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CaseID: 14287

Date: Tuesday November 05, 2019

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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Mr Brian Murison

Transnet Foundation - Heritage and Preservation

Transnet SOC Ltd proposes to develop a residential area which encompasses 6 household with approximately 65 dwellers in Lothair, Mpumalanga Province. The development footprint for the proposed residential development is of 2.7 ha extent. This scope of work focuses specifically on the Lothair to Nerston section that requires the construction of the new railway line. The study area is within Msukalingwa Local Municipality in Mpumalanga Province.

Transnet (SOC) Ltd are proposing to construct a new residential area in Lothair, Portion 9 of the farm Bloekrans 121 IT, Msuligwa Local Municipality of the Mpumalanga Province. The residential area will consist of 6 households with 65 dwellings to house resettled populations that will be negatively affected by the Lothair Swaziland Railway project being undertaken by Transnet.

Sazi Environmental Consulting (Pty) Ltd been appointed to undertake the Basic Assessment (BAR) application process in support of an Environmental Authorisation application, made on behalf of the applicant, Transnet (SOC) Ltd. The proposed project triggers listed activities in the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, that require an application for Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and a Water Use License in terms of the Water Use Licence Regulations, March 2017 in terms of the National Water Act, 36 of 1998. A Mine Right in terms of section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA) (As amended).

A Background Information Document and the Heritage Impact Assessment have been submitted to SAHRA in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999 for commenting.

Mngomezulu, M. July 2019. Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for The Proposed Development of a Residential Area New-Link in Lothair, within Msukalingwa Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

The author undertook a field assessment of the proposed development area and identified 3 graves located 100m away from the proposed development footprint area. There will be no impact to the graves and the author recommends the following:

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an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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The construction workers must receive a heritage induction.

The construction manager must ensure that no construction activities occur outside the development area.

The graves identified outside the proposed development area must be fenced with danger tape during construction.

Caution must be taken during ground clearance and excavation as there may be graves that could be uncovered.

Interim Comment

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) cannot provide comments on this proposed development until a field based Palaeontological Impact Assessment is undertaken by a suitably qualified palaeontologist. The report based on this assessment must be submitted to SAHRA for comments prior to the submission of the environmental documents to the competent authority.

SAHRA will comment further once the PIA is submitted to the case.

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

Yours faithfully

Nokukhanya Khumalo
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/528077>
(DEA, Ref:)