



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 16715

Date: Wednesday February 16, 2022
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Final Comment

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

Attention: De Beers Consolidated Mines (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 616
Kimberley
8300

Construction of new storm water management infrastructure at De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd. Venetia Mine. on the Farm Venetia 103 MS

De Beers Consolidated Mines (Pty) Ltd has appointed Shangoni Management Services (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment application process in support for an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) as amended, for activities that trigger the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 2014 Regulations, as amended.

De Beers Consolidated Mines (Pty) Ltd is proposing to amend existing storm water management infrastructure, water containment facilities, relocate a boundary fence, 11kV and 22kV power lines. The proposed activities are located on Portions 1, 2, 5 of the farm Venetia 103 MS in the Musina Local Municipality of the Limpopo Province.

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

Miller, S. May 2021. 1st phase H.I.A. of a proposed upgrading and extension of the proposed storm-water management project at Venetia Mine, Limpopo Province, South Africa, For De Beers Consolidated Mines (Pty) Ltd. Project number DEB-VEN-21-02-03.

The author undertook a field survey of the proposed storm water and water containment facilities and did not identify any heritage resources. The area has been disturbed by 30 years of mining activities and any heritage located within the mining area will have been damaged earlier on.

The SAHRA issued an Interim Comment dated 27/08/2021 requesting an amendment to the HIA and the



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submission of a desktop palaeontological impact assessment. The reports were submitted on 15/11/2021.

Miller, S. October 2021. Addendum to the 1st phase H.I.A. of a proposed upgrading and extension of the proposed storm-water management project at Venetia Mine, Limpopo Province, South Africa For De Beers Consolidated Mines (Pty) Ltd.

The addendum to the HIA specifies the points of interest surveyed in an additional survey carried out in October and mentions known sites near and around the existing mine right area.

Miller, S. October 2021. Second Addendum to the 1st phase H.I.A. of a proposed upgrading and extension of the proposed storm-water management project at Venetia Mine, Limpopo Province, South Africa For De Beers Consolidated Mines (Pty) Ltd.

The second addendum is for the assessment of impacts to the proposed new north road along the western border of the mine to make allowance for the proposed PCD 3. A potential Iron Age site was identified along the northern area of assessment, this is a stand of *Euphorbia Ingens* (Marker 8385 and 2479). The field assessment did not identify any surface cultural material, the site may be a cattle outpost with some ash deposits favourable to the growth of *Euphorbia Ingens*. The site is located far from the road diversion and will not be impacted by any of the proposed activities.

Rubidge, B. September 2021. Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment Venetia Mine - Water Management Development

The author undertook an assessment of the available geology literature and found that the study area is underlain by rocks of the Precambrian Mount Dowe and Malala Drift Groups of the Beit Bridge Complex which are part of the Limpopo Mobile Belt. These rocks are in turn overlain by Quaternary alluvial deposits in places. There is negligible palaeontological sensitivity in the Precambrian rocks of the Beit Bridge Complex, and there is slight chance of fossils occurring in the Quaternary alluvial deposits. A Fossil Chance Finds Procedure has been included under appendix A.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) accepts the HIA report, the two HIA addendums, the palaeontological desktop study, and the recommendations provided in all reports. The SAHRA has no objection to the development going ahead on the following conditions:



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Management measures for Markers 8385 and 2479 should be included in the Heritage Management Plan of the mine and nature reserve.

A Chance Finds Fossil Procedures must be developed by a palaeontologist and it must be included in the EMPr.

If fossil remains or trace fossils are discovered during any phase of construction, either on the surface or exposed by excavations the Environmental Officer (EO) in charge of these developments must be informed. These discoveries ought to be protected and the ECO must report to SAHRA.

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/Nqalabutho Madida 012 320 8490).

The Final EIA 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.

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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/577013>
(, 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.