

APPENDIX F: AUTHORITY CORRESPONDENCE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Fedure Building · 315 Pretorius Street · PRETORIA
Tel (+ 27 12) 310 3911 · Fax (+ 2712) 322 2662

NEAS Reference: DEA/EIA/0001492/2012

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/61

Enquiries: Masina Litsoane

Telephone: 012-395-1778 Fax: 012-320-7539 E-mail: MLitsoane@environment.gov.za

Mr Malcom Roods
Royal HaskoningDHV
P.O. Box 867
GALLO MANOR
2052

Fax No: 011-798-6010

PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Mr Roods

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED UNDERGROUND COAL GASIFICATION PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE MAJUBA POWER STATION MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

The Final Scoping Report (FSR) and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated January 2013 and received by the Department on 17 January 2013 refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted FSR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated January 2013 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2010. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of regulation 30(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2010.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2010.

Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This includes but is not limited to Mpumalanga: Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, National and Provincial Department of Water Affairs, Council for Geoscience and SAHRA. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final EIR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the EIR:

- a) Details of the future plans for the site and infrastructure after decommissioning in 20-30 years and the possibility of upgrading the proposed infrastructure to more advanced technologies.
- b) The total footprint of the proposed development should be indicated. Exact locations of the proposed facility and associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale.

- c) Should a Water Use License be required, proof of application for a license needs to be submitted.
- d) Possible impacts and effects of the development on the surrounding priority natural area.
- e) The EIR should include information on the following:
 - Environmental costs vs. benefits of the facility activity; and
 - Economic viability of the facility to the surrounding area and how the local community will benefit.
- f) A construction and operational phase EMP to include mitigation and monitoring measures.
- g) A copy of the final site layout plan. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads. The layout plan must indicate the following:
 - Proposed facility and its associated infrastructure;
 - Foundation footprint;
 - Permanent laydown area footprint;
 - Construction period laydown footprint;
 - Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible);
 - Spoil heaps (temporary for topsoil and subsoil and permanently for excess material);
 - All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads;
 - Environmental sensitive features and buffer areas.
 - Buildings, including accommodation; and
 - All "no-go" areas.
- h) An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the EIA process.
- i) A map combining the final layout plan superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of regulation 67 with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations, and regulations 56 and 57 with regard to the allowance of a comment period for interested and affected parties on all reports submitted to the competent authority for decision-making. The reports referred to are listed in regulation 56(3a-3h).

Please ensure that the Final EIR includes at least one A3 regional map of the area and the locality maps included in the final EIR illustrate the proposed infrastructure to be expanded and proposed facility. The maps must be of acceptable quality and as a minimum, have the following attributes:

- Maps are relatable to one another;
- Cardinal points;
- Co-ordinates;
- Legible legends;
- Indicate alternatives;
- Latest land cover;
- Vegetation types of the study area; and
- A3 size locality map.

Further, it must be reiterated that, should an application for Environmental Authorisation be subject to the provisions of Chapter II, Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, then this Department will not be able to make nor issue a decision in terms of your application for

Environmental Authorisation pending a letter from the pertinent heritage authority categorically stating that the application fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority as described in Chapter II, Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999.

You are requested to submit five (5) copies of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to the Department as per regulation 34(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2010. Please submit at least one electronic copy (CD/DVD) of the complete final report with the hard copy documents.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Mr Mark Gordon

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs

Letter signed by: Ms Millicent Solomons

Designation: Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Date: 02/04/2013

CC:	Mr. M. Van der Riet	Eskom	Fax: 011-629-5542
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environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Fedsure Building · 315 Pretorius Street · PRETORIA
Tel (+ 27 12) 310 3911 · Fax (+ 2712) 322 2682

NEAS Reference: DEA/EIA/0001492/2012

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/3/61

Enquiries: Mr Vincent Chauke

Telephone: 012 310 3882 **Fax:** 012 320-7539 **E-mail:** VChauke@environment.gov.za

Mr Malcolm Roods
Royal HaskoningDHV (Pty) Ltd
P O Box 25302
Monument Park
GAUTENG
0105

Fax No: 012 367 5890 / 011 798 6010

Tel No: 012 367 5800

PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Mr Roods

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION:
PROPOSED UNDERGROUND COAL GASIFICATION PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE
IN SUPPORT OF CO-FIRING OF GAS AT THE MAJUBA POWER STATION, AMERSFOORT IN
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Your correspondence, dated 14 August 2014 and received by the Department on 17 February 2014, refers.

