

Our Ref:

Enquiries: Jenna Lavin
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CaseID: 1487

Date: Monday February 11, 2013

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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Jaco-K Consulting

PROPOSED WONDERFONTEIN COLLIERY NEAR BELFAST IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE OF SOUTH AFRICA

Pistorius, J. August 2008. A PHASE I HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) STUDY FOR THE PROPOSED WONDERFONTEIN COLLIERY NEAR BELFAST IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE OF SOUTH AFRICA

The proposed application is for a proposed new colliery on the Farms Wonderfontein 428, Grootpan 456 and Klippan 452, south west of Belfast in Mpumalanga. The proposed activity includes open-cast and underground coal mining. The Wonderfontein Colliery Project area covers pristine stretches of land as well as land previously used for agriculture.

The above HIA was submitted to SAHRA for comment in terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) which states that the consenting authority must ensure that the evaluation done for heritage as part of the EIA process fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority.

The submitted HIA identified a number of 11 burial grounds of various sizes as well as two historical structures. Four of the 11 identified graveyards (GY01 to GY04) and one of the historical structures (HH01) do not fall within the identified project area and therefore will not be directly impacted by the proposed development. Both identified historical structures were graded as having high significance however, a justification for this assessment is not given.

The HIA provided no indication of the size of the property to be impacted, no details of the proposed development, such as type of infrastructure, depth of mining etc. and no GPS track paths, although all these are required in terms of the SAHRA Minimum Standards. No assessment of impacts to Palaeontological or Archaeological Heritage was provided since the report does not indicate explicitly whether any of these resources were identified or not.

Comment

The submitted HIA does not provide sufficient information for SAHRA to make an adequate assessment of the impacts of the proposed development to heritage resources. SAHRA therefore requires that an amended HIA be submitted to SAHRIS at your earliest convenience along with the support documentation from Department



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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of Environmental Affairs and Department of Mineral Resources. The amended heritage impact assessment should include;

1. A map of the proposed development footprint in relation to the identified heritage resources
2. A clear scope of the proposed work to take place on site and what infrastructure is proposed.
3. A clear assessment of all heritage resources that may be impacted, including archaeological heritage
4. Justification of the grading of the structures
5. Clear photographs of the landscape to be impacted by the development, the homestead as well as all of the identified graves to be impacted
6. Track paths of the area surveyed
7. Site specific mitigation measures and a plan for the mitigation of the identified graves
8. A Palaeontological assessment must be undertaken by a professional palaeontologist or a letter of exemption from further palaeontological studies if the specialist deems it sufficient;

The report must reflect the scope of the proposed project. It is advisable that the specialist receives all available information regarding the proposed project before the field survey is conducted.

SAHRA APM Unit awaits the updated report before issuing further recommendations regarding this case.

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

Yours faithfully

Jenna Lavin
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency



Wonderfontein Colliery Project

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ADMIN:

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.



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