

Response to matters of concern included when pervious permit (80/08/11/015/51) was granted

An indication (bearing in mind that excavators are responsible for the long term stability of the faces created by excavation) of how the stabilization will be done when present phase of work reaches completion.

Member 1 Lower Bank. This area includes the high wall of de-calcified deposit in the central portion of the site. A retaining wall of concrete inter-locking blocks will be installed over the face of the excavated material. The base of the wall will begin at the current excavation level and extend to the colluvial overburden above the Lower Bank deposit. Funds have been raised for this project, a design/installation company has been contracted and this work is scheduled for July 2013. This plan has been discussed with SAHRA and the safety inspection team and has been deemed the best solution for the long-term stabilization and rehabilitation of the Member 1 Lower Bank deposit.

Member 4. The surface excavation area will be completely backfilled, with sieve residue material from the excavation, to the original trench floor.

Member 3. This area will be excavated in the new (2013-2016) excavation phase. Member 3 also has high walls left from the previous era. Wire mesh will be installed over the east wall of the M3 hole. All loose material from the north wall will be excavated (removed). The west wall is the dolomitic boundary of the cave and the south side of the hole is open. A metal roof will be placed near the base of the M3 hole. This roof will provide protection for excavators at the base of the hole and provide long-term protection from erosion of the lower deposits of Member 3.

A status quo photograph, taken at commencement of new excavations to indicate the excavation areas that were targeted in the previous permit.

Photos of both Member 1 and Member 4 are included in the progress report submitted with this permit renewal application.

A site plan marked with areas (squares) and faces to be excavated during the next three year cycle; and a plan showing the excavation area in relation to proclamation boundary. The area(s) designated for any new dumpsites.

A site plan and excavation plan view, with designated excavation and dump areas, are included in the new permit renewal application.

An indication of how already excavated sections and faces will be stabilized as a record in perpetuity. Vertical faces should not exceed a height that allows them to become unstable. The safety inspection should include assessment of steep vertical drops, friable decalcified excavations walls, pathways and access. Including the metal ladder, he hanging wall and excavation area, the large white stinkwood above the new excavation area.

See point one above.

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The safety inspectors approved of the stabilization and closure plan for the high Member 1 Lower Bank wall. The Hanging Remnant was deemed safe (the large dolomite block and adhering breccia was removed by John Cruise Mining Consultants). The metal ladder was also deemed safe and secure. The Member 4 underground excavation was deemed at risk. We have suspended all excavation work on the M4 underground deposits until a solution has been reached. The inspection engineers suggested a possible solution of installing a headwall for the deposit and a support structure for the overhanging cave roof. A mining supply company was approached and has offered to the CofH Management Authority a donation of the materials and installation. The Authority is currently determining how this transfer will take place within the laws in which it operates. This will provide safety for the excavators as well as ensure the long-term stabilization of the cave roof in this area.

Arrangement for disposal of acid treatments, including chemicals, fumes and waste water at the Sterkfontein laboratory.

Acid treatment of breccia blocks is no longer being conducted in the Sterkfontein laboratory. All acid treatment of Swartkrans material is currently being processed in the Plio-Pleistocene Palaeontology Section at the Ditsong National Museum of Natural History (Pretoria), under the supervision of Stephany Potze.