



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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CaseID: 13488

Date: Tuesday May 07, 2019
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Final Comment

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

Attention: Mr Martin Hughes
Corobrik (Pty) Ltd
20 Toncoro Road, Avoca, Durban North, 4016

The application relates to the proposed expansion of a clay mining quarry. The expansion site is approximately 60 ha and is located near Welkom in the Free State Province

The proposed project entails the amendment of an Environmental Authorisation for the expansion of a clay mining quarry on Portion 1 of the farm Hesters Rust 29, located 3km north of Welkom in the Matjhabeng Local Municipality and Lejweleputswa District Municipality, Free State Province. Invasive activities include the clearing of vegetation, stripping of topsoil and subsoil (overburden) from the intended mining area, Separation of topsoil and subsoil storage mounds, movement of vehicles. The proposed new site will be directly adjacent to the existing quarry. As this is an addition to an established mining quarry, no infrastructure is required. Excavation will take place to a maximum depth of 25m. It is noted that agricultural activities have disturbed the vegetation on the new site.

A Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and the draft EIA for were submitted with the case.

COETZEE, F.P., 2019. CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT: PHASE 1 INVESTIGATION FOR THE AMENDMENT OF AN EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR AN EXISTING MINING RIGHT OF COROBRICK (PTY) LTD (ODENDAALSRUS FACTORY) ON THE FARM HESTERS RUST 29, NEAR WELKOM, MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND LEJWELEPUTSWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE.

The author found no evidence of historical or archaeological (both Stone Age and Iron Age) artefacts, assemblages, features, structures or settlements during the survey of the project footprint.

Recommendations:

Archaeological deposits usually occur below ground level. Should archaeological artefacts or skeletal material be revealed in the area during development activities, such activities should be halted, and a university or museum notified in order for an investigation and evaluation of the find(s) to take place (cf. NHRA (Act No. 25



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of 1999), Section 36 (6)).

A Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) was submitted as requested in an interim comment from 7 March 2019.

FOURIE, H. 2019. COROBRIK HESTERS RUST EXPANSION OF EXISTING CLAY QUARRY, MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE, PALAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: PHASE 1 FIELD STUDY.

The proposed area is underlain by sediments of the Volksrust Formation (Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup) that are largely overlain by Quaternary aeolian sediments. Sediments of the Adelaide Subgroup (Karoo Supergroup) occur in the larger area.

No rocky outcrops (bedrock) were identified; the area is covered by overburden, vegetation and grass. Mining is problematic as potentially fossiliferous shale of the Volksrust Formation is targeted. Fossils of the Volksrust Formation are significant, but rare. They include rare temnospondyl amphibian remains, invertebrates, minor coals with plant remains, fish scales, petrified wood, and low-diversity marine to non-marine trace fossil assemblages.

Recommendations:

If any palaeontological material is exposed during clearing, digging, excavating, drilling or blasting SAHRA must be notified. All construction activities must be stopped and a palaeontologist should be called in to determine proper mitigation measures.

Final comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has reviewed the HIA and PIA and has no objection against the proposed mining. The following conditions must be adhered to and must be incorporated into the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for implementation:

1. Should any objects of archaeological or palaeontological remains be found during construction activities,

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work must immediately stop in that area and the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) must be informed.

2. The ECO must inform the South African Heritage Recourse Agency (SAHRA) and contact an archaeologist and/or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the find, to assess the importance and rescue them if necessary (with the relevant SAHRA permit). No work may be resumed in this area without the permission from the ECO and SAHRA.
3. If the newly discovered heritage resource is considered significant a Phase 2 assessment may be required. A permit from the responsible heritage authority will be needed.
4. A Chance Finds Procedures must be developed for the project to ensure that standard protocols and steps are followed should any heritage and/or fossil resources be uncovered during all phases of the project. These procedures should outline the steps and reporting structure to be followed in the instance that heritage resources are found. This must be included in the Environmental Awareness Plan.
5. The final EIA and appendices must be submitted to SAHRA upon submission to DEA. Should the project be granted Environmental Authorisation, SAHRA must be notified and all relevant documents submitted to the case file.

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

Yours faithfully

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/521173>
(, Ref: FS 30/5/1/2/3/2/1 (214) EM)

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.