

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 18163

Date: Friday December 09, 2022
Page No: 1

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(8), 38(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Matsopa Minerals (Pty) Ltd

Matsopa Minerals (Pty) Ltd (hereinafter referred to as “Matsopa Minerals”) has submitted an application for a Prospecting Right in terms of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, Act 28 of 2002 (MPRDA) over the farms Geluk 237 and Goudlaagte 238, near Koppies, Free State. The application relates to the search for economically viable reserves of clay.

Cabanga Environmental has been appointed to undertake the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for a Prospecting Right to prospect for clay on the farms Geluk 237 and Goudlaagte 238, Ngwathe Local Municipality, Free State (FS 30/5/1/1/3/2/1 (10631) EM).

The Basic Assessment Report (BAR) was submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, 1998) and the National Environmental Management Waste Act (NEMWA, 2008) in respect of listed activities that have been triggered by applications in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA, 2002) as amended. The proposed prospecting area is adjacent to Matsopa's existing Koppies Bentonite Mine and the associated activities will include non-invasive and invasive techniques (drilling to a depth of 30m. The proposed drilling program will be undertaken on a 100m x 100m grid with approximately 10 m² per borehole being impacted on/disturbed by drilling activities.

Associated activities includes the establishment of contractor's camp consisting of a caravan, generator and portable ablution facilities along with vegetation clearance and rehabilitation of disturbed areas. Existing farm roads will be used as far as possible.

Beyond Heritage and Professor Marion Bamford were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA application as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

van der Walt, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Matsopa Prospecting Application,



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Koppies, Free State Province.

Five heritage features were recorded within the proposed development areas.

- Site 1 is a cemetery that is located 30 meters from the nearest drilling point and consists of possibly 10 graves (3 are marked, 5 with unreadable headstones and 2 could be stoned packed graves which are overgrown with weeds).
- Site 2 is a cemetery that is located outside of the study area and consists of about 7 identified graves (5 are marked and 2 are unmarked).
- Site 3 is a cemetery that is located outside of the study area with about 12 identified graves (11 are marked and 1 is unmarked).
- Site 4 is a disturbed stone packed feature located 30 meters from the nearest drilling point and which is of low significance.
- Site 5 is a corrugated iron shed which is low significance. It is located more than 30 meters from any drill point and no direct impact is foreseen on these features.

The development area has been disturbed by previous cultivation and no other heritage resources have been identified.

Recommendations:

- Recorded features should be indicated on development plans and avoided with a 30-metre buffer zone.
- Existing access roads should be used.
- The features should be monitored by the ECO during prospecting to ensure that there is no indirect impact.
- A Chance Find Procedures has been attached for implementation for the project.

Bamford, M. 2022. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the Matsopa Prospecting Rights Application on Farms Geluk 237 and Goudlaagte 238, Free State Province

The proposed site lies on the Volksrust Formation (Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup) that could potentially contain *Glossopteris* flora fossils; however the likelihood of finds is small. It is recommended that no further palaeontological impact assessment is required and the Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the EMPr.

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Final Comment

On the 01/04/2022, SAHRA requested that the final comment be included into the final BAR and the EMPr and that the decision regarding the EA be communicated to SAHRA. It is noted that the conditions of the final comment are included in the final BAR in page 49-50 and conditions 3.5 and 3.29.

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

Yours faithfully

Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
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South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
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South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/593915>