



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 21420

Date: Tuesday June 20, 2023

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## **Interim Comment**

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

Attention: Michelle Venter

**Glubay Coal (Pty) Ltd is an affiliated company of Canyon Resources which is a mining and exploration company with current operations in Mpumalanga and Gauteng. The company has three operational coal mines, Phalannawa and Phalannawa Extension Colliery in the Delmas area and Khanye Colliery situated in the Bronkhorstspuit area. All three are opencast coal mines, mined through the typical truck and shovel method with concurrent rehabilitation being done at all five sites. The Vlaktefontein Coal Mining Project (Vlaktefontein Project) is a proposed opencast colliery, located in, on and around the old workings of the abandoned Springfield Colliery, 7km South of Meyerton and 10km North of Vereeniging in the Sedibeng District Municipality of the Gauteng Province. The Mining Right application area falls over the farm Vlaktefontein 546 IQ located partially in the Midvaal Local Municipality and the Emfuleni Local Municipality.**

Glubay Coal (Pty) Ltd have appointed M2 Environmental Connections (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Scoping & 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, and in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No 28 of 2002) (MPRDA), for activities that trigger the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 2014 Regulations, as amended.

Glubay Coal is proposing to establish an opencast coal mine named Vlaktefontein Coal Project on 110 ha land located on farm Vlaktefontein 546 IQ in the Vereeniging & Meyerton Magisterial Districts of the Gauteng Province. The mine will be linked to the Redan Siding and the area within the mine right area will be 10 ha, construction will include: Opencast mining pit; Processing plant; Overburden stockpiles; access roads and haul roads; Run of mine (RoM) stockpiles; Pollution control dams (PCDs); Hard Park area; Stormwater trenches; Security offices; Chemical Toilets; Water pipelines; and Fencing.

A Scoping report has been submitted to the SAHRA for commenting in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no. 25 of 1999 (NHRA). The report states that the area is in a region of highly palaeontological significance therefore a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) will be undertaken in the EIA phase.



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The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) acknowledges receipt of the Scoping Report. However, the SAHRA requests that the following is undertaken in terms of section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) as part of the EA application process:

The proposed mining activities has the potential to impact negatively on heritage and/or cultural resources, therefore a heritage impact assessment must be conducted. A field-based assessment of the impact to archaeological resources must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist. The report must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA and the SAHRA 2006 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Component of Impact Assessments, and the 2012 Minimum Standards: Archaeological Component of Heritage Impact Assessments. The SAHRA would like to add that the proposed mining area contains a significant heritage (rock engravings) that must be included in the assessment impacts to heritage.

In addition, a Field based assessment of the impact to palaeontological resources must be undertaken. The assessment must be conducted by a qualified palaeontologist. The report must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA and the SAHRA 2006 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Component of Impact Assessments, and the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Component of Heritage Impact Assessments. The Minimum Standards provides allowance for a Letter of Recommendation for Exemption that can be submitted by a qualified palaeontologist should they deem it appropriate.

The assessment should include any other heritage resources that may be impacted such as built structures over years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Scoping Report as part of the Environmental Authorisation Application for the  
Vlakfontein Coal Mining Project by Glubay Coal (Pty) Ltd in the District of  
Vereeniging and Meyerton, Gauteng

Our Ref: 21420



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Nokukhanya Khumalo  
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Natasha Higgitt  
Manager: Development Applications Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/617965>

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