

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 19394

Date: Wednesday August 31, 2022  
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## Interim Comment

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

Attention: Rhino Oil & Gas South Africa

**Proposed Exploration Well Drilling within Two Target Areas within Exploration Right 294. Target Area 1 is located south of Petrus Steyn and Target Area 2 lies south of the R34 between Kroonstad and Edenville, Free State Province.**

Thank you for notifying the SAHRA on the proposed drilling of exploration wells south of Petrus Steyn and south of the R34 between Kroonstad and Edenville, Free State Province.

It is noted that Rhino Oil and Gas Exploration South Africa (ROGESA) was granted an Exploration Right (ER) to explore for petroleum resources in the areas and desktop studies along with an aerial gradiometry gravity survey was completed. 40 exploration wells will be drilled within two Target Areas.

As the proposed development is undergoing an EA Application process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA), NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, No 28 of 2002 (MPRDA) (As amended), it is incumbent on the developer to ensure that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is done as per section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA). This must include an archaeological component, palaeontological component and any other applicable heritage components. The HIA must be conducted as part of the EA Application in terms of NEMA and the NEMA EIA Regulations.

The archaeological component of the HIA should follow the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological Component of Impact Assessment Report. The quickest process to follow for the archaeological component would be to contract a qualified archaeologist (see [www.asapa.co.za](http://www.asapa.co.za) or [www.aphp.org.za](http://www.aphp.org.za)).

The proposed development area is located mostly within areas of very high sensitivity in terms of palaeontological resources as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a field based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist (See <https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html> for a list of qualified palaeontologists). The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.

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Any other heritage resources as defined in section 3 of the NHRA that may be impacted, such as built structures over 60 years old, 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.

The NEMA EIA documents and appendices must be submitted at the start of the public review periods in order for an informed comment to be issued that can be incorporated into the final reports for submission to the competent authority.

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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Sityhilelo Ngcatsha  
Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite Assistant  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine  
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

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Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/604127>  
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