

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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CaseID: 14099

Date: Thursday December 12, 2019
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Final Comment

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

Attention: Lengana Health SA (Pty) Ltd

Consultation with SAHRA about an application of a prospecting right , lodged at the Department of Mineral Resources to prospect for Li Ore in the Ngwathe District Municipality, in Koppies .Case Reference : FS 10541 PR.

The proposed project entails an application for prospecting for Lithium Ore on the farms Felix 318, Goedgunst 315, Kronenbloem 51, Ventersbloem 163, Oceaen 64, Oceaen 99, Broodkop 304, Enkelsbosch 31, Hooge Bult 542, Geluk 237, Verdeel 278, Goudlaagte 238, Ongegund 507, situated within the Ngwathe District Municipality of Koppies, Free State Province. Invasive activities include the drilling of probably eight boreholes; however, the number and exact location is subject to change pending further information on the geology and mineralogy of the prospecting area. No infrastructure will be placed on site, but one drilling truck with a drill rig and a bakkie will be left on site during the course of the drilling campaign. Drilling is expected to reach around 40m deep and each drill site will disturb a minimum area of 40 m² in total and 5 m² affected per individual borehole; however, the number of boreholes required can only be finalized once the non-invasive prospecting as details above is completed. A BAR and EMP were submitted with the application.

In an interim comment the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requested a phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to be conducted by a suitable heritage practitioner, which must take note that the proposed activities will take place within the south-eastern quadrant of the Vredefort Dome World Heritage Site. The HIA and a PIA were subsequently submitted.

VAN DER WALT, J. 2019. HERITAGE DESKTOP REPORT LENGANA HEALTH SA PROSPECTING APPLICATION, KOPPIES, FREE STATE PROVINCE.

It is noted that the report is based on a desktop assessment and that no field work was conducted, as this will be done when the localities of the invasive exploration are fixed.

The literature review revealed that structures of unknown age occur within the prospecting right area but not in close proximity to the proposed boreholes. No raw material suitable for the manufacturing of lithics, Stone Age sites of significance, visible stone walled settlements and no known graves occur in the study area. It should



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be noted that informal graves can be expected in the study area. There is a low to medium probability of MSA and LSA finds, LIA finds, historical finds, and medium probability of occurrences of structural remains and burials (graves and informal cemeteries).

Recommendations:

- *Existing roads must be used for all activities as far as possible.*
- *Proposed drill points must be assessed for the presence of graves and to confirm the expectations of the desktop report of no archaeological significance.*
- *Inclusion of a chance find protocol in the EMPr.*

MILLSTEED, B. 2019. DESKTOP PALAEOANTHROPOLOGICAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT IN RESPECT OF A PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION FOR LITHIUM ON THE FARMS OCEAAN 064 REM, OCEAAN 099 REM, KRONENBLOEM 051 REM, BROODKOP 304 PTN 1 AND HOOGE BULT 542 REM AND VARIOUS EXTENTS OF THE FARMS FELIX 380 REM, GOEDGUNST 315 REM, VENSTERBLOEM 163 REM, BROODKOP 304 REM, ONGEGUND 007 REM, GOUDLAAGTE 238 REM, VERDEEL 278 REM, GELUK 237 REM, ENKELBOSCH 031 PTN 7, ENKELBOSH 031 REM AND ENKELBOSH 031 PTN 1 LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 7.5 KM WEST OF DOVER AND 12 KM NORTH OF KOPPIES, FREE STATE PROVINCE.

The proposed area is underlain by unfossiliferous greenstones of the Greenlands Formation (of the Johannesburg Dome) and dolerite of the Karoo Dolerite Suite, as well as sandstone, mudstones and coals of the Vryheid and Volksrust Formations. They are mantled by most likely unfossiliferous Cainozoic regolith over the majority of the application area.

The prospecting activities will impact predominantly on the regolith cover. However, the northern-most six boreholes may also impact on the Greenlands Formation; the southern-most two boreholes on the Volksrust Formation and maybe the Vryheid Formation.

As the rocks of the Greenlands Formation, Karoo Dolerite Suite and regolith cover are unfossiliferous and the surface area was substantially changed by agricultural activities it is concluded that the northern-most

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prospecting operations will have negligible to nil probability of resulting in a negative impact.

The sediments of the Volksrust and Vryheid Formations are known to contain plant macrofossil assemblages of the *Glossopteris* flora (and some trace fossil assemblages) of high significance, but the probability of any negative impact is moderate to good for the Volksrust Formation and **low** for the Vryheid Formation.

Final comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has reviewed the HIA and PIA and has no objections against the proposed activities subject to the following conditions and the ones in the specialist reports that must be adhered to and must be incorporated into the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for implementation:

1. Once the final localities of all invasive activities have been fixed, a full phase 1 HIA must be conducted for the relevant areas by a suitable specialist, be submitted to SAHRA and a SAHRA comment be issued strictly prior to any commencement of any invasive activities, including vegetation clearing.
2. Should any objects of archaeological or palaeontological remains be found during construction activities, work must immediately stop in that area and the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) must be informed.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

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6. 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

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/526503>
(DMR, Ref: FS 10541 PR)

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.

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3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.