



Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
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CaseID: 15152

Date: Friday June 19, 2020
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Final Decision

In terms of Section 38(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Ms Tshifhiwa Ravele
Assmang Black Rock Mining Operations
P.O Box 136
Santoy
8491

Assmang Limited, operates the Nchwaning Rail Balloon at their Black Rock Mine Operations (BRMO) near Hotazel, Northern Cape. The balloon has been designed to accommodate 104-wagon trains. In preparation of receiving 125-wagon trains at the balloon, Assmang proposes to extend the clear lengths in the balloon. The existing clear length will be increased by moving four turnouts on the arrival lines and two turnouts on the departure lines.

Banzai Environmental and Archaeology Culture and Cultural Resource Consultants have been contracted to provide heritage specialist input for the proposed extension of the turnouts at the Nchwaning rail loop at the Black Rock Mine Operation near Hotazel, Northern Cape Province.

The application has been submitted in terms of section 38(1) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA). The extension will be on both the southern and northern sides will exceed 300 m each. The proposed development area has been extensively disturbed by previous mining activities.

Butler, E. 2020. Palaeontological Desktop Assessment for the proposed Nchwaning Rail Balloon Turn Outs at Black Rock Mine Operations near Hotazel, Northern Cape.

The proposed development area is underlain at depth by Griqualand West Basin Rocks of moderate palaeontological sensitivity with overlying Cenozoic Kalahari Group rocks of low sensitivity. Stromatolites are known to be present within the Griqualand West Basin rocks while fossils of terrestrial plants and animals occur widely within the Kalahari sediments. The impact of the development on fossil heritage has been assessed as low. A Chance Finds Protocol is recommended to be implemented and is provided in the report.

Van Vollenhoven, A. C. 2020. Letter for HIA Exemption Request: Proposed Assmang Black Rock Mine Operations (BRMO) Rail Loop Turnout Extensions, Northern Cape Province.

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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Previous surveys of the project area identified heritage sites outside the development footprint and will not be impacted. The proposed development will be located within the existing railway servitude that has been entirely disturbed. A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

Final Decision

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 38(2) and 38(4) of the NHRA and must be adhered to:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development and no further studies are required;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No specific conditions are provided for the development;
- 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA.

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

Yours faithfully

Wagon Rail Balloon Turnouts at Nchwaning II Mine, BRMO, Hotazel, Northern Cape

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Natasha Higgitt
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: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/537347>

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.