

Letter

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

Attention: Venavax (Pty) Ltd

CONSULTATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 40 OF THE MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT 2002, (ACT 28 OF 2002) FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR PROSPECTING IN RESPECT OF TUNGSTEN ORE, TIN ORE, MOLYBDENUM ORE AND FLUORSPAR, GENERAL AND KIMBERLITE) ON FARMS VAN ROOIS VIEY NO.443, SITUATED IN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF GORDONIA.

Thank you for informing SAHRA of the application to prospect for tungsten ore, tin ore, molybdenum and fluor spar on Farm Van Roos Viey No. 443 near Upington.

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.

It is noted that on page 13 of the EMP you indicate that "The study of the prospecting area has not highlighted any buildings older than 100 years in or around the prospecting area. No graves exist in or around the prospecting area that will be affected by the prospecting activities. The area does not highlight any area of national heritage or archaeology value that will be affected by the proposed prospecting activities." However, no evidence supporting this statement has been provided. In addition, no evidence of a specialist assessment has been provided to SAHRA for comment.

In addition, it is noted that the palaeontological significance of the geology of the area proposed for prospecting ranges from low, to moderate to very high significance. SAHRA therefore requires more information on the likely impact of the proposed prospecting activities on significant palaeontological resources.

SAHRA therefore requires that a Heritage Impact Assessment be conducted.

This heritage impact assessment must assess the impact of the proposed prospecting on all heritage resources including, but not limited to, archaeological heritage, palaeontology, rock art, any significant structures and intangible heritage. This assessment must not only assess impacts in terms of the prospecting footprint, but must also assess broader, indirect impacts to heritage that may result from the proposed prospecting.



Our Ref: 9/2/032/0001

Enquiries: Jenna Lavin
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CaseID: 4750

Date: Thursday February 13, 2014

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The quickest process to follow for the archaeological component would be to contract a specialist (see 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.

A desktop palaeontological assessment must be completed prior to prospecting in order to determine if any significant palaeontological resources will be impacted by the proposed prospecting activities. This assessment must include a protocol for finds.

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 these assessments 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

Jenna Lavin
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/155773>
Edit view (DMR, Ref: NC 30/5/1/1/2/11047PR)



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