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CaseID: 18069

Date: Monday September 26, 2022

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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: Lepelle Northern Water SOC

The proposed upgrading of Olifantspoort Water Supply Scheme including Olifantspoort Water Scheme, Ebenezer Water Scheme, and the refurbishment of the Ebenezer WTW.

Lepelle Northern Water (SOC) is proposing the upgrade of Olifantspoort Water Supply Scheme, Phase 1 from Olifantspoort WTW to Krugersburg Reservoirs, and Upgrading of Ebenezer Water Supply Scheme, phase 1 from Ebenezer Pumpstation to Rustfontein, and Mankweng reservoir off-take. Phase 1 of the project is located within the Capricorn and Mopani District Municipalities of the Limpopo Province.

They have appointed Ezemvelo Quality & Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Scoping & Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAr) 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.

The draft EIAr, and Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) by Prof Marion Bamford on behalf of Tsimba Archaeological Footprints (Pty) Ltd has been submitted to SAHRA in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999 for commenting.

Bamford, M. July 2022. Palaeontological Impact Assessment. THE PROPOSED UPGRADING OF OLIFANTSPOORT AND EBENEZER WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES, PHASE 1 WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF CAPRICORN AND MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES, LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

The study area is underlain mostly by ancient granites and gneisses of the Rustenburg Layered Suite that do not preserve any fossils. Only the Lebowakgomo Pump station is on potentially fossiliferous rocks of the Timeball Hill Formation (Pretoria Group, Transvaal Supergroup) that might reserve trace fossils such as stromatolites or microbialites. The overall impact of the proposed development is low. Therefore, a Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the EMPr.

The SAHRA issued an Interim Comment dated 28/09/2022 requesting the submission of a Heritage Impact Assessment for the case. The report was submitted 03/10/2022.



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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Muroyi, R. July 2022. The Proposed Upgrading Of Olifantspoort And Ebenezer Water Supply Schemes, Phase 1 Within The Jurisdiction Of Capricorn And Mopani District Municipalities, Limpopo Province.

The author undertook a field study and identified a new municipal cemetery and the Haenertsburg cemetery in the general study area, and a Later Iron Aged stone walled site located within the existing Witkos Solar Park. The author recommends that the graves are conserved *in situ* and that the stone walled site is mitigated before destruction. The Bokone Malapa Open Air Museum must be conserved *in situ* as it is of very high local significance. The author further recommends a 50m buffer zone around all features identified during the field survey.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes and accepts the submission of the draft EIAR, the desktop PIA, and HIA reports. SAHRA has no objections to the proposed development on the following conditions:

38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit and the Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;

38(4)b – The recommendations provided by the heritage specialists are supported and must be adhered to. However, due to the length of the project, a suitably qualified archaeologist must be appointed to do a final walk-down of the water pipeline routes due to the likelihood of heritage sites occurring. A report of the final walk-down must be submitted to SAHRA prior to construction phase for comment. SAHRA reserves the right to provide additional conditions based on the results of the walkdown;

A 50m buffer zone around all heritage identified must be adhered to, to prevent any unintended damage.

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 (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8654) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence 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/Ngqalabutho Madida 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence in terms of section 51(1)e of the

The proposed upgrading of Olifantspoort and Ebenezer Water Supply Schemes

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NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;

38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA regarding 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 EIAR 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.

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

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:

The proposed upgrading of Olifantspoort and Ebenezer Water Supply Schemes

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Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/593515>

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.