

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 15798

Date: Friday December 11, 2020
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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: Samara Mining Pty Ltd

Samara Mining has applied for an alluvial diamond prospecting right with bulk sampling on the left bank of the Orange River boundary to Portion of the Remainder of the Farm Richtersveld No. 11, in the Richtersveld, Namaqualand, Northern Cape Province. The application area is 987.98 Hectares.

Naledzi Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd has been appointed to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for proposed prospecting activities on the left bank of the Orange River boundary to Portion of the Remainder of the Farm Richtersveld No. 11, in the Richtersveld, Namaqualand, Northern Cape Province for Samara Mining (Pty) Ltd (NC30/5/1/1/2/12664 PR).

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 EIA Regulations for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended). The proposed prospecting will include 10 trenches from four separate areas along the river, and associated processing infrastructure

Dr Durand and Millenium Heritage Group (Pty) Ltd have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input into the EA process as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) and 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Durand, J. F. 2020. Palaeontological Desktop Study: Prospecting rights application on the bank of the Orange River at Namaqualand in the Northern Cape.

The proposed prospecting area is underlain by the Gariep Supergroup that may contain stromatolites and microfossils, the Namaqua-Natal rocks that do not contain fossils and the Quaternary sediments that may contain root casts, burrows, termitaria, ostrich eggshells, mollusc shells and isolated bones. A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be followed and is provided in the report.

Millenium Heritage Group. 2020. Desktop Study of the Cultural Heritage Resources of northwestern Richtersveld, for Two Proposed Prospecting Rights Applications for Alluvial Diamond Mining along the Orange River in Namaqualand, Northern Cape, South Africa.

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The desktop study has noted that several heritage resources may be present within the proposed prospecting area, including Stone Age lithics, middens, rock engravings, graves, historical buildings and places of conflict. It is noted that a field assessment HIA will be conducted as part of the EIA phase of the EA application.

Interim Comment

SAHRA notes that a field based HIA will be conducted as part of the EIA phase. The pending HIA must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA. The assessment of archaeological resources must be completed by a qualified archaeologist comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports. Please ensure that the specialists names are provided in the report (no name has been provided on the Heritage Desktop report). Additionally, please ensure that the HIA is application specific i.e. please do not combine two prospecting rights applications in one report.

Any other heritage resources as defined in section 3 of the NHRA that may be impacted, such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested report and the draft EIA and appendices. 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

PRAA 1 - PR 12264 Prospecting with bulk sampling on the left bank of the Orange River

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

ADMIN:
Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/545994>
(DMR - NC, Ref: NCS 30/5/1/1/1/2/1 (12664) PR)