

Letter

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

Attention: Northern Coal (Pty) Ltd
P. O. Box 52651
Saxonwold
2132

NEMA application for the proposed Weltevreden Open Cast Coal Mine, Belfast, Mpumalanga Province

Dear Mr Johan Nell

WELTEVREDEN OPEN CAST COAL MINE (CASE ID 5472)

This letter is in response to the Digby Wells letter, dated 26 November 2014.

The letter raised some concerns about the SAHRA comment that was issued on 14/11/2014. This letter addressed the recommendations SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit made in the comment as follows.

SAHRA acknowledges your letter dated 26 November 2014. Please note that the Provincial Authority is the competent authority with regard to matters related to section 34 resources. In saying this, the recommendations highlighted by the SAHRA Interim Comment merely reflects the recommendations of the submitted heritage report.

Site S34-001

It is indicated in your letter that the Historic Mine Shaft is flooded and poses serious safety risks if mapping are to be implemented. This is understood.

However, please note that the recommendation for full mapping is stipulated in the Impact Assessment Report submitted to SAHRA, Table 7-2 and Table 7-3. The recommendations of the SAHRA Interim Comment are consistent with the recommendation of the specialist report. The report further states that there are two horizontal shafts of 75m and 50m in length. It is not clear how this was determined.

Site S34-002 Site S34-003

Throughout the heritage report and per section 8.3.1 it is recommended that the historical houses should be recorded. However, the tables related to mitigation recommend regular monitoring. SAHRA has no issue with this recommendation



Site s36-006 and s36-007 Burial grounds and graves

From our Burial Grounds and Graves Unit regulations for burial grounds and graves, social consultation regarding graves or burial grounds is initiated when graves are discovered in a mine right area, whether the graves will be impacted by the mining activities or not. This must be done as the establishment of a mine and its subsequent activities may place limitations of access to the graves by the relatives of deceased. Thus, while graves may not be affected or damaged by mining and its associated activities, communities with connections to those graves may be affected hence the need for social consultation.

The Palaeontological Impact Assessment was rather below PIA minimum standards, there were no recommendations in the HIA about the palaeontology. The two paragraphs in the HIA only state the geological formations and the palaeontological sensitivity.

It is only in this current letter sent to us is there any findings from the field assessment. The SAHRA comment requested the fossil finds procedure because there were no recommendations for the PIA as is mentioned in our comment dated 14/11/2014.

SAHRA hopes this letter clarifies and answers the concerns raised in the letter addressed to us on the 26th of November 2014.

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

Yours faithfully

Mariagrazia Galimberti
Heritage Specialist
Cedar Tower Services (Pty) Ltd





Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/162663>
(DMR, Ref: MP302/5/1/1/2/358 MR) (MDEDET, Ref: DEDET Ref No17/2/3N-272)

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.

