



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 16603

Date: Monday September 06, 2021
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Interim Comment

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

Attention: North Block Complex (Pty) Ltd

Phase 1 HIA for the North Block Complex Consolidation Project and Discard Management Facility, located near eMakhazeni in the Mpumalanga Province.

North Block Complex (Pty) Ltd of NBC Colliery is proposing to amend its existing mine right by consolidating their Glisa mine section mine right into the Paardeplaats mine section mine right. They also proposing include Portion 24 of the farm Paardeplaats 380 JT into the Paardeplaats mine right. As part of the EMPR amendment application the colliery is proposing to widen the existing haul road between the mining area and the processing plant. The mine is proposing to expand the existing crushing and screening plant on Portions 3 and 4 of the Paardeplaats farm, and to expand the existing Water Treatment Plant (WTP) pipeline network on all farm portions associated with the Integrated Paardeplaats Section.

CGI Environmental (Pty) Ltd have been appointed to undertake an environmental assessment as part of the Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting 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. As well as an Environmental Management Plan as per the requirements of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, No 28 of 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended).

SAHRIS Case ID 5699 is linked to this case
(<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/proposed-paardeplaats-coal-mine>).

A Heritage Impact Assessment report by PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd has been submitted to SAHRA for commenting in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Birkholtz, P. and de Bruyn, C. May 2021. NBC Colliery Glisa and Paardeplaats Mining Project. Phase 1 – Heritage Impact Assessment

PGS Heritage had conducted a field survey in 2012 for the Paardeplaats mine application and identified 32

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heritage resources, in this report they labeled PP1 to 32, in 2021 an additional survey of the existing sites and areas not surveyed previously identified additional 13 heritage sites labeled PP 33 to 45. Most of the identified site relate to historic farming infrastructure, historic mine shafts and cemeteries. There is one possible rock art site (PP 14) that is of medium significance. The proposed infrastructure development will not impact on any heritage resources however, the authors recommend the following:

Sites PP 01, PP 07, PP 08, PP 09, PP 18, PP 19, PP 20, PP 23, PP 24, PP 34, PP 35, PP 38, PP 39, PP 41, PP 42, PP 43, PP 44 & PP 45; are of low significance and do not require any additional mitigation measures.

Sites PP 12, PP 13, PP 14, PP 17, PP 36 require a heritage management plan for long term conservation. They require general mitigation measures detailed in section 8.3 of the HIA report.

All identified burial grounds (PP 2, PP 3, PP 4, PP 5, PP 10, PP 16, PP 28, PP 31 and PP 37) must be conserved *in situ*.

The mine must maintain a buffer zone of 100m from any identified burial or cemetery and the mine must maintain a buffer zone of 50m around any other historic structure and archaeological site that is of medium to high significance.

Butler, E. (2021) was appointed to undertake a Palaeontological Desktop Study which assessed that the mining area is completely underlain by the Vryheid Formation, which is of Very High Palaeontological significance. The author recommended a Palaeontological Impact Assessment to be undertaken in the Environmental Impact Assessment phase.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that a field-based PIA be conducted for the proposed expansion activities (Crushing and screening plant and the water treatment pipeline network) prior to the construction phase. The PIA must be conducted by a qualified palaeontologist and must comply with the 2012 SAHRA Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Component of Heritage Impact Assessments.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above request PIA.

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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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/575406>
(DMR-MP, Ref: MP 30/5/1/2/2/10090 MR)