



Interim Comment

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

Attention: Mr Hercules Jacobus Erasmus

P O Box 116
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8730

Consultation in terms of section 40 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act 2002, (Act 28 of 2002) for the approval of an environmental management plan for prospecting right on portion 1 of the Farm Blauwfontein No.6 situated in the Magisterial District of Hopetown, Northern Cape Region.

We have received notification of your application for an environmental management plan in respect of prospecting rights diamonds on Farm Blauwfontein, Northern Cape.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), 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) and 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.

Although it is stated in the EMP that no significant heritage resources are located within the affected environment, no indication of a professional assessment is given. SAHRA therefore requests that a full Heritage Impact Assessment is conducted prior to any prospecting activities occurring on site.

Consequently, the quickest process to follow for the archaeological component would be to contract a specialist (see www.asapa.org.za) to provide a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report. This must be done before any prospecting drilling, trenching or mining takes place. The Phase 1 Impact Assessment Report will identify the archaeological sites and assess their significance. It should also make recommendations (as indicated in section 38 of the NHRA) about the process to be followed. For example, there may need to be a mitigation phase (Phase 2) where the specialist will collect or excavate material and date the site. At the end of the process the heritage authority may give permission for destruction of the sites.

Where bedrock is to be affected, or where there are coastal sediments, or marine or river terraces and in potentially fossiliferous superficial deposits, a Palaeontological study must be undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon palaeontological resources - or at least a letter from a Palaeontologist motivating for an exemption is needed to indicate that this is unnecessary. If the area is deemed sensitive, a full Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be required and if necessary a Phase 2 rescue operation



Our Ref: 9/2/043/0001

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CaseID: 3180

Date: Thursday August 15, 2013

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might be necessary (see www.palaeontologicalsociety.co.za).

Any other heritage resources 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 viewscapes must also be assessed.

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

Yours faithfully

Kathryn Smuts
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
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/126836>
(DMR, Ref: NC 30/5/1/1/3/2/1/10874 EM)



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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