

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
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CaseID: 16100

Date: Friday March 12, 2021
Page No: 1

Interim Comment

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

Attention: Assmang (Pty) Ltd

Beeshoek Iron Ore Mine (hereafter referred to as “the Mine” or “Beeshoek”) is actively investigating opportunities for the continued and sustainable mining of iron ore reserves within the approved Mining Right Area (MRA). This application for Environmental Authorisation specifically gives effect to that. Beeshoek Iron Ore Mine is situated approximately 7 km west of the town of Postmasburg, in the Northern Cape Province. The mine is situated under the jurisdiction of the Tsantsabane Local Municipality, under the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality. The regional R385 road, as well as the OREX Railway Line traverses the mine. The proposed new mining activities are located on the following Farms: Portion 0 of the farm Beesthoek 448 RD (1,543ha), Portion 1 of the farm Beesthoek 448 RD (1,231ha) and Portion 4 of the farm Olynfontein 475 RD (2,168ha)

EnviroGistics (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Assmang (Pty) Ltd: Beeshoek Iron Ore Mine to conduct an Integrated Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for proposed amendments to the existing Mining Right at the Beeshoek Mine, near Postmasburg, Northern Cape Province (Ref: 223MRC).

A draft Scoping Report and has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 EIA Regulations for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended). The proposed amendments include amendments to certain conditions identified during EMPr audits, amendments to the design of existing Waste Rock Dumps (WRDs) which will extend their footprints, the increase of the open cast pit footprint areas, beneficiation plant optimisation and the development of supporting infrastructure such as powerline, roads, pipeline and improvements to storm water management systems.

The DSR notes that an assessment of the impact to heritage resources will be conducted as part of the EIA phase of the EA application.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes the pending assessment of the impact to heritage resources and requests the following:

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Page No: 2

- The assessment of the impact to heritage resources must comply with section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA), as required by section 38(8) of the NHRA;
- The archaeological component of the assessment must include a field-based assessment conducted by a qualified archaeologist, and the report must comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessments;
- As the project footprint is located in areas of moderate to very sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map, a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment be conducted as part of the EIA phase of the EA application. The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments and must be compiled by a qualified palaeontologist.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested reports and the draft EIA with all associated appendices.

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

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit

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Page No: 3

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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/557759>
(DMR - NC, Ref: 223MRC)