Our Ref: 11187



an agency of the Department of Arts and Culture

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Response to NID (Notification of Intent to Develop)

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

Attention: Pearl Star Investments 85

Pearl Star Investments 85 cc intends to develop a filling station and associated infrastructure on Portion 1 of Erf 10769, Middelburg X26, Middelburg. The filling station will comprise of underground petrol and diesel tanks, fuel pumps, a canopy covered forecourt and a convenience store. Access to the site will be provided from La Roca Boulevard/Spring Street (i.e. access road to Middelburg Mall) as well as from a left-in-only road extending from the R35 provincial road (Samora Machel Street) to the site. The left-in-only road will extend across the Remainder of Portion 27 of Middelburg Town and Townlands 287 JS to the site.

The filling station will be located within the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999 (NHRA), heritage resources, including archaeological or palaeontological sites over 100 years old, graves older than 60 years, structures older than 60 years are generally protected. They may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. In contexts of development applications, the developer must ensure that no heritage resources will be impacted by the proposed development, by lodging an application to SAHRA and submitting detailed development specifications as a notification of intent to develop. If the application is made in terms of 38 (8) of the NHRA then it is incumbent on the developer to ensure that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is done. Such a study should follow the SAHRA impact assessment guidelines and section 38(3).

AdiEnvironmental cc have been appointed to undertake the Basic Assessment process in support of an Environmental Authorisation application in terms of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 2014 Regulations, of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA). The extent of the proposed filling station is 5000 m², adjacent to the Middelburg shopping centre. The location of the proposed development appears to be disturbed from the single photo submitted to the case however the BID document does not contain enough information to waive the requirements of a Heritage assessment in terms of section 38 (3). The proposed development is located in moderately sensitive area for fossiliferous rock strata therefore an impact assessment on palaeontological resources must be carried out in a Palaeontological Desktop Study. The study must be carried out by a suitably qualified palaeontologist.

If you are unaware of any palaeontologists, a list of them working within Heritage Resources Management field

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is provided in the following website: www.palaeontologicalsocitey.co.za.

SAHRA grants the development from carrying out an impact assessment on archaeological heritage resources; historic built environment and a heritage based visual impact assessment as the development area is heavily disturbed. The single photo indicates that the area is used as a dumping ground and there is heavy foot and vehicle traffic that would have destroyed all surface heritage resources.

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The EAP must also submit to the case additional photos of the area from all points of the development footprint area. The Basic Assessment report and its appendices must be submitted to the case when it is available for public review.

SAHRA will comment further on this proposed development once the requested reports are 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

John Gribble

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

Meteorites Unit

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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: http://www.sahra.org.za/node/399181

(MDARDLA, Ref:)