



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 13958

Date: Friday April 03, 2020

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## Interim Comment

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

Attention: Minah Moabi

Universal Coal (Pty) Ltd

**Eloff Mining Company (Pty) Ltd has been granted a Mining Right Mining Right (MP30/5/1/2/2/10169MR), in terms of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act 28 of 2002 – MPRDA) as amended, for the mining of the Eloff Coal Resource (Eloff Project) and further applied for Environmental Authorisation (“EA”) for the mining of coal and associated activities for Phase 1 Pit 1 of the Eloff Project which has been granted on the 25th April 2019. In addition to the above, Eloff Mining Company wishes to apply for EA for the development of a Eloff Phase 3 (“Phase 3 Project) opencast mining pit and associated infrastructure on the southern-eastern part of the Eloff Project mining right and adjacent to the existing Kangala Colliery covering an extent of approximately 251 hectares (ha) (herein referred to as the Phase 3 Project). The proposed Phase 3 Project extends over portions 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24 and 59 of the farm Strydpan 243 IR located approximately 7.5km south-east of the town Delmas in Victor Khanye Local Municipality, within the Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. The proposed Phase 3 Project is anticipated to use a standard truck and shovel mining method based on strip mining design and layout. The existing Coal Handling and Processing Plant (CHPP) at the adjacent Kangala Colliery will be utilised, and it is anticipated that no new surface infrastructure such as offices, dams, stores facility, workshops, or change house will be required for the project. A full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process is being undertaken in support of the EA application. A new Water Use Licence Application (WULA) for the relevant water uses associated with the project is also underway as a separate application which is being undertaken by GCS Water and Environmental Consultants (GCS).**

Eloff Mining Company (Pty) Ltd are proposing to establish an opencast mining pit as part of the Eloff phase 3 mining project. The mined coal will be processed at the existing coal handling and processing plant at Kangala Mine. The mine will be 251 ha in extent, located on Portions 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, and 59 of the farm Strydpan 243 IR, in Victor Khanye Local Municipality of the Mpumalanga Province.

Environmental Impact Assessment Services (Pty) Ltd have submitted a draft Scoping report on behalf of the applicant, Eloff Mining Company (Pty) Ltd, in support of an Integrated Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment application for Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA), as amended. A Water Use License in terms of the National Water Act, No. 36 of 1998



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(NWA), in respect of listed activities in the NEMA 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended. A mine right amendment application is also being applied for in terms of section 102 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA) (As amended).

In order to meet the requirements of SAHRA for commenting in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA), a Heritage Scoping report by PGS Heritage has been submitted to SAHRA for commenting. SAHRA issued on 05/09/2019, an Interim Comment noting that a HIA and PIA will be submitted to SAHRA in the EIA phase of the EA application. On 05/03/2020 the HIA and EIA documents were submitted for comments.

*Fourie, W. January 2020. Heritage Impact Report, for Inclusion in the Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Kangala Extension Project, Mpumalanga.*

The author undertook a field assessment of the proposed mine right area and identified 4 burial grounds (KG 1, 5, 8, 9), and 4 historical buildings (KG 2, 4, 6, 7), KG to are ruins.

The author states that the KG 1 and 9 are already in the process of being relocated following the conditions of SAHRA permit ID 2897. Burial Grounds KG 5 and 8 will also require a grave relocation process as they will be impacted by the proposed mining activities.

The farmstead KG 6 will require a formal permit for mitigation and destruction as it is of medium local significance and will be impacted by mining activities.

The proposed mine right area is completely underlain by sandstone rocks of the Vryheid Formation, which is of very high palaeontological significance. The author recommends chance finds procedures to be included in the EMPr for the duration of the mining activities.

### Interim Comment

South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit cannot comment on the HIA as the palaeontology section of the report does not indicate the palaeontologist who reviewed the section nor does it specify the age of the farmstead and ruins identified in the mine right area.

SAHRA requires that the HIA be amended to assess the age of the farmsteads where possible. Any buildings in disuse and older than 100 will have to submit their destruction permits to SAHRA, and if found that the

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buildings are younger than 60 years then the applications will be made to the Mpumalanga Heritage Resources Authority (MPHRA).

Since it is not clear that the palaeontology section was reviewed by a palaeontologist, a report of the palaeontology field based impact assessment must be submitted to SAHRA. The report must include the resume and the declaration of interest of the palaeontologist who reviewed the section. As well as an impact assessment and a chance finds procedure, with a monitoring programme. These measures must be included in the EMP for the mine to implement during mining phase. The PIA report must follow the guidelines of the 2012 PIA minimum standards.

SAHRA will comment further on this case once the amended HIA report and PIA report are submitted to the case for comments.

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

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Phillip Hine  
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit

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South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/524556>