



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo  
Tel: 021 462 4502  
Email: [nkhumalo@sahra.org.za](mailto:nkhumalo@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 4225

Date: Wednesday March 24, 2021  
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## **Final Comment**

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

Attention: Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 148  
Sunninghill  
2157

### **Proposed Establishment of the Coal-Fired Power Plant and Associated Infrastructure at Transalloys near Emalahleni, Mpumalanga**

Transalloys (Pty) Ltd are proposing to amend their approved 55MW coal-fired power station Environmental Authorisation (EA), in order to increase the generation capacity of the power station to about 120-150 MW of electricity. In order to increase electricity output capacity, the approved power station layout must be amended, update the contact details of the EA holder, amend the project description and to extend the EA validity period. The Transalloys ferro-metal plant and the proposed power station within the plant are located on Portion 34 and 35 of the farm Elandsfontein 309 JS and Portions 20 and 24 of the farm Schoongezicht 308 JS. In the eMalahleni Local Municipality of the Mpumalanga Province.

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd have submitted an EA amendment application motivation report on behalf of the applicant, Transalloys (Pty) Ltd, as part of an Integrated Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment process undertaken for their Environmental Authorisation amendment application in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA), as amended.

This second amendment motivation report details the proposed amendments to the Coal Fired power station include layout changes to the ash yard, which will impact some historical stone cairns and the remains of a historical farmstead. The updated power plant area will also impact on historical ruins. SAHRA issued a Final Comment dated 09/09/2019 accepting the HIA summarised below and providing no objections to the project.

*Van der Merwe, R. and van der Walt, J. April 2019. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Transalloys Power Plant Part II Amendment, Mpumalanga Province.*

The author undertook a field survey of the proposed development to assess the potential impacts the



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proposed new power station and ash dump layout might have on heritage resources. The author identified 4 sites that may be of heritage significance (TA 1 to 4). TA 1 to 3 are the remains of historical homestead houses and a nearby fenced graveyard. TA 4 is a small stone cairn created by rocks removed from crop fields. The author assessed that TA4 is not a heritage site and should not be managed as a heritage site. TA 1 to 3 are of low heritage significance and that the development may go ahead without further mitigation. Furthermore, a palaeontological assessment by Milstead, B was undertaken in 2013 and subsequently approved in the first EA application. The author recommends the chance finds procedures in the PIA must be included in the EMP for implementation.

## Final Comment

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the HIA and the PIA reports submitted to the case for commenting, and has no objection to the development going ahead on the following conditions.

A comment regarding the retention or destruction of the buildings identified in the HIA report must be obtained from the Mpumalanga Heritage Resources Authority (MPHRA). Please contact Mr Benjamin Moduka at [bmoduka@mpg.gov.za](mailto:bmoduka@mpg.gov.za) for processes to follow.

The Chance Finds Fossil Procedures as detailed in the PIA report must be included in the EMP.

In the event that fossils are uncovered during construction then construction must cease within the immediate vicinity, a buffer of 30 m must be established, and a palaeontologist called in to inspect the finds. The palaeontologist must obtain a section 35(4) permit in terms of NHRA and Chapter IV NHRA Regulations, before any fossils are collected.

If there are any new heritages resources are discovered during construction and operation phases of the proposed development, then a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings at the expense of the developer.

If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required at the expense of the developer. Mitigation will only be carried out after the archaeologist or palaeontologist obtains a permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999). You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8654).



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If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the police find them to be heritage graves, then mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be contacted for processes to follow (Thingahangwi Tshivase/Mimi Seetelo 072 802 1251).

Once a Record of Decision from the competent authority is issued, it must also be submitted to the case.

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

Yours faithfully

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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/145880>  
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/97)

Terms & Conditions:



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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.