THE PROPOSED MAHIKENG MAIN TRANSMISSION SUBSTATION AND 1X400kV PLUTO-MAHIKENG POWERLINE WITHIN THE MERAFONG, DITSOBOTLA, RAMOTSHERE MOILAO, JB MARKS AND MAHIKENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES IN NORTH WEST AND GAUTENG PROVINCES

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT

VHUBVO CONSULTANCY
546 16th Road, Midrand, 1685

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT

DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	QUESTION/COMMENT	RESPONSE
1 June 2026 **Letter** South African Heritage Resources Agency Khanyisile Bonile	**Interim Comment** In terms of Section 38(2) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)/In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd has submitted an application in support of an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) as amended, for activities that trigger the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 2014 Regulations, as amended for the proposed Mahikeng Main transmission Substation and 1x400kv Pluto Mahikeng Powerline within the Merafong, Ditsobotla, Ramotshere Moilao, JB Marks and Mahikeng Local Municipalities in North West and Gauteng Province. A Background Information Document (BID) was submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA EIA Regulations (As amended) for the proposed Mahikeng Main transmission Substation and 1x400kv Pluto-Mahikeng Powerline. No Heritage report has been submitted. **Interim Comment** The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) requests that an assessment of the impact to heritage resources that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA as required by section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) must be conducted as part of the EA process. The HIA must include an archaeological and palaeontological component. The field-based archaeological component of the HIA must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and must comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports (see www.asapa.co.za or www.aphp.org.za for a list of qualified archaeologists).	**EAP** The letter refers to the requirement for a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to assess any potential impacts on coastal and underwater heritage resources that may arise from the proposed seawater intake pipelines. The letter further requires that a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) be undertaken and submitted as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. It is, however, noted that the current assessment relates specifically to the walkdown of an already authorised powerline. The HIA undertaken in relation to this walkdown will therefore be uploaded as part of the relevant project documentation. In addition, the Palaeontological Assessment undertaken during the EIA phase will be submitted in accordance with the applicable requirements. The above assessments will accordingly be provided as part of the project documentation to demonstrate compliance with the applicable heritage and palaeontological assessment requirements.

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	The HIA must consider any impacts to coastal and underwater heritage that may occur due to the seawater intake pipelines. The proposed development is located within an area of very high Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a Field Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist. (See https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html for a list of qualified palaeontologists). The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments. Any other heritage resources as defined in section 3 of the NHRA that may be impacted, such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewscapes must also be assessed. Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested reports and draft EIA inclusive of appendices. Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.	