



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 12718

Date: Friday September 06, 2019
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Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Rooipoort Developments (Pty) Ltd

Notice of the application for an integrated Water Use Licence and Environmental Authorisation for the diamond mining operation on a portion of the farm Zand Plaats 102, remainder of the farm Vogelstruispan 101, remainder of the farm Vogelstruispan 98, remainder of the farm Klipfontein 99 and remainder of Bergplaats 100, Kimberley district, Northern Cape.

Turn 180 Environmental Consultants have been appointed by Rooipoort Developments to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application and Mining Right (MR) Application for proposed mining activities on the farm Zand Plaats 102, remainder of the farm Vogelstruispan 101, remainder of the farm Vogelstruispan 98, remainder of the farm Klipfontein 99 and remainder of Bergplaats 100, Kimberley district, Northern Cape (NC30/5/1/2/5/2/147MR).

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA), NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 28 of 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended). The proposed mining activities over an extent of 20 721 ha and associated activities include stripping of topsoils and overburden and stockpiling it separately, excavation of gravel from open voids/pits, separation of gravel, and temporary diversion channels within the Vaal River.

The DSR notes that a 2005 Heritage Study was conducted that identified several heritage resources within the proposed development area. The DSR notes that the 2005 Heritage Study was limited and that a specialist will be appointed to cover the entire application area as part of the EIA phase.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 10/06/2019, SAHRA noted the pending Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and requested that the HIA be completed as per section 38(3) and 38(8) of National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA). The HIA must be inclusive of archaeological and palaeontological components.

Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, a response to the Interim Comment has been submitted by the consultant. The consultant proposes that due to the scale, time and costs involved, that each section to be mined is surveyed just prior to mining commences, and not as part of the EIA process. These sections involve

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19 portions of the Vaal River of 1.5 km each (28.5 km in total) and 17 tributaries of unknown length.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit does not accept the proposal by the consultants that the assessment of impacts to heritage resources be conducted just prior to mining.

All areas to be mined as part of the current application must be subjected to an assessment as per section 38(3) of the NHRA as part of the EA application as per section 38(8) of the NHRA as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA.

SAHRA awaits the pending HIA inclusive of archaeological and palaeontological components, as well as the draft EIA and appendices before further comments are issued.

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

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

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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/508795>
(DMR - NC, Ref: NC30/5/1/2/5/2/147MR)