

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 02 October 2017

Ms Natasha Higgitt SAHRA 111 Harrington Street Cape Town 8001

Dear Ms Higgitt

RE: Request for Exemption for Palaeontological Impact Assessment for Mr Willem Hendrik Jacobus Goosen SAHRA CaseID: 12972

The project is for the proposed construction of two 22KV power lines close to Christiana, North West Province. Both power lines are needed to provide electricity for farming purposes. The first is a 3 km line, directly south of the Vaal River and towards the south-west of Christiana. This is on the farm Van Aswegenshoek. The second is a 4 km line south of Christiana and runs over the farms Bloubosput, Marydale and Boesmansput.

According to the geological map both sections of the proposed powerlines would lie on Kalahari sands of the Quaternary period and from the photographs in the Archaeological Heritage Impact Report (Report No: AE01844V by Prof. A.C. van Vollenhoven) this is confirmed. Furthermore the land scape has been disturbed by previous agricultural activities and roadworks. Although the SAHRIS palaeosensitivity map indicates that the area is moderately sensitive there is no valid reason for this. While the Kalahari sands are the correct age to preserve fossils they are not provide the correct conditions to preserve fossils because they are mobile (windblown and water transport) and highly oxidised. The potentially fossiliferous rocks of the Vryheid Formation and Dwyka Groups are to the north and east of the farms and would not be impacted upon. There are no palaeochannels of the Vaal River along this section.

In my opinion, as a professional palaeontologist, I recommend that that no further palaeontological impact assessment are required and that the project to construct two short powerlines be allowed to proceed.

Yours sincerely

MKBamfur

Prof Marion Bamford, PhD, FRSAf, mASSAf Director: ESI