



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 13759

Date: Monday May 20, 2019
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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Nozala Coal (Pty) Ltd

First Floor, Building A, 3021 William Nichol Drive, Bryanston
PO Box 68413, Bryanston, Johannesburg

The Gruisfontein Project will be an opencast coal mine with processing plant, ancillary infrastructure and temporary and permanent dumps and stockpiles. The project has a life-of-mine (LOM) of approximately 16 years and will be mined via open pit truck and shovel operations. Gruisfontein Project is designed to accommodate a run-of-mine (RoM) production of 6 Mtpa, and at a practical product yield of approximately 50%, resulting in a 3 Mtpa Eskom product. The project is located on the farm Gruisfontein 230 LQ, approximately 45 km west of Lephalale and 15 km north of Steenbokpan in the Lephalale Local Municipality, Waterberg District of the Limpopo Province.

Nozala Coal (Pty) Ltd is proposing to establish an opencast coal mine that will be 830 ha in extent, extending over the entire farm of Gruisfontein 230 LQ. The coal will be transported via road to the Medupi Power Station.

Jacana Environmental (Pty) Ltd have appointed by Nozala Coal (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) application process in support of an Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA), for listed activities in the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended. As well as a Mining Right Application (MRA) in terms of the Minerals and Petroleum Resource Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA).

A Heritage Scoping report by RR Cultural Resources Consultants cc and a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) report by Prof Marion Bamford has been submitted to SAHRA for commenting in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Roodt, F. April 2019. Heritage Scoping Report: Gruisfontein Coal Mining Project Waterberg District Municipality, Limpopo Province.

The author undertook a desktop assessment of the available literature of the proposed mine area and found that the surrounding coal mines had presence of Middle Stone Aged and Iron Aged cultural remains. Due to the high likelihood of identifying heritage resources within the farm Gruisfontein 230 LQ, the author

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recommends an assessment of Heritage Resources including palaeontological resources in the form of a field based Heritage Impact Assessment and Palaeontological Impact Assessment.

Interim Comment

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the recommendations in the Heritage Scoping report. The recommended field based PIA must be conducted a suitably qualified palaeontologist and the recommended HIA must be conducted by a suitably qualified archaeologist. The HIA must contain the summaries of the results from the visual impact assessment as it pertains to heritage resources, social consultation regarding any heritage related issues and the results from the PIA. The HIA must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA and the 2007 minimum standards for the archaeological component of the HIA Report.

SAHRA will comment will comment further once the EIA report, its appendices and the requested heritage reports are submitted to the case.

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

Yours faithfully

Nokukhanya Khumalo
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/523133>
(, Ref: LP5/1/2/2/10170MR)