



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: 13759

Date: Friday November 15, 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). The SAHRA issued an Interim Comment dated 20/05/2019, accepting the reports and their recommendations and that SAHRA will await the submission of the Heritage Impact Assessment and the field based PIA reports.

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

The author undertook a field assessment of the proposed development and did not identify any heritage



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resources. The field survey noted the presence of a farmstead that the author determined was not a heritage site.

Jones, C. July 2019. Palaeontological Assessment of the Farm Gruisfontein 230 LQ Near Lephalale, Limpopo Province, South Africa. Field Trip, Desktop Study And Protocol For Palaeontological Finds.

The author of this report undertook a field assessment of the proposed development and assessed that the mine is located on shales, sandstones, conglomerate, mud- and siltstone rocks of the Elisras Basin. There is a very high likelihood of trace fossils and palaeoflora fossil occurring in the Grootegeluk and Lisbon Formations of the Karoo Supergroup. The author assessed the palaeontological significance of the area to be medium as it is underlain by fossil bearing rocks. However, any exposures will only occur once mining commences. Therefore, the author recommends the following mitigation measures:

The mine manager must be made aware that coal mining is the mining of fossil plant material;

Once mining begins, a palaeontologist must be appointed to re assess the potential for fossils to occur in the operational areas and to develop a fossil finds procedure;

Should any fossils be discovered then they must be sent to the Council of Geosciences, or the Bernard Price Institute at the Witwatersrand University or the Department of Geology at the University of Limpopo.

Interim Comment

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) cannot comment on this project until the HIA and PIA reports are amended as follows:

An assessment of the historical building is undertaken using old topographical maps, archives to determine its age and it must be included in the HIA report.

A detailed fossil finds procedure and monitoring programme must be included in the PIA report.

SAHRA advises that EA application is extended in terms of section 23 (1)b to allow for the amendment of both heritage reports prior to the submission of the Final EIAr to the competent authority.

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

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Yours faithfully

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/523133>
(, Ref: LP5/1/2/2/10170MR)