

Our Ref:



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: 14753

Date: Friday February 14, 2020
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Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Johan Smit

The proposed Prospecting Right application for the prospecting of Diamonds (Alluvial, General & in Kimberlite), combined with a Waste Licence Application, near Groblershoop on a certain portion of the Remaining Extent of the farm Zonderhuis 402, a certain portion of the Remaining Extent of the farm Onder Plaats 401, a certain portion of the Remaining Extent of Portion 1, a certain portion of Portion 6 (portion of portion 4), a certain portion of Portion 7 (portion of portion 4) and certain portion of Portion 9 (portion of portion 4) of the farm Namakwari 656, Registration Division: Gordonia and Kenhardt, Northern Cape Province.

Milnex Environmental Consultants CC have been appointed by Johan Smit to conduct an Environmental Authorisation Application for proposed prospecting activities on certain properties near Grootdrink, Northern Cape Province (NC30/5/1/1/2/12359PR).

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAr) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) have been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2014 EIA Regulations for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended). The proposed prospecting right application area will cover approximately 8 854.1269 ha and will include 100 pits (3 m x 2 m x 4 m each), 35 trenches (30 m x 30 m x 5 m each), washing pan, and residue stockpiles.

Dr J A van Schalkwyk has been appointed to provide heritage input into the EIA process as per section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA.

Van Schalkwyk, J. A. 2019. Phase 1 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: Prospecting Rights Application with bulk sampling on various portions of the farms Zonderhuis 402, Onder Plaats 401 and Namakwari 656, Siyanda District, Northern Cape Province.

Several low-density surface scatters of Stone Age lithics and one historical farmstead was identified within the prospecting rights area. These heritage resources were rated to be of low heritage significance.

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Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The Palaeontological Sensitivity Map (SAHRIS) indicate that most of the region has a moderate sensitivity of fossil remains to be found and therefore a desktop study is required;
- A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be followed.

Final Comment

This comment is issued in terms of section 38(4) and 38(8) of the NHRA:

The SAHRA Archaeological, Palaeontological and Meteorites (APM) Unit cannot endorse the proposed EA application for proposed prospecting activities on various farm portions near Grootdrink (NC30/5/1/1/2/12359PR), as the assessment of heritage resources is incomplete. No desktop Palaeontological Study has been completed as part of the EA application process, therefore section 38(3) of the NHRA has not been fully complied with.

As the EIA process commenting period has been finalised, the applicant is unable to rectify this at this stage or apply for an extension of the EIA process in terms of section 23(1) of the NEMA EIA regulations.

SAHRA recommends to the relevant competent authority to reject the application to prospect on various farm portions near Grootdrink (NC30/5/1/1/2/12359PR) as section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA has not been fully complied with.

This comment must be forwarded directly to the competent authority for their consideration as per section 38(8) of the NHRA. Proof of the delivery and receipt thereof must be submitted to the SAHRIS application for record purposes.

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

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/533356>
(DMR - NC, Ref: NC30/5/1/1/2/12359PR)