

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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Date: Monday May 18, 2020
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CaseID: 14159

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Ms Tshifhiwa Ravele
Assmang Black Rock Mining Operations
P.O Box 136
Santoy
8491

BLACK ROCK MINING OPERATIONS PROPOSES TO ESTABLISH A NEW SUPER FINES STORAGE FACILITY AT GLORIA MINE TO ENABLE ADEQUATE STORAGE CAPACITY AS A RESULT OF PREVIOUS AUTHORISATIONS RELATING TO INCREASED PRODUCTION TAKING PLACE AT THE GLORIA MINE, ASSMANG (PTY) LTD BLACK ROCK MINE OPERATIONS, SANTOY, NORTHERN CAPE

EScience Associates (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Assmang (Pty) Ltd Black Rock Mine Operation to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the establishment of a Super Fines Storage Facility at Gloria Mine near Santoy, Northern Cape Province (NC 30/5/1/2/2/ (203)).

A draft Scoping report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, No 28 of 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended). The DSR notes that a heritage specialist report and palaeontological desktop study will be conducted during the EIA phase of the project.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 23/08/2019, SAHRA noted the pending heritage reports. Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, the draft EIA and heritage reports have been submitted for review (11/05/2020).

Banzai Environmental and Archaetnos Culture and Cultural Resource Consultants were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and in terms of section 38(8) and 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Butler, E. 2019. Palaeontological Desktop Assessment for the establishment of a super fines storage facility at Gloria Mine, Black Rock Mine Operations, Hotazel, Northern Cape.

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The proposed development area is underlain by underlying Griqualand West Basin rocks of the Transvaal Supergroup. Stromatolites are known to be present within these rocks. The Cenozoic Kalahari Group sediments overlie Griqualand West rocks, which do not contain diverse fossil resources. The impact to palaeontological resources is considered to be low. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended and is provided in the report.

Van Vollenhoven, A.C and Smit, J. 2019. A report on a Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed New Tailings Facility at the Gloria Mine of the Assmang Black Rock Mining Operations (BRMO), Northern Cape Province.

No heritage resources were identified within the proposed development area. Stone Age lithics are known to be present in the surrounding area as shown in Figure 9 of the report. A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended.

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 Final EIA and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit 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;

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- 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 and EMPr 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

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/526995>

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(DMR - NC, Ref: Awaiting)

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.