The Department takes cognisance of your request for extension to submit the draft EIA Report.

Based on the information provided by you, the Department herewith extends the timeframe to submit the completed report (draft EIA) to **6 months** from the date of this letter. Should your completed report not be submitted by end of the **6th month**, your file will be closed for all administrative purposes. As such, a new application will need to be submitted to the Department if you wish to pursue your proposed development.

Please note that a listed activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely

Mr Ishaam Abader
Deputy Director-General: Legal, Authorisations, Compliance & Enforcement
Department of Environmental Affairs

Letter signed by: Ms Milicent Solomons

Designation: Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Date: 11/03/2014.

ROYAL HASKONINGDHV		PRETORIA
RECEIVED	DATE 10/03/14	
SEND TO Phyllis		
SECTOR	SER NO	
PROD. NO...../...../.....		

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

OFFICE OF THE: **REGIONAL HEAD: GAUTENG**
15th Floor, Bothongo Plaza East, 285 Francis Baard Street, Pretoria

Fax:	(012) 392-1359	✉	P/Bag X995	Enquiries:	L J Nyama
Cell:	082 877 5139		PRETORIA	Telephone:	(012) 392 1369
e-mail:	NyamaL@dwa.gov.za		0001	Reference:	16/2/7/2/C1113/B053

Cooperate Specialist
Eskom Underground Coal Gasification
Research, Testing and Development
Private Bag X 40175
CLEVELAND
2022

By hand

Attention: Dr. M Van der Riet

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ISSUE A DIRECTIVE IN TERMS OF SECTION 53(1) (a) OF THE NATIONAL WATER ACT, ACT 36 OF 1998 (NWA) ("THE ACT"): UNLAWFUL WATER USE IN MAJUBA UNDERGROUND COAL GASIFICATION (UCG).

Reference is made to the meeting as well as site inspection on 24 October 2012.

The above inspection has brought to light the fact that Eskom commenced with water use activities without an authorisation on the farm Roodekopjes 67 HS. The water use activities already engaged in include Section 21 (a), (b), (c), (i), (e), (h), and (j). This Department is of the opinion that Eskom Majuba UCG project is not complying with the provisions of NWA.

Authorisation is required in terms of Section 22 prior to any water use activities exercised under Section 21 of the NWA being exercised.

In light of the above, I *Hendrik Albertus Smit* in my capacity as Regional Head: Gauteng, of the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) and duly authorised in terms of powers delegated to me by the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, hereby give you fourteen (14) working days upon receipt of this notice, to make a written representation to the Department in the event that the above is incorrect.

Failure to make such representation will result in this Department issuing a Directive in terms of Section 53(1) (a) of the NWA which will require you to:

1. Amend Section 21 (a) Bulk Water Use License to indicate the inclusion of the Majuba UCG plant by not later than 31 January 2013;
2. Apply for a water use authorisation for the abovementioned water use activities by not later than 31 January 2013;

3. Cease all unlawful water use activities with immediate effect. Proof of cessation must be provided within fourteen (14) days of the receipt of this directive;
4. Conduct and submit an Environmental Audit to determine the risk this activity poses to the water resources within fourteen (14) days of the receipt of the directive;
5. Compile and submit a wetland delineation and assessment as well as rehabilitation plan if the constructed activities are affecting a wetland within fourteen (14) days of the receipt of the directive;
6. Submit an Environmental Management Plan of the activity within fourteen (14) days of the receipt of the directive; and
7. Compile and submit a monitoring programme within fourteen (14) days of the receipt of the directive.

Furthermore, please be advised that in the event that this Department issues a directive and you do not comply therewith, that this Department in terms of Section 53(2) may carry out any works and take any necessary action to rectify the aforesaid contravention and recover all reasonable costs incurred in doing so from you; or it may apply to the relevant court for appropriate relief.

Lastly, your attention is drawn to the fact that as the activities are being conducted without this Department's authorisation as required in terms of the requirements of Section 22 of Chapter 4 of the NWA, that this is a criminal offence in terms of Section 151(1). Section 151 (2) provides that a person who contravenes Section 151 (1) of the NWA is guilty of an offence and liable on first conviction to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five (5) years or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

We wish to make it clear that the instructions in this letter are made in the interest of responsible water resource management, and with a view to a co-operative resolution of the issue.

