



Interim Comment

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

Attention: Mr Clive Fanti
Petra Diamonds (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 71007
Bryanston
2021

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 a prospecting right on portions: 1,10,11,15,16,2,24,28,35,37,4,5,52,53,54,55,57,60,61,63,68,69,70 and 8 of Farm Carter Block 458 situated in the Magisterial District of Hay, Northern Cape Region.

We have received notification of your application for an environmental management plan in respect of prospecting rights for diamonds on portions of Carter Block Farm 458, 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.

As the EMP indicated that a Heritage Impact Assessment would be conducted, SAHRA acknowledged as much in a letter sent on 14 August 2013. After receiving indication from the consultant that an HIA was not planned, SAHRA has reassessed the EMP.

The drilling phases of this application appear to be minimally invasive, and SAHRA is satisfied that the impact on any possible heritage resources located on the property will be low. For this phase of the application, therefore, no further heritage studies are necessary.

However, if the project moves on to excavation/pitting, SAHRA requests that a full Heritage Impact Assessment, inclusive of an Archaeological and Palaeontological Impact Assessment, is conducted prior to any bulk sampling related activities occurring on site. Given the large area of the intended prospecting, this assessment could target the areas indicated for bulk sampling.

The Phase 1 Archaeological 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 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 viewsapes must also be assessed in the HIA.

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/127025>





(DMR, Ref: NC 30/5/1/1/2/1/10835 PR)

