

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: 21265

Date: Monday July 10, 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: Sakakama Coal (Pty) Ltd

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and Environmental Management Programme Report (EMPr) Public Participation Section 24G application for Sakakama Coal (Pty) Ltd on plot 12, portion of Portion 2 of the Farm Leeupoort 283 JS, situated in the Magisterial District of Nkangala, eMalahleni Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Sakkama (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation Application in support of a 24G Rectification Application for the unlawful commencement of a coal processing plant on portion of portion 2 of the farm Leeupoort 283 JS, near Witbank, Mpumalanga Province.

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 activities included the clearance of 4.7 ha of indigenous vegetation.

The DBAR notes that no heritage resources were identified as part of the site visit, however, there is no indication that a heritage specialist conducted the site visit. No heritage assessment has been done previously in the area, and it is unclear what heritage resources may have been damaged or destroyed due to the unlawful commencement of activities.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA requests that application specific assessments 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).

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The proposed development is located within an area of moderate Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a desktop 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.

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
Manager: Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/617058>
(DARDLEA, Ref: N/A)

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