

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 12979

Date: Thursday January 03, 2019  
Page No: 1

## Interim Comment

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

Attention: Pure Source Mine

**Monte Cristo Commercial Park (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as Monte Cristo, the Applicant) is proposing to establish an opencast mine which will involve the development of open pits and associated mine infrastructure. The project will be known as Pure Source Mine. Commodities to be mined include sand, aggregate/gravel and diamonds (alluvial). The application area borders the Vaal River and covers an aerial extent of 858.5825 hectares (ha). However, the overall surface area to be disturbed is only approximately 363.5 ha. The application area extends over three farm portions, namely the (i) Remaining extent (Re), (ii) Remainder of Portion 1 and (iii) Portion 3 of the farm Woodlands 407, and is situated in the Free State Province of South Africa.**

The proposed project entails the establishment of an opencast mine including the development of open pits and associated mining infrastructure situated on the Remaining extent (Re), Remainder of Portion 1 and Portion 3 of the farm Woodlands 407 in the Free State Province. The overall surface area to be disturbed will be approximately 363.5 ha. The draft and final Scoping Reports as well as a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA), as requested in a letter from 8 November 2018, were submitted to the application.

*COETZEE, F.P. 2008. CULTURAL HERITAGE SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED GOOSEBAY ECO ESTATE SITUATED ON PORTIONS 1 AND 3 AND A REMAINDER OF THE FARM WOODLANDS 407RD, FREE STATE PROVINCE.*

The author undertook an HIA assessing the impacts on heritage resources by the development activities related to the establishment of an Eco Estate and identified a graveyard, structure dating to the Anglo-Boer War, multi-room stone house, as well as several stone-walled enclosures younger than 60 years.

*MCCARTHY, T. 2018. PURE SOURCE MINE PALAEOLOGICAL SCOPING REPORT.*

The desktop assessment identified that stromatolites are known to occur within the dolomites of the Transvaal Group in the proposed area. The area forms part of the Vredefort dome of special geological significance.

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### Interim comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit does not accept the HIA and palaeontological assessment submitted to the application for the following reasons:

- The HIA assesses the impact of an Eco Estate while mining would have different impacts;
- The HIA addresses only a portion of the proposed mining footprint area;
- The HIA is older than five years and the state of the heritage resources identified in 2008 may differ, e.g. the stone-walled enclosures may now exceed 60 years and the graves and the Anglo-Boer War site (Site 1) may be impacted by the mining activities;
- A PIA must be conducted and written by a specialist, i.e. a palaeontologist;
- The PIA must contain a field survey component due to the significance of the Vredefort dome heritage site.

A new HIA and PIA must be conducted by a professional specialist and submitted to SAHRA. SAHRA will issue a final comment upon submission of the reports.

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

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South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine  
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/513046>  
(, 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.