ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT SERVICES

9 February 2023

Our ref: 1538/JP/sm

**South African Heritage Resource Authority (SAHRA)**

To whom it may concern

Dear Sir or Madam:

**REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF REQUIREMENT TO UNDERTAKE ANY HERITAGE STUDIES FOR THE PROPOSED KUSASALETHUE RETURN WATER AND BACKFILL PIPELINES, IN THE MERAFONG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, GAUTENG PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA.**

Harmony Mining Company Ltd, hereafter referred to as the applicant, has appointed Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS) as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist with undertaking the required Water Use Licence Application (WULA) processes (including the statutory public participation), and to compile and submit the required documentation in support of an application for:

- Water Use Licence (WUL) in accordance with the National Water Act – NWA (Act 36 of 1998):
    - Listed Water uses: Section 21 (c), Section 21 (i) and Section 21 (g)[1].

The following project background is applicable to the proposed project:

- Kusasalethu is a mature, deep-level mine 90km west of Johannesburg, near the Gauteng-North West provincial border in the West Rand Region. The current life of mine is estimated at three years that extends past the Kusasalethu Gold Plant's life of mine that currently supplies backfill to the mine for support to the underground mining structures.
- Kusasalethu Gold Plant going into care and maintenance necessitated the need to find an alternative source of backfill material for the mine for the remaining life of mine. Harmony's Savuka Gold Plant (SGP) was identified as possible source as it deposits its tailings on the Savuka TSF Complex not far from Kusasalethu mine.
- SGP has been identified as the feasible source of backfill for the Kusasalethu Mine and backfill will be pumped from the SGP to Kusasalethu Plant via two (2) backfill pipelines (1 x duty and 1 x standby) on an intermitted basis.
- Once the batch of backfill is pumped, the pipeline will be flushed with water, this water will be captured at Kusasalethu Plant and return to SGP via a single (1) return water pipeline.

The applicant is planning to construct the following:

- Two (2) new backfill pipelines (1 x duty and 1 x standby). The estimated daily volume of backfill that will be pumped to Kusasalethu Plant will be ± 1 100 tons. The backfill pipelines will have an inside diameter (ID) of 200 mm and flow rate of between 36 l/s and 40 l/s.
- One (1) new return water The return water pipeline will also have an ID of 200 mm and flow rate of between 15 l/s and 20 l/s and daily volume of water pumped to SGP is estimated at 186 000 litres.

[1] While the project includes a NWA Section 21(g) water use, this is an existing plant / facility - the applicant is only changing the source of the backfill material.

**A** 8 Dalmeny Road, Pine Park, Randburg | **PO** Box 2083, Pinegowrie 2123, South Africa
**T** (011) 789-7170 | **F** (086) 571- 9047

**A** Regus Business Centre, 14 Stewart Drive, Berea, East London | **PO** Box 19731, Tecoma, 5214, South Africa
**T** (043) 783-9826 | **F** (086) 571- 9047

**W** www.eims.co.za | **E** mail@eims.co.za | **Co Reg** 1992/005927/07 | **VAT** 489 013 9027

**Directors:** L Whitlow, A Smith.

- The estimated distance of the three pipelines is 7 750 metres (7.75km), and all will be steel and flanged pipes installed on prefabricated concrete plinths above ground.
- The proposed pipelines will be installed within existing pipeline corridors and road reserves as well as historically impacted areas.

The project area is located approximately 3km from Carletonville within the Merafong City Local Municipality, West Rand District. Please see the attached map for ease of reference.

In terms of the National Resources Heritage Act (Act 25 of 1998), section 8 (1) states that: any person who intends to undertake a development categorised as: (a) the construction of a road, wall, powerline, pipeline, canal, or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300m in length must at the very earliest stages of initiating such a development, notify the responsible heritage authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development. The heritage authority may then instruct that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is done.

We hereby notify the South African Heritage Resources Authority (SAHRA), as the responsible heritage authority in terms of Section 38(1) of the NHRA and respectfully request confirmation as to whether any heritage specialist studies are required for the purposes of constructing the above-mentioned pipelines. We would like to draw SAHRA's attention to the fact that the proposed pipelines, though they will exceed 300m in length, will be installed above-ground, within existing pipeline corridors and road reserves as well as historically impacted areas within the Kusasalethu Mine area which would significantly reduce the probability of occurrence of and potential impacts on heritage resources within the proposed pipeline route. The pipelines are also located in an area of low heritage sensitivity as identified in the DFFE screening tool (refer to attached report in Annexure 2). It is also important to bear in mind that no other infrastructure, except for the pipelines is proposed as part of the project. We kindly request that you take this into consideration in your decision making.

Sincerely,

Sinalo Matshona

Annexure 1: Locality Map

Annexure 2: DFFE Screening Tool Report