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CaseID: 298

Date: Thursday August 02, 2012

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Final Decision

In terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention:

Mr Sipiwe Magagula
JIS Environmental Engineers
P.O.Box 12112
Tramshed
0126

Mathoho, E. Investigations Forthe Proposed Construction Of A Water Storage Facility In The Meulspruit Near Rosendal As Well As The Water Pipeline To Senekal Within The Thabo Mofutsanyane District Of Free State Province.

The proposed development entails the establishment of a water storage facility and associated bulk water supply pipeline located approximately 6 kilometers south-west of Rosendal, between Dihlabeng and Setsotso Local Municipalities of Thabo Mofutsanyane District, Free State Province.

The report notes a number of heritage resources:

- Sites featuring Stone Walling and Rock Shelters; Sites 1-3, and 8-11.
- Historical Homesteads and Farmhouses; Sites 4, 7, 13, 15, 16 and 18.
- Grave Sites; Sites 5, 6, 12, 14 and 17.

The author notes that although the precise location of the high flood supply level line is uncertain, the heritage resources will certainly be impacted by the dam basin and construction phase.

The author recommends that the marked individual and cluster of graves are a major source of concern and before any work on the dam construction proceeds every attempt should be made to determine their location, flagging and putting danger tape around the grave sites for visibility while facilitating their exhumation and reinterred into the safe community cemetery. The author strongly recommends that the identified graves sites should be exhumed and reinterred to the safe local cemetery. The heritage practitioner has indicated that he has obtained the necessary permits to perform these mitigation measures from the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves Unit.

In case of the identified stone walling, historical structures and homesteads, the author recommends that these features need to be completely mitigated through mapping, andsampling test trenches (Phase 2) in order to investigate and understand their use as well as the history behind their existence.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Decision:

If the recommendations made in the specialist report and in this comment are adhered to, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorite Unit has no objection to the development (in terms of the archaeological component of the heritage resources) on condition that:

The developer ensures a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) is undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon palaeontological resources. SAHRA will review the PIA report and advise accordingly. If the area is deemed sensitive, a Phase 2 impact assessment process or rescue operation might be necessary. If the PIA is deemed unnecessary a letter, by a professional palaeontologist, of recommendation for exemption from the full PIA process is needed.

In the case of Phase 2 mitigation, systematic excavation and sampling must be undertaken before trenching and any other earth-moving activity resulting from this proposed project. A photographic record must be established immediately before, during and after mitigation. The archaeologist will require a mitigation permit from SAHRA in terms of s. 35 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999). On receipt of a satisfactory mitigation (Phase 2) permit report from the archaeologist, SAHRA will make further recommendations in terms of the report such as its final destruction or additional sampling.

For the historical homesteads and farmhouses; Sites 4, 7, 13, 15, 16 and 18 please note that decisions on Built Environment must be referred to the Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (Mr Gabriel Tlhapi: tlhapig@sacr.fs.gov.za, Tel: 0514104830).

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Salomon
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
South African Heritage Resources Agency





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Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.



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