



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 9647

Date: Friday August 26, 2016

Page No: 1

Interim Comment

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

Attention: Ms Chantelle Gerber

Anglo Operations Proprietary Limited

Private Bag X1 Marshalltown Johannesburg
2107

Elders Colliery is a proposed underground mine for Anglo Operations (Pty) Limited. The project is located approximately 25 km north of Bethal. Coal will be mined by means of the bord and pillar mining method. Coal will be transported via a new overland conveyor system to the existing Goedehoop Colliery where the coal will be processed.

Van Schalkwyk, October 2015. Cultural Heritage Assessment for the updated Elders Colliery above ground project areas, Mpumalanga Province.

Anglo Operations (Pty) Ltd is proposing to construct a new underground coal mine using the bord and pillar method. The colliery will be located on the farms Middelkraal 50 IS and Vlakkuielen 76 IS, in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality of Mpumalanga Province. The proposed construction will include a conveyor belt to the Goedehoop processing plant, and the mine shaft access roads and laydown areas. SRK Consulting was appointed by Anglo Operations to conduct the application for environmental authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998). Initially the Elders Colliery was to include both open cast mining method and underground mining methods however the case application only mentions underground mining, due to overland environmental sensitive areas which were going to be affected by opencast mining.

The author conducted a desktop assessment for potential impacts on heritage resources by the latest amendments to the project scope. The report concluded that no heritage resources have been identified in the mine right area. As this is a desktop assessment of the proposed mine right area the author suggests that this report, referenced above, should be read in conjunction with the 2006, 2012 and 2014 Heritage Reports.

The Heritage report mentions that a Palaeontological Impact Assessment should be conducted by a qualified palaeontologist.

Interim Comment

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit cannot comment on this heritage report and the



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Page No: 2

case, because the documents submitted to the case are not sufficient to provide an informed comment. SAHRA will provide further comment on the heritage report once the following documents are submitted to the case:

- The 2006; 2012 and 2014 HIA reports that are mentioned in this desktop assessment;
- All the environmental documents that were part of the NEMA Environmental Authorisation should be uploaded to the case include the Environmental Authorisation ROD and the Environmental Management Programme report.
- SAHRA requires a Palaeontological Impact Assessment to be conducted by a suitably qualified palaeontologist to assess the impacts of the underground coal mine to the fossiliferous shale rock beds in between the coal seams.

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

Yours faithfully

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
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Page No: 3

ADMIN:

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