

Proposed VOORSPOED MINE

Northern Kroonstad, Free State



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ARCHITECTS EST. 1952

Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation

21st January 2013.

Private Bag X20606

Bloemfontein

9300

Ms. Malintja Molahloe

malintjam@sacr.fs.gov.za

**PERMIT NO 1/64/06 FOR THE DEMOLITION OF BUILDING AT VOORSPOED
DIAMOND MINE, KROONSTAD REGION.**

We refer to # 1/64/06 issued in April 2006 that was validated for one year for the demolition of a building on the premises of Voorspoed Diamond Mine near Kroonstad. Owing to several economic factors that impacted on the mine at the date of issue, the demolition was not undertaken at the time. Due to renewed high levels of activity around the construction of the mine, and subsequently the commissioning/operational phase, the demolition of the building was aligned to the EMP update in 2010.

1. We would humbly request your committee to review the situation and review the case for a renewal of the permit. *(For your attention there is attached to this letter the original report and other documents regarding the condition and history of the building, and the required demolition permit)*
2. On a site visit to the building site on the 28th of April 2012 with architectural conservation advisor, Sidney Miller, it was found that the building was still standing and appeared to be in a similar preservation condition as recorded by Dr. De Jongh and Dr. Bakker in 2006, although some structural stress was apparent. At that stage there were communication with Me J Nel of your department then, regarding the re-issue of the permit. Unfortunately there was a breakdown in communication and a solution of the situation was not forthcoming at the time.
3. This present communication is based on the reality that the mine pit is now endangering the building, and that a solution must be found to assist the mine to adhere to the National Heritage Act, as well as to provide it with the means to proceed with its mining operations.

We look forward to a favourable response

Yours Sincerely


ND ZIKALALA
GENERAL MANAGER

VOORSPOED MINE

De Beers Consolidated Mines (Pty) Ltd Registration No. 1898/00007/07

FARM VOORSPOED, S156, KROONSTAD DISTRICT, KROONSTAD, 9500
P.O.BOX 1964, KROONSTAD, 9500, SOUTH AFRICA
TEL +27 (0)56 - 216 8529 FAX +27 (0)56 - 216 8542
www.debeersgroup.com

Directors: B Petersen (Chairman), E M Dipico (Deputy Chairman), A P Barton (Chief Executive Officer),
Ms C A Carolus, B A Claaver, P J C Molnar (French), G Moslyn (British)
Secretary: M J Ward

Sidney Miller

Postnet Suite 427

Private Bag X15

Menlopark 0102

Cell phone 082 939 6536

27th November 2013

Mr Anton Roodt

For attention 2012 Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation

Private Bag X20606, Bloemfontein, 9300

***THE DEMOLITION OF OLD BUILDING AT VOORSPOED DIAMOND MINE, KROONSTAD REGION.
(REDUNDANT PERMIT NO 1/64/06REFERRS)***

Over the past two weeks we have discussed the question of the re-issuing of a demolition permit regarding Voorspoed Mine. I have re-visited the site in December 2012 and have established that the midden in question is relatively small (perhaps three meters by two meters and no higher than 500 mm in the center.) Superficially it contains mainly coarse ash containing rather diminutive shards of glass, porcelain and the oddments of metal wire and such.

As the 2006 demolition permit required the investigation of this midden and the retrieval of cultural material, I hope that we can bypass this requirement because of the following:-

1. It is expected that very little material is in fact present in the midden.
2. It is expected that the retrieved material will not yield material of any great importance for the greater understanding of the function of the building or its occupants.
3. There is then the question of the custodianship of the retrieved material. As it is expected to be of little importance, as well as of low volume, it will be more of a liability than an asset to any institution that provides shelf and administrative space and time for artifacts.
4. Finally there is the security problem regarding excavations on a diamond mine, and the removal of the retrieved material from the mine premises.

I still hope that a visit to the site by an independent investigator such as possibly Cobus Dreyer, or one of the permit board members may negate the need for the proposed excavation.

Personally, I envisage the 'memorizing' of the early history of the mine in a 'poster' format, both at a suitable place at the mine, as well as at De Beers headquarters museum. With this, I suggest the depository of either the original or copies of all relevant maps and documents relating to the sites early history in the National Archives (or other suitable facility), where it will be available to researchers in the future.

Yours sincerely

.....

Sidney Miller. [B.Sc (Engineering) Civil, M. (Architecture) Conservation, Asapa member no 087.]

21 January 2013

PERMIT COMMITTEE OF HERITAGE FREESTATE
DEPT OF SPORT, ARTS, CULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
PRIVATE BAG X20504
BLOEMFONTEIN
9300

THE CHAIRPERSON

**PERMIT NO 1/64/06 FOR THE DEMOLITION OF BUILDING AT VOORSPOED DIAMOND MINE,
KROONSTAD AREA.**

We refer to Permit # 1/64/06 issued in April 2006 and validated for 1 year for the demolition of buildings at Voorspoed Diamond Mine in Kroonstad. Due to the high levels of activities around the construction of the mine and subsequently the Commissioning/ Operational phase; the demolition of the buildings was delayed and aligned to the EMP update in 2010.

