

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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CaseID: 11952

Date: Wednesday December 13, 2017
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Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Eugene Pretorius
Ilima Coal Company (Pty) Ltd

Ilima wishes to expand their current approved mining operations on their Ilima Colliery, near Carolina, Mpumalanga.

Earth Science and Environmental Consultants were appointed by Ilima Coal (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Amendment Process for proposed expansion of their current Mining Right Application (MRA) area at the Ilima Colliery, near Carolina, Mpumalanga Province. An Amendment Report has been submitted to SAHRA in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, No 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA 2017 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, No 28 of 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended). Several new underground and opencast mining operations are proposed as part of the expansion, including the construction of and upgrading of supporting and processing infrastructure.

The colliery has been operational for several years, and several heritage assessments have been conducted.

PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd was contracted to provide input into the amendment process, and has summarized the previous Heritage Assessments taken over the years in the application area.

Angel, J. 2017. Ilima Colliery: Proposed Extension of the Mining Operations at the Existing Ilima Colliery (Old Pembani Colliery), near Carolina, Albert Luthuli Local Municipality, Gert Sibande District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

From previous heritage assessments conducted on the application area, a total of 23 heritage sites will be impacted by the proposed expansion. These include five cemeteries, three historic grave sites, four informal cemeteries, two possible graves, nine structures and one possible historical mining infrastructure site.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Historical structures ZV04-07, ILM003, ILM007 and ILM007 will need to be documented before a destruction permit can be applied for at the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority. ILM014 will need to be fully mitigated with excavations and documentation of the site;



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- The 12 identified burial grounds (ILM001, ILM002, ILM008, ZV02, ILM006, ILM010-013, ILM017 and ILM018), including the two possible graves (ILM009 and ILM016) must be demarcated with a 50 m buffer and avoided. If the sites cannot be avoided, a grave relocation process will need to take place;
- Stakeholder engagement will need to be implemented to determine the possibility of infant burials at ILM014 and ILM015;
- In the event of any other heritage resources are uncovered, SAHRA should be contacted a qualified archaeologist appointed to evaluate the finds and make appropriate recommendations on mitigation.

Butler, E. 2017. Palaeontological Impact Assessment of the Proposed Consolidation of the Proposed Ilima Colliery in the Albert Luthuli Local Municipality, Gert Sibande District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

The proposed development is underlain by sedimentary rocks of the Permo-Carboniferous Dwyka Group, known for the presence of trace fossils, marine fish, gastropods, invertebrates and fossil plants. This formation has a low palaeontological sensitivity. The second formation present is the Permian aged Vryheid Formation, which is highly fossiliferous and sensitive. This formation is known for the presence of plant fossils, trace fossils, insect fossils, small crustaceans, petrified wood, spores and pollen. Thirdly, the Jurassic aged Dolerite rocks are located within the project area, which are completely unfossiliferous and therefore are of low sensitivity. Lastly, the bedrock is overlain by Quaternary aged deposits, and the fossil assemblage of these deposits is usually rare, low in diversity and occurs over a wide region.

No fossils were identified during the field survey, and mining thus far has not recovered any fossils. As such, a moderate palaeontological sensitivity is allocated to the development footprint.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Should fossil remains be discovered during any phase of construction, either on the surface or exposed by fresh excavations, the ECO responsible for these developments should be alerted immediately. Such discoveries ought to be protected (preferably in situ) and the ECO should alert SAHRA (South African Heritage Research Agency) so that appropriate mitigation (e.g. recording, sampling or collection) can be taken by a professional palaeontologist;
- The EAP as well as the ECO for the Ilima mine must be notified due to the fact that the sediments of the Vryheid Formation, Ecca Group contains important fossil remains, although they are mostly trace fossil and plant fossil assemblages;
- In areas that are allocated a Very High and High Palaeontological sensitivity and specifically where deep excavation into bedrock is foreseen (following the geotechnical investigation), or where fossils are recorded during the geotechnical investigations, a qualified palaeontologist must be appointed to

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- evaluate and record fossils at the development footprint;
- These recommendations should form part of the EMP of the Ilima Colliery mining project.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeological, Palaeontological and Meteorites (APM) Unit and Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit have no objection to the development and support the recommendations of the specialists as referred to above. The recommendations of the specialists and the following conditions apply to the development and must be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr):

- Should it not be possible to avoid sites ZV4-7, a permit in terms of section 34 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) and Chapter II and III of the NHRA Regulations must be applied for mitigation purposes from the Mpumalanga Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (MPHRA);
- Should it not be possible to avoid sites ILM003, ILM004, ILM006, ILM007, ILM014, ILM015 a permit in terms of section 35 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) and Chapter II and IV of the NHRA Regulations must be applied for mitigation purposes from the SAHRA APM Unit;
- A no-go buffer of 100m must be adhered to around the identified burial grounds and the possible graves;
- A Heritage Management Plan (HMP) must be developed for all identified heritage resources that will remain *in situ*. The HMP must be submitted to SAHRA prior to the construction phase for approval;
- Should it not be possible to avoid sites ILM001, ILM002, ILM008, ZV02, ILM006, ILM010-013, ILM017, ILM018, ILM009, ILM016, ILM014 and ILM015, a consultation process in terms of section 36 of the NHRA and Chapter XI of the NHRA Regulations must be undertaken. If, through the consultation process, it is shown that site ILM014 and ILM015 contain infant burials and it is not possible to avoid the identified graves, and that relocation of all the impacted graves is found feasible, a permit in terms of section 36 of the NHRA and Chapter IX of the NHRA Regulations must be applied for, if relocation of the graves is found feasible from the SAHRA BGG Unit;
- If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately. A professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance,

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a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA.

- Should the project be granted the Amended Environmental Authorisation, SAHRA must be notified and all relevant documents submitted to the case file.

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

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
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/426421>

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.