

Our Ref: 11743



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 11743

Date: Wednesday October 25, 2017
Page No: 1

Response to NID (Notification of Intent to Develop)

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

Attention: Exxaro Coal Mpumalanga (Pty) Ltd

Environmental Impact Assessment for the Expansion of Pit 1 and construction of a water pipeline

Exxaro Central Coal (Pty) Ltd operates the Dorstfontein East Mine and the Dorstfontein West Mine. They propose to extend their mining operations in the Opencast Pit 1 by 85 ha located in the Dorstfontein East Mine and to construct an 11km water pipeline, from the Dorstfontein West Mine to the Dorstfontein East Mine. SRK Consulting (Pty) Ltd have been appointed to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment process in support of an Environmental Authorisation Process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998, as amended (NEMA) for listed activities in the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999 (NHRA), heritage resources, including archaeological or palaeontological sites over 100 years old, graves older than 60 years, structures older than 60 years are generally protected. They may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. In contexts of development applications, the developer must ensure that no heritage resources will be impacted by the proposed development, by lodging an application to SAHRA and submitting detailed development specifications as a notification of intent to develop. If the application is made in terms of s. 38 (8) of the NHRA then it is incumbent on the developer to ensure that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is undertaken, as s. 38(2)a does not apply. Such a study should follow the SAHRA 2007 impact assessment guidelines and section 38(3).

SAHRA as a commenting authority in this application requires an assessment of all heritage resources including palaeontological resources to be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and palaeontologist respectively. It is noted that a Heritage Impact Assessment and Palaeontology Impact Assessment will be undertaken in the EIA phase of the Environmental Authorisation application phase. Once the documents are available they must be uploaded to the case along with all the appendices for the the EIA report.

SAHRA will comment further on this proposed development once the requested reports are submitted to the case.

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Page No: 2

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

Yours faithfully

Nokukhanya Khumalo
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/408507>
(DMR-MP, Ref: (MP) 30/5/1/2/3/2/1 (51) EM)