

ArchaeTnos



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To whom it may concern

**LETTER FOR HIA EXEMPTION REQUEST: HENDRINA LEACHATE DAM,
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

The above-mentioned project refers. The project is located towards the north-west of the town of Hendrina and is approximately 20 kilometres from the town. This is in the Mpumalanga Province (Figure 1-4).

The Hendrina Power Station had been issued a waste disposal site permit, by the Department of Water Affairs in terms of Section 20(1) of the Environment Conservation Act for a waste disposal site on the remaining portion 8 of the farm Boschmanskop 154 IR (Permit No B33/2/210/141 P9). Eskom Hendrina, as permit holder, has been accountable for legal compliance of the waste disposal facility since this time. In order to do so, a dam needs to be constructed.

Before the construction of the dam a Basic Assessment study is needed. This exemption application from doing a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) forms part of the Basic Assessment.



Figure 1: Location of Hendrinain the Mpumalanga Province.

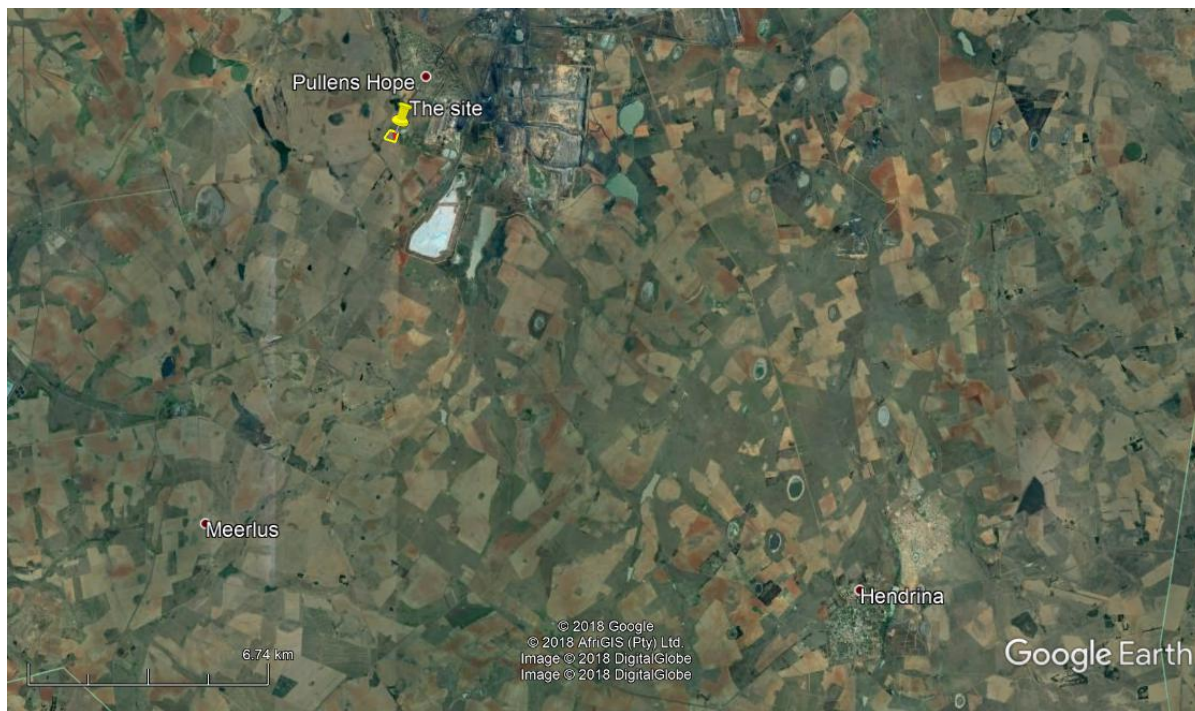


Figure 2: Location of the site in relation to Hendrina.



Figure 3: Waste disposal site (yellow) and proposed dam site (red).



Figure 4: Detailed view of the proposed dam site.

It is my opinion that the project may be exempted from doing a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). The following is applicable:

- It is clear from satellite imagery (Google Earth) that the site is entirely disturbed. It is part of the current waste disposal site.
- No additional infrastructure is needed as the infrastructure on site is sufficient.
- The only buildings on site consist of temporary structures (Figure 5).
- Visible vegetation consists entirely of pioneer species and regrowth, because of the disturbances. The latter includes alien trees (Figure 6-7). Although the vegetation is dense and medium high in some areas, due to it being in a disturbed area, it is a low risk area for containing heritage sites.
- Illegal dumping is also visible on site (Figure 8).



Figure 5: Temporary structures on site.



Figure 6: Pioneer plant species and regrowth on site.



Figure 7: Alien trees on site.



Figure 8: Visible dumping on site.

It is therefore believed that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is not needed for this project. This letter serves as an exemption request to the relevant heritage authority.

The developer should however note that due to the nature of archaeological material, such sites, objects or features, as well as graves and burials may be uncovered during construction activities on site. In such a case work should cease immediately and an archaeologist should be contacted as a matter of urgency to assess such occurrences.

Recommendation:

That the development be exempted from doing an HIA.

I trust that you will find this in order.

Yours faithfully

Prof AC van Vollenhoven: Director