

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 202 8660
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 20448

Date: Monday April 17, 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: Slindokuhle Vernetia Sindane
Vernexc Holdings

Vernexc Holdings has lodged an mining permit application for the purpose of mining Coal on portion of the remaining extent of portion 10 of the farm Hartbeestspruit 281 JS, situated in the Magisterial District of eMalahleni in Mpumalanga Province.

Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd have been appointed by Vernexc Holdings to undertake an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for proposed mining activities on portion of the remaining extent of portion 10 of the farm Hartbeestspruit 281 JS, near Bulpan, Mpumalanga Province (MP 30/5/1/3/2/13909 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 opencast coal mining over a period of two years with an option to renew for three years. Additional activities will include stockpiles, ripping, blasting when necessary, site establishment, loading zone, haul roads, crushing and screening, ablution facilities and waste storage area, and rehabilitation.

The DBAR notes that graves were identified 300 m from the proposed development area and that an assessment of the impact to heritage resources would be conducted (page 117).

Interim Comment

SAHRA requests that the pending assessment of the impacts to heritage resources 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

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 202 8660
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 20448

Date: Monday April 17, 2023
Page No: 2

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, 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 viewscapes 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 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

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 202 8660
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 20448

Date: Monday April 17, 2023
Page No: 3

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/611646>
(DMR-MP, Ref: DMRE Ref: MP 30/5/1/3/2/13909 MP)