



**SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE
RESOURCES AGENCY**

111 HARRINGTON STREET, CAPE TOWN, 8000
PO BOX 4637, CAPE TOWN, 8000
TEL: (021) 462 4502 FAX: (021) 462 4509

DATE: 10 October 2011
ENQUIRIES: Mr. Phillip Hine
Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorite Unit
E-mail: phine@sahra.org.za
Web site: www.sahra.org.za

YOUR REF: 30/5/1/1/2/483MR
OUR REF: 9/2/219/0001

Ms. Erika van der Linde
Ferret Mining and Environmental
PO Box 72313
Lynnwoodridge
0040

Dear Madam,

**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE APPLICATION FOR THE MINING RIGHT
APPLICATION OF WESCOAL HOLDINGS PTY LTD ON PORTION 12 AND 16 OF
THE FARM VLAKVARKFONTEIN 213 IR, EMALAHLENI, MPUMALANGA.**

We have received notification of your application in respect of mining rights for on the above properties.

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.

Categories of possible heritage resources, such as archaeological and palaeontological sites need to be assessed by a specialist. Please also note that **clearing of vegetation and building for access roads may also destroy or damage archaeological and/or palaeontological sites.** Consequently, the

quickest process to follow for the archaeological component would be to contract a specialist (see www.asapa.org.za.) to provide a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report. This must be done before any prospecting drilling, trenching or mining takes place.

The Phase 1 Impact Assessment Report will identify the archaeological sites and assess their significance. It should also make recommendations (as indicated in section 38 of the NHRA) about the process to be followed. For example, there may need to be a mitigation phase (Phase 2) where the specialist will collect or excavate material and date the site. At the end of the process the heritage authority may give permission for destruction of the sites.

Where bedrock is to be affected, or where there are coastal sediments, or marine or river terraces and in potentially fossiliferous superficial deposits, a Palaeontological Desk Top study must be undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon palaeontological resources - or at least a letter from a Palaeontologist motivating for an exemption 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 (see attached list of accredited Palaeontologists).

Any other heritage resources 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 viewsapes must also be assessed.

Attached please find a list of archaeological and palaeontological specialists who may be contacted to undertake the necessary archaeological or palaeontological impact assessments.



pp Mrs. Nonofho Ndobochani
SAHRA: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorite Unit
For: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Copies: PHRA Mpumalanga Office

Appendices: see www.asapa.org.za for list of Archaeologists and CRM details
List of Palaeontologists
SAHRA's Mining Pamphlet