

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: 13063

Date: Friday November 13, 2020
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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: Assmang (Pty) Ltd

DRAFT Environmental Scoping Report for in terms of Nation Environmental Management Act, 1998 for: Project 1: New Return Water Dam 3. Project 2: New Infrastructure (New Water Containment Facility and Pipelines Project 3: Water Use License (WUL) amendment

EnviroGistics has been appointed by Assmang (Pty) Ltd: Khumani Iron Ore Mine to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for proposed projects within the Khumani Iron Ore Mine, near Kathu, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA), NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed projects include a new Return Water Dam (RWD) 3 and King Water Containments Facility, Pipelines project and an amendment to the Water Use Licence (WUL).

Two Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) have been submitted as part of the EA application in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Morris, D. 2005. Report on a Phase 1 Archaeological Assessment of proposed mining areas on the farms Bruce, King, Mokaning and Parson, between Postmasburg and Kathu, Northern Cape.

A total of four cemeteries, surfaces scatters of Stone Age artefacts, one high density surface scatter of Stone Age lithics and Later Iron Age potsherds were identified within the surveyed footprint. Recommendations in the report include surface collection of specific Stone Age and Iron Age occurrences, long-term management of heritage resources that are to remain *in-situ* and a monitoring procedure be implemented.

Van der Walt, J. 2017. Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Khumani Iron Ore Project, Sishen, Northern Cape.

No heritage resources were identified within the proposed project area surveyed as part of the HIA. These areas include a proposed new Sorter Plant and two new silos/magazines. A chance finds procedure was

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recommended.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 07/03/2019, SAHRA stated that the HIA reports submitted to the application could not be accepted as the reports do not address the current activities under application. An application and site specific HIA that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA was requested to be submitted as part of the EA application.

Van der Walt, J. 2019. Heritage Impact Assessment for Khumani Iron Ore Mine New Water Return Dam, Pipelines and Water Containment Facility, Sishen, Northern Cape.

No significant heritage resources were identified within the current proposed development area. Isolated out of context occurrences of Stone Age lithics were identified along the proposed pipeline alignment. Recommendations provided in the report include the implementation of a chance finds procedure as part of the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

The report references a 2019 Palaeontological report, but the report has not been submitted to the application.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 10/06/2019, SAHRA requested that the 2019 Palaeontological Study referenced in the 2019 HIA be submitted for review.

Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, the 2019 Palaeontological study has been submitted for review (16/10/2020).

Bamford, M. 2019. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed extension of the low grade ore Khumani Mine, Sishen, Northern Province.

The proposed development footprint is underlain by shales, quartzites and conglomerates of the ancient Gamagara Formation as well as some exposures of the Quaternary Kalahari sands. There is an extremely small chance that palaeontological resources may exist within the Kalahari sands if spring and pan deposits are present. A Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended to be followed.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the

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Final EIA and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No further additional specific conditions are provided for the development;
- 38(4)c(i) – 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. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – 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. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
 - The Final EIA must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
 - 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

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Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/513690>
(DMR - NC, Ref: NC30/5/1/2/3/2/1/070)

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.