



Jones & Wagener

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South African Heritage Resources Agency
On-line submission

31 May 2022

Our Ref: H236-LET-01
Your Ref: H236-LET-01_r0_SAHRS

Dear Sir / Madam

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED DISPATCH RIDER UNDERGROUND MINE AT THE MIDDELBURG MINE SERVICES NORTH SECTION FOR SERITI POWER (PTY) LTD IN STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA

HERITAGE AND PALAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Jones & Wagener (Pty) Ltd Engineering and Environmental Consultants (J&W) has been appointed by Seriti Power (Pty) Ltd (Seriti) as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake a Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process for the proposed Dispatch Rider underground mine at the Middelburg Mine Services North Section in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Mpumalanga.

The proposed Dispatch Rider project is located within the existing Middelburg Mine Services (MMS) mining right boundary, except a portion of the area to be mined to the east, which forms part of the Dispatch Rider prospecting right area. The project is located between the towns of eMalaheni, Middelburg and Kriel, within the jurisdictional area of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality (STLM) and the Nkangala District Municipality (NDM) of the Mpumalanga Province. The mine is situated approximately 18 km south of the town of Middelburg.

The following activities will be applied for under the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act 107 of 1998):

EIA Regulations: Government Notice No. 327 of 7 April 2017, Listing Notice 1	Activity 10 and 14
EIA Regulations: Government Notice No. 325 of 7 April 2017, Listing Notice 2	Activity 6 and 17
EIA Regulations: Government Notice No. 324 of 7 April 2017, Listing Notice 3	Activity: 10

The Consultation Scoping Report for the project was available for public review from 28 March to 4 May 2022 and was uploaded to the SAHRIS website on 28 March 2022.

This letter serves to provide you with the Heritage and Palaeontological Assessments undertaken in support of the application.

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FINANCIAL MANAGER: CJ Ford BCompt ACMA CGMA



1. **HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of the proposed Dispatch Rider project area was undertaken by Prism Environmental Services in 2016, when the Dispatch Rider underground mine form part of a large project referred to as the Wolvekrans Colliery North Expansion project.

A copy of the complete report is attached in **Appendix A** and the information relevant to the Dispatch Rider project is summarised below.

In the Dispatch Rider project area on the farm Hartbeesfontein 339 JS, two cemeteries and a couple of Late Stone Age (LSA) miscellaneous flakes were recorded next to a pan. The positions of these are indicated in **Figure 1** and co-ordinates are provided in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Co-ordinates of heritage resources identified in Dispatch Rider project area

Feature	Markers	Co-ordinates
Cemetery 2	Headstones with stone packed grave settings	25° 58' 37.7797" S 29° 25' 12.5399" E
Cemetery 3	Headstones with stone packed grave settings	25° 57' 32.7852" S 29° 25' 22.7281" E
Pan with LSA	Very low density of microliths	25° 58' 06.6972" S 29° 24' 34.1460" E

The artefacts observed at the pan comprise of crypto crystalline silica (CCS) and are scattered too sparsely to be of any significance apart from noting their presence, which has been done so in the AIA report. The study area is void of raw material suitable for the manufacture of stone tools or rocks for the construction of Stone Walled settlements. This scenario changes to the west as various Early Stone Age and Middle Stone Age artefacts were recorded here on a ridge consisting of metamorphic rocks (these areas are outside the Dispatch Rider project area).

Cemeteries 2 and 3 consist of headstones with stone packed grave dressing. Cemetery 2 is located in the area that will be undermined and Cemetery 3 is located in the northern periphery of the Dispatch Rider prospecting right area. Therefore, no direct impact is foreseen on these cemeteries as a result of the proposed development.

The land use has not changed since the 2016 assessment was done and there has been no disturbance of the area.

The proposed infrastructure area will be located within an area that has been mined through opencast mining previously and has been partially rehabilitated. Mining will be underground and therefore the Archaeological and Cultural Heritage resources will not be disturbed as part of the proposed project.





Figure 1: Recorded heritage features



2. PALAEONTOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

A palaeontological Assessment was undertaken by Professor Marion Bamford in 2022 and is attached in **Appendix B**.

Based on the assessment and the lack of any previously recorded fossils from the area, it was determined as unlikely that any fossils would be preserved in the exposed and weathered shales and carbonaceous shales of the Vryheid Formation. A Chance Find Procedure has been included, should any fossils be encountered during the execution of the project.

We trust that the above will assist you in reaching a decision regarding the application. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require further information.

Yours faithfully

Tolmay Hopkins
for Jones & Wagener

Jacqui Hex

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APPENDIX A
ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX B
PALAEONTOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT