



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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Case ID: 18063

Date: Friday, 4 July, 2025

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)/In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

DERA Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Crystal Blue Diamond Mining (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed prospecting for alluvial and Kimberlite Diamonds on the farms Nooitgedacht 418, Uitkyk 1152, De Rust 396 the remaining extent and Portion 1 of Eureka 870 within the Letsemeng Local Municipality, Free State Province (Prospecting right FS 30/5/1/1/2/10647 MP).

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) have been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the National Environmental Management Waste Act, 2008 for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, No. 28 of 2002 (MPRDA) (As amended).

The prospecting will be done 5 phases; Field mapping, Geochemical survey, Geophysical surveys, Test pitting and then Drilling in an area that is 2408.0332 ha in extent. The site has been disturbed by previous and current agricultural and mining activities and it is unlikely that the development will result in significant archaeological and palaeontological Impacts.

The proposed development area is located mostly within an area of Very High sensitivity and High, Moderate and Insignificant sensitivity in terms of palaeontological resources as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) notes the submitted draft Scoping Report (DSR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

The SAHRA DAU requests that an assessment of the impact to heritage resources that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA as required by section 38(8) of the NHRA must be conducted as part of the EA process. The HIA must include an archaeological component.

The field-based archaeological component of the HIA must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and must comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of



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Impact Assessment Reports (see www.asapa.co.za or www.aphp.org.za for a list of qualified archaeologists). The Minimum Standards refer to a Letter of Recommendation for Exemption for further studies should the specialist deem it appropriate. SAHRA reserves the right to insist on a field-based assessment should the Letter of Recommendation not provide ample information to make an informed comment.

Any other heritage resources as defined in section 3 of the NHRA that may be impacted, such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.

Since the development is located in an area of Very High and High palaeontological sensitivity a field-based PIA is required. The assessment must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist and the report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.

Further comments will be issued upon the submission of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA).

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Stephen van der Heever
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency



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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.org.za/node/160245>