

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 19555

Date: Wednesday September 14, 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: Notre Coal

### **PROSPECTING RIGHT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROSPECTING FOR PSEUDOCOAL AND TORBANITE/OIL SHALE ON ALL PORTIONS OF THE FARM GEELHOUTBOOM 342 IT, SITUATED UNDER THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MKHONDO, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.**

Thank you for notifying the SAHRA on the proposed Prospecting Right application for Pseudocoal and Torbanite/Oil Shale on all portions of the Farm Geelhoutboom 342 IT, situated under the Magisterial District of Mkhondo in Mpumalanga Province (Ref: MP 30/5/1/1/2/17547 PR).

This proposed prospecting area is approximately 17.65. Both invasive and non-invasive methods will be implemented. Desktop studies includes desktop geographical and geological mapping which will be followed by geochemical and geotechnical surveys then geophysical studies. Invasive methods will include drilling, sampling, assaying and mineralogical study which will be carried out.

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 an area of very high 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

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(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.

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:**

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/605192>  
(DMR-MP, Ref: MP 30/5/1/1/2/17547 PR)