

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
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[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

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CaseID: 12979

Date: Thursday November 08, 2018  
Page No: 1

## Letter

### 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. No documents were submitted with the application.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999, heritage resources, including archaeological or palaeontological sites over 100 years old, graves older than 60 years, structures older than 60 years are protected. They may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. Therefore, it is incumbent on the developer to ensure that a **Heritage Impact Assessment conducted by a qualified archaeologist** is done prior to any invasive activities. This must include the archaeological component (Phase 1) and any other applicable heritage components.

The Phase 1 Impact Assessment Report will identify the archaeological sites and assess their significance. It should also make recommendations (as indicated in section 38) about the process to be followed. For example, there may need to be a mitigation phase (Phase 2) where the specialist will collect or excavate material and date the site. At the end of the process the heritage authority may give permission for destruction of the sites.

The PalaeoSensitivity Map on SAHRIS (<http://www.sahra.org.za/sahris/map/palaeo>) indicates moderate, high and very high palaeontological sensitivities in the proposed area. Therefore, the SAHRA APM Unit requires a

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**field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment** conducted by a qualified palaeontologist to be submitted to the application prior to any invasive activities.

If the property is very small or disturbed and there is no significant site the heritage specialist may choose to send a letter to the heritage authority to indicate that there is no necessity for any further assessment.

Any other heritage resources that may be impacted such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.

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  
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.