Representations must be forwarded for the attention of the Regional Head and delivered to:

Department of Water Affairs: Gauteng
Bothongo Plaza East 15th Floor
285 Francis Baard Street
PRETORIA
0001

or

Department of Water Affairs: Gauteng
Private Bag X 995
PRETORIA
0001

Tel: 012 392 1301
Fax: 012 392 1304

Should you have any further queries, please contact L J Nyama at the above number.

SIGNED AT PRETORIA ON ^{NO} 22 DAY OF NOVEMBER 2012


REGIONAL HEAD: GAUTENG

Acknowledgement of Receipt

Received by Mr/Ms _____ (name and surname)

On behalf of Eskom UCG on this ___ day of _____ 2012

Signature _____



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

OFFICE OF THE **REGIONAL Director: Gauteng**
Bothongo Plaza East, 285 Schoeman Street, Pretoria

Fax: (012) 392-1359	✉ P/Bag X995	Enquiries: Jeanette Nyama
Cell: 082 877 5139	PRETORIA	Telephone: (012) 392-1369
e-mail: NyamaL@dwa.gov.za	0001	Reference: 16/2/7/C113/B053

**Eskom Underground Coal Gasification
Sustainable Division
Research, Testing and Development
Private Bag X 40173
CLEVELAND
2022**

ATTENTION: Mr Lou Duvenage

APPLICATION FOR A WATER USE LICENCE IN TERMS OF SECTION 40 OF THE NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998 (ACT 36 OF 1998) (NWA): ESKOM MAJUBA UNDERGROUND COAL GASIFICATION.

Reference is made to the Water Use License Application (IWULA) dated 30 January 2013 and meeting held on 02 May 2013.

The application forms and supporting documentation were evaluated. In the evaluation, it was determined that there is outstanding information which is essential for further processing of the application.

1. Complete the following information on the application forms:
 - 1.1 Property details of Section 21(c) and (i) water uses;
 - 1.2 Coordinates, capacity and area (ha) of the Wastewater Treatment facility;
 - 1.3 Volume, coordinates and properties of section 21 (a) and (j) not Corresponding; and
 - 1.4 Capacity and coordinates of the process water dam.

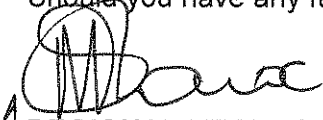
2. Outstanding documents:
 - 2.1 Environmental audit;
 - 2.2 Affected wetland assessment;
 - 2.3 Wetland Rehabilitation and management plan;
 - 2.4 Monitoring programme; and
 - 2.5 Master plan.

The above-mentioned documents on section (2) submitted to this Department contains information prior to construction of pipelines and access road, therefore environmental audit must be conducted to determine the changes or impacts that have been posed to the

watercourses by the unlawful activities. All other above-mentioned reports must be compiled and submitted.

The outstanding information discussed above must be supplied by the applicant by on or before **31 October 2013** to enable further processing of the licence application.

Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact this office.



REGIONAL HEAD: GAUTENG

DATE: 02/10/2013

MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

Building No. 4
No. 7 Government Boulevard
Riverside Park Extension 2
Nelspruit
1200
South Africa



Private Bag X 11215
Nelspruit, 1200
Tel: 013 766 4004
Fax: 013 766 4614
Int: +27 13 766 4004
Int: +27 13 766 4614

Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism

Litiko Letekuifufukiswa
Kwetsimolfo, Simondzwe netekaVakasha

Umngango WozokuThuthukiswa
KoMzetho, iRhosichulo nezamaVakajho

Departement van Ekonomiese
Oorwikkeling, Omgewing en Toerisme

Enquiries : Nelisiwe Mlangeni
Telephone : 017 811 3944
Reference : 17/2/5/ GS-159
DEA Ref. : 14/12/16/3/3/3/61

Ms. Pumeza Skepe-Mngciza
Department of Environmental Affairs
Private Bag x 447
Pretoria
0001

Fax : (012) 395 1694/1768
Email : psekepe@environment.gov.za

Dear Madam

COMMENTS ON THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED UNDERGROUND COAL GASSIFICATION PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN SUPPORT OF CO-FIRING OF GAS AT THE MAJUBA POWER STATION, AMERSFOORT, PIXLEY KA SEME LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

The above matter refers.

