

28 October 2013

Jenna Lavin  
South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)  
111 Harrington Street  
Cape Town  
8000

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR EXEMPTION: HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
FOR THE SYFERFONTEIN EXPANSION PROJECT**

Dear Jenna Lavin,

On behalf of our client, Sasol Mining (Pty) Ltd (Sasol), please find herewith a letter of recommendation for exemption from a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA).

Sasol is planning to extend the existing Syferfontein Mine into the adjacent Block 4 reserves towards the north-west of the Syferfontein reserves. The proposed Block 4 reserves will be mined via underground bord and pillar method. The Block 4 reserves will be accessed via the existing vent shaft and vertical incline shaft at the present Syferfontein Mine.

The project area is approximately 8 987 ha. The proposed project will not generate any impact to surface heritage resources as no infrastructure will be constructed in the project area.

An Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and Integrated Water Use Licence Application (IWULA) for the existing Syferfontein Mine are available. Once the EIA / EMP for the proposed Block 4 operation is submitted, these documents are to be combined with the approved environmental authorisations obtained for the new Block 4 operation, in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA).

A Heritage Statement has been attached as motivation for the recommendation for exemption. The Heritage Statement includes relevant project details, findings and recommendations.

To summarise the above, there will be no surface impacts as no infrastructure will be constructed on site. It is therefore recommended that the proposed project be wholly exempted from a HIA including components such as:

- Built Environment Assessment;
- Archaeological Impact Assessment;
- Phase 1 Palaeontological Assessment;
- Burial Grounds and Graves Assessment; and
- Visual Impact Assessment.

A monitoring programme for inclusion into the EMP must be established to assess possible impacts on heritage resource by subsidence.

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Fossils can occur underground, especially in coal fields, however it is not possible to predict the buried fossil content of an area other than in general terms. Furthermore, the fossil plants associated with the underground coal seams will be poorly preserved and the most important fossil bone material is generally sparsely scattered in most deposits. It is therefore recommended that the proposed project be exempted from a Phase 1 Palaeontological Assessment.

In the event that any heritage resources are identified, the client should adopt appropriate Chance Find Procedures that can be completed on request.

We look forward to receiving your timeous comments as required under Section 38(2) of the NHRA.

Regards,

Shahzaadee Karodia

*Assistant Heritage Consultant*