

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
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CaseID: 13224

Date: Thursday September 03, 2020
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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Mr Ernst Theodor Boshof
African Star Minerals
Postnet Suite 1017
Private Bag X7297
Witbank
1025

Application is made for the update of EMP in terms of Section 102 of MPRDA. No material changes to approved EMP. Northern Cape

Site Plan Consulting has been appointed by African Star Minerals (Pty) Ltd to update the existing Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the approved and operational Oena Diamond Mine near Sendelingsdrift, Northern Cape Province. A draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 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). It must be noted that SAHRA was not consulted as part of the Scoping Phase of the process.

An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) was conducted in 2009 for the original Mining Right Application. This report has been resubmitted as part of the application.

Webley, L and Orton, J. 2009. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of mining areas in the Oena Mine, Richtersveld, Namakwaland Magisterial District, Northern Cape.

A total of 91 heritage sites were identified as part of the AIA. These included Stone Age surface scatters and a scatter of historical artefacts. Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Mitigation of 16 sites as per table 3 of the report; and
- Further survey work within the Visrivier and Kabies mining areas.

SAHRA provided a comment on the 2009 AIA (see attached). The recommendations from that comment are as follows:

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- A full Phase 2 Archaeological Impact Assessment is done BEFORE trenching and mining start;
- The mitigation of sites in table 3 of the report is supported;
- In addition to the mitigation of the highlighted sites in table 3, collection of pottery from the sites SB2009/002, BW2009/003 and BW2009/005 should be carried out;
- A photographic record must be established immediately before, during and after mitigation. The archaeologist will require a mitigation permit from SAHRA. On receipt of a satisfactory mitigation permit report from the archaeologist, SAHRA will make further recommendations in terms of the report such as its final destruction or additional sampling.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 19/12/2018, SAHRA requested clarity whether the recommended mitigation measures were carried out as noted in the comment provided by SAHRA in 2010.

Additionally, as part of the EMP update, SAHRA requested that a desktop Palaeontological Study be conducted as the development footprint is located within an area of moderate sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map.

Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, a Palaeontological Assessment has been submitted on the SAHRIS Case (submitted on the 05/08/2020).

Pether, J. 2020. Palaeontological Assessment: Oena Diamond Mine Prospecting and Mining for update of the Environmental Management Programme.

The development is underlain by the Proto Terrace Suite (Arries Drift Formation) and the Meso Terrace Suite. The Arries Suite Formation is known to contain fossils such as shark teeth, reptiles, birds, mammals and tree trunks. The anticipated impact of the development on fossil resources is considered to be low. However, findings of a few small fossilised mammal teeth from the hitherto unfossiliferous Meso Suite fluvial deposits would change the low negative impact to a high positive impact of regional to international scientific extent. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended and is provided in the report.

Interim Comment

SAHRA notes the submitted Palaeontological Assessment, however, requires clarity on the EMP update process as it has been 21 months since the original submission of documents to the case. It is noted that mitigation work as recommended in the 2009 AIA has been conducted (see SAHRIS Case ID

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14221 <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/oena-mine-archaeological-mitigation>).

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above information.

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/515062>
(DMR - NC, Ref: NCS 30/5/1/2/3/2/1(553) MR)