

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: 20447

Date: Monday May 08, 2023
Page No: 1

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Geolight (Pty) Ltd

Mining Permit Application for Coal on portion of portion 24 of the farm Hartbeestspruit 281 JS located within the Magisterial district of eMalahleni, Mpumalanga Province.

Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd have been appointed by Geolight (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for proposed mining activities on portion of portion 24 of the farm Hartebeespruit 281 JS, near Bulpan, Mpumalanga Province (MP 30/5/1/3/2/13906 MP).

A Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted (31/03/2023) 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 activities will include open cast mining and crushing, overburden stockpile, topsoil stockpile, ROM stockpile, mobile offices, pollution control dam, box cut and rehabilitation within a 5 ha application area.

The DBAR does not contain an assessment of the impact to heritage resources as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Interim Comment

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 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 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. 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.

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The proposed development is located within an area of very high Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a field-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. The standards also refer to a Letter of Recommendation for Exemption for further assessment 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.

The applicant is advised to extend the EA process in terms of section 19(1)b of the NEMA Regulations in in order to address this comment. Further comments will be issued upon receipt of an amended BAR documents inclusive of appendices that includes the results of the requested heritage assessments.

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
Manager: Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/611645>
(DMR-MP, Ref: MP 30/5/1/3/2/13906 MP)