

Our Ref: 15680



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 15680

Date: Monday March 01, 2021
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Final Comment

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

Attention: Rand Uranium (Pty) Ltd

Rand Uranium (Pty) Ltd (Rand Uranium), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sibanye Gold Limited (Sibanye) owns the Cooke Operations located near Westonaria and Randfontein in the West Rand District Municipality, Gauteng Province. These operations consist of two converted Mining Rights, which include the underground and surface operations respectively. Sibanye are seeking permanent closure of the Cooke Underground operations, which include three mine shaft complexes - Cooke No. 1, 2 and 3 Shafts. To this end, Sibanye intend to undertake various decommissioning, rehabilitation and closure activities across both Mining Right Areas, which require Environmental Authorisation (EA).

Du Piesanie, J. & Hardwick, S. October 2020. Basic Assessment Process for the Closure of the Cooke Underground Operations: Heritage Impact Assessment

The proposed development entails the closure of the Cooke Operation, that includes three underground shafts, a metallurgical plant (Cooke Gold Plant) and surface reclamation of historic gold Tailings Storage Facilities.

The assessment yielded five heritage resources, all burial grounds and graves. Based on the understanding of the Project and given the location of the heritage resources in relation to the project infrastructure, the authors envisage no direct or indirect impacts against cultural heritage resources identified during the pre-disturbance survey.

The SA Palaeontological Sensitivity Map indicates that the study area has Low, Moderate, High and Very High palaeontological sensitivity.

Final Comment

The SA Palaeontological Sensitivity Map indicates that a palaeontological assessment is required in the study area. However, considering that this project relates to closure of activities within an area of significance prior to disturbance, a palaeontological assessment is not required.

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SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit has no objections to this proposed development, provided that the recommendations in the specialist reports and this comment are adhered to, and in addition on the following conditions:

- If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments and charcoal/ash concentrations) or palaeontological remains are found during the proposed activities, SAHRA must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, based on the nature of the finds, must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary.
- Chance Find Procedures relating to palaeontological finds must be developed and implemented by the Environmental Control Officer if any chance finds are encountered.
- The five burial grounds described in the report must be clearly indicated and avoided during the closure activities.

If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the police find them to be heritage graves, mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be contacted for processes to follow.

Should the project be granted Environmental Authorisation, SAHRA must be notified and all relevant documents submitted to the case on SAHRIS.

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

Yours faithfully

Andrew Salomon
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/543245>
(DMR, 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.