

COMMENT AND RESPONSE REPORT FOR THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED VLAKFONTEIN MINE - EAST BLOCK

Prepared for:

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STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS

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SEF Project Code: 505380**

Comment Raised	Interested and Affected Party	Date & Method of Communication	Response
1. Draft Scoping Report (31 October 2013 – 10 December 2013)			
<p>It is noted that the area proposed for development is underlain by geological formations of high significance. It is therefore likely that significant palaeontology may be impacted by the proposed development. As such, SAHRA requires that a heritage impact assessment be completed that assesses the impact of the proposed mining on all heritage resources including, but not limited to, archaeological heritage, palaeontological heritage, rock art, any significant structures and intangible heritage. This assessment must not only assess impacts in terms of the development footprint, but must also assess broader, indirect impacts to heritage that may result from the proposed development.</p>	<p>Jenna Lavin, Heritage Officer SAHRA Tel: 021 462 4502</p>	<p>30 November 2013, Per e-mail</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments – received 30 November 2013.</p> <p>A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) will be undertaken by an independent heritage consultant in order to assess the impacts and significance in terms of heritage and archaeological aspects. This report will form part of the Draft EIR to be distributed to all I&APs. Relevant mitigation measures will also be proposed.</p> <p>The ToR for the HIA includes <i>inter alia</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing of all existing information; • A desk-top investigation of the area; • A site visit to the proposed mine development study area; • Identify possible archaeological, cultural and historic sites within the proposed mine development area; • Evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed mine development on archaeological, paleontological, cultural and historical resources; and • Recommend mitigation measures to ameliorate any negative impacts on areas of archaeological, paleontological, cultural and historical importance.

Comment Raised	Interested and Affected Party	Date & Method of Communication	Response
<p>Transnet pipelines (ex-Petronet), a division of Transnet limited, has no objection in principle to the proposed Eastern Block of the currently mined Vlakfontein mine central block and associated infrastructure, subject to compliance to our standard conditions and requirements.</p> <p>Your proposal will be in close proximity to our Ø323, 8 mm link line as well as the Kendal pump-station and other three main pipelines. The affected link pipeline traverses within a 6m registered Transnet pipeline servitude. Mining is prohibited within 100m of our pipelines. Mining in close proximity of high pressure pipelines also requires a relaxation from the mining Engineer, although you would still need our approval.</p> <p>Furthermore, there are restrictive conditions imposed by the blasting regulations (Explosives act) - blasting within 500m of a pipeline without authority is prohibited. Even if permission has been granted, strict safety parameters need to be observed namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ground vibration recordings supplied for each and every blast. - Transnet pipelines representative must be present at each and every blast or an arrangement is agreed upon to get all the blasting results to us periodically. 	<p>Thami Hadebe Servitude management Transnet Tel: 031 361 1454</p>	<p>07 November 2013 Per e-mail</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments – received 7 November 2013.</p> <p>Your comment with regards to the 100m restriction on either side of the 6m pipeline servitude is noted and will be adhered to.</p> <p>Transnet will be notified of any blasting to be taken place and authorisation will be sought if blasting is to be taken place within 500m of the relevant pipeline servitude. Safety parameters as outlined in your comments will be strictly adhered to.</p>

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<p>Access over our pipelines with heavy mining equipment/ plant will not be allowed, provided our pipelines are adequately protected. We prefer concrete box culverts for protection when heavy tonnage trucks are crossing our pipelines frequently.</p> <p>Installation of above ground storage of hydrocarbons directly or in close proximity of the pipelines is also not permitted. In the interest of both parties, should permission be granted by Transnet pipelines for the construction of roads and installation of above ground storage of hydrocarbons, a risk assessment should be conducted by yourselves as a safety precaution in the event of an accident happening.</p>			<p>Your comment with regards to access over pipelines are noted and AEMFC will take all necessary precaution (as outlined in your comments) to ensure the protection of the relevant pipeline.</p> <p>Please take notice that it is not the intention of AEMFC to construct roads or store any hydrocarbons in close proximity of the relevant pipeline. Should this become a requirement in future the necessary authorisation and safety precautions (risk assessment etc.) will be adhered to.</p>
2. Final Scoping Report			
3. Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report			
4. Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report			