

**Background Information Document (BID) FOR COAL MINING RIGHT  
APPLICATION ON PORTION 08 and 11 OF THE FARM VAALBANK 177 IS.**

**Our Ref: 15000**



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
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CaseID: 15000

Date: Tuesday December 20, 2022

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## **Interim Comment**

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

Attention: Mr Mawande Baai

**The mining right area is located on Portion 08 and 11 of the farm Vaalbank 177 IS, owned by Mr LLOYD JOHN JAMES at Hendrina in the jurisdiction of Steve Tswete Local Municipality in the District of Nkangala in Mpumalanga Province, South Africa. The site is 378 hectares in extent the project is located approximately 2 km east of the town of Hendrina in the Mpumalanga Province, South Africa.**

Mwalimu Resources (Pty) Ltd is proposing to establish a coal mine to be named Vaalbank Coal. Coal will be mined via an opencast mine and the mine right extent will be 371.51ha. The proposed Vaalbank Coal Mine is located on the farms Portion 08 and 11 of the farm Vaalbank 177 IS, eMalaheni Local Municipality of the Mpumalanga Province.

They have appointed Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIAr) application process in support of an Environmental Authorisation application in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA), as amended and a Mining Right in terms of section 22 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA) (As amended), for listed activities in the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

A Background Information Document and Scoping Report was been submitted to SAHRA in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999 for commenting.

It is noted that the Scoping Report states that a Heritage Impact Assessment will form part of the specialist studies undertaken for the EA application.

The SAHRA issued an Interim Comment dated 28/04/2020 requesting an assessment of heritage resources including palaeontological by a suitably qualified archaeologist. The HIA report by Integrated Specialists Services (Pty) Ltd was submitted on 23/11/2022.

*Mlilo, T. September 2022. PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED COAL MINING RIGHT, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION (INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME*

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**REPORT), WATER USE LICENSE AND WASTE MANAGEMENT IN STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL  
MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.**

The study area was assessed in September 2022 and no surface heritage resources were identified. The author recommends that a separate entrance for the haul road must be established in order to avoid the municipal cemetery, and the implementation of chance finds procedures.

**Interim Comment**

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, and Meteorites (APM) Unit cannot provide an informed decision on this proposed prospecting right application because not all types of heritage resources were assessed as requested in the Interim Comment issued on 28/04/2020. The Interim Comment had stated the following:

*"In addition to the HIA report, SAHRA also requires an assessment of palaeontological resources by a suitably qualified palaeontologist. The HIA and the Palaeontology Impact Assessment (PIA) must be provided to SAHRA prior to the submission of the final BAR to the competent authority. All these documents will be assessed by SAHRA and the comment issued must be included in the final BAR."*

The SAHRA requests the submission of a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) report by a suitably qualified palaeontologist. In addition, a .kml file mapping the area proposed for prospecting must 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

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Phillip Hine

Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/535536>  
(DMR-MP, Ref: )