

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 13326

Date: Tuesday January 22, 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: EVENING STAR TRADING 553 (PTY) LTD

This is the application for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed mining of alluvial diamonds on portion 1 and portion 8 of the farm Avoca 85 located within the Herbert Magisterial District in the Northern Cape Province.

NDI Geological Consulting Services (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Evening Star Trading 553 (Pty) Ltd as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application and Mining Right Application (MRA) for the proposed Evening Star Opencast Alluvial Diamond Mine and associated infrastructure, near Douglas, Northern Cape Province (NC 30/5/1/2/2/10147MR).

A final Scoping Report 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 activities will include an opencast diamond mine, access roads, chemical and diesel storage, domestic waste facility, electrical infrastructure, fence, office site, plant, settling dam, parking, waste dump, water pipelines and water reservoir.

Integrated Specialist Services (Pty) Ltd and Dr J F Durand were appointed to provide specialist heritage input into the EA application 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).

Miilo, T. 2018. Phase I Archaeological Impact Assessment for the Proposed Mining Right Application Alluvial Diamond in respect of portion 1 and 8 of the farm Avoca 85 near Douglas in the Northern Cape Province.

No heritage resources were identified during the survey. Recommendations provided in the report include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Should any unmarked burials be exposed during mining, potential custodians must be trekked, consulted and relevant rescue/ relocation permits must be obtained from SAHRA and or Department of Health before any grave relocation can take place. Furthermore, a professional archaeologist must be

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retained to oversee the relocation process in accordance with the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999;

- Should chance archaeological materials or human burial remains be exposed during subsurface construction work on any section of the proposed development laydown sites, work should cease on the affected area and the discovery must be reported to the heritage authorities immediately so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made. The overriding objective, where remedial action is warranted, is to minimize disruption in construction scheduling while recovering archaeological and any affected cultural heritage data as stipulated by the NHRA regulations.

Durand, J. F. 2018. Palaeontological Desk Top Study: Proposed development of the Evening Star Opencast Alluvial Diamond Mine and associated infrastructure, Northern Cape.

The proposed development footprint is underlain mostly by unfossiliferous Archean volcanic rocks of the Allanridge Formation (Ventersdorp Supergroup). The northern section of the development footprint is underlain by the Dwyka Group that may contain fossils such as marine invertebrates and fish as well as trace fossils. The western portion of the development area is covered by sediments of the Gordonia formation (Kalahari Group) which overlies the Dwyka Group. This formation may contain fossil heritage such as root casts, burrows, termitaria, ostrich egg shells, mollusc shells and isolated bones. The northern border is covered by Pleistocene alluvial gravels to younger alluvial sediments which are formed by the Vaal River. A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended for the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) to follow.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes the submitted heritage specialist reports. SAHRA awaits the draft EIA and appendices to be submitted at the start of the Public Review period in order for an informed comment to be issued. The EIA report must contain the recommendations of the specialist reports.

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
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South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
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South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/519555>
(DMR - NC, Ref: NC 30/5/1/2/2/10147 MR)