

ENVIRONMENTAL NOTIFICATION FOR THE EXISTING TAU LEKOA GOLD MINE: AN APPLICATION FOR A WATER USE LICENCE

Our Ref: 12238



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Ragna Redelstorff
Tel: +27 (0)21 202 8651
Email: rredelstorff@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 12238

Date: Friday March 16, 2018
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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Mr Owen O' Brein

Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS) has been appointed by Tau Lekoa Gold Mining Company (Pty) Ltd. (the applicant) to apply for a Water Use Licence (WUL) for the existing Tau Lekoa mine. The mine consists of the Tau Lekoa Section (located on portions 27 and 31 of the farm Goedgenoeg 433 IP and farm Boshhoek 466), which is located ~6km SW of Orkney in the North-West Province, and the adjacent Weltevreden Section (located on Farm Weltevreden 130 and farm Jonkerskraal 475), which lies in the Free State Province. Through the acquisition of the mine by Tau Lekoa Gold Mining Company (Pty) Ltd. from the previous owner, Buffelsfontein Gold Mines Limited, the WUL relating to the affected properties was relinquished and as such, a new WUL is required. The Tau Lekoa mine is an active mine, while the existing Weltevreden Section is currently flooded and needs to be dewatered in order for future planned operations to occur. The Applicant intends to apply for an WUL in terms of Section 40 of the National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998 - NWA) for the following Section 21 water uses: o 21(a) - taking water from a water resource (applicable to the Weltevreden shaft water); o 21(c) - impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse (applicable to the powerline); o 21(e) - engaging in a controlled activity identified as such in section 37(1) or declared under section 38(1) (applicable to the sewage treatment works); o 21(g) - disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on water resources (applicable to both the Tau Lekoa and Weltevreden Sections for various dirty water systems); o 21 (i) - altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse (applicable to the powerline); and o 21 (j) - removing, discharging or disposing of water found underground if it is necessary for the efficient continuation of an activity or for the safety of people (applicable to the Weltevreden shaft).

The applicant Tau Lekoa Gold Mining Company (Pty) Ltd. is required to apply for a new Water Use License following the recent acquisition of an existing gold mine, with the Tau Lekoa Section being located on portions 27 and 31 of the farm Goedgenoeg 433 IP and farm Boshhoek 466 in the North-West Province, and the adjacent Weltevreden Section, located on Farm Weltevreden 130 and farm Jonkerskraal 475 in the Free State Province. The Weltevreden Section is currently flooded and requires to be dewatered to make mine accessible for future operations.

Proposed activities at the Weltevreden Section include:

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- Earth dam upgrade to store water as part of Storm Water Management Plan (dirty water containment);
- Building a concrete dam #1 (reservoir) to store mine water for reuse (process water);
- Building settling dams near shaft entrance (temporary settling before pumped to concrete dam #1);
- Building concrete dam #2 (reservoir) to store excess mine water;
- Expanding the existing waste rock dump;
- Establish Product Stockpile;
- Establish tank (depending on proximity to a water resource);
- Taking water from a water resource (applicable to the Weltevreden shaft water);
- Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse (applicable to the powerline);
- Engaging in a controlled activity identified as such in section 37(1) or declared under section 38(1) (applicable to the sewage treatment works);
- Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on water resources (applicable to both the Tau Lekoa and Weltevreden Sections for various dirty water systems);
- Altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse (applicable to the powerline); and
- Removing, discharging or disposing of water found underground if it is necessary for the efficient continuation of an activity or for the safety of people (applicable to the Weltevreden shaft).

It is noted that wetlands may be impacted by increased sedimentation and erosion.

Interim comment

As the proposed area has been previously disturbed by mining activities no full Heritage Impact Assessment is

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required by SAHRA. However, as the area falls within an area of moderate palaeontological sensitivity, a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) is required to be conducted by a professional PIA specialist and uploaded to the application on SAHRIS.

SAHRA will provide further comment once the desktop PIA has been submitted.

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

Yours faithfully

Ragna Redelstorff
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/488400>

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.