

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 16938

Date: Friday September 03, 2021
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Interim Comment

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

Attention: Tawana Hotazel Mining (Pty) Ltd

The proposed Tawana Hotazel Mine (THM) is located approximately 1 km south-east of the town of Hotazel in the Northern Cape Province. The THM largely incorporates the historical Hotazel Manganese Mine (HMM), including the residual opencast void, surface dumps of low-grade material and the mothballed processing plant and rail loadout facility. HMM stopped production in 1989. The area was historically mined by both opencast and underground means and yielded high grade manganese ore. All current plans for the project specifically exclude underground mining. The overall area applied for is approximately 154 Ha (inclusive of the MR application area and access road). Surface infrastructure will include the opencast pit (incorporating the historical HMM void and further expansion of the opencast footprint), in-pit waste dumps (residue material), surface residue handling / storage, vehicle yard, workshop, access and haul roads, offices, stores, processing plant for the crushing and screening of mined ore, product stockpile area, run of mine pad, refuel bay and water management infrastructure.

Prime Resources (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Tawana Hotazel Mining (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for proposed mining activities on portion of portion 1 (RE) of the farm York A 279 and RE Farm Hotazel 280 (Portion of RE), near Hotazel, Northern Cape Province (NC 30/5/1/2/2/10197MR).

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) 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 mining activities incorporate the historical Hotazel Manganese Mine. Surface infrastructure will include the open cast pit, in-pit waste dumps, surface residue handling/storage, vehicle yard, workshop, access and haul roads, widening of existing access roads, offices, stores, processing plant, product stockpile area, run of mine pad, refuel bay and water management infrastructure.

Archaetnos Culture and Cultural Resource Consultants has been appointed to provide heritage specialist input into the EA process as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

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Van Vollenhoven, A. C. 2020. Baseline Report for the Heritage Impact Assessment related to the Proposed Tawane Hotazel Mine, Northern Cape Province.

The desktop study found that heritage in the surrounding area includes highly significant Stone Age sites, historical structures associated with colonial settlements and early mining activities, and graves. The proposed mining area is almost entirely disturbed and thus no finds are expected. A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended.

The draft Scoping report refers to a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA), however, no assessment has been submitted to SAHRA for review and comment.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes submitted HIA, however requested clarity on the age and significance of the "historical Hotazel Manganese Mine (HMM)" and any associated historical mining structures within the proposed development area. If the historical HMM proves to be defined as a heritage resource, a revised HIA inclusive of field-survey must be conducted as part of the DEIA phase of the EA application process.

The conducted PIA must be submitted to SAHRA for review and comment.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested reports and the draft EIA inclusive of 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

**Mining Right Application and Environmental Authorisation process on farm
Hotazel 280 and York 279**

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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/579757>
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