We would humbly request your committee to review the situation and re-issue a new demolition permit.

1. Included the following for details for your attention:
 - 1.a. A **Phase I** study of the mining area was undertaken by **Dr. Julius Pistorius** which was submitted to your office. For your convenience we submit this again as an addendum to this letter.
 - 1.b. A **Phase II** study of the building to be demolished was undertaken by **Dr. Robert De Jong** which was submitted to your office. For your convenience we submit this again as an addendum to this letter.
 - 1.c. A **Phase III** application for a demolition permit was also undertaken by **Dr. Robert De Jong** and **Dr. K.A. Bakker** which was submitted to your office. For your convenience we submit this again as an addendum to this letter.
2. On a site visit to the building on the 28th of April 2010 with architectural conservation advisor, **Sidney Miller** we found that the building is still standing and appears to be in the same preservation condition as documented by **Dr. De Jong** and **Dr. Bakker** in 2006, although some structural stress is apparent.
3. We have consulted **Mr. Miller (ASAPA member 087)** concerning your now redundant demolition permit's conditions regarding the excavation of the site and the repository of possibly recovered artefacts and related finds.

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Secretary: M J Ward

DE BEERS
A DIAMOND IS FOREVER

4. He has provisionally agreed to undertake the excavation on the following conditions:
 - 4.a. That the permit committee of Heritage Free state review the situation and hopefully re-issue a **provisional demolition** permit.
 - 4.b. That an **excavation** permit is provided by Heritage Free state for formalising the legalities regarding excavation in South Africa.
5. Also for consideration of the permit committee we undertake to execute the following actions so as to preserve the memory of the 1906 Voorspoed diamond mine:
 - 5.a. That the excavation will provide a layout plan of the village by determining the positions of the foundations of the buildings.
 - 5.b. That a midden will be excavated so as to provide an insight into the cultural material of the people that inhabited the village.
 - 5.c. That the heritage impact assessments, phases I, II and III, photographs in possession of Voorspoed mine management and the excavation results will be collated into a small publication.
 - 5.d. That a granite, lazer printed commemoration plaque will be erected at an appropriate position on the mining site that will compliment the eventual rehabilitation of the present mine at its closure.

We look forward to your favourable response.

Yours Sincerely



ND ZIKALALA
GENERAL MANAGER

VOORSPOED MINE

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Secretary: M J Ward



OUR REF: 1/64/06
 ENQUIRIES: Melinda Bekker
 DATE: 8/5/2006

**PERMIT
 NO.1/64/06**

**ISSUED IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT
 (ACT NO. 25 OF 1999)**

De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd
 De Beers Corporate Headquarters
 Private Bag X1
 Southdale
 Tel: 011 374 7000 Fax: 011 374 7700
 E-MAIL: bryan.bailie@debeersgroup.com

APPROVAL IS HEREBY GRANTED BY THE PERMIT COMMITTEE OF
 HERITAGE FREE STATE FOR THE FOLLOWING:

To demolish the structure on condition that de Beers proceed with theoretical conservation of the resource: This is proposed in the form of sampling of the contents of any middens, which then could be conserved at the National Museum (Bloemfontein).

- Heritage Free State must be informed in writing on completion of the approved work

PLEASE NOTE:

- This permit may be suspended should an appeal against the decision to grant it be received by Heritage Free State within 14 days from the date of the permit. Heritage Free State will not be held responsible for any costs or losses incurred in the event of the suspension of the permit
- The issuing of this permit does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other required approval for the proposed work
- This permit is valid for one year until April 2007

Trusting that you find this in order,

M. Bekker
 Kobus du Preez

Chairperson:
 PERMIT COMMITTEE OF HERITAGE FREE STATE

Permit committee of Heritage Free State
 Department of Sport, Arts, Culture, Science and Technology,
 Private Bag X20504, 9300, Tel 051-5226762 Fax 051-5226765 e-mail melinda@src.fs.gov.za
 MEMBERS: KOBUS DU PREEZ (CHAIR PERSON) ME E MONGANGANE, PROF B BRITZ, CHRIS LEBONA, HERMA
 GOUS,



OFFICIAL USE ONLY:

FSHRA Ref.
Date received
Application No.
Application approved:
Not approved
Date of permit/notification:

APPLICATION

To destroy, damage, deface, excavate, alter, remove from its original position, subdivide or change the planning status of a **Provincial Heritage Site** or a **Provisionally Protected Place**, or to alter or demolish a **Structure 60 years old or more**, as protected in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999).

PLEASE FILL IN ALL SECTIONS RELATING TO YOUR APPLICATION.

