

Bon Espirange substation and 132kv overhead power line for the authorised Roggeveld wind farm project

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt

Date: Wednesday April 13, 2016

Page No: 1

Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 9258

Final Comment

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

Attention: Roggeveld Wind Power (Pty) Ltd
5th Floor
125 Buitengracht Street
Cape Town

Roggeveld Wind Power (Pty) Ltd received environmental authorisation for Phase 1 of the Roggeveld Wind Farm on 12 August 2014. In order to connect the Roggeveld Wind Farm to the high voltage electricity network (grid), an on-site substation (known as the Bon Espirange Substation Eskom Yard) and a new overhead power line is required to be constructed. The Bon Espirange Substation Eskom Yard applied for in this Basic Assessment process will be located directly adjacent to the authorised Bon Espirange Substation IPP Yard (overlapping with the area assessed through the Roggeveld Wind farm EIA). The entire extent of the Bon Espirange Substation, including both the Independent Power Producer (IPP) Yard and the proposed Eskom Yard, is located within the authorised Roggeveld Wind Farm Facility site. The 132kV overhead power line (6-7 km in length) will connect the Bon Espirange Substation to the Eskom Komsberg Substation. The authorised connection for the Roggeveld Wind Farm is no longer viable due to a proposed expansion of the Komsberg Substation. Therefore, the point of connection to the Komsberg Substation has been reconsidered, and the only viable connection solution for the Roggeveld Wind Farm is to connect to the Komsberg Substation on the eastern side of the substation. Limited upgrades might also be required to the Komsberg Substation including but not limited to additional feeder bay, limited access roads and cabling. Any upgrades to the Komsberg Substation would be determined by Eskom at a later stage, but would be within the Komsberg Substation high voltage yard boundary

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Roggeveld Wind Power (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Basic Assessment (BA) Process in support of an Environmental Authorisation Application for the Bon Espirange Substation and associated 132kV powerline. The proposed substation is located on Remainder of the Farm Bon Espirange 73 located within the Western Cape Province and will be connected to the Komsberg Substation via the 132kV powerline located on portion 2 and remainder of farm Standvastigheid, Northern Cape Province. Two alternatives for the powerline are proposed (approximately 6 km long with 36 m servitude).

Savannah appointed ACO Associates to conduct the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Basic Assessment Report (BAR).

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Webley, 2016. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Construction of the Bon Espirange Substation on the Remainder of the Farm Bon Espirange 73 and a 132kV Powerline from the Substation in the Western Cape to the Komsberg Substation in the Northern Cape.

A desktop study was completed for the HIA and no fieldwork was undertaken, however, several previous HIAs and Palaeontological studies have been conducted over the same farms. Knowledge of the heritage resources of the area based on field assessments of adjoining wind farms was relied on. The underlying geology (Abrahamskraal and Permian Beaufort Group) of the proposed project area is known for rich fossil heritage. Stone Age lithics scatters are known to occur on high lying areas while pastoralist sites are located in the river valleys and stone kraals can be evident on lower slopes. A total of seven heritage resources were identified within close proximity to the proposed project area, however none would be directly impacted by the project activities. The powerline will cross the R354 scenic route; however, two power lines are already located in the area.

Recommendations pertaining to the Northern Cape section of the proposed development provided in the report are as follows:

- Any deep excavations into the bedrock should be examined by a suitably qualified palaeontologist;
- If fossil material is encountered, the palaeontologist must be given sufficient time to recover a scientifically representative sample; and
- The above recommendations must be included in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

The powerline alternative route 1 was noted as the preferred alternative in terms of heritage resources.

Final Comment

It must be noted that SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit cannot comment on the portion of the development located within the Western Cape Province. Comments must be sought from Heritage Western Cape (HWC) for those activities. The comments below pertain to the section of the powerline alternative routes located within the Northern Cape Province.

Regarding archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources, the SAHRA APM Unit accepts the submitted HIA and recommendations. The following additional conditions must be adhered to and must form part of the final Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the project:

- Should the substation and transmission line project be granted Environmental Authorisation, a palaeontologist must be contracted by the applicant to monitor deep excavations i.e. into bedrock

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during the construction phase. A Monitoring Report must be submitted to SAHRA upon completion; and

- If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development within the section of the development in the Northern Cape Province, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Itumeleng Masiteng/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately. A professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required.

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

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

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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/359799>
(DEA, Ref:)

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.