



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: 16568

Date: Tuesday October 19, 2021
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Final Comment

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

Attention: PG Bison

Expansion of the existing PG Bison particle board manufacturing plant in Mkhondo through the establishment of a new 800m³/day MDF (Medium Density Fibreboard) line and an additional MFB (Melamine Faced Board) line. Mkhondo (previously Piet Retief), Mpumalanga

PG Bison (Pty) Ltd is proposing to extend their existing particle board factory on Portion 20 of the farm Vroegeveld 509 IS, in Mkhondo Local Municipality of the Mpumalanga Province.

Zutari (Pty) Ltd have been appointed to undertake an environmental assessment as part of the Basic Assessment process in support of an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environment Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) for activities that trigger the NEMA EIA 2014 Regulations.

A Basic Assessment Report was submitted to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for commenting in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA). The report states that an Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) must be conducted if any heritage is uncovered during mining activities. However, an HIA must be undertaken during the mine approval process and not after.

SAHRA issued an Interim Comment dated 09/07/2021 requesting the submission of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) or a Letter of Exemption as per the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological Component of Impact Assessment Report.

Lavin, J. August 2018. Desktop Heritage Screening Assessment for the Proposed Expansion of the PG Bison: Mkhondo plant in Mpumalanga.

The author assessed the available information and maps on SAHRIS and local archives and found few sources, however the few assessments in the vicinity determined that there is very little heritage in the area. The author recommends no further assessments but the implementation of general chance finds procedures. If any historic artefacts or human remains are uncovered then the heritage authority must be notified of the findings.

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The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) accepts the Heritage Screener with Letter of Exemption and recommendations contained therein. The SAHRA has no objection to the development going ahead on the following conditions:

In the 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).

The Final BAR and its appendices must be submitted to the case and once a 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.

Yours faithfully



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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: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/575101>
(MDARDLA, 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.