



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: 15315

Date: Tuesday September 15, 2020
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Final Comment

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

Attention: At-Road Construction (Pty) Ltd

The rectification of the unlawful commencement of a listed activity: the establishment of an Asphalt Plant on Portion 57 of the farm Strathmore 214, Nelspruit District, Mpumalanga.

At-Road Construction (Pty) Ltd has commenced in the construction of the Malelane Asphalt Plant that has the capacity to store approximately 296000 L dangerous goods on site in the form of diesel (1 x 23000L tank), Paraffin (1 x 23 000 L tank), bitumen (approximately 204 000 L) and Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) (2 x 23000L tanks). The plant is 1.4 ha in extent and is located in an existing magnesite mine, and it will be producing asphalt to supply the N4 road upgrades construction. The plant is located on Portion 57 of the farm Strathmore 214, City of Mbombela Local Municipality of Mpumalanga Province.

They have appointed Turn 180 Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Section 24G Rectification application process in support of an Environmental Authorisation application in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA), as amended for listed activities in the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

A Section 24G Rectification Report was been submitted to SAHRA in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999 for commenting, along with Heritage and Palaeontological letters of exemption.

Van der Walt, J. August 2020. The rectification of the unlawful commencement of a listed activity: the establishment of an Asphalt Plant on portion 57 of the farm Strathmore 214, Nelspruit District, Mpumalanga.

The author assessed the proposed development area and found that there was no heritage that was impacted by the proposed development as it is located within an existing magnesite mine. The magnesite mine has been in operations since before 1968 as such, any heritage resources that may have been on site has been destroyed a long time ago.

Bamford, M. August 2020. Request for Exemption of any Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the upgraded Asphalt Plant about 5km west of Malelane, Farm Strathmore, Mpumalanga Province.



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The asphalt plant is underlain by ancient volcanic rocks of the Kaap Valley Granite suite and the Tjakstad Subgroup (Onverwacht Group, Barberton Greenstone Belt) is located nearby. These rock formations have no palaeontological significance and the Tjakstad Subgroup is of low significance. The author determines there will be no impact to palaeontological heritage and no further action is required.

Final Comment

South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the Heritage and Palaeontological recommendations for exemption letters submitted to the case for commenting. SAHRA has no objection to the development going ahead.

In the unlikely event that fossils are uncovered during construction then construction must cease within the immediate vicinity, a buffer of 30 m must be established, and a palaeontologist called in to inspect the finds. The palaeontologist must obtain a section 35(4) permit in terms of NHRA and Chapter IV NHRA Regulations, before any fossils are collected.

If there are any new heritages resources are discovered during construction and operation phases of the proposed development, then a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings at the expense of the developer.

If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required at the expense of the developer. Mitigation will only be carried out after the archaeologist or palaeontologist obtains a permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999). You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8654).

If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the police find them to be heritage graves, then mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be contacted for processes to follow (Thingahangwi Tshivase/Mimi Seetelo 072 802 1251).

Once the Record of Decision from the competent authority is issued, it must also be submitted to the case.

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



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Yours faithfully

Nokukhanya Khumalo
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/538341>
(DARDLEA, Ref:)

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.