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CaseID: 14746

Date: Tuesday February 09, 2021

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Final Comment

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

Attention: Exxaro Resources

PO Box 9229
Pretoria 0001
South Africa

Application for EA and WUL for the proposed Turfvlakte Open Mine Project at Grootegeluk Coal Mine near Lephalale, Limpopo Province

Exxaro Resources (Pty) Ltd appointed Golder Associates Africa (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Environmental Authorization application for the expansion of their existing mining operations by extending the opencast coal mining operation to mine the Turfvlakte coal reserves in farm Turfvlakte 463 LQ located within Grootegeluk Coal Mine's existing Mining Right area, in the Waterberg District Municipality, Limpopo Province.

A Draft Environmental Impact Report is submitted In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, No 28 of 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended), the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA) and National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008)(NEMWA).

The proposed project will consist of two pits, namely Pit 1 and Pit 2. Pit 1 will be 158 ha in size and will be approximately 88 m deep, while Pit 2 will be 64 ha and approximately 109 m deep. The preferred option is to mine Pit 1 and then Pit 2 over a period of 12 years.

The proposed surface infrastructure to be constructed includes haul roads connecting the proposed pits to the existing Grootegeluk Coal Mine operations, a laydown area for the mine equipment and offices, water management infrastructure (sumps and pipelines), waste management area (waste skips) and a sub-station.

Golder Associates Africa (Pty) Ltd commissioned Dr J Pistorius and Dr H Fourie to provide the heritage specialist input as per section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA.



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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Pistorius, J. 2018. A PHASE I HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY FOR THE PROPOSED EXXARO TURFVLAKTE OPEN PIT PROJECT NEAR LEPHALALE IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE

No heritage resources as outlined in Section 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) were discovered in the Project Area. There is no objection for the proceeding of the project.

Fourie, H. 2018. Proposed Turfvlakte Open Pit Mining near Lephalale, Limpopo Province Lephalale Municipality, Waterberg District Municipality, Limpopo Province Farm: Daarby 458, Appelvlakte 448, Grootestryd 465, Nelsonskop 464, Turfvlakte 463-LQ

The site is underlain mostly by the sandstone, shale, coal and mudstone of the Grootegeluk Formation (Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup). Glossopterid coal flora is known to be abundant in the formation which is associated with thick coal seams. No fossils were discovered during the field survey and protocol for finds is included into the report.

If any palaeontological material is exposed during digging, excavating, drilling or blasting, SAHRA must be notified. All development activities must be stopped, a 30 m no-go barrier constructed and a palaeontologist should be called in to determine proper mitigation measures. As fossils may occur in the shales between the coal seams a palaeontologist must be appointed to monitor earthworks and the dumps on a regular basis (times and duration as agreed to by the applicant and the appointed palaeontologist)

SAHRA issued an Interim Comment dated 12/02/2020 requesting additional information in the HIA report on previous heritage surveys within the locality. An amended HIA was submitted 06/11/2020.

Pistorius, J. June 2020. A PHASE I HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY FOR THE PROPOSED EXXARO TURFVLAKTE OPEN PIT PROJECT NEAR LEPHALALE IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

The amended HIA states that due to the semi arid region and lack of kopjes that were ideal locations for pre-colonial settlements in the region, no heritage sites have been identified within the proposed mine right area.

Final Comment

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the amended HIA report and the PIA report submitted to the case for commenting, and has no

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objection to the development going ahead on the following conditions.

The Chance Finds Fossil Procedures as detailed in the PIA report under appendix 2 must be included in the EMPr.

In the event that fossils are uncovered during construction then construction must cease within the immediate vicinity, a buffer of 30 m must be established, and a palaeontologist called in to inspect the finds. The palaeontologist must obtain a section 35(4) permit in terms of NHRA and Chapter IV NHRA Regulations, before any fossils are collected.

If there are any new heritages resources are discovered during construction and operation phases of the proposed development, then a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings at the expense of the developer.

If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required at the expense of the developer. Mitigation will only be carried out after the archaeologist or palaeontologist obtains a permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999). You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8654).

If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the police find them to be heritage graves, then mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be contacted for processes to follow (Thingahangwi Tshivase/Mimi Seetelo 072 802 1251).

The Final EIA and its appendices must be submitted to the case and once a Record of Decision from the competent authority is issued, it must also be 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

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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: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/533279>

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.