

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 15118

Date: Wednesday May 27, 2020  
Page No: 1

## Interim Comment

**In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

Attention: Mr Markus Schaefer  
Vedanta Resources

**Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS) has been appointed by Black Mountain Mining (Pty) Ltd – hereafter referred to as the applicant – to prepare and submit a Basic Assessment Report (BAR), Environmental Management Programme (EMPR), as well as an Integrated Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) Consultation process, in support of a prospecting right application and Environmental Authorisation. The prospecting right application will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act 28 of 2002, as amended) (MPRDA) and the associated regulations, and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) and the associated regulations, and has been lodged at the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) – Northern Cape. The applicant, Black Mountain Mining (Pty) Ltd, is applying for a prospecting right application in order to ascertain if economically viable mineral deposits exist within the application area for the following: Ferrous & base metals (Copper, Iron, Lead, Zinc, Manganese, Nickel, Molybdenum) and all associated metals and minerals, precious metals (Gold, Silver) and all associated metals and minerals. Both non-invasive and invasive prospecting techniques will be utilized. The Koa South Application Area covers an area of approximately 9234.1442 hectares. The area is located approximately 77,3 km South-West of Prieska and 166 km North-West of De Aar, Pixley Ka Seme District in the Northern Cape Province. The application area includes portions 1 and 2 of the Farm Kalkfontein A 131 and portions 3 and 4 of the Farm Roode Draai 134. Die geographical centre point of the proposed project area is: 30°19'38.77" S and 22°36'17.72" E The application for a prospecting right and environmental authorisation process will be carried out as stipulated in Section 16 of the MPRDA and Chapter 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (GNR 326) promulgated under the NEMA.**

Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Black Mountain Mining (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for proposed prospecting activities on the portions 1 and 2 of the Farm Kalkfontein A 131 and portions 3 and 4 of the Farm Roode Draai 134, near Vosburg, Northern Cape Province (NC30/5/1/1/2/12541PR).

A Basic Assessment Report (BAR) process will be followed in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2014 EIA Regulations for activities that trigger the Mineral and

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Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended). The proposed prospecting right application area will cover 9234.1442. The DBAR has not been submitted to the SAHRIS application.

Banzai Environmental (Pty) Ltd and PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA process as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) and 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

*Butler, E. 2020. Palaeontological Desktop Assessment for Black Mountain Koa South Prospecting Right Application without Bulk Sampling in the Northern Cape.*

The proposed prospecting area is underlain by basement bedrock of the Bushmanland Group, igneous Karoo Dolerite, Prince Albert, White Hill and Volksrust formations with Quaternary to recent aeolian sediments of the Gordonia Formation. The White Hill Formation has a very high sensitivity known for fossil remains such as insects, trace fossils, petrified wood, sparse vascular plant remains, and mesosaurid reptiles. Prince Albert and Volksrust Formations have a high sensitivity which are known to contain plant fossils, insects, spores and invertebrates, while the Gordonia formation sediments are of moderate sensitivity. The remaining formations are not sensitive for palaeontological resources.

A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended and provided in the report.

*Kitto, J. 2020. Heritage Impact Assessment: Koa South Prospecting Right Application for Black Mountain Mining, Northern Cape Province.*

A summary of this report will not be discussed below as the report is still in draft with review comments visible within the report.

## **Interim Comment**

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that the HIA be finalised for SAHRA review. Additionally, the DBAR and associated appendices must be submitted to the case so that an informed comment may be issued.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above reports.

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

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Yours faithfully

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Natasha Higgitt  
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: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/537126>  
(DMR - NC, Ref: NC30/5/1/1/2/12541PR)