The Department is satisfied with the information in the report and has no objections to the approval of the Report

Should you have any enquiry please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely


Mr. S.S. Maluleka
Chief Director: Environmental Services

Date: 06.01.2013

cc: Prashika Reddy

Royal HaskoningDHV

prashika.reddy@rhdhv.com

SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE
RESOURCES AGENCY



Letter

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

Attention: Ms Sibongile Hlomuka
Royal HaskoningDHV
PO Box 867
Gallo Manor
2052

INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND WASTE LICENSE STUDY FOR THE UNDERGROUND COAL GASIFICATION PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN SUPPORT OF CO-FIRING OF GAS AT THE MAJUBA POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA

Thank you for your indication that development is to take place in this area.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), no 25 of 1999, heritage resources, including archaeological or palaeontological sites over 100 years old, graves older than 60 years, structures older than 60 years are protected. They may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. This means that before such sites are disturbed by development it is incumbent on the developer (or mine) to ensure that a Heritage Impact Assessment is done. This must include the archaeological component (Phase 1) and any other applicable heritage components. Appropriate (Phase 2) mitigation, which involves recording, sampling and dating sites that are to be destroyed, must be done as required.

Decision

It is noted in the background information that a heritage impact assessment will be undertaken for the proposed project. Please note that the heritage assessment must also include a palaeontological study, undertaken by a professional palaeontologist (see www.palaeontologicalsociety.co.za) or at least a letter of exemption from a professional palaeontologist to motivate that such a study is not necessary. Heritage resources such as archaeology, built environment, burial grounds and graves and any other significant heritage issues such as cultural landscapes should also be addressed.

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

Yours faithfully





Our Ref: 9/2/222/0002

Enquiries: Phillip Hine
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: phine@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 793

Date: Wednesday November 21, 2012

Page No: 2

Phillip Hine
Heritage Officer

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/3/61)



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

Street Address: 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town 8000 * Postal Address: PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000
* Tel: +27 21 462 4502 * Fax: +27 21 462 4509 * Web: <http://www.sahra.org.za>



Bernard Price Institute for Palaeontological Research

Private Bag 3, WITS 2050, South Africa • Telephone +27 11 717-6682 • Fax +27 11 717-6694

Marion.bamford@wits.ac.za

30 November 2012.

Mariagrazia Galimberti (PhD)
APM Impact Assessor
South African Heritage Resources Agency
111 Harrington Street
PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000,
South Africa

Dear Mariagrazia

RE: PIA for Majuba UGC

I have carried out a Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) Project for the Majuba Power Station and Amersfoort Power Station in Mpumalanga, at the request of Royal HaskoningDHV, who have been appointed by Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd. This is for Portions 1, 2, 3 and remaining extent of the farm Roodekopjes 67 HS, Portions 17 and 21 of the farm Bergvliet 65HS and Portions 4 and 5 of the farm Rietfontein 66HS. My report is attached.

No vertebrate fossils are likely to be found but fossil plants are likely to be encountered in the drilling project, associated with the shales and coal seams. This type of flora is common and of little scientific interest. At this stage no Phase 2 or 3 palaeontological assessments are recommended, however, it is strongly recommended that in the Environmental Management Plan a person is made responsible to look out for good fossils, collect them and give them to a suitable institute for further study.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'M Bamford'.

Prof Marion Bamford
Deputy Director: BPI Palaeontology

Cc: Prashika Reddy, Royal HaskoningDHV



Interim Comment

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

Attention: Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
92 Hans Van Rensburg Street
Polokwane
0699

Draft Environmental Scoping Report for the Underground Coal Gasification Project and Associated Infrastructure in support of co-firing of gas at the Majuba Power Station, Amersfoort, Mpumalanga.

Van Schalkwyk, J. October 2012. Heritage Impact Scoping Assessment Report for The Underground Coal Gasification Project and Associated Infrastructure in Support of Co-Firing Of Gas at the Majuba Power Station, Amersfoort, Mpumalanga.

