



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: 15169

Date: Tuesday July 14, 2020

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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: Seriti Coal (Pty) limited

New Denmark Colliery (“NDC”) is an underground mine situated in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa, and has been operational since 1983, extracting coal through both bord-and-pillar and longwall mining methods. The mine lies approximately 25 km to the south south-east of Secunda, 25 km north north-east of Standerton, 30 km west of Morgenzon and 33 km south south-west of Bethal. NDC falls under the jurisdiction of the Lekwa Local Municipality, which is part of the Gert Sibanda District in the Mpumalanga Province. NDC proposes to construct an access road leading to the new ventilation shaft to improve the ventilation systems. The proposed access road will cross and be located within a watercourse (unchanneled valley bottom wetland). The road will be a gravel road of 10 m wide and 700 m in length. The crossing will require for a bridge and culverts to be constructed. The site for the proposed access road is located within the NDC Mining Right area (“MRA”) but the surface rights belong to a farmer. A servitude agreement will be done in consultation with the farmer.

New Denmark Colliery (NDC) appointed Shangoni Management Services (Pty) Ltd to undertake the environmental authorisation application for the construction of an access road leading to the new ventilation shaft. NDC mine is an underground mine situated in Portion 6 of the farm Meyersvallei 354 IS in the Lekwa Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (dBAR) was submitted to SAHRA in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (GN R982 of 4 December 2014) (“GN R982”), as amended.

The road will be a gravel road of 10 m wide and 700 m in length. The crossing will require for a bridge and culverts to be constructed. The site for the proposed access road is located within the NDC Mining Right area, but the surface rights belong to a farmer. A servitude agreement will be done in consultation with the farmer.

van Vollenhoven, A. 2020. A REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR A PROPOSED VENTILATION SHAFT AT THE NEW DENMARK COLLIERY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

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The development site has been surveyed on previous occasions and sites were indeed identified, but these are all far from the current development area. None of these will be impacted on by the proposed development. A grave site was identified about 10m east of the ventilation shaft and 70m away from the proposed development area. The site consists of approximately 68 graves. Five of the graves are younger than 60 years and the rest are unmarked graves.

It is recommended that the grave site be demarcated with a fence and a heritage specialist be appointed to draft the management plan for the sustainable preservation thereof. The site should be included in the heritage register and mitigation is subject to a permit application lodged with the relevant heritage authority.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite (APM) unit notes the Heritage Impact Assessment report and the recommendations provided therein. It is however noted that the proposed development area is of very high palaeontological significance. Therefore, a field based Palaeontological Impact Assessment and protocol for finds is also required.

The study must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA and the SAHRA 2006 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Component of Impact Assessments, and the SAHRA 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Component of Impact Assessment Report and section 38(3) of the NHRA. The Minimum Standards provides allowance for a Letter of Recommendation for Exemption that can be submitted by a qualified palaeontologist should they deem it appropriate.

If you are unaware of any palaeontologists a list of them working within the Heritage Resources Management field are provided in the this website (see www.palaeosa.org).

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the requested PIA report.

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

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/537488>
(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.