

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: 12760

Date: Friday December 07, 2018
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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: Imerys Refractory Minerals South Africa

Imerys Refractory Minerals intends to apply for the closure of Anref Mine, as all mining activities have been completed. The Basic assessment application was submitted to the DMR North West on 15 June 2018. The decision to apply for closure followed an extensive review of the mining operation as well as certain contributing factors, including: • Decrease in demand for the product (andalusite). • Feasibility of mining in the area (specifically capital costs required with regards to transport of material to Rhino Andalusite Mine in Thabazimbi for processing). Anref was an Andalusite mine situated west from the town of Groot Marico, which is 25 km east of Zeerust in the North-West Province.

Shangoni Management Services (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Imerys (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Authorisation (EA) application in support of the decommissioning and closure of the Anref Andalusite mine near Zeerust, North West Province.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA), NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, No 28 of 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended). Decommissioning and closure activities include the closure of the waste rock dumps, slimes dams, access roads and opencast quarries. Operations at the mine ceased in 2008, however there is no indication as to when the mine was established. Concurrent rehabilitation has occurred since operations ceased.

The draft BAR notes that no heritage resources will be impacted by the proposed decommissioning and closure. The report cites a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) conducted in 2011, and states that no heritage resources were identified within the mining area.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 24/08/2018, SAHRA requested that the 2011 HIA referenced in the BAR be submitted for review. Additionally, as the mine is located within an area of high palaeontological sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. SAHRA requested that an assessment of palaeontological resources be undertaken.

African Heritage Consultants CC were appointed to provide a HIA as per section 38(8) of the National Heritage

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Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as part of the re-starting of mining operations in the mine.

Küsel, U. 2011. Cultural Heritage Resources Impact Assessment on Mine at Groot Marcio.

A total of 17 heritage sites were identified in 2011 which include Iron Age stone-walled settlements, 19th century pioneer dwellings, a historical farmhouse, the Driefontein fountain and several burial grounds. None of these identified heritage sites were located within the then proposed mining area, nor are they located within the area targeted for closure. One site (4.2.16 in the 2011 HIA) is located approximately 200 m from the boundary of the area deemed for closure.

Dr Heidi Fourie was appointed to provide the requested palaeontological assessment.

Fourie, H. 2018. Palaeontological Impact Assessment Phase 1 Field Study: Decommissioning and Closure of Imerys Refractory Minerals Anref Andalusite Mine.

The mine is underlain by the Time Ball Hill Formation (Pretoria Group, Transvaal Supergroup), which is known to contain stromatolites. The author found no fossils during the field survey. The sensitivity of the area and the impact to palaeontological heritage are deemed to be high. A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objection to the proposed project. The recommendations of the specialists and the following conditions must be included in the Final BAR and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr):

- The Final BAR and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
- 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 as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. 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 as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. 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, a Phase 2 rescue operation

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may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;

- The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

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/510144>
(DMR, 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.

Decommissioning and closure of Anref Andalusite mine

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3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.