

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 12760

Date: Friday August 24, 2018
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Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 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.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that the 2011 HIA be submitted for review as part of the EA Application process. As the age of the mine is not clear from the submitted documents, the applicant is reminded that should any mining infrastructure be older than 60 years, a permit in terms of section 34 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) will be required to be issued by the North West Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (NWPHRA) before such structures may be demolished.

Decommissioning and closure of Anref Andalusite mine

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Additionally, the mine is located within an area of high palaeontological sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. The closure of certain areas such as the opencast quarries may impact significant palaeontological resources. As such, an assessment of palaeontological resources must be conducted as part of the EA application process. The report must be completed by a qualified palaeontologist and must comply with the SAHRA 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Component of Heritage Impact Assessments (see www.palaeontologicalsociety.co.za for qualified paleontologists).

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above.

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:)