

**proposed Mining Permit Application on portion of Portion 22 of the farm
Woestalleen 477 JS, situated under the Magisterial Districts of Steve Tshwete
(Middleburg), Mpumalanga Province.**

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
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CaseID: 19406

Date: Tuesday September 20, 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: Mr Special Mahlalela

Mining Permit Application has been submitted for the extraction of Coal resource on the property mentioned above. The Mining Permit is situated approximately 20 km Southeast of Middleburg and about 10 km North of OptimumCoal Mine , this area can be accessed using the gravel road that extends towards the N11.

Thank you for notifying SAHRA of the proposed Mining Permit Application and Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for mining activities on portion of Portion 22 of the farm Woestalleen 477 JS, near Rockdale, Mpumalanga Province (MP 30/5/1/3/2/13185 MP).

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.

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). The standards also refer to a Letter of Recommendation for Exemption for further assessment should the specialist deem it appropriate.

The proposed development is located within an area of very high Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the

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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. The standards also refer to a Letter of Recommendation for Exemption for further assessment should the specialist deem it appropriate.

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

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/604251>
(DMR-MP, Ref: MP 30/5/1/3/2/13185 MP)