



SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY
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FOR ATTENTION: Free State PHRA

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SAHRA File No: **9/2/300/0023**
Date Received: **15 December 2011 (revised version)**.....
Date of Comment: **24 April 2012**
Sent to Peer Review:
Date to Peer Review:
SAHRA Contact Person: **Mr Andrew Salomon**
DME Ref No:

REVIEW COMMENT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

BY ARCHAEOLOGY/ PALAEOLOGY UNIT OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

South Africa has a unique and non-renewable archaeological and palaeontological heritage. Archaeological and palaeontological sites are protected in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999) and may not be disturbed without a permit. Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIAs) and Palaeontological Impact Assessments (PIAs) identify and assess the significance of the sites, assess the potential impact of developments upon such sites, and make recommendations concerning mitigation and management of these sites. On the basis of satisfactory specialist reports SAHRA or the relevant heritage resources agency can assess whether or not it has objection to a development and indicate the conditions upon which such development might proceed and assess whether or not to issue permission to destroy such sites.

AIAs and PIAs often form part of the heritage component of an Environmental Impact Assessment or Environmental Management Plan. They may also form part of a Heritage Impact Assessment called for in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act No. 25, 1999. They may have other origins. In any event they should comply with basic minimum standards of reporting as indicated in SAHRA Regulations and Guidelines.

This form provides review comment from the Archaeologist of the relevant heritage resources authority for use by Heritage Managers, for example, when informing authorities that have applied to SAHRA for comment and for inclusion in documentation sent to environmental authorities. It may be used in conjunction with Form B, which provides relevant peer review comment.

- A. PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY: **Free State**
- B. AUTHOR(S) OF REPORT: **L Rossouw**
- C. ARCHAEOLOGY CONTRACT GROUP:
- D. CONTACT DETAILS: **PO Box 38806, Langenhovenpark, Bloemfontein, 9330**
- E. DATE OF REPORT: **Undated**
- F. TITLE OF REPORT: **Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of a portion of the farm Mooifontein 76, Edenburg District, FS Province**.....
- G. Please circle as relevant: Archaeological component of **EIA / EMP / HIA / CMP** Other (Specify)
- H. REPORT COMMISSIONED BY (CONSULTANT OR DEVELOPER): **Withers Environmental**
- I. CONTACT DETAILS: **PO Box 6118, Uniedal, 7612**
- J. COMMENTS:

Please see comment on next page.....

REVIEW COMMENT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

L Rosssouw

Received 02 November 2011

Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of a portion of the farm Mooifontein 76, Edenburg District, FS Province

The proposed development entails mining for uranium which is hosted 8 to 22 metres deep, representing an open cast mine with a life expectancy of approximately 5 years.

The assessment revealed no sites or artefacts of archaeological significance and the author notes that the specified footprint is not archaeologically vulnerable. Some Later Stone Age artefacts were encountered; however these are out of archaeological context. As far as palaeontological remains are concerned, the author notes that there is no evidence for the accumulation and preservation of intact fossil material within the Quaternary sediments covering the underlying sedimentary rocks.

The author notes that an informal graveyard with approximately 20 graves is located near the farmstead, but outside the demarcated development area.

The author recommends that, provided that the proposed mining activities are restricted to areas located within the boundaries of the study area, there are no major archaeological grounds to suspend the proposed development.

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorite Unit supports the recommendations of the authors, and has no objection to the proposed prospecting activities on condition that;

- If any new evidence of archaeological sites or artifacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources are found during the development, SAHRA or an archaeologist must be alerted immediately.

Please note that decisions on Built Environment must be referred to the Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (Mr Gabriel Tlhapi: tlhapig@sacr.fs.gov.za, Tel: 0514104830).

SIGNATURE OF ARCHAEOLOGIST PROCESSING REPORT: EMAIL: *asalomon@sahra.org.za*SIGNATURE OF SAHRA HEAD ARCHAEOLOGIST: EMAIL: *cscheermeyer@sahra.org.za*NAME OF HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY: *SAHRA*

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COMMENT (ABOVE OR APPENDED) CONSTITUTES THE COMMENT OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY ARCHAEOLOGIST AND THAT ANY DEVELOPMENT THAT INVOLVES DESTRUCTION OF ANY ARCHAEOLOGICAL/PALAEONTOLOGICAL SITE IS STILL SUBJECT TO A PERMIT/PERMISSION FOR DESTRUCTION OF SUCH SITE GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPER BY THE RELEVANT HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALAEONTOLOGICAL PERMIT COMMITTEE (THIS WILL BE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE PHASE 2 OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL/PALAEONTOLOGICAL MITIGATION AS NECESSARY). THIS REPORT MAY BE TAKEN ONLY AS APPROVAL, IN PRINCIPLE, IN TERMS OF SECTION 35 OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT. THE PROVINCIAL MANAGER OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY MUST ADVISE AS TO APPROVAL IN TERMS OF HERITAGE ISSUES ENCOMPASSED BY OTHER ASPECTS OF THE LEGISLATION, SUCH AS ISSUES OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (STRUCTURES (E.G. FARM HOUSES), OVER 60 YEARS), INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS OR OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES AS THIS IS NOT WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGIST.

PLEASE NOTE THAT SAHRA IS NOW RESPONSIBLE FOR GRADE I HERITAGE RESOURCES (AND EXPORT) AND THE PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GRADE II AND GRADE III HERITAGE RESOURCES, EXCEPT WHERE THERE IS AN AGENCY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY.