

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
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CaseID: 16698

Date: Monday July 26, 2021
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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: Southern African Tantalum Mining (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 44547, Claremont 7735, Cape Town
Cadiz Corporate Solutions, 4th floor, The terraces, 25 Protea Rd, Claremont 7700, Cape Town

Proposed 8409Ha prospecting right on Portion of Portion 3, Portion of Portion 10, Portion of Portion 13, Portion of Portion 14, Portion 15, Portion 16, Portion of Portion 21 of farm Nababeep 134 & Plot 2086 Okiep Township in the Namaqualand District in the Northern Cape province.

N J van Zyl has been appointed by Southern African Tantalum Mining (Pty) Ltd as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for proposed prospecting activities on Portion of Portion 3, Portion of Portion 10, Portion of Portion 13, Portion of Portion 14, Portion 15, Portion 16, Portion of Portion 21 of farm Nababeep 134 & Plot 2086 Okiep Township in the Namaqualand District in the Northern Cape Province (NC30/5/1/1/2/12848PR).

A draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA), NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 28 of 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended). The proposed prospecting activities include an unknown number of drilling targets that will include RC drilling and diamond drilling within an application area of 8 409 ha. Each drill pad will be contained in an area of about 160m² and twee-spoor access roads will be utilized.

ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd was appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA, and in terms of section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as required by section 38(8) of the NHRA.

Orton, J. 2021. Desktop Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Prospecting on various portions of the farm Nababeep 134 and Plot 2086, Okiep, Namakwaland Magisterial District, Northern Cape.

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Desktop research indicated that the majority of heritage resources most likely to be located within the development footprint include historical copper mining remains with sparse material culture from the Stone Age. The development footprint is located within an area of low to negligible sensitivity for palaeontological resources and therefore no assessment of the impact to palaeontological resources is required.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- It is recommended that SAHRA allow the prospecting project to proceed as planned but subject to the following recommendations;
- Once the Okiep drilling locations are known, a map should be provided to an archaeologist for desktop analysis. If any potentially sensitive areas cannot be avoided then a brief site visit should be carried out to confirm sensitivity and, in consultation with the prospecting geologists, propose alternative nearby drill sites. An opinion should then be expressed in a letter that should be submitted to SAHRA confirming whether or not drilling may proceed;
- Regardless of the above archaeological opinion, all drill sites should be carefully inspected by project staff to ensure that no heritage features are present;
- A fossil Chance Finds Procedure must be included in the project EMPr and implemented in the event of any chance finds of fossils, and
- If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development then work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.

The draft BAR includes the following mitigation measures with regards to heritage resources:

- A safe distance of at least 100 metres will be maintained between the identified heritage resource and drilling rig or any other development associated with the prospecting activities.
- Any identified heritage feature will be cordoned off with stakes and Chevron tape. All personnel including contractors involved in the construction activities will be made aware of the locations of all identified heritage resources, the necessity of avoiding impacts on such resources and the penalties for damaging them.
- Personnel will be informed about the consequences of unlawful removal of cultural and historical remains and artefacts associated with heritage sites. It will be emphasised that archaeological artefacts such as potsherds, stone tools, grinding stones, etc. must be left in situ and undisturbed.

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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 EMPr:

- 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:
- Once the locations of the boreholes are known, an archaeologist must survey the locations and results of the survey must be submitted to SAHRA for review and comment. No construction may commence without comments in this regard;
- 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 with regards to offences;
- 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 SAHRA for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

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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

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/576725>
(DMR - NC, Ref: 12848PR)

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.