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SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY
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FOR ATTENTION: PHRA: Eastern Cape

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 SAHRA File No: **9/2/073/0059**
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 SAHRA Contact Person: **Mariagrazia Galimberti**
 DME Ref No:

REVIEW COMMENT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

BY ARCHAEOLOGY/ PALAEOONTOLOGY 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: **Eastern Cape**
- b. AUTHOR(S) OF REPORT: **Dr Johan Binneman**
- c. ARCHAEOLOGY CONTRACT GROUP: **Eastern Cape Heritage Consultants**
- d. CONTACT DETAILS: **PO Box 689, Jeffreys Bay, 6330, Tel: 042 962 096, cell: 072 800 6322**
- e. DATE OF REPORT: **May 2010**
- f. TITLE OF REPORT: **A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of zone 5 in the Coega Industrial Development (IDZ) for the proposed construction of a manganese smelter, near Port Elizabeth, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, Eastern Cape Province**.....
- g. Please circle as relevant: Archaeological component of EIA / EMP / HIA / CMP
 Other (Specify)
- h. REPORT COMMISSIONED BY (CONSULTANT OR DEVELOPER): **Eastern Cape Heritage Consultants CC on behalf of Coega Development Corporation (Pty) Ltd**
- i. CONTACT DETAILS: **Ms Andrea von Holdt, Private Bag X6009, Port Elizabeth, 6000. Tel: 041 403 0400, Fax: 041 403 0401, Cel: 082 657 4648, email: andrea.vonholdt@coega.co.za**
- j. COMMENTS:

REVIEW COMMENT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

By Dr Johan Binneman, on behalf of Eastern Cape Heritage Consultants
Date of the report: May 2010, Received: 05 July 2010,

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of zone 5 in the Coega Industrial Development (IDZ) for the proposed construction of a manganese smelter, near Port Elizabeth, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, Eastern Cape Province

INTRODUCTION

The Coega Industrial Development Zone (IDZ) is located about 20 km northeast of Port Elizabeth and covers about 12 000 ha. This Archaeological Impact Assessment refers to zone 5, which is the area in which the construction of a manganese smelter with its infrastructure is planned.

Most of this zone is covered in thick vegetation which hampers visibility of archaeological sites. On cleared areas, occasional scatters of Early and Middle Stone Age informal stone tools were found, none of which was in primary context. An accumulation of bone remains was also identified in the hard calcrete deposit which lays below of layer of top soil where stone tools were found.

SAHRA RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to low visibility on most of zone 5, SAHRA requires that an archaeologist is present on site during all vegetation clearing processes and during all earth moving activities. This is critical as the Coega IDZ terrain is archaeologically and historically sensitive.

CONCLUSION

If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. shell middens, remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, shipwrecks, marine shell and charcoal/ash concentrations), unmarked human burials, fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found while development takes place, SAHRA APM Unit (Mariagrazia Galimberti/Nonofho Ndobochani 021 462 4502) must be alerted immediately, and an accredited professional archaeologist or palaeontologist must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary. On receipt of a satisfactory mitigation (Phase 2) permit report from the archaeologist and/or palaeontologist, SAHRA APM Unit will make further recommendations in terms of the possible destruction or preservation of the heritage resources.

SIGNATURE OF ARCHAEOLOGIST PROCESSING REPORT: 

EMAIL: mgalimberti@sahra.org.za

SIGNATURE OF SAHRA HEAD ARCHAEOLOGIST: 

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NAME OF HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY: SAHRA

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