

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 13272

Date: Friday January 11, 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: ABS Africa

The proposed No 5 Prospecting project (Area 1) close to Prieska and Copperton, Northern Cape Province

ABS Africa (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Orion Exploration No 5 (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application and Prospecting Right Application for proposed prospecting activities on several properties near Copperton, Northern Cape (NC30/5/1/1/2/12258PR).

A draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) 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, No 28 of 2002 (MPRDA) (As amended). The proposed prospecting will include an initial 15 drill boreholes to a depth of 400 m, possible minor trenching with 30 to 40 diamond core boreholes to a depth of 800 m, and access tracks. It is noted that the location of the drill holes is not yet known.

Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting and Prof Marion Bamford were appointed to provide the heritage specialist component as part of the EA in terms of section 24(4)b(iii) of the NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Van der Walt, J. 2018. Heritage Desktop Report for the proposed Orion No 5 Prospecting Application (Area 1) on the farms Klipgatspan, Humansrus, Kaffirs Kolk (sic) and Hoekplaas.

The desktop study identified 127 heritage resources within the proposed prospecting rights area which include Early, Middle and Late Stone Age surface scatters all of low heritage significance. Other potential heritage resources in the area include historical middens, structural remains, and burial grounds and graves.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Known heritage sites should be avoided during the planning stages for intrusive exploration;
- Permits must be applied for any impact/destruction of structures older than 60 years;

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- Burial grounds and graves are generally recommended to be preserved in situ. Grave relocation must be seen as a last resort;
- Before commencing invasive prospecting activities, the impact areas should be subjected to a heritage walk-down;
- A Chance Finds Protocol must be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

Bamford, M. 2018. Palaeontological Desktop Impact Assessment for the proposed prospecting rights application on farm Klipgats Pan near Copperton, North West Province (sic).

The underlying geology of the proposed development area includes unfossiliferous rocks of the Keimos Suite (Kakamas Terrane) as well as the Uitdraai (Vaalkoppies Group, Kaaïen Terrane) and Uitdraai Formations (Brulpan Group, Kaaïen Terrane) that outcrop locally. They are overlain by sediments of the Dwyka Group and the Prince Albert Formation (Ecca Group). Fossils from the Dwyka Group include rare occurrences of *Glossopteris* leaves, seeds and wood, and other plants such as lycopods, sphenophytes and ferns. The north and east of much the development area are covered by sedimentary deposits of the Quaternary.

A Chance Finds Protocol is recommended once drilling and trenching commence.

Interim Comment

The executive summary in the PIA notes the prospecting right application, however, then makes reference to sand mining. The report also notes that surface activities may impact upon the fossil heritage, however, later the report makes note that the "material to be mined is loose sand".

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that the desktop PIA be amended to correctly assess the impact of the prospecting right application.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

The proposed No 5 Prospecting project (Area 1)

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Natasha Higgitt
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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/518862>