UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

EVOLUTIONARY STUDIES INSTITUTE

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09 September 2017

Dr Ragna Redelstorff
SAHRA
111 Harrington Street,
Cape Town 8001

Dear Dr Redelstorff

RE: **Request for exemption from palaeontological impact assessment for: Farm 22 Steinkopf District, Namaqualand Municipality**.
DMR REF NUMBER NC30/5/1/3/2/10223MP
NC30/5/1/1/2/11461PR (GHAAM) 799PR
NC30/5/1/1/2/11465PR (OERANOEP) 800PR

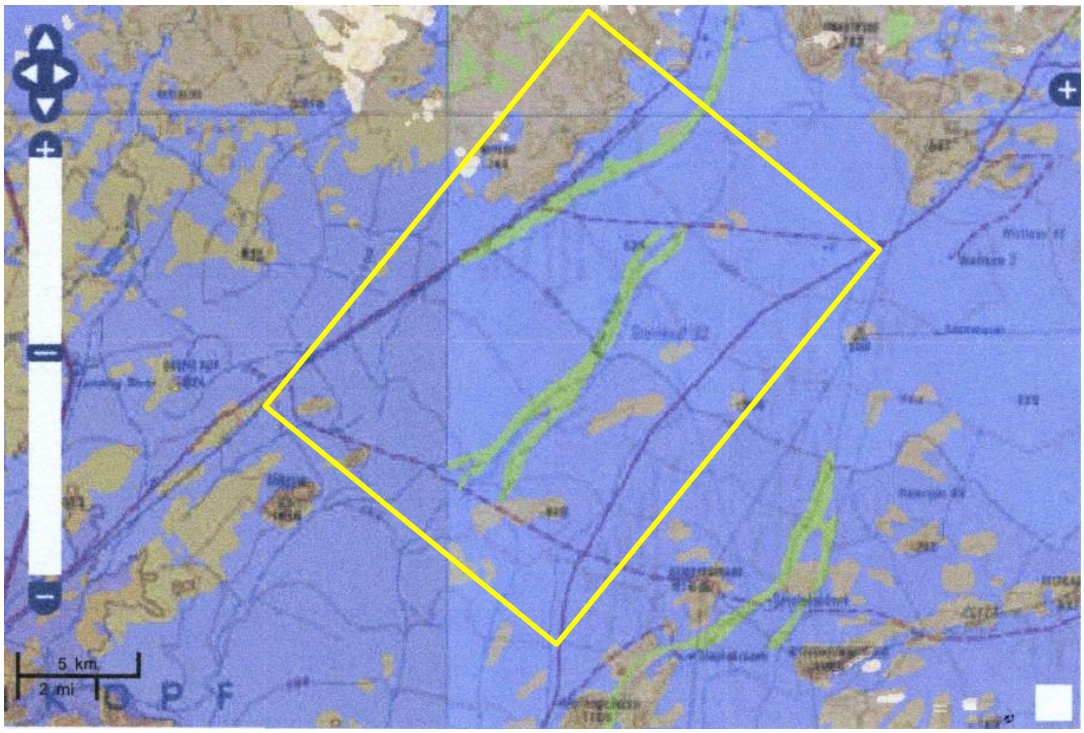
An archaeological impact assessment has already been completed by Melanie Attwell and Associates, for Farm 22 Steinkopf Baseline Scoping Study NHRA S 38(8) for EIM Environmental Solutions (Pty) Ltd and Verde Bitterfontein (Pty) Ltd. November 2015. That report was submitted in terms of Section 39 and Regulation 52 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Act (Act 28 of 2002) as a subsidiary specialist heritage study. Section 38(1) and Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) also has application, and contains all the details of the project, location and current and proposed activities. In summary: the sites are pre-worked and therefore mining impact has already occurred, and modification of the landscape has taken place. The exception is at the Dam which is not a pre-worked site. The operation is currently small with minimal infrastructure consisting of water tanks, generators and a prefabricated office.

The application is for the extension of existing mineral rights to undertake the mining of stone within an area of existing stone quarries and the application for additional prospecting rights. An environmental management plan was submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources as part of an earlier successful application for the Groenhoekies Mine, on the same farm.

The sites for extensions of mining operations, like the current sites, all lie in the igneous and metamorphic rocks of the Namaqua-Natal Province, in particular in the Bushmanland Terrane. This group of rocks is made up of three types, namely the ca 2000 million year old (Ma) granitic gneisses, the 1600-1200 Ma amphibolite to

granulite grade supracrustal rocks and the 1200-1000 Ma granitoids. The igneous rocks were metamorphosed during the Namaqua Orogeny and do not contain any fossils.

The SAHRIS paaleoensitivity map indicates that the area is of low (blue) or insignificant (grey) sensitivity. It is therefore requested that no further palaeontological impact assessments be required for this project.



Yours faithfully

Prof Marion Bamford PhD
Director: ESI