



Letter

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

Attention: Nobuhle Hughes
Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd
Edit view P O Box 2083
Pinegowrie
2123

The proposed construction of a new Overvaal rail tunnel parallel to and approximately 20m south of the existing Overvaal tunnel, which is approximately 30km south east of Ermelo on the Transnet Richards Bay coal line, in Mpumalanga Province.

Thank you for submitting the Background Information Document for the proposed construction of a new Overvaal rail tunnel parallel to and approximately 20m south of the existing Overvaal tunnel, which is approximately 30km south east of Ermelo on the Transnet Richards Bay coal line, in Mpumalanga Province.

In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999), any proposed development that requires an application in terms of NEMA or the MPRDA must have an assessment of impacts to heritage resources completed as part of the application process. The relevant heritage authority must determine whether the assessment done in terms of impacts to heritage resources satisfies our requirements and must provide comments or recommendations to the decision-making authority.

According to the submitted documentation, the additional line is intended to increase the capacity of rail transportation to the coast through Mpumalanga.

It is noted that the area proposed for development is underlain by geology known for its significant palaeontological heritage. It is therefore likely that the proposed development will impact negatively on significant palaeontological resources.

As such, SAHRA requires that a Heritage Impact Assessment be conducted.

This heritage impact assessment must assesses the impact of the proposed development on all heritage resources including, but not limited to, **palaeontological heritage**. This assessment must not only assess impacts in terms of the development footprint, but must also assess broader, indirect impacts to heritage that may result from the proposed development.

A Palaeontological Field assessment study must be undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon significant palaeontological resources. This assessment must identify any impacts, must propose appropriate mitigation strategies as well as provide a protocol for chance finds during the construction phase of the proposed development. If necessary a Phase 2 rescue operation might be required (see www.palaeontologicalsociety.co.za).



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CaseID: 4341

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Any other heritage resources that may be impacted such as archaeology, built structures, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or views must also be assessed.

This assessment must satisfy SAHRA's minimum requirements for impact assessments and must comply with the requirements in Section 38(3) of the NHRA and as such, this assessment must provide recommendations regarding the mitigation of any identified direct and indirect impacts to heritage resources.

SAHRA looks forward to receiving this assessment before commenting further on this proposed development.

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/150589>
Edit view (, Ref:)



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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