

Our Ref:

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CaseID: 6397

Date: Thursday September 25, 2014

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Response to NID (Notification of Intent to Develop)

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

Attention: BHP Billiton Energy Coal South Africa

Environmental Authorisation for the Klipspruit Extension Weltevrede Project, Hartebeestlaagte 325 JS, Grootpan 7 IS, Prinshof 2 IS, Tweefontein 328 JS, Weltevrede 324 JS, Wildebeestfontein 327 JS, Witbank Magisterial District, Mpumalanga Province

Thank you for notifying SAHRA of the proposed development of the Klipspruit Extension Weltevrede Project, which is situated North of the town of Ogies, this is an extension of the existing Klipspruit Colliery. On the farms Grootpan 7 IS; Tweefontein 328 JS; Weltevrede 324 JS; Wildebeestfontein 327 JS; Hartebeestlaagte 325 JS, Prinshof 2 IS, Mpumalanga Province. The Klipspruit Extension Weltevrede Project is proposed to be an open cast coal mine, on land that was previously used for agricultural purposes, along with other subsidiary activities that are listed activities for the environmental authorization application processes.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999, heritage resources, including archaeological or palaeontological sites over 100 years old, graves older than 60 years, structures older than 60 years are protected. They may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. This means that before such sites are disturbed by development it is incumbent on the developer (or mine) to ensure that a **Heritage Impact Assessment** is done. This must include the archaeological component (Phase 1) any other applicable heritage components. Appropriate (Phase 2) mitigation, which involves recording, sampling and dating sites that are to be destroyed, must be done as required.

Du Piesane. J. September 2014. *Notification of Intent to Develop for the Klipspruit Extension Weltevrede Project.*

The proposed development lies on a Very High Palaeontological Sensitive Zone on the SAHRIS palaeomap, (<http://www.sahra.org.za/map/palaeo>). As mentioned in the heritage statement referenced above that the geology of the land forms part of the Vryheid formation, which is known to contain fossilized plants and trace animal fossils, which are essential for palaeoenvironment reconstructions (<http://www.sahra.org.za/fossil-layers/vryheid-formation>). It is noted that in the Heritage Statement mentioned that a palaeontologist will look at the proposed development location for any palaeontological resources, however as according to the SAHRIS Palaeomap, a field assessment is required along with the desktop assessment due to the Very High Sensitive Zone of the proposed development location.

It is also noted that about 10km away some MSA, and LSA stone tools were discovered, thus during the field assessment, the heritage specialist must be mindful of any archaeological resources as they are a possibility even though it is said to be a relatively low possibility in the heritage statement.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Thus SAHRA requires a Heritage Impact Assessment to be conducted by a suitably qualified professional archaeologist or heritage specialist who is knowledgeable about the built environment to do the HIA report, following SAHRA minimum standards for heritage reports. As it is mentioned in the Heritage Statement referenced above, that the mostly likely heritage resources occurring on the proposed development location, are burial grounds and buildings older than 60 years which would make them heritage resources.

Also SAHRA requires, included in the HIA, for a professional palaeontologist to do a Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed development.

SAHRA awaits for the studies to be submitted in order for further comment to be made on this case.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully



Nokukhanya Khumalo
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency



Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/174914>