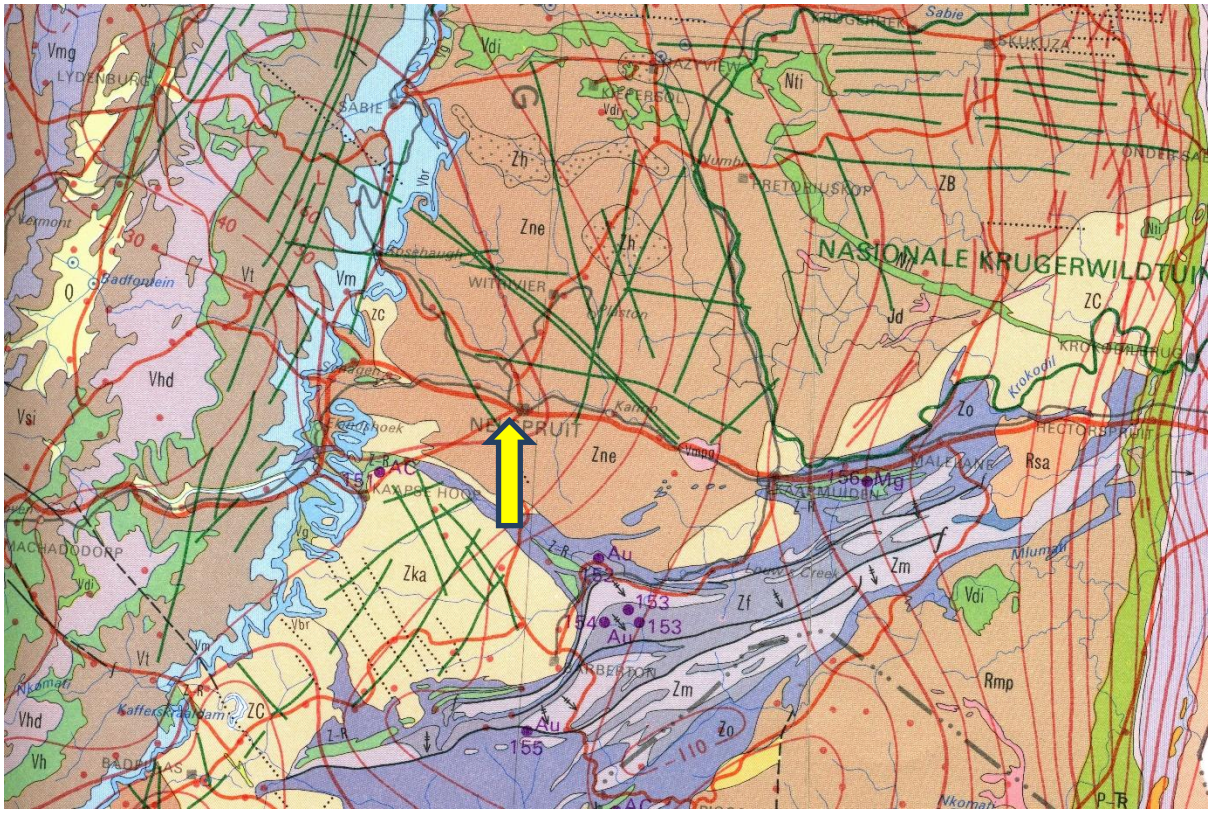

Figure 2: Geological map of the area around Bergville. The site of interest, Isondlo Dairy, is to the southwest of Bergville and the location of the proposed project is indicated with the arrow. Abbreviation of the rock types: Zne (brown) = Nelspruit Suite. Map enlarged from the Geological Survey 1: 1 000 000 map 1984.

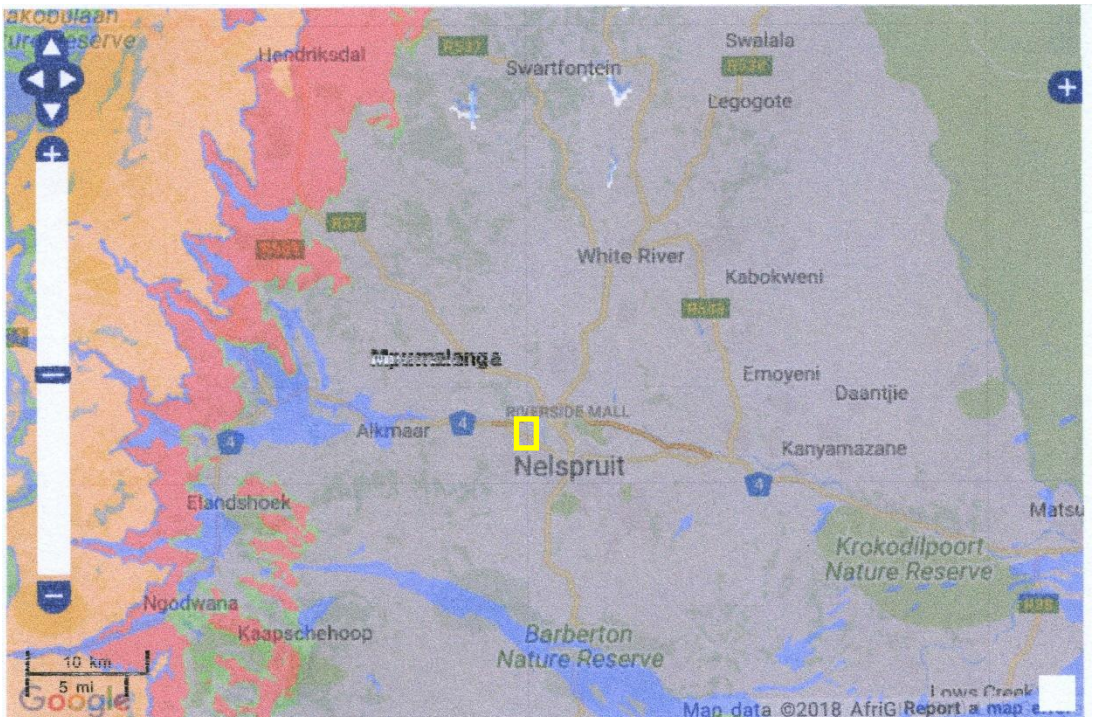

Figure 3: SAHRIS palaeosensitivity maps for the region (3a) and in detail (3b). The proposed powerline route is shown within the yellow rectangular outline. Colours indicate the following degrees of sensitivity: red = very highly sensitive; orange/yellow = high; green = moderate; blue = low; grey = insignificant/zero.