

Interim Comment

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

Attention: WSP Environmental Pty Ltd - Johannesburg

Bryanston Place
199 Bryanston Drive
Bryanston
2191

Proposed development of the Yzermyn Underground Coal Mine, close to the town of Wakkerstroom, Mpumalanga Province

Van Vollenhoven, AC. April 2012. *A Report On A Pre- Feasibility Heritage Study For The Proposed Yzermyn Coal Mine Close To Dirkiesdorp, Mpumalanga Province.*

Thank you for submitting the Draft Social and Environmental Impact Assessment and the above heritage study for the proposed Yzermyn Coal near Dirkiesdorp, Mpumalanga Province. Eighteen sites of heritage significance were identified during this assessment. The specialist indicated that mitigation measures are preliminary since the layout of the mine and the locations of associated infrastructure are not known.

It is noted that SAHRA has previously commented on this proposed development in a letter dated 14 February 2013 and additional information was requested. It is also noted that this letter has not been included in the Appendix G Stakeholder Engagement. As yet, this requested information has not been supplied to SAHRA. As such, SAHRA's comment from 14 February 2013 stands.

Considering that the study submitted to SAHRA is merely a pre-feasibility study and the layout of the mine is yet to be finalised, SAHRA APM Unit recommends:

- 1) Once the layout of the mine has been decided, it be subject to an intensive heritage survey and an Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment be submitted to SAHRA APM Unit for review, that assesses the impact of the proposed mine development on the resources identified as having medium and high archaeological significance.
- 2) The larger project area must be subject to a Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment by a professional palaeontologist. This must be submitted to SAHRA for assessment.
- 3) The cemeteries, Sites 9 and 16, must be retained *in situ* and the mine layout must take cognisance of this recommendation. Subject to the re-assessment identified above, a Conservation Management Plan may need to be drafted for these resources.
- 4) The rock art site is deemed to be highly significant since little is known about the Later Stone Age of the area. It is therefore recommended that the site be conserved and no impact should occur on the area. Subject to the re-assessment identified above, a Conservation Management Plan may need to be drafted for this resource.

THE PROPOSED YZERMYN UNDERGROUND COAL MINE

Our Ref: 9/2/222/0002

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CaseID: 4024

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an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

5) *Considering that this is only a pre-feasibility study, a full Phase 1 Archaeological and Palaeontological study will have to be undertaken, all sites will have to be mapped in relation to the mining infrastructure and mining pits, the actual mining activities and infrastructure will need to be described. The reports will need to comply with SAHRA APM Minimum Standards for Phase 1 Archaeological and Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessments as well as Section 38(3) of the NHRA.*

SAHRA will await the additional requested information before commenting further.

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

Yours faithfully

Jenna Lavin
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/138211>
Edit view (DMR, Ref: MP 30/5/1/2/2/10069 MR) (DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/3/85)



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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