

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Date: Monday February 22, 2016

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Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 8856

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Eskom - Megawatt Park
PO Box 1091
Johannesburg
2001

Eskom proposes to construct a 765kV transmission power line of approximately 880km from Perseus substation in Free State to Kronos to Aries to Helios substation in Northern Cape and ending at Juno substation in the Western Cape. The proposed power line would be associated with upgrades at the substations to accommodate the line. The main purpose for proposed power line is to improve the transmission network supply by linking the Western Cape and Gauteng Province.

Mokgope Consulting was appointed by Eskom Holdings SOC Limited to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the four transmission power lines spanning over the Free State Province, Northern Cape Province and Western Cape Province. Draft Impact Assessment Reports were completed for the Perseus – Kronos 765kV route, the Kronos – Aries 765kV route, Aries – Helios 765kV route and the Helios – Juno 765kV route. These reports were completed in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014. SAHRA can only provide comments on projects in the Northern Cape. Comments must be sought from Heritage Western Cape on sections of the project located within the Western Cape Province.

Mokgope Consulting contracted J van Schalkwyk to conduct the Heritage Scoping Assessment for each of the power line routes.

Van Schalkwyk, 2015. Heritage Scoping Assessment for the Proposed Perseus-Kronos 765 kV Transmission Power Line and Substations Upgrade, Northern Cape and Free State Provinces.

Van Schalkwyk, 2015. Heritage Scoping Assessment for the Proposed Kronos-Aries 765 kV Transmission Power Line and Substations Upgrade, Northern Cape and Free State Provinces.

Van Schalkwyk, 2015. Heritage Scoping Assessment for the Proposed Aries-Helios 765 kV Transmission Power Line and Substations Upgrade, Northern Cape and Free State Provinces.

Van Schalkwyk, 2015. Heritage Scoping Assessment for the Proposed Helios-Juno 765 kV Transmission Power Line and Substations Upgrade, Northern Cape and Free State Provinces.

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All of the above reports found that heritage resources such as Stone Age sites, colonial or historical period are located within the proposed routes for the proposed projects. The preferred routes for each project are as follows:

- Perseus – Kronos: Alternative 1 with detours 1A, 1B, AC and 1D
- Kronos – Aries: Alternative 3 with detours 3A and 3B with the link back to Alternative 2
- Aries – Helios: Alternative 3
- Helios – Juno: Alternative 1 with detours 1E and 1G with switch back to Alternative 2

Recommendations provided in the reports are as follows:

- A Walk-Down of the preferred routes to document all sites, features and objects of heritage significance must be completed prior to construction per project;
- Identified sites must be clearly marked and avoided during the construction phase. All on-site workers must be informed that additional heritage resources may be uncovered during construction and they must be notified of the process to follow should this occur;
- Chance Finds Procedures must be developed and implemented during the construction phase, and on-site workers and contractors must be informed of penalties associated with the unlawful removal of heritage resources as per the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999.
- A Heritage Visual Impact Assessment must be completed for Alternative 1A for the Perseus – Kronos 765kV Transmission Line.

Interim Comment

Regarding archaeological heritage resources, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit accepts the submitted Heritage Scoping Report and recommendations, and has no objections against the development. The following additional conditions must be adhered to and must form part of the final EIA/EMPr Phase of the project:

- A Palaeontological Desktop/Scoping Study must be completed for each preferred power line route and submitted before final comments can be issued;
- A Heritage Visual Impact Assessment must be completed for the Perseus – Kronos route preferred route 1A prior to construction and submitted to SAHRA for comment;
- Walk-downs of all preferred routes must be completed by a qualified archaeologists and palaeontologist prior to construction. Sites for contractor's camps and laydown yards must also be included in the Walk-Down reports. These Walk-Down reports must be submitted to SAHRA prior to

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construction for comments;

- A 50 m buffer zone must be maintained from any identified heritage resources with regards to any of the activities described in the Draft EIRs;
- Should any evidence of archaeological remains and palaeontology be uncovered during the construction phase, an archaeologist or a palaeontologist, according to the nature of the finds, must be called to site to inspect the findings. The SAHRA APM unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 4502) must be alerted immediately, should the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance. A Phase 2 rescue operation may be necessary, for which a permit must be applied. Heritage Western Cape must be notified of any identified heritage resources uncovered in the Western Cape Province.

Final comments will be published once the above has been submitted along with the Final EIA and EMP for the project.

Decisions regarding sections of the Helios – Juno Project within the Western Cape Province must be sought from Heritage Western Cape. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that these comments are received.

Decisions regarding Built Environment will be provided by Ngwao-Boswa Jwa Kapa Bokone (NBKB), the Northern Cape Provincial Heritage Resource Authority (Ratha Timothy - rthimothy@nbkb.org.za /053 831 2537).

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine
SAHRA Head Archaeologist (Acting)
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/350465>
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/438; 14/12/16/3/3/2/439; 14/12/16/3/3/2/440; 14/12/16/3/3/2/441)

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.