1. APPLICANT

Name: De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd
Address: De Beers Corporate Headquarters
Private Bag XI
Southdale
Post Code: 2135 Telephone: 011 374 7000 Fax: 011 374 7700
Identity Number: NA E-mail: bryan.bailie@debeersgroup.com

2. OWNER OF PROPERTY (when this is not the applicant)

Name: De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd
Address: De Beers Corporate Headquarters
Private Bag XI
Southdale
Post Code: 2135 Telephone: 011 374 7000 Fax: 011 374 7700
Identity Number: NA E-mail: bryan.bailie@debeersgroup.com

Signature:  Date: 20/2/2006

3. SITES (indicate by means of a cross in the appropriate space(s) below):

- Provincial Heritage Site (previously a National Monument) Gazette No:.....
- Provisionally Protected Place
- Structure older than 60 years
- Situated within a Heritage Area (previously Conservation Area)

Current use: The building is in ruin and not currently in use.

Proposed Use: It is proposed that a mine be established at Voorspoed and the site of the building falls within the extent of the open pit.

Name of Property: Old Voorspoed Diamond Mine (comprising of the farms Voorspoed 401, Voorspoed 2480, Geldenhuys 1477 and Morgenster 772).

Address: The farm Morgenster 772

Erf/ Stand/ Farm no: Morgenster 772

Magisterial District: Ngwathe Municipality, Northern Free State District Municipality

Address of Local Authority: Ngwathe Municipality, PO Box 359, Parys, 9585

4. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBLE AGENT (Architect, Designer, etc.)

Name: Bryan Bailie

Qualification: PMP, Pr. Cert. Eng.

Company: De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd

Address: De Beers Corporate Headquarters, Private Bag XI, Southdale

Post Code: 2135 Telephone: 011 374 700 Fax: 011 374 7700

E-Mail: bryan.bailie@debeersgroup.com

5. PROPOSED WORK (indicate by means of a cross in the appropriate space(s) below):

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Total Demolition | <input type="checkbox"/> Alteration | <input type="checkbox"/> Subdivision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Demolition | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration | <input type="checkbox"/> Rezoning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excavation | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping | <input type="checkbox"/> Departure |

Other:.....

Drawing Reference Numbers and their Dates:

See Annexure to permit application compiled by Cultmatrix, Sep 2005:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Plan and Section | 16 Aug 2005 |
| 2. Elevations | 16 Aug 2005 |
| 3. Detail | 16 Aug 2005 |
| 4. Detail | 16 Aug 2005 |
| 5. Imperial Dimension | 16 Aug 2005 |
| 6. Metago drawing: Site infrastructure layout – Figure 4.1 (from Voorspoed EMP),
March 2005. | |

Detail the manner in which the proposed work is carried out:

A level 2 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the historical building as provided for in Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) was conducted by Dr RC de Jong and Prof Karel Bakker of Cultmatrix in Sep 2005.

The historical building will be totally demolished during the construction phase of the Voorspoed Mine as part of the site preparation.

Motivation for Proposed work (please motivate fully, with reference to conservation principles where appropriate. This space may also be used for additional details required above.)

The Level 2 Heritage Impact Assessment conducted by Cultmatrix recommended that permission for demolition of the historical building should be granted for the following reasons:

- The building cannot be preserved because it falls within the extent of the open pit extension and associated surface infrastructure (roads and storm water management facilities).
- In terms of the benefits of economic development and job creation associated with the reopening of the mine in relation to the benefit associated with the conservation of the building, there are no compelling reasons to retain the building.
- The condition of the building does not merit its continued conservation – the loss of heritage fabric is permanent.

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Approximate value of proposed work: Not applicable – the building will be demolished as part of the general construction activities during the establishment of the mine.

Old buildings require special treatment in terms of specifications, techniques and planning of alterations:

What experience does the Primary Agent have in working with historical sites?

Not applicable - the building is to be demolished completely

What experience does the contractor working on the site have in working with historical sites?

Not applicable - the building is to be demolished completely.

6. APPLICANT

I, Bryan Bailie, in my capacity as Voorspoed Mine Project Manager;

Undertake fully to observe the terms, conditions, restrictions, regulations, guidelines and directions under which the Free State Heritage Resources Authority may issue the permit to me.

Signature: 

Place: Johannesburg

Date: 20/2/2006

ITEMS APPENDED TO THIS FORM:

- * **THREE SETS OF DRAWINGS;**
- * **ANNEXURE TO PERMIT APPLICATION: ASSESSMENT OF HISTORIC BUILDING COMPILED BY CULTMATRIX, INCLUDING MAPS, PLANS AND PHOTOGRAPHS;**
- * **LEVEL 2 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT COMPILED BY CULTMATRIX, INCLUDING MAPS, PLANS AND PHOTOGRAPHS.**





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CRAEVIEW 260

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 7 SEPTEMBER 2004