Eskom proposes the development of an underground coal gasification facility on Portions 1, 2, 3 and remaining extent of the farm Roodekopjes 67HS, within Pixley ka Seme Local Municipality in Mpumalanga Province. The heritage scoping report submitted to SAHRA APM Unit mentions that the survey was conducted for the development area, whilst the rest of the area was subject to a desktop assessment. Considering that the project requires additional infrastructure such as access roads, an extra waste water treatment plant, a power line and a fire break which could involve significant disturbance of the study area, it is not clear if the archaeologist investigated all the areas that will be earmarked for infrastructure development. This is because according to the draft Scoping Report report additional infrastructure will not be located on the farm Roodekopjes 67HS, but rather on farms Bergvliet 65HS and Rietfontein 66HS. In addition, a palaeontological assessment was not undertaken for the proposed project. This is normally compiled by a professional palaeontologist.

The archaeologist did identify heritage resources on the property, although these are only described very briefly and not in acceptable detail. Since this is a scoping heritage assessment, it is expected that the actual heritage impact assessment will indeed address the missing information that would then enable informed comments from the SAHRA APM Unit.

The following aspects should be considered in the heritage report:

- The reference list must be reflected in the text and it must be clear which type of heritage resources are present in the broader areas and what could be expected on site.
- Full survey of the area impacted by the development including areas dedicated to the establishment of ancillary infrastructure
- Detailed description of each identified heritage resource;
- Description of the survey methodology including GPS trackways of the areas surveyed;
- Since in most sections dense vegetation has limited archaeological visibility, the specialist must make provision for an alternative plan. If it is expected that the survey undertaken is a reflection enough of the





heritage sensitivity of the area, the author should say so, otherwise monitoring or another source of mitigation must be proposed;

- Proposed mitigation measures must be site specific: a general section such as the following is not enough for heritage resources of different origin and with different requirements. *Mitigation should take the form of isolating known sites and declare them as no-go zones with sufficient large buffer zones around them for protection. In exceptional cases mitigation can be implemented after required procedures have been followed.*

- Palaeontological assessment that must be undertaken by a professional palaeontologist or a letter of exemption from further palaeontological studies if the specialist deems it sufficient;

-It is noted that a palaeontological report has since been submitted to SAHRA APM Unit.

The specialist mentions that *as the development details for the larger region is not yet available, this would be subjected to intensive surveys once these details are available.* SAHRA expects the next report to include these areas.

The report must reflect the scope of the proposed project. It is advisable that the specialist receives all available information regarding the proposed project before the field survey is conducted.

SAHRA APM Unit awaits the updated report before issuing further recommendations regarding this case.

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

Yours faithfully

Phillip Hine
Heritage Officer

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency



Eskom Coal Gasification Project

Our Ref: 9/2/222/0002

Enquiries: Phillip Hine
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: phine@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 756

Date: Monday December 03, 2012

Page No: 3



ADMIN:



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

Street Address: 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town 8000 * Postal Address: PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000
* Tel: +27 21 462 4502 * Fax: +27 21 462 4509 * Web: <http://www.sahra.org.za>



Interim Comment

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

Attention: Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
92 Hans Van Rensburg Street
Polokwane
0699

Draft Environmental Scoping Report for the Underground Coal Gasification Project and Associated Infrastructure in support of co-firing of gas at the Majuba Power Station, Amersfoort, Mpumalanga.

Van Schalkwyk, J. November 2012. Heritage Impact Scoping Assessment Report for The Underground Coal Gasification Project and Associated Infrastructure in Support of Co-Firing of Gas at the Majuba Power Station, Amersfoort, Mpumalanga.

Fourie, H. November 2013. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for Majuba Underground Coal Gasification Project,

Mpumalanga.

Eskom proposes the development of an underground coal gasification facility on Portions 1, 2, 3 and remaining extent of the farm Roodekopjes 67HS, within Pixley ka Seme Local Municipality in Mpumalanga Province. SAHRA commented on an earlier draft of the heritage report for this project and requested that the report be updated. It is however, noted that the updated report does not fully comply with the recommendations set out in SAHRA's Interim Comment, dated 3/12/2013, in particular with regard to point 4. The report did not include the following information:

- 1) SAHRA requested that the survey methodology be explained and that a GPS track log be provided;
- 2) The identified heritage resources were not mapped in relation to the proposed development;
- 3) A number of cemeteries have been identified but the author did not provide an indication of how old the graves in the following cemeteries are: Sites 1, 7, 8, 11, 13, 20.

