



SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY
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FOR ATTENTION: SAHRA Mr. J. Sinthumule
Northern Cape PHRA

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SAHRA File No: 9/2/017/0020
Date Received: 7 September 2009
Date of Comment: 4 March 2010
Sent to Peer Review:
Date to Peer Review:
SAHRA Contact Person: Ms. Jenna Lavin
DME Ref No:

REVIEW COMMENT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

BY ARCHAEOLOGY/PALAEONTOLOGY UNIT OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

South Africa has a unique and non-renewable archaeological and palaeontological heritage. Archaeological and palaeontological sites are protected in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999) and may not be disturbed without a permit. Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIAs) and Palaeontological Impact Assessments (PIAs) identify and assess the significance of the sites, assess the potential impact of developments upon such sites, and make recommendations concerning mitigation and management of these sites. On the basis of satisfactory specialist reports SAHRA or the relevant heritage resources agency can assess whether or not it has objection to a development and indicate the conditions upon which such development might proceed and assess whether or not to issue permission to destroy such sites.

AIAs and PIAs often form part of the heritage component of an Environmental Impact Assessment or Environmental Management Plan. They may also form part of a Heritage Impact Assessment called for in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act No. 25, 1999. They may have other origins. In any event they should comply with basic minimum standards of reporting as indicated in SAHRA Regulations and Guidelines.

This form provides review comment from the Archaeologist of the relevant heritage resources authority for use by Heritage Managers, for example, when informing authorities that have applied to SAHRA for comment and for inclusion in documentation sent to environmental authorities. It may be used in conjunction with Form B, which provides relevant peer review comment.

- A. PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY: *Northern Cape PHRA*
- B. SAHRA PROVINCIAL MANAGER NORTHERN CAPE : *Att: Ms Rose Rose Cwangae*
- C. AUTHOR(S) OF REPORT: *Lita Webley and David Halkett*
- D. ARCHAEOLOGY CONTRACT GROUP: *Archaeology Contracts Office*
- E. CONTACT DETAILS: *Department of Archaeology, University of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch, 7701 Tel. 021 650 2357 Email. Lita.Webley@uct.ac.za*
- F. DATE OF REPORT: *August 2009*
- G. TITLE OF REPORT: *AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR PROPOSED UPGRADING AND EXTENSION OF THE OXIDATION DAMS AT THE CALVINIA WWTW, NAMAKWA DISTRICT, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.*
- H. Please circle as relevant: Archaeological component of EIA / EMP / HIA / CMP Other (Specify)
- I. REPORT COMMISSIONED BY (CONSULTANT OR DEVELOPER): *Hantam Municipality*
- J. CONTACT DETAILS: *Private Bag X14, Calvinia, 8190 Tel. 027 341 1011*
- K. COMMENTS:

Please see comment on next page.....

REVIEW COMMENT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Author: Lita Webley and David Halkett

Date received: 7 September 2009, Comment: 4 March 2010

INTRODUCTION

The proposed development involves the upgrading and extension of the oxidation dams at the Calvinia WWTW. The Archaeology Contracts Office surveyed the area under consideration for development according to generally accepted AIA practices. Fieldwork revealed no archaeological or cultural remains within the development footprint that would be negatively impacted by the development. Outside the development footprint, a small historical fountain was located.

SAHRA RECOMMENDATIONS

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit supports the recommendations of the author and consequently, the SAHRA APM Unit requires the following:

1. In the event that ancient campsites, shell middens, archaeological artefacts, unmarked human burials or other heritage resources are found during construction activities, SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology & Meteorites (APM) Unit (*Mary Leslie, tel: 021-4624502*) must be alerted immediately, and an accredited professional archaeologist must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary at the cost of the developer.
2. Where bedrock or river gravels are to be affected by mining, it is the responsibility of the developer to ensure that a Palaeontological Desk Top study is undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon palaeontological resources, or at least a letter of exemption from an accredited palaeontologist is needed to indicate that this is unnecessary. If the area is deemed sensitive, a full Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be required and if necessary a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary.

CONCLUSION

As there is apparently no evidence of any significant archaeological material in this area, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorite Unit has no objection to the development (in terms of the archaeological component of the heritage resources) on condition that, if any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources are found during development, construction or mining, SAHRA or an archaeologist must be alerted immediately.

For any possible decisions in terms of section 34 of the NHRA on the Built Environment must be made by SAHRA Provincial Heritage office (*Ms Rose Cwangae – Secretary: rcwangae@nc.sahra.org.za*) and the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Northern Cape (*Mr. Joas Sinthumule: jsinthumule@bp.ncape.gov.za*).

SIGNATURE OF ARCHAEOLOGIST PROCESSING REPORT: 

EMAIL: jlavin@sahra.org.za

SIGNATURE OF SAHRA HEAD ARCHAEOLOGIST:

EMAIL:

mleslie@sahra.org.za

NAME OF HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY: SAHRA 

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COMMENT (ABOVE OR APPENDED) CONSTITUTES THE COMMENT OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY ARCHAEOLOGIST AND THAT ANY DEVELOPMENT THAT INVOLVES DESTRUCTION OF ANY ARCHAEOLOGICAL/PALAEONTOLOGICAL SITE IS STILL SUBJECT TO A PERMIT/PERMISSION FOR DESTRUCTION OF SUCH SITE GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPER BY THE RELEVANT HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALAEONTOLOGICAL PERMIT COMMITTEE (THIS WILL BE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE PHASE 2 OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL/ PALAEONTOLOGICAL MITIGATION AS NECESSARY). THIS REPORT MAY BE TAKEN ONLY AS APPROVAL IN TERMS OF SECTION 35 OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT. THE PROVINCIAL MANAGER OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY MUST ADVISE AS TO APPROVAL IN TERMS OF HERITAGE ISSUES ENCOMPASSED BY OTHER ASPECTS OF THE LEGISLATION, SUCH AS ISSUES OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (STRUCTURES (E.G. FARM HOUSES), OVER 60 YEARS), INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS OR OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES AS THIS IS NOT WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGIST.

PLEASE NOTE THAT SAHRA IS NOW RESPONSIBLE FOR GRADE I HERITAGE RESOURCES (AND EXPORT) AND THE PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GRADE II AND GRADE III HERITAGE RESOURCES, EXCEPT WHERE THERE IS AN AGENCY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY.