

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 14766

Date: Tuesday September 08, 2020
Page No: 1

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Mine Waste Solutions (Pty) Ltd

Mine Waste Solutions (MWS), also known as Chemwes (Pty) Ltd (Chemwes), has been in business since 1964, and conducts its operations over a large area of land to the east of Klerksdorp, within the area of jurisdiction of the City of Matlosana and JB Marks Local Municipalities (LM), which fall within the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality (DM) in the North West Province. The Kareerand Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) was designed with an operating life of 14 years, taking the facility to 2025, and total design capacity of 352 million tonnes. Subsequent to commissioning of the TSF, MWS was acquired by AngloGold Ashanti and tailings production target has increased by an additional 485 million tonnes, which will require operations to continue until 2042. The additional tailings therefore require expansion of the design life of the TSF. This project entails the expansion of the current Kareerand TSF to accommodate the increased tailings and final design capacity, along with additional pump stations and pipelines. The TSF expansion is proposed on the western edge of the current facility, and the final height of the combined facility (both expansion and current) will be 122 m. The expansion footprint will add 380 hectares (ha) to the TSF and approximately 93 additional ha will be cleared for supporting infrastructure. This TSF expansion requires an Integrated Environmental Assessment process under the National Environmental Management Act NEMA (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) and the National Environmental Management: Waste Act NEMWA (Act 59 of 2008, as amended).

GCS Water and Environmental Consultants have been appointed by Mine Waste Solutions (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Kareerand Tailings Storage Facility Expansion Project, near Klerksdorp, North West Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The development will include the expansion of the current Kareerand TSF, extension of pipelines and additional of infrastructure for the expanded TSF.

The DSR notes that several heritage resources have been identified within the proposed development area and that a Heritage Impact Assessment in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999



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(NHRA) would be undertaken as part of the EIA process.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 14/02/2020, SAHRA noted the pending HIA and requested that a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment must be conducted as part of the HIA as the proposed development footprint is located within an area of moderate sensitivity for palaeontological resources as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map.

Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, Banzai Environmental (Pty) Ltd and PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd have been appointed to provide the heritage specialist assessments as part of the EIA process.

Butler, E. 2019. Palaeontological Desktop Assessment of the proposed expansion of the Kareerand Tailings Storage Facility near Stilfontein, North West Province.

The proposed expansion area is underlain by the Hekpoort, Daspoort and Strubenkop Formations which are of moderate, high and low sensitivity respectively. Stromatolites may be present within the Daspoort Formation. However, as the area has been disturbed by mining activities, the sensitivity of the area is regarded as low and the activities will not lead to detrimental impacts on palaeontological heritage. A Chance Finds Protocol is recommended and provided in the report.

Birkholtz, P. 2020. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Kareerand TSF Expansion Project.

A total of 48 heritage resources have been found within the study area, however, a total of 4 heritage sites have been identified within the proposed expansion area. These include WBP-2 (historic homestead); MGD-5 (historic homestead with two possible graves); MGD-6 (historic homestead with one possible grave) and WGD-7 (two possible graves). All of the historic homestead may contain the graves of stillborn babies. All of the identified heritage resources were rated as sites of high/medium significance.

The impact assessment found a pre-mitigation medium risk impact rating for all of the sites

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- A social consultation process to assess whether any local residents or the wider public is aware of the presence of graves at sites WBP-2; MGD-5 and MGD-6;
- Depending on the result of the above consultation process, three difference processes will need to be



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Page No: 3

followed. These include no mitigation if no graves are confirmed, a grave relocation process if graves are confirmed, and test excavations to confirm the presence or absence of graves if no information is gathered from the initial social consultation process;

