



## Letter

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

Attention: MSA Group  
 PO Box 81356  
 Parkhurst  
 2120

**Proposed Prospecting Activities** It is envisaged that the proposed prospecting will be conducted over a five year period, and in phases, with the work program being divided into several sequential sections. At the end of each section, there will be a brief period of compiling and evaluating results. These results will not only determine whether the project proceeds, but also the manner in which it will go forward. Essentially, the Applicant will only action the next stage once satisfied with the results obtained.

Thank you for submitting the above application for proposed prospecting activities over portion 1 of the Farm Matsap 81 near Postmasburg. The prospecting application is for salt and other minerals. Prospecting activities include drilling and sampling, although the impact of prospecting has been deemed minimal.

In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999), any proposed development that requires an application in terms of NEMA or the MPRDA must have an assessment of impacts to heritage resources completed as part of the application process. The relevant heritage authority must determine whether the assessment done in terms of impacts to heritage resources satisfies our requirements and must provide comments or recommendations to the decision-making authority.

No heritage information has been provided for the prospecting area. It is known that generally, archaeological sites are concentrated at the edges of salt pans in the Northern Cape. As such, it is likely that the proposed prospecting will impact on significant archaeological resources.

The area proposed for prospecting is not situated in an area that is palaeontologically sensitive and as such, it is unlikely that significant palaeontological heritage will be impacted by the proposed prospecting.

As such, SAHRA requires that a Heritage Impact Assessment be conducted.

This heritage impact assessment must assesses the impact of the proposed prospecting on all heritage resources including, but not limited to, archaeological heritage, palaeontological heritage, rock art, any significant structures and intangible heritage. This assessment must not only assess impacts in terms of the development footprint, but must also assess broader, indirect impacts to heritage that may result from the proposed development. No assessment of impacts to palaeontological heritage is required.

The quickest process to follow for the archaeological component would be to contract a specialist (see [www.asapa.org.za](http://www.asapa.org.za)) to provide a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report. The Phase 1 Impact





Assessment Report will identify the archaeological sites to be impacted and assess their significance. It should also make recommendations (as indicated in section 38 of the NHRA) about the process to be followed. For example, there may need to be a mitigation phase (Phase 2) where the specialist will collect or excavate material and date the site. At the end of the process the heritage authority may give permission for destruction of the sites.

Any other heritage resources that may be impacted such as built structures, 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.

This assessment must satisfy SAHRA's minimum requirements for impact assessments and must comply with the requirements in Section 38(3) of the NHRA and as such, this assessment must provide recommendations regarding the mitigation of any identified direct and indirect impacts to heritage resources.

SAHRA looks forward to receiving this assessment before commenting further on this proposed development.

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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Jenna Lavin  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Colette Scheermeyer  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/151267>



J2798

Our Ref: 9/2/074/0001

Enquiries: Jenna Lavin  
Edit view Tel: 021 462 4502  
Edit view Email: [jlavin@sahra.org.za](mailto:jlavin@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 4374

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an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

Street Address: 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town 8000 \* Postal Address: PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000  
\* Tel: +27 21 462 4502 \* Fax: +27 21 462 4509 \* Web: <http://www.sahra.org.za>