

THE SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

111 Harington Street
Cape Town
8000

DATE: 10 JANUARY 2014

ATTENTION: Dr. Mariagrazia Galimberti

**PERMIT APPLICATION FOR DEMOLITION OF A BUILDING OLDER THAN 100 YEARS IN DISUSE
IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT (ACT 25 OF 1999) SECTION 2 (II)
(A) ON THE FARM MORGENSTER 772, FEZILE DABI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE
PROVINCE.**

We refer to your letter dated 3 April 2013, Ref: 9/2/234/0004, where the following conditions were requested:

1. An assessment of the building must be undertaken before applying for a destruction permit to SAHRA. A report from this exercise must be submitted to SAHRA for further comments.
2. Test excavation of the identified archaeological midden/s in the area is requested. An archaeologist will need to apply for a Phase 2 excavation permit. In terms of s.38 (4)(b&c) of the National Heritage Resources Act, the provisions of s. 35 apply. The specialist will require a mitigation permit from SAHRA. On receipt of a satisfactory mitigation (Phase 2) permit report from the archaeologist, the heritage authority will make further recommendations in terms of the site. If the significance of the site is medium-high further mitigation before destruction may be requested. If the site is of high heritage significance, SAHRA may request that it be conserved, that mini-site management plans, interpretive material and possibly protective infrastructure be established.
3. A map highlighting the position and the extent of the mining activities in relation to the heritage resources must be submitted to SAHRA.
4. A historical archaeologist must survey the area around the building and a report from this assessment must be submitted to SAHRA for further comments.
5. The cultural landscape related to the history of the mine must be assessed properly.

Voorspoed Mine

De Beers Consolidated Mines Proprietary Limited: Registration No.1888/000007/07

Farm Voorspoed, S156, Kroonstad District, Kroonstad, 9499
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www.debeersgroup.com

We have since then appointed PGS Heritage to assist us with undertaking and submitting the requested assessments, archaeological excavations and surveys.

We would like to take the opportunity and humbly request your committee to review the re-issuing of a demolition permit based on the information received and information which will be submitted by PGS Heritage. At the same time we would like to inform you of the mines position should the application be denied and the magnitude thereof.

1. Currently life of mine (LoM) is until 2021 with the possibility of extension. We currently employ 400 plus employees and provide an additional 400 plus positions for contractor. Should the permit not be granted, the LoM would be shortened as this is directly related to the expansion of the Pit. Expansion of the Pit cannot be undertaken without destroying the site. The future life of mine is dependent upon this expansion.
2. Negatively impacting on Voorspoed Mine's social development programmes in the context of generally recognized standards of sustainable development by integrating the social, economic and environmental factors in planning the mining operations throughout the life of mine is accomplished by the following:
 - a. Promoting employment and contributing to the economic welfare of people in the Fezile Dabi District Municipality and South Africa in general;
 - b. Extending Voorspoed Mines contribution to the socio – economic development of the Fezile Dabi District Municipality and more specifically the Moqhaka and Ngwathe Local Municipalities.
3. Negatively impacting on our Community Development Programmes which includes the following:
 - a. Education and upliftment support which looks at the lack of Maths and Science capacity in the schools;
 - b. Small business development projects;
 - c. Upgrading of rural schools by addressing the lack of adequate infrastructure.

Should the permit be granted we undertake to implement the following actions so as to preserve the memory of the 1906 Voorspoed Diamond Mine:

1. Record in a small publication the history of the site by including maps, photographs and the results of the archaeological excavations. Such publications will create public awareness of the early mining history and copies of such a publication can be presented to schools, public libraries from the surrounding communities and towns as well as presenting a copy to SAHRA.
2. Displayed here on mine would be a compilation of information, maps and photographs highlighting the history of Voorspoed Mine placed thus making employees, contractors and visitors aware of our history.

3. A granite commemoration plaque to be erected at an appropriate position on the mine which will compliment the eventual rehabilitation of the present mine at its closure.

It has been referenced in the Architectural Assessment of the Historical Mine Management Office Building at Voorspoed Mine (June 2013), compiled by Mr. M. Naude, the building is of historic, architectural and contextual significance, its location on the rim of the open cast mine where blasting with explosives is done makes it impossible to protect the building in situ. The structural integrity of the building has deteriorated to the extent that the building is slowly disintegrating due to movement in the walls, deterioration of the building materials and loss of building elements. The most detrimental activity that would eventually cause the collapse of the building is the frequent blasting in the mining pit about 40m from the building. The building is already unstable and would self-destruct over time.

Should you have any queries or concerns or wish to arrange an additional site visit to the above-mentioned area, please feel free to contact Hans Kgasago on 056 216 8605 or via email at: hans.kgasago@debeersgroup.com.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BL Mokoatle', written over a horizontal line.

BL MOKOATLE
GENERAL MANAGER