

Our Ref: 9404



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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CaseID: 9404

Date: Friday April 21, 2017

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Final Comment

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

Attention: Umcebo Mining (Pty) Ltd

Private Bag X 1838
Middelburg
1050

Umcebo Mining (Pty) Ltd (Umcebo) is proposing the development and operation of a new underground coal mine with associated infrastructure at a site situated approximately 10 - 22 kilometres (km) southeast of Hendrina in Mpumalanga Province. A Mining Right Application (MRA) must be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) for the Project.

Umcebo Mining (Pty) Ltd a subsidiary of Glencore Operations (Pty) Ltd is the current holder of two Prospecting Right for the farms Mooivley 219 IS; Tweefontein 203 IS; Uitkyk 220 IS; Orange Vallei 201 IS; Elim 245 IS; Geluksdraai 240 IS; Bosmanskrans 217 IS and Orpenskraal 238 IS, and intends to convert them to a Mine Right in order to establish three underground coal mine sections, named Mooivley East and West to be operational concurrently, and Hendrina South to be operational after Mooivley East is decommissioned. This mine is located in Steve Tshwete and Msukaligwa Local Municipalities of Mpumalanga Province. The construction of the proposed underground mine will consist of 3 box cuts and incline mine shafts, a crushing and screening plant, stockpile areas and waste rock dump, access roads and administrative areas. The extent of the mine will be 6710 ha and the surface disturbances will be limited to 37 ha and the underground sections.

Digby Wells and Associated (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd was appointed to carry out environmental assessments for mine right and environmental authorisation application process for Umcebo Underground Coal Mine. The application is made in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1999 for activities that trigger the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, Act 28 of 2002 (MPRDA). The Heritage Impact Assessment was conducted by their in-house heritage unit and submitted to SAHRA for commenting including the letter by Dr Marion Bamford detailing a fossil finds procedure.

Du Piesanie, J. And Nel, J. July 2016. Heritage Impact Assessment, Proposed Development of an Underground Coal Mine and Associated Infrastructure near Hendrina, Mpumalanga.

The report assessed the overall impacts of the surface infrastructure proposed for the underground coal mine.



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The report identified numerous heritage features within the mine right area but none within the proposed surface infrastructure footprint apart from Site WF-021 a farmstead located very close to a proposed ventilation shaft. A total of forty-four heritage sites were identified.

- Five of the sites are proposed to be provincial heritage sites: (RA-001; RA-002; 1722/S35-015; 1722/S35-019; 1722/S35-029). These sites are rock art sites that express a regional style of Hunter Gatherer rock art.
- Twenty-two farmsteads were identified within the mine right area however they have all been listed as low significance as a relative could not be identified and the structures are relatively common in the area.
- Three burial grounds were identified within the project area and all burial grounds are all of local high significance.

Although no direct impacts are foreseen to heritage resources, the author recommends that a Cultural Management Plan (CMP) be a condition of the granting of an authorisation. The CMP must include all heritage resources within a distance of a 100 m from the proposed surface infrastructure development and within the 500 m blast zone radius. The CMP should also include monitoring procedures for all the heritage resources including palaeontological resources.

It should also include the mapping and recording of the rock art images using the latest technology as a form of conservation. The recording of these sites should be included in a pre-disturbance *status quo* report that must be submitted to SAHRA. This report must be used as a basis for monitoring.

Bamford, M. 8 May 2016. Comments on Heritage Scoping Report submitted to SAHRA (Case 9404)

Contained within the HIA report, a letter clarifying the authorship of the desktop assessment in the Heritage Scoping report was provided. Dr Bamford had reviewed the desktop palaeontological study and agreed with the assessment. The author mentions that poorly preserved fossils of the plant *Breytenia* were identified in surface deposits, and no suitable outcrops or ridges occur within project area. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure was requested by SAHRA, which was provided in this letter.

Final Comment

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit agrees with the recommendations contained in the Heritage impact Assessment report and has no objections to the proposed development on the following conditions:

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A CMP must be commissioned by the mine to be written by a heritage specialist and submitted to SAHRA for approval. The CMP must detail potential direct and indirect impacts to all the heritage resources identified within a distance of a 100 m from the proposed surface infrastructure development and within the 500 m blast zone radius.

- The CMP must ensure that a *status quo* report is in place for all the rock art sites.
- The CMP must allow for the annual monitoring of all heritage resources within the mine right area by the relevant heritage specialist.
- It must contain the responsible persons to initiate monitoring of all the heritage resources and submit the subsequent reports to SAHRA.
- The CMP should contain the procedure to allow for family members to gain access to their respective grave sites.

All burial grounds within the mine right area must be fenced with an access gate to allow for family visitation.

A palaeontologist must train the ECO and the mine geologist to identify the local fossilised flora. The Fossil Finds Procedure must be included in the EMPr for implementation.

The following additional conditions apply to the development:

If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary, and a permit will be needed before mitigation. You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8652), - and if any unmarked human burials are uncovered then please contact the SAHRA BGG Unit (Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490).

If any damage or disturbances to the heritage resources identified in the HIA are foreseen and the recommendations within this Final Comment cannot be adhered to then a motivation letter should be submitted to SAHRA as an additional documents in a new permit application for mitigating the sites.

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

John Gribble
Manager: Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit / Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/361573>
(DMR-MP, Ref:)

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.