



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 4309

Date: Tuesday April 18, 2017
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Letter

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

Attention: Vaalbult Mining Company (Pty) Ltd

P.O.Box 3890
RIVONIA
2128

SAHRA Comments required on HIA Report for the Vaalbult Mining Project (Vaalbult 3IT), West of Carolina in Mpumalanga

As requested in a final comment from 13 February 2014, Palaeontological Monitoring has been conducted every six months and reports thereof have been submitted:

Millstead, B. February 2016. Palaeontological Monitoring Report on the Colliery Pit and Waste Rock Stockpiles (Vaalbult Colliery) located on the Farm Vaalbult 31t, Mpumalanga Province.

Millstead, B. August 2016. Palaeontological Monitoring Report (July 2016) On Vaalbult Colliery Pit located on the Farm Vaalbult 31t, Mpumalanga Province.

The author identified plant macrofossils as well as a trace fossil assemblages within the sedimentary strata that comprise the Vaalbult Colliery highwalls exposed in cuts 7, 36 and 62. The identified fossils are not of sufficient palaeontological significance but this may not always be the case.

The author's recommendations are:

- A member of staff (e.g., the Environment Officer) of the Vaalbult Mining Company (Pty) Ltd be trained to recognise the types of fossils that may be exposed via the mining operations. This officer should:
 - o Make regular inspections of newly exposed rock material following blasting to identify if scientifically significant fossils have been exposed;
 - o If significant fossils are present, they should be collected and placed in a safe, protected area for storage;
 - o While the fossils are collected, precise notes of the location they were collected from must be collected, as



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well as the lithological unit containing the fossils.

- An experience Karoo palaeobotanist should be mandated by the colliery to inspect the fossils, ascertain their significance and to make any necessary recommendations concerning their preservation.
- Due to the low abundance and low scientific importance of the fossil assemblages identified within the mine excavations to date it is recommended that the examinations of the colliery cuts by an experience Karoo palaeobotanist should continue, but that the frequency of those inspections be decreased from six monthly to 12 monthly (subject to later review).

Letter

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has reviewed the Palaeontological Monitoring Reports and agrees with the author's recommendations. Monitoring may from this date occur every 12 months instead of every 6 months.

All other conditions in the final comment from 13 February 2014 and recommendations in the Palaeontological Monitoring Reports must be adhered to.

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



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John Gribble
Manager: Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit / Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and
Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/146754>
(, Ref:)

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.