Palaeontology

The area is underlain by the middle Ecca Vryheid Formation, the upper Ecca Volksrust formation and the Lower Beaufort Adelaide Formation which contains economically viable coal seams. The specialist noted that there is a strong possibility of plant fossil material occurring in shale and mudstones associated with the coal. The author notes that recognisable plant fossils are likely to occur in the non-economical viable mudstone layers or lenses between the coal seams.

Decision





- SAHRA APM Unit supports the recommendation palaeontological desktop assessment and agrees that no further studies will be required. Because there is a likelihood that plant fossil material may be unearthed, SAHRA APM Unit supports the recommendation that the ECO familiarise themselves with the types of fossil material that may be discovered in the area. In the likelihood that significant palaeontological material is discovered SAHRA APM Unit (Mrs Colette Scheermeyer/Mr Phillip Hine, tel. 021 462 4502), and a palaeontologist must be informed immediately to inspect the findings

In terms of the heritage report compiled by Dr van Schalkwyk, SAHRA requires;

- All heritage sites identified must be mapped in relation to the proposed development. None of the heritage resources identified has been mapped which is a minimum requirement;
- Clarification is required in terms age of the graves identified at cemeteries 1, 7, 8, 11, 13, and 20.
- Although it is stated that none of the heritage resources will be impacted by the proposed development, it is required that the above information is provided in order for SAHRA APM Unit to make an informed decision.

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

Yours faithfully

Phillip Hine
Heritage Officer

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:





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.



Final Comment

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

Attention: Ms Prashika Reddy
Royal Haskoning DHV
Fountain Square
78 Kalkoen Street
Monument Park
0105

Draft Environmental Scoping Report for the Underground Coal Gasification Project and Associated Infrastructure in support of co-firing of gas at the Majuba Power Station, Amersfoort, Mpumalanga.

Van Schalkwyk, J. November 2012. Heritage Impact Scoping Assessment Report for The Underground Coal Gasification Project and Associated Infrastructure in Support of Co-Firing of Gas at the Majuba Power Station, Amersfoort, Mpumalanga.

Bamford, M. November 2012. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for Majuba Underground Coal Gasification Project, Mpumalanga.

Eskom proposes the development of an underground coal gasification facility on Portions 1, 2, 3 and remaining extent of the farm Roodekopjes 67HS, within Pixley ka Seme Local Municipality in Mpumalanga Province. SAHRA commented on two earlier drafts of the heritage report for this project and requested that the reports be updated. In the Intermin Comment dated 5 February 2013, SAHRA requested the following information:

In terms of the heritage report compiled by Dr van Schalkwyk, SAHRA requires;

- All heritage sites identified must be mapped in relation to the proposed development. None of the heritage resources identified has been mapped which is a minimum requirement;*
- Clarification is required in terms age of the graves identified at cemeteries 1, 7, 8, 11, 13, and 20.*
- Although it is stated that none of the heritage resources will be impacted by the proposed development, it is required that the above information is provided in order for SAHRA APM Unit to make an informed decision.*

The report has since been updated and submitted to SAHRA for comment.

Decision:

The heritage report identified a number of heritage resources, which include farmsteads, homesteads, graves and recent semi-circular structures used for hunting purposes. SAHRA has no objection to the proposed development provided the following recommendations are implemented:

- None of the heritage resources identified in the submitted HIA may be affected by the proposed activities; all



cemeteries and structures must remain *in situ* and undisturbed.

- SAHRA APM Unit supports the recommendation palaeontological desktop assessment and agrees that no further studies will be required. Because there is a likelihood that plant fossil material may be unearthed, SAHRA APM Unit supports the recommendation that the ECO familiarise themselves with the types of fossil material that may be discovered in the area. In the likelihood that significant palaeontological material is discovered SAHRA APM Unit (Mrs Colette Scheermeyer/Mr Phillip Hine, tel. 021 462 4502), and a palaeontologist must be informed immediately to inspect the findings.

- No further site specific action is required for the heritage resources identified by Dr Van Schalkwyk. However, all sites should be safeguarded and appropriate management tools put in place for their future conservation. SAHRA should be notified immediately about future expansion which may result on impacts to the heritage sites

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

Yours faithfully

Phillip Hine
Heritage Officer

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/100339>





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.

