



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 20219

Date: Wednesday January 11, 2023
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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: Notre Coal

PR application in search of pseudocoal and torbonite/oil shale in the Magisterial District of Mkhondo, Mpumalanga

Singo Consulting have been appointed by Notre Coal (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation Application for proposed prospecting activities on all portions of the farm St Helena 67 HT, near Dirkiesdorp, Mpumalanga Province (MP 30/5/1/1/2/17548 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 activities include 15 drilled boreholes, vegetation clearance, mobile office and toilet, site camp, temporary roads within an application area of 4 125.750 ha.

No assessment of the impact to heritage resources as 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 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 high and very high Palaeontological Sensitivity as per

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the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a field-based based 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.

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 comply with 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

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

17458PR

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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/609666>
(DMR-MP, Ref: 17548PR)