



iziko
MUSEUMS OF CAPE TOWN
south african museum

2 April 2002

South African Heritage Resources Agency: Western Cape
P O Box 4637
Cape Town
8000
Fax No: (021) 46 10738

Dear Mr Hart,

Drilling and sampling on Witteklip and Elandsfontein: FOSKOR R2.9.3 (EXT1.3)

I refer to the letter dated 19 March and information provided by Messrs Van der Merwe and Horn of FOSKOR.

Witteklip

Known Later Stone Age site on granite outcrop (Witteklip). No other existing records, but the area may not have been adequately examined.

Known Upper Pleistocene hyaena accumulation in calcretes on nearby Bessaarsklip.

Not known whether fossils and/or Stone Age material exist within unconsolidated Upper and Middle Pleistocene sands expected to underlie the surface.

Underlying Pliocene and Miocene Varswater and Saldanha Formation deposits in the area are known to include vertebrate and invertebrate fossils and microfossils.

Elandsfontein

Isolated Stone Age artefacts sometimes on surface between R27 and Elandsfontein, but unpredictable. Their density does not imply a general problem. May be associated with calcretes ridges.

Known Middle Pleistocene fossils and Stone Age material and Upper Pleistocene and Holocene Stone Age material on unconsolidated Elandsfontein inter-dune exposures and Elandsfonteinwies (now re-vegetated).

Underlying Pliocene and Miocene, ?Varswater and Saldanha Formation, deposits in the area are known to include invertebrate and microfossils.

Conclusions

With respect to surface material:

Since drilling is expected to be on already-disturbed areas, disturbance by this and the access and removal of heavy plant, is expected to be minimal to zero.

With respect to sub-surface material:

With the exception of the strong potential that Pliocene and Miocene fossiliferous deposits will be transected, the Witteklip area is essentially unknown, but the possible existence of sub-surface fossil and/or archaeological material cannot be excluded.

Fossil and/or Stone Age occurrences exist on Elandsfontein and other farms within the Ysterfontein/Geelbek/Hopefield dune plume.

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Whether such occurrences are relatively continuous over sub-surface "palaeo-surfaces" is unknown, but the possibility cannot be excluded.

It is, therefore, possible that the proposed drilling will transect sub-surface deposits with fossils and/or Stone Age material.

The prospecting should be seen as an opportunity to investigate whether such material does in fact occur more widely, to recover samples for analysis of their sediments and possible macro- and microfossil and other contents. The Council for Geo-Sciences (D. Roberts) and Iziko Museums of Cape Town, South African Museum (G. Avery) are interested in this.

The prospecting exercise will also provide information that would contribute towards the assessment of any future request for a SAHRA permit to mine the phosphatic deposits.

Subject to the recommendations below, there is no reason why the proposed drilling should not be allowed to proceed.

Recommendations

The drilling sites should be visited as soon as they have been pegged to confirm that no surface fossil and/or Stone Age occurrences exist on them.

Care should be taken to minimise possible damage at and around drilling stations. Existing tracks should be used for access.

The full extent of each core should be sub-sampled.

Drilling should be monitored for the possible recovery of fossils and/or Stone Age material by a qualified person, who would also be responsible for taking the sediment sub-samples. Field costs will need to be covered.

Sediment samples and any fossil and/or Stone Age material should be retained by Iziko Museums of Cape Town, South African Museum. D. Roberts of the Council for Geo-Sciences will be given access to samples for analysis of sediments and microfossils, after which residues and any fossil and/or Stone Age material recovered from the samples would be returned to the museum for final curation and storage.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Avery
Human Sciences

From: Mary Leslie
To: David Hart
Date: 09/04/02 8:16AM
Subject: Experimental Foskor Response

Hi David

I would say Graham has asked for more than enough input from archaeological/geological/palaeontological side. On second thoughts, just wondering what if they intersect a site of major importance. Do we need to put in a caveat do you think?

Please can you think about this experimental response and let me know how it works. The format looks awful on the attachment. Can you let me know how it prints out your side please?

Thanks Mary

Mrs Mary Leslie
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From: David Hart
To: Leslie, Mary
Date: 05/04/02 12:13PM
Subject: Foscor

mary,

I have Graham Avery's report on Foscor - Witteklip and Elandsfontein. have you seen it (2 April 2002).

Do we allow them to proceed with drilling subject to his recommendations - Thanks

DH

From: Graham Avery <gavery@iziko.org.za>
To: 'Mary Leslie' <mleslie@sahra.org.za>
Date: 08/04/02 6:14AM
Subject: RE: FOSKOR Letter

Hi Mary,

Just got back from a beach survey. It was Word 2000, but here is another saved as Word 6/95, which should be more helpful.

Best,

Graham

Dr Graham Avery
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-----Original Message-----

From: Mary Leslie [mailto:mleslie@sahra.org.za]
Sent: 05 April 2002 11:58
To: gavery@iziko.org.za
Subject: Re: FOSKOR Letter

Hi Graham

What format did you send it in? I cannot read it. Thanks Mary
As I am writing a recommendation for David, could you try again soon
thanks
Mary

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>>> Graham Avery <gavery@iziko.org.za> 03/04/02 5:17:45 PM >>>
Hi Mary,

I sent the attached to Dave Hart this morning.

Best,

Graham

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