

PROPOSED TGS SEISMIC SURVEY BASIC ASSESSMENT PROJECT, LOCATED OFFSHORE EXTENDING FROM APPROXIMATELY 120 KM OFFSHORE OF ST HELENA BAY TO 230 KM OFFSHORE OF HONDEKLIP BAY, OFF THE WEST COAST, SOUTH AFRICA.



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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Date: Tuesday November 15, 2022
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CaseID: 19429

Final Comment

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

Attention: TGS Geophysical Company (UK) Limited

TGS Geophysical Company (UK) Limited (hereafter referred to as the applicant - TGS) has appointed Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS) as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist with undertaking the required authorisation processes (including the statutory public participation), and to compile and submit the required documentation in support of application for: Environmental Authorisation (EA) in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (GRN982 of 2014, as amended)- Listed Activity 21(b) (GNR 983): Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a reconnaissance permit in terms of section 74 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, as well as any other applicable activity as contained in this Listing Notice or in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, required to exercise the reconnaissance permit, excluding- (a) any desktop study; and(b) any arial survey. TGS proposes to undertake a 3D seismic survey off the West Coast of South Africa. The proposed project area is located between approximately 120 km offshore of St Helena Bay, extending north along the western coastline to approximately 230 km offshore of Hondeklip Bay. The survey area corner coordinate points are listed in the table below the map. EIMS will be following the procedures defined in the EIA Regulations (GRN982 of 2014, as amended) for undertaking a Basic Assessment (BA) process. In accordance with Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, a public participation process will be undertaken. You are hereby invited to register and comment on the proposed project and application/s.

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) would like to thank you for submitting the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) for the proposed TGS Seismic Survey Basic Assessment project, located offshore extending from approximately 120km offshore of St Helena Bay to 230km offshore of Hondeklip Bay, off the West Coast of South Africa.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999 (NHRA), Sections 2 and 35 stipulates that any wreck, being any vessel or aircraft or any part thereof older than 60 years in South Africa's territorial waters or maritime cultural zone is protected and falls under the jurisdiction of SAHRA's Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit. These heritage sites or objects may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant

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heritage resources authority.

As part of the Environmental Authorisation process a Draft Basic Assessment Report has been undertaken which includes a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). Having reviewed the DBAR SAHRA has noted that the intangible aspect of the project has been thoroughly addressed by the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and supports the recommended measures.

The DBAR also includes a section on the possible maritime heritage resources that may be present in the area, however, given the distance from the shore and the depths at which the survey will take place it is unlikely that heritage resources will be discovered. A mitigation measure included in Section 9.3.3 of the DBAR reads:

- "3D seismic surveys have the potential to locate wrecks on the surface, and sometimes below sediments on the ocean floor. Any shipwrecks or pieces thereof noted during the survey must be shared with the SAHRA MUCH Unit for inclusion into the national database. These could then be identified and be incorporated into the EMPr."

SAHRA supports the above and reiterates that although the likelihood of maritime heritage resources being discovered is low, the proposed surveys cover a large area and will be fairly high resolution and the potential for previously unknown shipwreck sites or material to be identified exists.

Please note that all updates and/or changes to the project, supporting documentation, correspondence, reports, or any other work relating to the project must be uploaded to the case on SAHRIS to provide SAHRA with the opportunity to comment. SAHRA does not accept emailed documents or hard-copy documents received via post.

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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Briege Williams
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Lesla la Grange
Manager: Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/604384>

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.