



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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CaseID: 20230

Date: Tuesday January 31, 2023

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Final Comment

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

Attention: Sylvania Northern Mining (Pty) Ltd

Sylvania Northern Mining (Pty) Ltd is proposing to prospect for the following Minerals: Chrome Ore, Cobalt, Copper Ore, Gold Ore, Nickel Ore, Platinum Group Metals on Portion 2 of the Farm Schaffhausen 689 LR, in the Magisterial District of Blouberg, Limpopo Province

Sylvania Northern Mining (Pty) Ltd is proposing to prospect for Chrome Ore, Cobalt, Copper Ore, Gold Ore, Nickel Ore, Platinum Group Metals over 601.72 ha in extent, on Portion 2 of the Farm Schaffhausen 689 LR, in the Blouberg Local Municipality, Limpopo Province. The prospecting programme includes invasive activities consisting of boreholes and test trenches over a period of 5 years.

They have appointed Prescali Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Basic Assessment (BAR) application process in support of an Environmental Authorisation application in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA), as amended and a Prospecting Right in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA) (As amended), for listed activities in the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

A Basic Assessment Report (BAR) was been submitted to SAHRA in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999 for commenting. It is noted that there is a second application for different farms for this project. A similar case on SAHRIS (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/sylvania-northern-big-area-prospecting...>) for the remaining farms under application was created, case ID 20229.

The BAR mentions that known heritage sites were mapped and it is noted that bufferzones of 50m will be maintained around the sites. A desktop study by A. Pelsler 2022 was commissioned and the assessment was based on 2013/2014 field work. In addition, it is noted that the report mentions that a field based assessment will be undertaken once the borehole and trenching locations are finalised.

Pelsler, A. October 2022. A desktop heritage impact assessment report for the Sylvania Northern Mining prospecting rights application on various farms in the Mokopane Magisterial District of the Limpopo Province.



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The author assessed the available literature and maps and noted that there were sites previously identified in past Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) Reports. Sites 1 and 2 are ruins of recent historical settlement; Sites 3 & 4 – Sections of low, stone-packed walls dating to recent historical periods (Low Cultural Heritage Significance); Sites 5, 6 and 7 are graveyards / cemeteries (High Cultural Significance); Site 7 is located very close to the prospecting right application area.

Although the area north of the study area known as the Makgabeng Plateau is known for significant heritage sites, the proposed prospecting area has little document heritage sites. The author recommends a field based assessment once the location of the trenching sites and boreholes is finalised. Known sites will be conserved with a 50m buffer area.

Final Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes and accepts the submission of the draft BAR and HIA, and accepts the recommendations provided by the Heritage Specialists. SAHRA has no objections to the proposed development on the following conditions:

SAHRA has no objections to the proposed development on the following conditions:

38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;

38(4)b – The recommendations provided by the heritage specialists are supported and must be adhered to. The following additional conditions include:

A buffer zone of 50m around the identified sites must be adhered to throughout the prospecting right programme.

A field based Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) by a suitably qualified archaeologist must be undertaken prior to the commencement of any invasive activities,

A Report of the field based HIA must be submitted to SAHRA for commenting prior to the commencement of invasive activities.

Portions where the study area that fall in a moderately sensitive palaeontological region must be assessed by a suitably qualified palaeontologist;

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 (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8654) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of

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the Schedule;

38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Ngqalabutho Madida 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence 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 decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

SAHRA reserves the right to provide additional conditions or objections to the proposed development based on the results of the field assessment and HIA conducted prior to drilling

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

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Phillip Hine

Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/609745>

(, Ref: LP30/5/1/1/2/14728PR)

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.