- Site WGD-7 must be fenced with signposts and all individuals involved with construction and mining activities are made aware of the presence of these sites
- An archaeological and heritage monitoring process must be implemented for three sites containing cemeteries and possible graves located approximately 50m from the proposed development footprint areas. Although these sites are not expected to be directly impacted upon by the proposed development, this monitoring process will ensure that no peripheral impacts take place. These four sites are AGA-MWS-MGD-2, AGA-MWS-MGD-3 and AGAMWS-MGD-8;
- All the sites listed in this report with a heritage significance of Medium and higher, must be included in a heritage management plan. Such a management plan would allow for the future management and protection of these sites.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final EIA and EMP:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit and Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows:
- A qualified Heritage Specialist must be appointed to conduct Test Excavations to confirm the existence of graves in the 4 sites that lie within the proposed development footprint. A permit for this must be applied for and obtained in terms of section 36(3) of the NHRA.
- If the above activity confirms the existence of graves, a grave exhumation and relocation process must be initiated as a means to conserve the graves. This must include a full 60 days public consultation process as prescribed in the NHRA Regulations under *Chapter XI Procedure for consultation regarding burial grounds and graves*. Evidence of consultation must be submitted as part of a permit application for the exhumation and relocation of identified graves in terms of section 36(3) of the NHRA.

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Page No: 4

CaseID: 14766

- Monitoring reports must be provided for sites MGD-2, MGD-3 and MGD-8 once the construction period has been finalized;
- The recommended Heritage Management Plan (HMP) must be submitted to SAHRA for review prior to the construction phase;
- 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
- The Final EIA and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

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

Yours faithfully

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Page No: 5

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/533446>

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.

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Interim Comment

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

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Page No: 2

(NHRA) would be undertaken as part of the EIA process.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit awaits the pending HIA to be submitted to SAHRA in terms of section 38(3) and 38(8) of the NHRA. The HIA must comply with 2007 SAHRA Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessments and be completed by a qualified archaeologist.

Additionally, a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment must be conducted as part of the HIA as the proposed development footprint is located within an area of moderate sensitivity for palaeontological resources as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. This desktop PIA must be conducted by a qualified palaeontologist and the report must comply with the 2012 SAHRA Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Component of Heritage Impact Assessments.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested report including the Draft EIA report with appendices.

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

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/533446>

From: Natasha Higgitt
Sent: Fri, 7 Aug 2020 13:08:52 +0000
To: Anelle Lotter;Lehlo Mashego
Subject: RE: Expansion of Kareerand TSF - Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) available for comment from14 August 2020

Good afternoon,

Thank you for the notification. Please ensure that the documents are uploaded to the relevant SAHRIS Case Application and that the status of the case is changed to SUBMITTED. Please inform me when this is completed and provide the Case ID number.

Kind regards,

From: Anelle Lotter <anelle@gcs-sa.biz>
Sent: Friday, 07 August 2020 12:19
To: Anelle Lotter <anelle@gcs-sa.biz>; Lehlo Mashego <lehlo@gcs-sa.biz>
Subject: Expansion of Kareerand TSF - Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) available for comment from14 August 2020

Dear Stakeholders

The Scoping Report for the expansion of the Kareerand Tailing Storage Facility which was submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) in February 2020 has been approved and the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) is available for review from 14 August to 14 September 2020.

Please find attached a notification of the availability of the DEIR for your review and comment.

Also note that two webinar sessions are planned and you are invited to participate. A summary of the contents of the DEIR will be provided during the webinar sessions which are proposed to be held on Tuesday, 1 September during the morning and the afternoon – see attached letter for more information.

Please make use of the attached comment sheet to provide your comments on the DEIR on or before 14 September 2020.

Should you have any questions, please contact us.

Kind regards
Anelle Lötter and Lehlogonolo Mashego

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From: Anelle Lotter <anelle@gcs-sa.biz>
Sent: Thursday, 30 July 2020 23:22
Cc: Anelle Lotter <anelle@gcs-sa.biz>
Subject: Expansion of Kareerand TSF - Status and Progress

Dear stakeholders

We trust that this email finds you well.

Attached is a notification for your attention on the status and progress made with the applications relating to the proposed expansion of the Kareerand Tailing Storage Facility.

Should you have any questions, please contact us.

Kind regards
Anelle Lötter

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Natasha Higgitt

Heritage Officer: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit

South African Heritage Resources Agency

- A nation united through heritage -

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