

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 14856

Date: Friday October 16, 2020
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Final Comment

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

Attention: Enviroworks

4 Coligny Road
Park West
Bloemfontein, 9310

The Kalahari- East Users Association proposes the construction of a portable water supply pipeline (approximately 25km) in Noenieput, Northern Cape Province. The connection point will be at Noenieput where the water supply pipeline that is currently under construction terminates. The water will flow from the connection point at Noenieput to Swartkopdam. Connection points will be provided for small and commercial farmers along the pipeline route. The approximate usage per month is 0.9l/s at peak summer demand. The pipeline material is UPVC of various pipe classes and diameters. The pipeline shall be installed in a trench with at least 600mm cover above the pipe. At the two crossings of the Molopo River the pipe cover will be 1.2 meters. Noenieput is located approximately 160km northwest of Upington within the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. The project proposes two alternative pipelines to run water from Noenieput to Swartkop Dam. The Noenieput (east) line is approximately 23km long and follows a main road for its northern section while the Swartkopdam (west) line is approximately 26km long and follows service roads for its entire length.

EnviroWorks has been appointed by BVI Consulting Engineers on behalf of Kalahari East Water Users Association to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Noenieput potable water supply pipeline, at Noenieput, Northern Cape Province.

A Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed project will include the construction of a potable water supply pipeline approximately 25 km in length, with connection points along the pipeline for small and commercial farmers. The pipeline will be installed in a trench with a minimum depth of 600 mm with 1.2 m below the river crossings. Two alternative routes were assessed.

CTS Heritage have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the BAR process as required



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by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Lavin, J. 2020. Heritage Impact Assessment in terms of section 38(8) of the NHRA for a proposed development of water pipelines near Noenieput, Northern Cape Province.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The Swartkopdam alignment is preferred in terms of impacts to heritage resources;
- A palaeontological field assessment is required around the southern section of the line to search for trace fossils before excavation commences within possible Nababis Formation exposure. See Appendix 1 of the Desktop PIA for fossil examples;
- The proposed Swartkopdam pipeline route alignment must be amended to adhere to a no-go buffer of 50m around the sites that have been graded as IIIB: WTK002 (003), WTK003 (013) and ABQ002 (005) - see Table 1 and Figure 5.1;
- All of the dunes within this area must be treated as highly sensitive for impacts to significant archaeological heritage and may not be impacted by the proposed development;
- The construction of the proposed pipeline is monitored by a qualified specialist to mitigate the impacts to heritage resources that may be uncovered during excavation activities;
- Both the Noenieput and Swartkopdam cemeteries may not be impacted in any way by the proposed development;
- Should any heritage resources or human remains be uncovered during construction activities, work must cease and the SAHRA APM Unit must be contacted regarding a way forward.

The following specialists' assessments informed the HIA:

Chapelle, K. 2020. Desktop Palaeontological Specialist Study in terms of section 38(8) of the NHRA: Proposed development of water pipelines near Noenieput, Northern Cape.

The proposed Swartkopdam route is underlain by the Nama Group deposits which has a high probability of yielding trace fossils and the Kalahari Group deposits. The Noenieput route is underlain by the Kalahari Group deposits and Jurassic dolerite intrusions along with Dwyka Group deposits. The latter seems to be exposed in association with the Jurassic igneous dolerites and there is therefore a high chance of localised but extensive metamorphism of the primary sedimentary structures, including any preserved ichnological record. The

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Swartkopdam route will have a high development impact, while the Noenieput route will have a low to moderate development impact.

Engelbrecht, J and Fivaz, H. 2020. Phase 1 AIA Field Report: Proposed Development of pipelines near Noenieput, Northern Cape Province.

A total of eight heritage resources were identified along the Swartkopdam Alternative. These include Stone Age surface scatters and possible knapping sites of possible Grade IIIC and IIIB significance rating. One Colonial period artefact scatter of possible Grade IIIC significance rating was also identified.

A total of seven heritage resources were identified along the Noenieput Alternative. These include Stone Age surface scatters of possible Grade IIIC significance rating. One high density Stone Age surface scatter of possible Grade IIIA significance was identified. The site may be a possible Later Stone Age knapping site/temporary settlement of *Hxaro* site. One outcrop of dolomite with graffiti and percussion marks of possible Grade IIIA significance was identified that could be rock gongs.

One cemetery along each route was noted, however these are located between 100 and 300 m from the proposed pipeline routes and will not be impacted.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final BAR and EMP:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows:
- The palaeontological field assessment must be submitted to the SAHRIS application for review and comment prior to the construction phase;
- A report with the results of the archaeological monitoring of the construction must be submitted upon completion of the construction phase;
- Should it not be possible to avoid sites WTK002 (003), WTK003 (013) and ABQ002 (005) along the Swartkopdam route, they must be mitigated by a qualified archaeologist. A permit in terms of section

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35 of the NHRA and Chapter II and IV of the NHRA Regulations must be applied for from SAHRA via SAHRIS before construction.

- 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
 - The Final BAR and EMPr must be submitted to the SAHRIS Case application for record purposes;
 - The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

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

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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/534530>

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.