



**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESMENT  
PROPOSED EXPANSION TO  
ZEUS SUBSTATION**

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Date: .....

Project ref: 282

DEAT ref: 12/12/20/827

November 2006

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Eskom has applied for exemption for the planned expansion of the Zeus substation in order to accommodate new transmission power lines. Included in the activities to fulfil requirements for the exemption application was an assessment of the proposed expansion by various specialists including a heritage specialist.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

Zeus substation is situated north of Standerton and close to Secunda in Mpumalanga province and the footprint of the proposed expansion of the substation will be 466mx355m.

Heritage resources are non-renewable, finite and fragile and if they are not managed properly they deteriorate and are destroyed. Heritage resources are both tangible and intangible. Intangible sites may include places where people gather for spiritual or religious purposes or where a significant occurrence took place that forms part of the history of a specific community or group of people. Tangible heritage resources include graves, structures of historical significance, remains of dwellings and military sites including memorials, battlefields and blockhouses.

In order to comply with section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), No. 25 of 1999, Eskom requires knowledge of the presence and significance of any heritage resources that may occur in the area of the substation expansion. The aim of the assessment was to establish whether the proposed expansion would have an impact on any heritage resources and if this was the case, propose mitigation measures to reduce the impact on any sites identified.

## **3. METHODOLOGY**

The substation site was inspected by vehicle in June 2006 as well as a helicopter flyover of the substation was undertaken in the same month. In addition, the site was viewed using Google Earth and other mapping tools.

## **4. ASSESSMENT/RECOMMENDATIONS**

The area around the site is largely used for agricultural activities and grazing. There is a fair amount of infrastructure around the existing substation site including power lines entering and exiting the substation, existing roads and water pipelines.

The building of the existing substation would have destroyed any heritage sites that may have existed and it is the specialist's opinion that it is unlikely that significant heritage resources will be found in the area of the proposed expansion. Ongoing farming activities will have also led to the destruction of heritage sites that may have been found there.

It is the opinion of the specialist that the impact of the proposed expansion of the Zeus substation on heritage resources will be low. In addition, no heritage resources of significance were identified in the area of proposed expansion.

If heritage resources, including archaeological remains, are found in the proposed area of expansion during construction, then the following is recommended:

- Work stop immediately on site and the heritage resource/s found are assessed for significance by an appropriate professional.
- Where necessary, resources found may need to be moved and construction will only be able to continue once this has been done.