

**Our Ref:**



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: [nhiggitt@sahra.org.za](mailto:nhiggitt@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 13194

Date: Monday July 22, 2019  
Page No: 1

## **Final Comment**

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

Attention: Pioneer Minerals PTY LTD

PO Box 723  
PAROW  
7499

**Pioneer Minerals (Pty) Ltd (“The applicant”) has applied for a Prospecting Right on the above mentioned farm situated in the Magisterial District of Prieska, Northern Cape Province to mine for diamonds (alluvial); diamonds (in kimberlites); diamonds (general). The Remhoogte project is situated approximately 85km southwest of Douglas on the south bank of the Orange River which, lies 110km southwest of Kimberley, the administrative capital of the Northern Cape Province and the historic centre of the South African diamond mining industry.**

Wadala Mining and Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Pioneer Minerals (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for a Prospecting Right Application for prospecting activities on Remhoogte 152, near Prieska, Northern Cape Province (NC 30/5/1/1/2/12250 PR).

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA), NEMA EIA Regulations for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, no 28 of 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended). The proposed activities include 300 boreholes, an unknown number of invasive prospecting pits, 150 prospecting pits (2 m x 3 m x 0.5-5 m deep) and 20 trenches (100 m x 50 m x 0.5-5 m deep) covering an application area of 2 512.2808 ha.

Prof Marion Bamford and Archaeological and Heritage Services Africa (Pty) Ltd have been appointed to provide a heritage assessment as per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and 38(8) and 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as part of the EA Application.

*Bamford, M. 2019. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed prospecting rights application for Remhoogte 152 RE, near Prieska, Northern Cape Province.*

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The proposed development area is underlain by the Elandsvlei Formation (Dwyka Group, Karoo Supergroup) that is known to contain fossils such as invertebrates, fish, plant fragments (*Glossopteris*) and silicified woods. The Prince Albert Formation is also present which is known to contain marine fossils and terrestrial fossils. However, within both of the afore mentioned formations, these occurrences are rare. There is a chance that fossils may occur below the Kalahari sands that cap the development area. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended to be adhered to the EMPr.

*Matenga, E. 2019. Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (including Palaeontological Assessment) requested in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, No 25/1999 for the proposed mine prospecting on a portion of the remaining extent of the farm Remhoogte 152, Prieska, Northern Cape Province.*

A total of 27 heritage resources were identified as a result of the HIA. These resources include Stone Age lithics occurrences, a lower grindstone and a cross-shaped stone feature that may be a beacon. All of the sites were rated as having a Medium B significance. Recommendations provided in the report include the need for a Chance Finds Procedure. No further recommendations were provided.

### **Final Comment**

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final BAR and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations provided by the heritage specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No specific conditions are provided for the development. The recommended Chance Fossil Finds Procedure must be included in the EMPr;
- 38(4)c(i) – 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 as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – 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 as per

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section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;

- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
  - i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. 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 purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

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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Natasha Higgitt  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

# A PROSPECTING RIGHT FOR DIAMONDS (ALLUVIAL); DIAMONDS (IN KIMBERLITES); DIAMONDS (GENERAL) NC12250PR

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## ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/514682>  
(DMR - NC, Ref: NC30/5/1/1/2/12250PR)

## 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.