



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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CaseID: 13455

Date: Monday March 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: Dr Farai Tererai
Working for Wetlands Programme

Working for Wetlands (WfWetands) is a government programme mandated to protect pristine wetlands, promote their wise-use and rehabilitate those that are damaged throughout South Africa, with an emphasis on complying with the principles of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and using only local Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs). Due to the nature of the project, it is important to note that the very objectives of the WfWetlands Programme are to improve both environmental and social circumstances.

Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd was appointed by the Working for Wetlands Programme to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for a proposed rehabilitation programme in the North West Province.

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. The proposed rehabilitation will occur at 12 wetlands within the North West Province. Activities will include plugging artificial drainage channels, constructing structures, and removing invasive alien vegetation.

The BAR notes that the programme does not require any procedures in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999 (NHRA) (page 12 of the BAR), and that no heritage resources were identified and no impact is expected.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit must note that section 38(1) of the NHRA does not apply with regards to the EA application process in terms of NEMA. Section 38(8) of the NHRA requires that an assessment of heritage resources must be conducted that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA.

The assessment of heritage resources must also comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Component of Impact Assessments and the SAHRA 2012 Minimum

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Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments. The reports must be conducted by relevant qualified heritage specialists.

SAHRA advises the EAP to make an application to the competent authority in terms of section 19(1)b of the NEMA EIA Regulations to extend the EA process to comply with this comment.

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/520865>