

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  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
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CaseID: 9880

Date: Tuesday January 10, 2017  
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## Final Comment

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

Attention: Ms Nangamso Zizo Siwendu  
Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 2083  
Pinegowrie  
2123  
South Africa

### Exploration Right and Environmental Authorisation applications to explore for hydrocarbons and associated gas near Hennenman in the Free State Province, South Africa.

Motuoane Energy (Pty) Ltd submitted an application for an exploration right for hydrocarbons, in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act 28 of 2002 –MPRDA, as amended) to the Petroleum Agency South Africa (PASA) in 2016, covering various farms near the town of Hennenman, within the Free State Province, extending north from approximately Theunissen, north east towards Kroonstad, and east of Virginia and Hennenman over an area of approximately 149 377 ha. A combined HIA and PIA was submitted with the application.

*Rossouw, L. November 2016. Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the Hennenman Blower Site as part of the proposed application for exploration drilling by Motuoane Energy (Pty) Ltd (Project 12/3/315 ER), Free State Province.*

The proposed development area assigned as the Alternative 2 option was surveyed. It is underlain by fossil-bearing sediments of the Volksrust Formation (Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup) and Adelaide Subgroup (Beaufort Group, Karoo Supergroup) of moderate to very high significance, covered by late Cenozoic alluvial sediments that are considered to be of high palaeontological sensitivity due to their known wealth of palaeontological data of Plio-Pleistocene mammal evolution and palaeoenvironmental change. During a field survey no accumulations of fossils could be identified in the mainly unconsolidated Quaternary sediments overlying the area. Therefore, the likelihood is very high that the palaeontology will be impacted on by the drilling process.

Recommendations include:

- Once the drilling sites are known, the applicant should appoint a professional palaeontologist to monitor



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drilling cores for subsurface fossil remains that may be intersected by the drilling process.

- The palaeontologist must apply for a valid permit from SAHRA for the collection / removal of fossils if necessary.

*Birkholtz, P. June 2016. Proposed Motuoane Hennenman Exploration Right Heritage Study: Impact Level Report.*

Three heritage sites were identified during the field survey, consisting of two cemeteries (HEN 1: 3 graves; and HEN 3: 3 graves) of medium to high significance and a poorly preserved historic farmstead (HEN 2) of medium to high significance. The latter may be associated with graves of stillborns the presence of which needs to be confirmed or disproved.

Recommendations include:

- A walk-down must be done by a qualified heritage specialist.
- High sensitive areas must be avoided.
- No exploration activities may occur within 100m of the farmstead at HEN2, and 200m from the cemeteries HEN1 and HEN3.

## Final comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit reviewed the combined Impact Level Report and accepts the conditions therein. The recommendations in sections 13.4 to 13.11 and tables 13 to 20 as well as 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, 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

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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

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Ragna Redelstorff  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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John Gribble  
Manager: Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit / Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit

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South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/367397>  
(, 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.