



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: 17033

Date: Thursday September 23, 2021
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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: Sishen Iron Ore Company (Pty) Ltd

Private Bag X 506
KATHU
8446

Sishen Iron Ore Company (Pty) Ltd (“SIOC”) is in the process of applying for a Waste Management Licence (WML) for the closure of four (4) historic Borrow Pits which were developed in support of the Sishen Western Expansion Project (SWEP). The borrow pits are located on Portions 1 and 2 of the farm Fritz 540; Portion 1 and Remaining Extent (RE) of the farm Gamagara 541 and the Remaining Extent of the farm Nooitgedacht 469 in the Gamagara Local Municipality. The borrow pits were developed to source material for the construction of relocated infrastructure due to the SWEP. The borrow pits were also used for the disposal of construction (inert) waste post excavation. All four borrow pit sites have since been decommissioned and disposal activities have ceased

Thank you for notifying SAHRA of the Environmental Authorisation (EA) application for the proposed closure of four (4) borrow pits in the Gamagara Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province.

As the proposed development is undergoing an EA Application process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA), NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations as amended, it is incumbent on the developer to ensure that an application specific **Heritage Impact Assessment** (HIA) is done as per section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA. This must include an archaeological component, palaeontological component and any other applicable heritage components. The HIA must be conducted **as part of the EA Application** in terms of NEMA and the NEMA EIA Regulations.

SAHRA requests that an assessment of the impacts to heritage resources that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA as required by section 38(8) of the NHRA and section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA be conducted as part of the EA process that assesses what heritage may have been present during the operational phase of the borrow pits and how any heritage would be impacted by the proposed rehabilitation activities during the closure phase.

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The assessment must include an assessment of the impact to archaeological and palaeontological resources. The assessment of archaeological resources must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and the report comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports (see www.asapa.co.za or www.aphp.org.za for a list of qualified archaeologists). As the borrow pits have disturbed the area, Letters of Recommendation of Exemption for Further Studies may be submitted by the appointed heritage specialist.

The proposed development is located within an area of moderate and high Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist. (See <https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html> for a list of qualified palaeontologists). The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.

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 draft BAR documents inclusive of 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

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

ADMIN:
Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/581068>
(DENC, Ref:)