



Phillip Hine

9 November 2012

South African Heritage Resources Agency

111 Harrington Street

PO Box 4637

8000

Cape Town

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR EXEMPTION: PALAEOLOGY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE ZANDBAKEN COAL MINE PROJECT

Dear Mr Hine

On behalf of our client, Xstrata Coal South Africa (Xstrata Coal), please find herewith a Letter of Recommendation for Exemption from a Palaeontology Impact Assessment. The exemption requested is in regard to the heritage assessment required as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Phase as stipulated in Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA).

A Heritage Statement has been attached as motivation for the recommendation for exemption. The Heritage Statement includes relevant project details, a summary of the Scoping Report and findings and recommendations. In brief, the proposed Zandbaken Coal Mine Project area is situated on the Madzaringwe Formation of the Karoo Supergroup. In other parts of South Africa, the Karoo rocks are known to be fossiliferous. However, the geological formations found in the project area are not known to contain fossils in this particular area and therefore may be of low overall palaeontological sensitivity.

We look forward to receiving your timeous comments as required under Section 38(4) of the NHRA.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shahzaadee Karodia".

Shahzaadee Karodia

Archaeology Consultant and Palaeontologist: CRM Unit

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