

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE TRANSALLOYS (PTY) LTD OPERATIONS BY INCLUDING A SINTER PLANT

Our Ref: 16210



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 16210

Date: Wednesday April 14, 2021

Page No: 1

Final Comment

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

Attention: Transalloys (Pty) Ltd

Sintering or frittage is the process of compacting and forming a solid mass of material by applying heat or pressure without melting it to the point of liquefaction (Wikipedia). Vessel Sintering Technology is a proprietary batch process that was developed to provide a solution to companies that require less than 500 000 tons per year of sinter. Sinter is required for the High Carbon process and products.

Transalloy (Pty) Ltd are proposing to expand their existing Ferromanganese smelting facility by constructing a new sinter plant that will be 0.57 ha in extent within the complex. The smelting facility is located on Portions 34 and 35 of Elandsfontein 309 JS and Portions 24 and 25 of Schoongezicht 308 JS in eMalahleni Local Municipality of Mpumalanga Province.

HydroScience cc has been appointed to undertake an environmental assessment as part of the Basic Assessment process in support of an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environment Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) for activities that trigger the NEMA EIA 2014 Regulations.

A Letter of Recommendation from undertaking a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) by Archaetnos Culture and Cultural Resources Consultants cc and a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) report by Prof. Durand were submitted to SAHRA for commenting in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Van Vollenhoven, A.C. March 2021. Letter for HIA Exemption Request: Development of Sinter Plant at Transalloys (Pty) Ltd, Close to Emalahleni, Mpumalanga Province.

The author undertook a field assessment of the proposed expansion area and found that it is already disturbed and any heritage resources that may have been present will have been impacted by current activities. The proposed sintering plant location is devoid of vegetation and the 2014 HIA did not identify any heritage resources there. The author recommends an exemption from undertaking an impact assessment for this proposed development.

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Page No: 2

Durand, J.F. March 2021. Proposed development of Sinter Plant, at Transalloys, Clewer, Mpumalanga.

The study area is underlain by Very Highly sensitive Permian Aged rocks of the Vryheid Formation, Ecca Group, Karoo Supergroup. The uppermost layers of the formation are highly weathered in this region and there is a low likelihood of well preserved fossils occurring. No geological outcrops were observed, and therefore no fossils were found during the site assessment. The author recommends the chance finds procedures contained in the report to be implemented during construction of the new sinter plant.

Final Comment

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the Letter of Recommendation of Exemption from conducting a HIA and the PIA report submitted to the case for commenting, and has no objection to the development going ahead on the following conditions.

The Chance Finds Fossil Procedures as detailed in the PIA report in pages 18-19 must be included in the EMPr.

In the event that fossils are uncovered during construction then construction must cease within the immediate vicinity, a buffer of 30 m must be established, and a palaeontologist called in to inspect the finds. The palaeontologist must obtain a section 35(4) permit in terms of NHRA and Chapter IV NHRA Regulations, before any fossils are collected.

If there are any new heritages resources are discovered during construction and operation phases of the proposed development, then a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings at the expense of the developer.

If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required at the expense of the developer. Mitigation will only be carried out after the archaeologist or palaeontologist obtains a permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999). You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8654).

If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the police find them to be heritage graves, then mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be contacted for processes to follow (Thingahangwi Tshivase/Mimi Seetelo 072 802 1251).

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Page No: 3

The Final BAR and its appendices must be submitted to the case and once a Record of Decision from the competent authority is issued, it must also 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

Nokukhanya Khumalo
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/562557>
(MDEDET, Ref:)

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.