



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: 13302

Date: Friday January 24, 2020

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Letter

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

Attention: ABS Africa

KRANSpan COLLIERY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

CaseDiscussion:

Ilima Coal Company (Pty) Ltd propose to establish an underground and surface mining coal mine on the farm Kranspan 49 IT, Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality of Mpumalanga Province. The extent of the proposed mine right area is 3 382 ha consisting of 1054 ha for the open cast pit, 93 ha for the overburden stockpile, 11 ha for the topsoil stockpile, 2 ha for the mine contractor camp, 6 ha for the Pollution Control dams and 5.3 ha for the Coal stockpile area. The underground mine area will be 392 ha with a 5.4 ha mine shaft area with the support infrastructure amounting to 4 ha and a 2.4 km overland conveyor to the coal stockpile area.

ABS Africa Sustainability Advisors (Pty) Ltd have been appointed by Ilima Coal Company (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in respect of listed activities in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2017 as amended, that require an application for Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA), as amended. As well as a water use licence in terms of the National Water Act (Act No.36 of 1998) (NWA) under Section 21(c) and (i) Water Uses. As well as a Mine Right in terms of section 22 of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, Act 28 of 2002 (MPRDA).

To meet the requirements of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999, a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) Report by Heritage Contracts and Archaeological Consulting (HCAC) had been submitted to South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for commenting. An Interim Comment was issued by SAHRA requesting the submission of a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA).

Millstead, B.M. January 2019. Full Palaeontological Heritage Impact Assessment Report in Respect of a Coal Mine (Kranspan Colliery) Proposed to be located on the Farm Kranspan 49 IT, Approximately 12.5 Km South-West of Carolina, Mpumalanga Province.



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The study area is underlain mostly by fossiliferous shale and sandstone rocks of the Vryheid Formation, Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup, which is of very high palaeontological sensitivity. It is intruded by the Karoo Dolerite suite which is unfossiliferous and has no palaeontological sensitivity. The area is overlain in part by Cainozoic ferricrete layer and unconsolidated regolith which is also unfossiliferous. Negative impacts to the Vryheid Formation are considered to be moderate to good.

- The author recommends that:
- During the construction phase of the mine:
When the surface infrastructure elements of the mine are being constructed these locations must be regularly inspected to observe if the excavations have encountered bedrock of the Vryheid Formation.
- These regular inspections should be made by a suitable mine employee (such as the environmental officer) who has been trained to identify the types of fossils that may reasonably be expected to occur within the Vryheid Formation.
- Should fossil materials be identified, the excavations must be halted in that area and SAHRA informed of the discovery (as required in Section 3.3 above).
- An experienced Karoo palaeontologist should be contacted by the mine to assess the significance of the fossils.
- If fossil materials prove to be scientifically significant the palaeontologist should make recommendations that they should be either be protected completely in situ or could have damage mitigation procedures emplaced (i.e., excavation by a suitability by a suitably experienced palaeontologist) to minimise negative impacts.
Once excavation of the opencast pit voids begins:
On-site checks for the occurrence of any fossils of the excavated pits and stockpiled material should be conducted biannually (i.e., every six months).
- The frequency of these checks should be reassessed after twelve (12) months based on the findings.
- The Karoo palaeobotanist should submit a monitoring report to SAHRA on this work.

Comment

South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit had accepted the recommendation for a field based Heritage Impact Assessment that will be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist. However, only the field based Palaeontological Impact Assessment report was submitted to the case. Due to the case being processed outside the EA application time frames, SAHRA will not issue a comment on this case, but SAHRA's general conditions still apply. Therefore, the mine is not to damage or destroy any heritage resources.

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- Consideration must be taken into account that the mine must manage all heritage resources within the mine right.
- Any further developments that require an application in terms of section 38(8) or 38(1) will require an assessment on heritage resources.

Therefore, SAHRA includes these conditions to be implemented along with the PIA recommendations and Fossil Finds Procedure within the PIA report:

- If any historical buildings will be impacted by the proposed development, then comment and permits in terms of section 34 must be sort from the Mpumalanga Heritage Resources Authority (MPHRA). Please contact Benjamin Moduka at bmoduka@mpg.gov.za or call the offices at 013 766 5196.
- In the event that fossils are uncovered during construction then construction must cease within the immediate vicinity, a buffer of 30 m must be established, and a palaeontologist called in to inspect the finds. The palaeontologist must obtain a section 35(4) permit in terms of NHRA and Chapter IV NHRA Regulations, before any fossils are collected.
- If there are any new heritages resources are discovered during construction and operation phases of the proposed development, then a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings at the expense of the developer.
- If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required at the expense of the developer. Mitigation will only be carried out after the archaeologist or palaeontologist obtains a permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999). You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8654).
- If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the police find them to be heritage graves, then mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be contacted for processes to follow (Thingahangwi Tshivase/Mimi Seetelo 072 802 1251).

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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Nokukhanya Khumalo
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/519323>