BPI for Palaeontological Research

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Mr Willem Hutten
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Dear Mr Hutten,

Buffelskloof 10, Steelpoort River Valley – Palaeontological Impact Assessment

As requested, I have undertaken a desktop EIA to assess the possible affect on palaeontological heritage which will result from the proposed Buffelskloof Mining Development in the Steelpoort Rivers Valley, Limpopo Province (Figure 1).

The area is underlain by igneous rocks of the Rustenberg Layered Suite of the Bushveld Igneous Complex. This Complex is an intrusive igneous body comprising a series of ultramafic-mafic layers and a suite of associated granitoid rocks. As these rocks are Precambrian in age and are of igneous origin it is highly unlikely that fossils will be affected by the proposed subsurface mining development.

Overlying the rocks of the Rustenburg Layered suite, the area may be covered by unconsolidated Quaternary sand deposits. These are the only sedimentary deposits in the area to be affected by mining activities, and as the deposits are not consolidated it is very unlikely that any fossils will be present.

In my opinion this development will not negatively affect palaeontological heritage. I suggest that, from a paleontological perspective, the development may proceed. However, should any ancient bone or plant material be uncovered in the process of development, a qualified paleontologist must be contacted to assess the exposure for fossils so that the necessary rescue operations are implemented. Depending on the nature of the fossils discovered, this could entail excavation and removal to a registered

palaeontological museum collection. A list of professional paleontologists is available from South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).then a qualified paleontologist must be contacted to assess the situation.

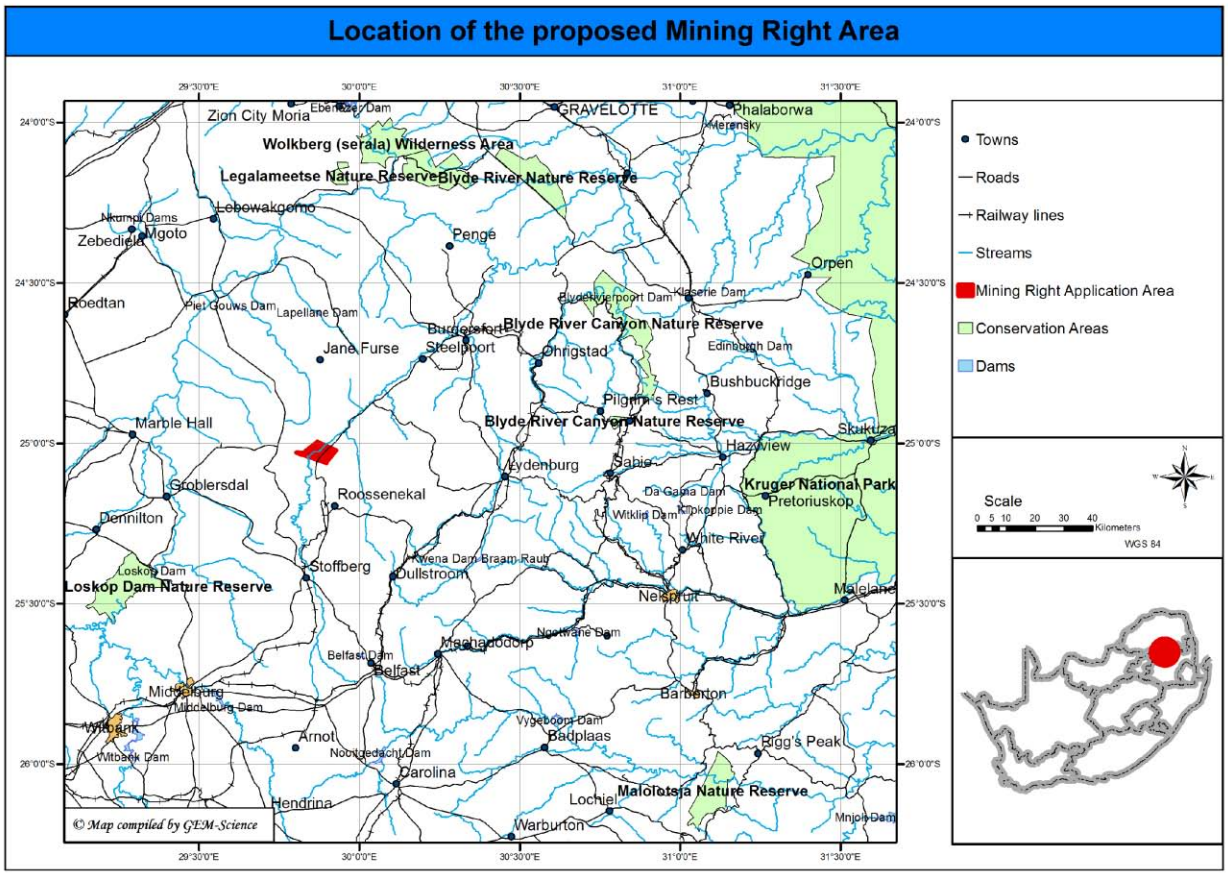

Figure 1: Map showing the position of the proposed development on Buffelskloof 10, Steelpoort River Valley.

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Yours sincerely

Professor Bruce Rubidge PhD, Pr Sci Nat