

**ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED MINING PERMIT APPLICATION FOR COAL, PSEUDOCOAL AND TORBANITE/OILSHALE WITHIN PORTION OF PORTION 4 OF THE FARM VAALBANK 74 HT, UNDER MAGES TERIAL DISTRICT OF WAKEERSTROOM IN MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.**



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 20124

Date: Wednesday December 07, 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 Sipiwe, Mafereka

**Farm Vlakfontein 569 JR for EZRA Capital Pty Ltd. Project area is located 25.31 km South West of Emalaheni Town, 3.85 Km Northern side of Ogies and 39.63 km North East of Delmas via N12**

Thank you for notifying SAHRA of the proposed Mining Permit Application and Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for mining activities on Portion of Portion 4 of the Farm Vaalbank 74 HT, near Dirkiesdorp, Mpumalanga Province (MP 30/5/1/1/3/13229 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 historical resources. The field-based 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](http://www.asapa.co.za) or [www.aphp.org.za](http://www.aphp.org.za) for a list of qualified archaeologists). The Minimum Standards refer to a Letter of Recommendation for Exemption for further studies should the specialist deem it appropriate. SAHRA reserves the right to insist on a field-based assessment should the Letter of Recommendation not provide ample information to make an informed comment.

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

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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. The Minimum Standards refer to a Letter of Recommendation for Exemption for further studies should the specialist deem it appropriate. SAHRA reserves the right to insist on a field-based assessment should the Letter of Recommendation not provide ample information to make an informed comment.

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

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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

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South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/609057>