



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: 11938

Date: Monday January 15, 2018
Page No: 1

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Witkop Fluorspar Pty Ltd

Witkop Fluorspar Mine (Pty) Ltd has submitted an application for a Prospecting Right in terms of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, Act 28 of 2002 (MPRDA) over Portions 1, 2 and the Remaining Extent of the farm Verdoorst Kolk No. 342. The proposed Prospecting Right Area comprises 8,223.3736 hectares and is located between the towns of Kenhardt and Brandvlei, within the Hantam Municipality of the Northern Cape Province. The prospecting is for the mineral Gypsum, depth of drilling will be m and the life of the project is 2 years.

Cabanga Environmental has been appointed by Witkop Fluorspar Mine (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Basic Assessment Process of the proposed prospecting activities on the farm Verdoorst Kolk 342, Kenhardt RD, Northern Cape. A draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) have been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, No 107 of 1998 (NEMA), and the 2014 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, No 28 of 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended).

The prospecting application area covers 8223.3736 ha and will include 50 primary drill holes, and 200 Secondary drill holes by means of a TLB-mounted auger drill. Associated activities and infrastructure includes access routes, site camp, ablution facilities, sample storage and laydown area, fuel storage and rehabilitation.

Archaetnos and Professor Marion Bamford were appointed to conduct the Heritage Components of the BAR process.

Van Vollenhoven, A. 2017. A Report on a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment for a proposed Prospecting Rights Application on Portions 1, 2 and Re of the Farm Verdoorst Kolk 342, close to Brandvlei, Northern Cape Province.

Isolated Middle Stone Age (MSA) and Later Stone Age (LSA) tools were found scattered throughout the area. A total of six heritage sites were identified within the proposed prospecting application area. These include four burial grounds of high significance and two residential sites of high significance. All identified sites are located outside of the impact area of the prospecting application area and will not be directly impact. However, secondary impacts may be experienced due to an increase of traffic and movement on site.



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Recommendations provided within the report include the following:

- Two options with regards to graves: The first and preferred option is to manage the graves in-situ. This is only possible when no direct impacts are expected. Secondary impacts such as dust remain a possibility. The second option is to exhume the graves and have them reburied. This usually is only allowed if there is a direct impact on the site. Graves younger than 60 years are handled by a registered undertaker. Graves older than 60 years and those of an unknown date are regarded as heritage graves. In such a case, an archaeologist is also involved in the process;
- It is recommended that the graves remain in-situ. These should be fenced off where necessary and a buffer zone of 20m implemented;
- Fencing must be maintained and the sites regularly inspected;
- The two residential sites should also be left in situ, fenced in and a buffer zone of 20 m be implemented;
- It should be noted that the subterranean presence of archaeological and/or historical sites, features or artifacts is always a distinct possibility. Due to the density of vegetation it also is possible that some sites may only become known later on. Operating controls and monitoring should therefore be aimed at the possible unearthing of such features. Care should therefore be taken when development commences that if any of these are discovered, a qualified archaeologist be called in to investigate the occurrence. In this regard, a 'Chance find Procedure' is indicated.

Bamford, M. 2017. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Prospecting Activities, Verdoorst Kolk, Northern Cape Province.

The proposed prospecting application area is underlain by the mudstones of the Prince Albert Formation which are known to contain fossils; however there have been no reports of occurrences in the area. Some Jurassic dykes are present in the north of the application area and small exposures of the Whitehill Formation are evident to the south of the site. The Whitehill Formation is known to contain early reptile remains and rarely plant remains. Quaternary aeolian sands, alluvium and calcretes occur to the north and east. As there is a small chance of finding fossils, a chance finds protocol and appended monitoring programme are recommended.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeological, Palaeontological and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the development and supports the recommendations of the specialists. The recommendations of the specialists and the following conditions apply to the development and must be included in the final BAR and EMPr:

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Page No: 3

CaseID: 11938

- A no-go buffer of 30 m must be maintained around the identified heritage sites. The sites must be cornered off during all phases of the prospecting with an access gate;
- A Heritage Management Plan (HMP) must be developed in order to monitor and manage the heritage sites in-situ. The HMP must include monitoring and reporting procedures. The HMP must be submitted to SAHRA for comment;
- If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately. A professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
- The Final BAR and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record keeping purposes;
- Should the project be granted the 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

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Page No: 4

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/414684>
(, 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.