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Heritage Officer: Nokukhanya Khumalo  
Case ID: 6933

**Environmental Management Plan for WJ Wessels.**

**Activity: Alluvial diamond mining on Portion 6, a portion of portion 3 of the farm Kaalpan 337 HO, District Bloemhof, North West Province.**

Response on the Interim Comment and additional information regarding the alluvial diamond mining.

I request that you reconsider the Interim Comment based on the following considerations.

The alluvial diamond mine on the farm Portion 6, a portion of portion 3 of the farm Kaalpan 337 HO, is an active mine, existing since 1993. As part of the renewal of the mining right, the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) requested a review of the Environmental Management Plan. The existing Environmental Management Plan (EMP) did not conform to the new format required. Part of the requirements of the EMP is the request for comment from SAHRA.

The EMP is not for an extension or expansion of the mine, but for the continuation of the existing mine. The future planned excavations are on the same mining site. The complete mining area has been included from the start throughout the period of the mining right. The map included (fig.1) show a graphical representation of the mining site, with rehabilitated areas, current excavations and planned excavations.

Existing infrastructure, processing plants and earth moving equipment will be used. No additional infrastructure or equipment is required or planned. No new constructions or developments will be made.

Current cultivated land will not be excavated, specifically the cultivated land in the middle of the mining site.

The area indicated on the SAHRA fossil sensitivity map as a high/moderate palaeontological sensitivity is the same area as the existing mining site and has been extensively mined since 1993. No archaeological or palaeontology item has been found on site or during mining activities.

Alluvial diamond mining is prevalent in the district as well as on the surrounding land and no known heritage findings have been made.



Fig. 1: Graphical representation of mining site



In closing, I would like to repeat that this is not a new project or extension but a continuation of an existing mining site. The mine is a small mine with limited financial resources. I therefore request that you please review the interim comment and grant me exemption from submitting the requested study documents.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

WJ Wessels



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