Our Ref:



an agency of the Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001 www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha

Tel: 0212028663

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CaseID: 16819

Date: Wednesday September 15, 2021

Page No: 1

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Invest In Property 84 Ltd Pty

The applicant currently holds a prospecting right (FS 30/5/1/1/2/449 PR) over the proposed mining right application area, where the prospecting for alluvial diamonds is in progress. Owing to the outcome of the prospecting operation up until now, the applicant wishes to convert the prospecting right into a mining right for the winning of alluvial diamonds, gold and sand.

Greenmined Environmental was appointed by invest in Property 84 (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Environemtal Authorisation (EA) application for the mining of alluvial diamonds and gold from a 3 955.7022 ha area that extends over eight properties in the Lejweleputswa Magisterial district, Free State Province (FS 30/5/1/2/2/10067 MR).

A Draft Scoping Report has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, 1998) and the National Environmental Management Waste Act, 2008, in respect of listed activities that have been triggered by applications in terms of the Mineral And Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA) (as amended). The about 6ha of the proposed development area will be disturbed by mining activities. Activities associated with mining will include clearing of vegetation, stripping and stockpiling of topsoil, and establishing site infrastructure. Opencast and strip-mining method will be used for the proposed development.

The Draft Scoping Report noted that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) inclusive of a Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment was to be undertaken. The SAHRA issued an Interim Comment dated 12/08/2021 which requested the submission of the HIA and the desktop PIA before further comments could be made. The HIA and desktop PIA were submitted to the case on SAHRIS on the 16/08/2021 and the Final Scoping Report was submitted on the 24/08/2021.

Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting (HCAC) was contracted to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) inclusive of a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment as part of the EA process as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA, and in terms of section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as required by section 38(8) of the NHRA.

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Page No: 2

van de Walt, J. 2019. Heritage Desktop Assessment For the Proposed Mining Right Application on the Farms Van Aswegens Hoek 493 Rd and Greylingslyn 355 Rd, Boshoff, Free State Province

Some rock engravings are on record to the North of Boshoff. No gravesites are on record for the study area but graves and informal cemeteries can be expected anywhere on the landscape. Large sections of the study area are impacted on by extensive agricultural activities. Previous Cultural Resource Management studies indicates that heritage sites and a cultural layering dating back to the Stone Age with scatters and sites dating to the ESA, MSA and LSA can be expected in the study area.

Recommendations

It is anticipated that any sites that occur within the project area will have a Generally Protected B (GP. B) or lower field rating, all sites should be mitigatable, and no red flags have been identified. It is therefore recommended that the project is approved with the following conditions of authorisation in the EMPr:

- Before commencing mining activities, the impact areas should be subjected to a heritage walk down.
- A chance find protocol (both archaeology and palaeontology) has been included.

Bamford, M. 2019. Desktop Study: Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed mining rights application for mine "84", near Christiana, Free State Province

The study area is underlain largely by the Quaternary group deposits (sands, alluvium and calcretes) which are unfossiliferous. These could be underlain by the Dwyka Group tilites. Fragments of Glossopteris and Noeggerathiopsis leaves, wood fragments and possible insect wings have been recorded in the Dwyka Group. It is recommended that the development proceed and a Chance Finds Protocol has been attached.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA notes the submitted HIA and desktop PIA along with the recommendations provided therein. SAHRA awaits the submission of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment before further comments can be made.

The SAHRA advises the EAP to make an application to the competent authority in terms of section 21(1)b of the NEMA EIA Regulations to extend the EA process to comply with the comment.

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

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Page No: 3

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Yours faithfully

Sityhilelo Ngcatsha

Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite Assistant South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine

Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit

South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/578413

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