

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
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CaseID: 19847

Date: Tuesday November 08, 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: Ms Yvette Mmanasoe
GEOVICON ENVIRONMENTAL (PTY) LTD
42 AG Visser
Gholfsig
Middelburg
1050

Trentra (Pty) Ltd applied for a prospecting right in terms of section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA) and is also applying for authorisation of listed activities in terms of sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act no. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), read together with Regulations 19 & 20 of the amended Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (Government Notice No. 982). The above-mentioned applications involve the prospecting for coal.

Geovicon Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Trentra (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation Application for proposed prospecting activities on remaining extent of the farm Driefontein 434 JS, near Middleburg, Mpumalanga Province (MP 30/5/1/1/2/17011 PR).

A Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) 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 prospecting will include 10 boreholes with sumps and access tracks within an application area of 298.1 ha.

No assessment of the impact to heritage resources has been conducted as per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that an assessment of the impact to heritage resources be undertaken as part of the EA process that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA as required by section 38(8) of the NHRA. The HIA must include an archaeological and

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palaeontological component.

The field-based 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 or www.aphp.org.za for a list of qualified archaeologists).

The proposed development is located within an area of very high Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) is requested to 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.

The applicant is advised to extend the EA process in terms of section 19(1)b of the NEMA EIA Regulations in order to address this comment. Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested reports and revised DBAR that incorporates the results of the heritage specialist reports.

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/606934>
(DMR-MP, Ref: MP 30/5/1/1/2/17011 PR)