



# DIGBY WELLS

ENVIRONMENTAL

<b>To:</b>	South African Heritage Resources Agency	<b>Date:</b>	06 July 2018
<b>From:</b>	Digby Wells Environmental	<b>Proj #:</b>	SAS5184
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Submission of Updated Heritage Basic Assessment Report (CaseID: 5035)</b>		

In 2013, Digby Wells Environmental (hereinafter Digby Wells) undertook a Basic Assessment (BA) process for the proposed ash-backfilling and development of ancillary infrastructure at Sasol Mining (Pty) Ltd's (hereinafter Sasol) Sigma Operation. The BA Process was completed in support of Environmental Authorisation (EA) as governed by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), and Waste Management (WML) and Water Use Licence (WUL) applications as required.

To comply with the South African regulatory framework, Digby Wells completed a Heritage Resources Management (HRM) process in terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA). The resultant report was submitted to South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and Heritage Free State (HFS) online via the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS<sup>1</sup>) for statutory comment. SAHRA issued Final Comment on this case<sup>2</sup>, after which the case was considered closed and approved. Subsequent to this, EA was granted with the caveat that implementation commences within three year.

Due to unforeseen delays in the processing and issuing of the required WML and WUL, the EA for the proposed Project lapsed. In discussions with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), however, it was agreed that an update of the existing BA and specialist studies to align with the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2017 (Government Notice Regulations [GN R] 982, as amended by GN R 326 of 7 April 2017) would suffice as the new application for EA.

The proposed Project remains unchanged, and no listed activities are applicable. Therefore, the updated HBAR does not identify any new impacts, and recommendations contained therein remain applicable. To this effect, the updated HBAR has been submitted to SAHRA

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<sup>1</sup> SAHRIS Case ID 5035, accessible at: <http://www.sahra.org.za/sahris/cases/sasol-mining-sigma-colliery-ash-backfilling-project>.

<sup>2</sup> Dated 17 November 2014, accessible at: <http://www.sahra.org.za/sahris/node/181881>.

and HFS to comply with Section 38(8) for noting. Sasol must and will adhere to the requirements stipulated in the Statutory Comments issued on Case ID: 5035.

If you have any queries on the submission, please liaise with Digby Wells as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) and heritage specialists.

Kind Regards,



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Justin du Piesanie

*Divisional Manager: Social and Heritage Services*