

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: 16159

Date: Thursday October 07, 2021
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Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Prescali Environmental Consultants (pty) Ltd

P.O. Box 2544
Montana Park
0159

Draft Scoping Report for the proposed amendment of the Environmental Management Programme and Section 102 application. The proposed additional infrastructure: 3 opencast pits (1 iron ore and 2 manganese ore); DMS crushing and screening plant; waste rock dump; access road; water storage reservoir; manganese static plant; new workshop area; topsoil dump; sub-station; container office; container onboarding facility; and stormwater infrastructure Portions 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Farm Macarthy 559, situated between Postmasburg and Sishen in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa

Prescali Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Salene Manganese (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Section 102 Amendment Application of the Environmental Management Programme for the Macarthy Mining Operations on portion 2 – 5 of the farm Macarthy 559 near Kathu, Northern Cape Province (NC/30/5/1/2/2/10013 MR).

A draft Scoping Report 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 new opencast pits, new topsoil dump, waste rock dump, new DMS plant, new manganese static plant, new access road, increased groundwater abstraction, new water storage reservoir, new workshop area, new substation, new container onboarding facility, and storm water infrastructure.

APelser Archaeological Consulting has been appointed to provide heritage specialist input into the EA process as per section 24(4)b(iii) of the NEMA and section 38(3) and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Pelser, A. 2020. A Phase 1 AIA Report for the Salene Manganese EIA/EMP Amendment located on various Portions of the Farm MaCarthy 559, Magisterial District of Postmasburg, Northern Cape Province.

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A total of four heritage sites were identified. These include surface scatters of Stone Age lithics of low heritage significance with one site (Site 1) of medium to high heritage significance.

Two structure of recent age were identified that have no heritage significance, and one fenced cemetery younger than 60 years is located close to the current site offices. The cemetery will not be impacted by mining activities.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Detailed mapping and recording of Site 1 and potentially other sites located around the hill;
- Surface sampling of material from the site and the hill;
- A 30m buffer zone (around the cemetery) within which no development will be allowed needs to be adhered to;
- A Chance Finds Procedure must be implemented.

SAHRA issued an Interim Comment on the 31/03/2021, requesting that a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment be conducted by a qualified palaeontologist as part of the EA process. Further comments would be issued upon receipt of the above requested report and the draft EIA documents with associated appendices.

Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, a field-based PIA has been submitted to the case (07/04/2021), while the draft EIA and appendices were uploaded on the 29/09/2021.

Bamford, M. 2020. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed Salene Manganese MR on McCarthy 559, Kathu, Northern Cape Province.

The proposed development area is underlain by the non-fossiliferous Kuruman Formation, Gamogara Formation and the potentially fossiliferous limestones of the Ghaap Group and Kalahari sands. No fossils were identified during the site visit and no limestone or palaeo-pan/sprint features are present, therefore, it is extremely unlikely that fossils occur within the development footprint. A Fossil Chance Finds Protocol is recommended to be included in the EMPr.

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The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and

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section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final EIA and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit and Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows:
- A permit in terms of section 35(4) of the NHRA and Chapter II and VI of the NHRA Regulations must be applied for from SAHRA in order to conduct the recommended mitigation measures for site 1;
- 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) – The proposed buffer-zone around the identified cemetery must be increased to a 100m. If for any reason the graves cannot be retained in-situ, a relocation permit must be sought from the relevant permitting authorities. 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;
- The Final EIA and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

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

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: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/560513>

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.