



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 12229

Date: Wednesday May 30, 2018  
Page No: 1

## Interim Comment

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

Attention: White Rivers Exploration (Pty) Ltd

**Western Allen Ridge Gold Mines (Pty) Ltd has applied for a Prospecting Right and Environmental Authorisation application. The application area is approximately 7 943.07 hectares in extent and is situated 14 kilometres north-northeast of Ventersburg in the Free State Province of South Africa. The minerals of interest for prospect include silver, gold, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, nickel, tungsten, zinc, diamond (alluvial), cobalt, coal, lead, platinum group metals, rare earths, sulphur and uranium. The proposed prospecting programme will be completed within five (5) years.**

The proposed project entails prospecting for silver, gold, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, nickel, tungsten, zinc, diamond (alluvial), cobalt, coal, lead, platinum group metals, rare earths, sulphur and uranium on 53 farm portions within the Kroonstad, Ventersburg And Hennenman Magisterial Districts, Free State Province. Invasive activities include drilling at six drilling points. A Heritage Impact Assessment, BAR and EMP were submitted to the application.

*Daya, J. Heritage Impact Assessment for the WRE Ventersburg Consolidated Prospecting Right Project, Free State Province.*

The only identified heritage resource that will be directly impacted by the proposed six drill sites is a Provincial graded barn house that is used as a guesthouse. The proposed drill points are situated on land that was previously disturbed by agricultural activities. In terms of palaeontological sensitivity, the amended prospecting rights footprint falls outside the palaeontological sensitive area. There will therefore be no impacts of palaeontological resources.

#### Recommendations:

1. It is recommended that SAHRA and FS-PHRA grant the project a Positive Review Comment and allow the proposed prospecting activities to proceed as planned.
2. The nature of the current process is prospecting is largely non-invasive. The survey only covered the 6 drill points and it excluded archaeological and heritage potential yield areas such as areas within the broader study areas that show dense concentration of trees and small outcrops.

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3. If the mining right application is lodged in the future which will include a scoping and EIA processes, all areas that have the potential to yield archaeological and heritage resources will need to be surveyed during the mining right application process.

#### Interim comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit reviewed the HIA and does not endorse the statement that "prospecting rights footprint falls outside the palaeontological sensitive area" as according to the PalaeoSensitivity map the area is of moderate sensitivity. Therefore, a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment is required to be conducted for the proposed area by a professional palaeontologist to be submitted to SAHRA.

For comments on the Built Environment, i.e. the barn house, Ms. Loudine Philip from Heritage Free State must be contacted at [loudine.philip@nasmus.co.za](mailto:loudine.philip@nasmus.co.za).

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

Yours faithfully

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Ragna Redelstorff  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine

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Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/488341>  
(, Ref: )

**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.