

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 18242

Date: Tuesday June 28, 2022  
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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: Seriti Power (Pty) Ltd

**Middelburg Mine Services (MMS) is an operational mine of Seriti Power (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as Seriti), situated between the towns of eMalahleni, Middelburg and Kriel, in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa. Seriti therefore proposes to mine the No. 1, No. 2 and No. 4 seam coal using underground mining at the Dispatch Rider section, which is located in the south of the Hartbeesfontein section. The expected life of mine (LOM) for this section is approximately eight (8) years. The proposed project is located within the existing MMS mining right boundary, with the exception of a portion of the area to be mined to the east, which forms part of the Dispatch Rider prospecting right area.**

Jones & Wagener Engineering and Environmental Consultants have been appointed by Seriti Power (Pty) Ltd: Middleburg Mine Services North to undertake an Environmental Authorisation Application for proposed mining activities on the farms Hartbeesfontein 339 JS (Portion 2 and remaining extent), Driefontein 338 JS (Remaining extent and portion 10) and portion 1 and 3 of farm Boschmanskrans 221S near Middleburg, Mpumalanga Province (MP 18242).

A Draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the EIA Regulations for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended). The proposed mining will occur within a previously approved mining right area (MP 30/5/1/2/2/379 MR) and the activities will include changing the mining method from the approved open cast to underground mining, extending the underground mine area to the adjacent property to the east within the Dispatch Rider prospecting right area, and the development of infrastructure in support of the Dispatch Rider underground mine which will include an adit, portal sump, vent fans, electrical substation and overhead line, mine service water reservoir, control room, lamp and crush room, offices and parking, change house and security, service roads, various steel water tank, brake test ramp, fuel and lube bay, wash bay, workshop and stores, water filtration plant, and ROM coal stockpiles.

The DSR has included the results of a heritage assessment conducted in 2016 (Van der Walt, 2016) as part of the original EA application. The DSR states that three heritage resources were identified in the proposed development area that include two burial grounds and a surface scatter of Later Stone Age lithics. A new

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palaeontological assessment has been conducted for the proposed development.

*Bamford, M. 2022. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Dispatch Rider project, Middelburg Mine Services North Mpumalanga Province.*

The proposed development is underlain by the potentially fossiliferous Vryheid Formation, however, the site is already disturbed and fossils are unlikely to be found at the surface while the coal itself will not have any recognisable fossils. A Fossil Chance Finds Protocol is recommended to be implemented.

### Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that an updated and application specific HIA be conducted for the proposed development and newly proposed activities that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA as required by section 38(8) of the NHRA.

The archaeological component of the HIA must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and must comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports (see [www.asapa.co.za](http://www.asapa.co.za) or [www.aphp.org.za](http://www.aphp.org.za) for a list of qualified archaeologists).

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 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

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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

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**ADMIN:**  
Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/594595>  
(DMR-MP, Ref: 18242)