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CaseID: 14171

Date: Wednesday November 27, 2019

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Interim Comment

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

Attention: South32 SA Coal Holdings (Pty) Limited

The Vandyksdrift Central (VDDC) area falls within the footprint of historic underground mining operations at the old Douglas Colliery. In 2007, an amendment of the EMPR for the Douglas Colliery operations was approved, to allow pillar mining (opencast) of the area previously mined by underground bord and pillar mining. This EMPR Amendment included limited additional infrastructure in support of the opencast mining operations, as it was assumed at that stage that existing infrastructure will be used. The Consultation Scoping Report (CSR) for the proposed infrastructure development was made available for public review from 8 October to 7 November 2018, which described the proposed infrastructure development. Prior to finalisation of the Scoping Report, several changes to the proposed application are required and therefore a Revised CSR has been compiled. In addition to changes in the infrastructure layout, the proposed VDDC opencast pit boundary as determined through the pre-feasibility investigation differs from the mine layout in the 2007 approved EMPR amendment. An area of approximately 196 hectares in the latest mine lay-out was not included in the previous mine layout and is therefore not approved to be opencast mined. This application is taking place in Mpumalanga, South Africa.

South32 SA Coal Holdings (Pty) Ltd Wolvekrans Colliery is proposing to amend their existing mine right licence for the Vandyksdrift Colliery operations in order to construct additional infrastructure to support the proposed opencast mining. The mine is located on various farms in eMalahleni Local Municipality of the Mpumalanga Province. The additional 192 hectares are proposed for the open cast pit and the proposed infrastructure includes the following:

- Storm water management structures (drains and berms);
- Water management measures for the management of mine impacted water;
- Overburden dumps;
- Run-of-Mine (ROM) coal stockpile areas;

Revised Consultation Scoping Report for infrastructure development & opencast mining at Vandyksdrift Central, Mpumalanga

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an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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- Mixed ROM coal and slurry stockpile areas;
- Topsoil stockpiles following clearance of vegetation;
- Pipelines for the conveyance of water;
- Hard park area and brake test ramp; and
- Haul roads and service roads.

Jones and Wagner Engineering and Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd have undertaken a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) application process on behalf of the applicant, Wolvekrans Colliery, in support of an application for Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA) (As amended) in respect of listed activities in the NEMA 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, as amended.

a draft Scoping Report has been submitted to notify SAHRA of the proposed development in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA). The draft Scoping report states that a Heritage Impact Assessment report and Palaeontological Impact Assessment Report will be submitted to SAHRA with the draft EIA report.

Interim Comment

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes that heritage will be assessed as part of this EA application and that the HIA and PIA report will be submitted to SAHRA along with the EIA report and its appendices.

SAHRA awaits the submission of these report prior to processing this case further.

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
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South African Heritage Resources Agency

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South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/527099>
(DMR-MP, Ref:)