eThembeni Cultural Heritage

Amafa aKwazulu-Natali
195 Jabu Ndlovu Street Pietermaritzburg 3200 August
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19 August 2015

Attention   Bernadet Pawandiwa

Dear Ms Pawandiwa

Application for Exemption from a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment
Van Eeden Projects Trust appliction for a mining permit to mine 4.9 ha of a portion of Portion 1 of Lot 29 Umfolozi No 15607, Mtubatuba, Mbonambi Local Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal

Project description

The applicant intends to expand the mining area of the existing quarry by 4.9 ha over an area currently used for sugar cane farming. The quarry was previously mined for aggregate and is approximately 3.5 km east of Teza and 11 km south of Mtubatuba. The proposed expansion of the quarry will allow the applicant to mine the remaining aggregate source. The area will be mined by an open cast mining method. This method consists of blasting of the hard rock followed by excavation of the loosened rock by excavators, loading of it onto tipper trucks which then transport the rock to the crushing plant where it is crushed into desirable sizes depending on orders or end-uses. The mining off the expansion will make use of the existing access road.

See N&D Application.

Site assessment and recommendations

A site inspection was undertaken by eThembeni on 25 July 2015. Prior to commercial agriculture being introduced after WWI the general area formed part of the upper reaches of the Mfolosi swamp and would have comprised largely of papyrus and phragmites reed beds subject to seasonal inundation. Such areas would have been eschewed for human habitation.

No evidence of Cretaceous fossils or Stone Age and Iron Age archaeological material was observed.

Accordingly, we request that Amafa grant an exemption from an HIA for this activity, allowing the project to proceed with no further heritage resource mitigation.

In this regard, please can you notify us timeously via the loaded SAHRIS case file as to the decision of Amafa.

Yours sincerely

Len van Schalkwyk
Director