

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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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)

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CaseID: 17711

Date: Tuesday February 15, 2022

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## Interim Comment

**In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

Attention: Tharisa Minerals (Pty) Ltd

Eland House  
3 Eaton Place  
Bryanston  
2021

**Tharisa Minerals (Pty) Ltd (Tharisa) is an opencast mining operation that produces chrome and platinum group metals (PGM) concentrate. The opencast mine is located on the farms 342 JQ and Elandsdrift 467 JQ near the town of Marikana in the Bojanala District Municipality and Rustenburg Local Municipality, North West Province. As part of its on-going mine planning Tharisa has identified the need for additional waste rock and tailings storage on site. In this regard, Tharisa is proposing to:**

- establish a new WRD;
- extend a previously approved WRD;
- establish WRDs above backfilled portions of the East and West pits; and
- a new tailings storage facility (TSF).

SLR Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Tharisa Minerals (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed addition of a waste rocks and tailings storage facility on site on the Farms 342 JQ and Elandsdrift 467 JQ Near Marikana, Rustenburg Local Municipality, Bojanala District Municipality, North West Province.

The project area relates to SAHRIS case

(<https://sahrissahra.org.za/cases/environmental-impact-assessment-and-en...>) in which SAHRA issued a letter requesting that both the AIA and PIA components of an HIA be submitted for commenting.

Tharisa Mine and the proposed expansion areas are in an area of insignificant Palaeontological Sensitivity according to the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity Maps. Therefore, no further palaeontological studies are required.

### Interim Comment

The SAHRA APM Unit requests the following is undertaken in terms of section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) as part of the EA application process.

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The proposed expansion and/or addition of a TSF and WRD has the potential to impact negatively on heritage and/or cultural resources, therefore a heritage impact assessment must be conducted. A field-based assessment of the impact to archaeological resources must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist. The report must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA and the SAHRA 2006 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Component of Impact Assessments, and the 2012 Minimum Standards: Archaeological Component of Heritage Impact Assessments. The Minimum Standards provides allowance for a Letter of Recommendation for Exemption that can be submitted by a qualified archaeologist should they deem it appropriate.

The assessment should include any other heritage resources that may be impacted such as built structures over years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above and the Scoping and EIA reports inclusive of appendices.

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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Elijah Dumisani Katsetse  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine

Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/590431>