SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY
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FOR ATTENTION: **PHRA: Northern Cape**

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SAHRA File No: **9/2/066/0001**
Date Received: **29 May 2012**
Date of Comment: **29 May 2012**
Sent to Peer Review: .....
Date to Peer Review: .....
SAHRA Contact Person: **Ms Katie Smuts**
DEA Ref No: **12/9/11/L706/8**
DE&NC Ref No: **NC/BA/NAM/RIC/EKS2/2011**

REVIEW COMMENT ON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

BY ARCHAEOLOGY, PALAEONTOLOGY AND METEORITES UNIT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN 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**.....

B. AUTHOR(S) OF REPORT: **Mr Jonathan Kaplan**

C. ARCHAEOLOGY CONTRACT GROUP: **Agency for Cultural Resource Management**

D. CONTACT DETAILS: **5 Stuart Rd, Rondebosch, Tel: 021 685 7589,**

Cell: 082 321 0172, acrm@waccess.co.za

E. DATE OF REPORT: **September 2011**

F. TITLE OF REPORT: **ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT THE PROPOSED EKSTEENFONTEIN OXIDATION PONDS AND SEWER PIPELINE NORTHERN CAPE.**

G. Please circle as relevant: Archaeological component of EIA / EMP / HIA / CMP
Other (Specify) **FINAL SCOPING REPORT** .....

H. REPORT COMMISSIONED BY (**CONSULTANT** OR DEVELOPER):**Enviro Logic**

I. CONTACT DETAILS: **Mr Gert Pretorius Enviro Logic PO Box 3731, Tyger Valley 7536, fax: 021 919 4048 cell: 082 458 9844**

J. COMMENTS: .....

REVIEW COMMENT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Mr Jonathan Kaplan
Dated: September 2011, Received: May 2012

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT THE PROPOSED EKSTEENFONTEIN OXIDATION PONDS AND SEWER PIPELINE NORTHERN CAPE

INTRODUCTION

Bvi Consulting Engineers is proposing to build oxidation ponds and a 1.7km underground sewage pipeline on a 2.3 ha site approximately 1.5km northeast of Eksteenfontein in the Northern Cape. The development will entail the construction of several oxidation and evaporation ponds, connected via inlet and outlet structures, the underground pipeline and a pump station. The facility will be fenced.

DISCUSSION

A desktop study and a survey of the proposed area were undertaken by Mr Kaplan who noted only two potential artefacts within the study area. These were an Early Stone Age flake and a possible Early Stone Age chunk, found near the proposed alignment of the pipeline route.

SAHRA RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

As there is apparently no evidence of any significant archaeological material in this area, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit has no objection to the development (in terms of the archaeological and palaeontological components 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.

No assessment of the Palaeontology was undertaken. SAHRA accepts that the area is of low palaeontological significance and that there is little likelihood of uncovering any significant palaeontological finds and therefore will grant exemption from further palaeontological work in this instance. However, SAHRA recommends that for future projects, a suitably qualified palaeontologist provides some form of comment on the development.

Should any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources be found during development, construction or mining, SAHRA (Katie Smuts / Colette Scheermeyer, 021 462 4502) or an archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be alerted immediately.

SIGNATURE OF ARCHAEOLOGIST PROCESSING REPORT: .....

EMAIL: ksmuts@sahra.org.za.....

SIGNATURE OF SAHRA HEAD ARCHAEOLOGIST: .....

EMAIL: cscheermeyer@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.