

Our Ref:



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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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
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CaseID: 20886

Date: Monday April 17, 2023
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Final Comment

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

Attention: PMG Mining (Pty) Ltd.

Po Box 731637
Fairlands
2030

The development entails the construction of a ±5km new gravel road that starts at the R325 (14.6 km from Postmasburg), continues in a north-western direction, and ends approximately 130m west of the railway line. The new road will ensure safe transport and hauling from the R325 to the Palingpan Manganese Mine. The new road will be built up in layers of approved material that forms a 10m gravel carriageway for a length of approximately 5km. This material will be sourced from the mine dumps and borrow pits. The design will also include a new intersection on the R325 to accommodate traffic that will use the new service road and a new railway crossing. Stormwater crossings will be placed at regular intervals to accommodate the natural water course and lay of the land.

Lokisa Environmental Consultants have been appointed by PMG Mining (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed new haul road and stormwater management for the Palingpan Manganese Mine near Postmasburg, Northern Cape Province (REF: NC/BA/03/ZFM/TSA/POS1/2023).

A Final Basic Assessment Report (FBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include the construction of a ±5 km gravel road, new intersection, new railway crossing and stormwater crossings.

Prof Marion Bamford and Prof David Morris have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA in terms of section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Bamford, M. 2023. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed new haul road and storm water management for Palingpan Manganese Mine, Northern Cape Province

The proposed development is underlain by the potentially fossiliferous Ghaap Group dolomites that may

NEW HAUL ROAD AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT FOR PALINGPAN MANGANESE MINE

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include trace fossils such as stromatolites, however, the project area is covered in red sands and soils. The PalaeoSensitivity as shown in the SAHRIS map is contested and is recommended to be moderately sensitive. A Fossil Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be implemented.

Morris, D. 2023. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report for the Proposed Paling Pan Haul Road Construction at Remainder and Portion 1 of the Farm Plaas 445 Hay Rd & Remainder and Portion 1 of the Farm Paling 434 Hay Rd, near Postmasburg, Tsantsabane Local Municipality, Northern Cape

A total of three heritage resources were identified with the proposed development footprint. These include isolated Stone Age lithic surface scatters of low heritage significance. A Chance Finds Procedure is recommended to be followed.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final BAR and EMP:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No further additional specific conditions are provided for the development;
- 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 (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660) 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 the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Nggabutho 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 of the NHRA regarding offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
- With reference to the mitigation work noted above, a qualified archaeologist must be appointed to undertake the work in terms of the permit applied for as noted above;

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- 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 Final BAR and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

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
Manager: Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/615182>

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.