

info@ekogroup.co.za
t • +27(0)51 444 4700
f • +27(0)86 697 6132
Suite 158 • Private Bag X01 • BRANDHOF 9324
21 Dromedaris Street • Dan Pienaar
BLOEMFONTEIN 9301
Company Reg No • 2002/058636/23
VAT No • 4020225811



Enquiries: Louis de Villiers

24 January 2018

South African Heritage Resource Agency
P.O. Box 4637
Cape Town
8000

Attention: Mr. A. Salomon

**THE REHABILITATION OF THE HISTORICALLY MINED PIT ON PORTION 15 OF THE FARM
JAGERSFONTEIN 14 BY INFILLING OF TAILINGS FROM THE DIAMOND PROCESSING OPERATION,
JAGERSFONTEIN, FREE STATE**

The main purpose of this Background Information Document ("BID") is to summarise the activities that will be associated with the proposed rehabilitation of the Pit situated on Portion 15 of the Farm Jagersfontein 14, Fauresmith RD, Xhariep District Municipality, Free State Province ("Portion 15"), which is adjacent to Jagersfontein Developments (Pty) Ltd's ("JD") Tailings Operations and to provide stakeholders and / or identified Interested and Affected Parties ("I&AP") with the opportunity to comment on the proposed scope of work and to indicate their interest.. This letter also serves as notification of the project.

Project Description

Eko Environmental will submit applications to obtain a waste management license ("WML") and a water use license ("WUL") in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act No. 59 of 2008) ("NEMWA") and National Water Act 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998) ("NWA") respectively to rehabilitate the Pit by infilling it with tailings. The application for a WML will include a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment process ("S&EIR") under the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA").

The Pit was created in the 1870s when the Jagersfontein Farm was proclaimed a public digging. It is the biggest hand-excavated hole in the world and is a heritage resource under section 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 ("NHRA") due to its historical value. The Pit has however not been given any formal protection by the South African Heritage Resources Agency or Free State Heritage Resources Authority under the NHRA. SAHRA and the Free State Heritage Resource Authority will be notified of the proposed project.

The Pit is unstable, is break-backing and poses vibration risks. Tourism is therefore not a viable option at the Pit. JD has appointed a geotechnical and structural engineering specialist who has undertaken extensive

assessments and confirmed that the use of tailings to rehabilitate the Pit is the only viable way to ensure the Pit's stability and eliminate risks to surrounding residents in the long term.

JD's Operations consist of reprocessing eleven tailings dumps, where the coarse tailings from historic diamond mining operations were discarded, at an existing diamond recovery Processing Plant (the "**Plant**") in Jagersfontein. Currently JD's Operation utilizes the existing Fine Tailings Storage Facilities ("**FTSF**") for storage of the fine tailings from the Plant. Coarse tailings are returned to the existing footprints from where the tailings were removed and were also used to stabilise the FTSF's walls.

However, it was determined that coarse and fine tailings can be utilised to rehabilitate the Pit by filling the tailings into it. This will ensure the stability of the Pit. It will also remove all current tailings from the surface of the properties adjacent to Portion 15 owned by JD ("JD Properties"), enabling more effective rehabilitation and creating an area with a higher potential for agriculture. Rehabilitating the Pit will also likely cause less groundwater impacts than are currently caused by placing the tailings on the surface of the JD Properties.

JD's Operation will produce approximately 23 million tons of fine tailings and 27.2 million tons of coarse tailings, which will be used to rehabilitate the Pit over the lifetime of the operation. The Pit has the capacity to contain approximately 33 677 382 m³ of tailings from JD's Operation.

Locality

The activity will occur on Portion 15 of the Farm Jagersfontein 14, Fauresmith RD, Free State. Refer to the attached locality map.

The applicant for this project is JD who is the landowner of Portion 15.

Alternatives

The only other feasible alternative for the project is keeping the entire Pit fenced in and preventing people and animals from entering the area surrounding the Pit, as this area is unsafe.

Relevant legislation

The following activities will be applied for:

- *Application for Water Use License ("**WULA**") for the following water use listed in the NWA;*
 - Section 21(g) - disposal of waste or water containing waste in a manner which may have a detrimental impact on a water resource.
- *Application for a WML for the following activity according to Government Notice 581 (29 November 2013), published under the Waste Act;*
 - Activity 8 of Category B which reads as follows:
 8. Disposal of general waste to land covering an area larger than 200 m² and with a total capacity exceeding 25 000 tons.

The process will include the following:

- WULA;
- WML application;
- S&EIR process;
- Public Participation Process;
- Specialist studies.

S&EIR

The impacts of all activities associated with the project will be assessed during the S&EIR. A draft of all reports will be made available to all registered I&AP to comment on. Comments received will be addressed and incorporated in the final reports, which will also then be made available to the registered I&AP to comment on.

An Environmental Management Programme report will also be developed for all activities associated with the project wherein mitigation and management measures will be proposed that should be implemented during all phases of the project. The final reports will be submitted to the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Free State Province (“**DESTEA**”) for processing to obtain a WML under the Waste Act.

Comments received regarding the WULA will be included in all reports.

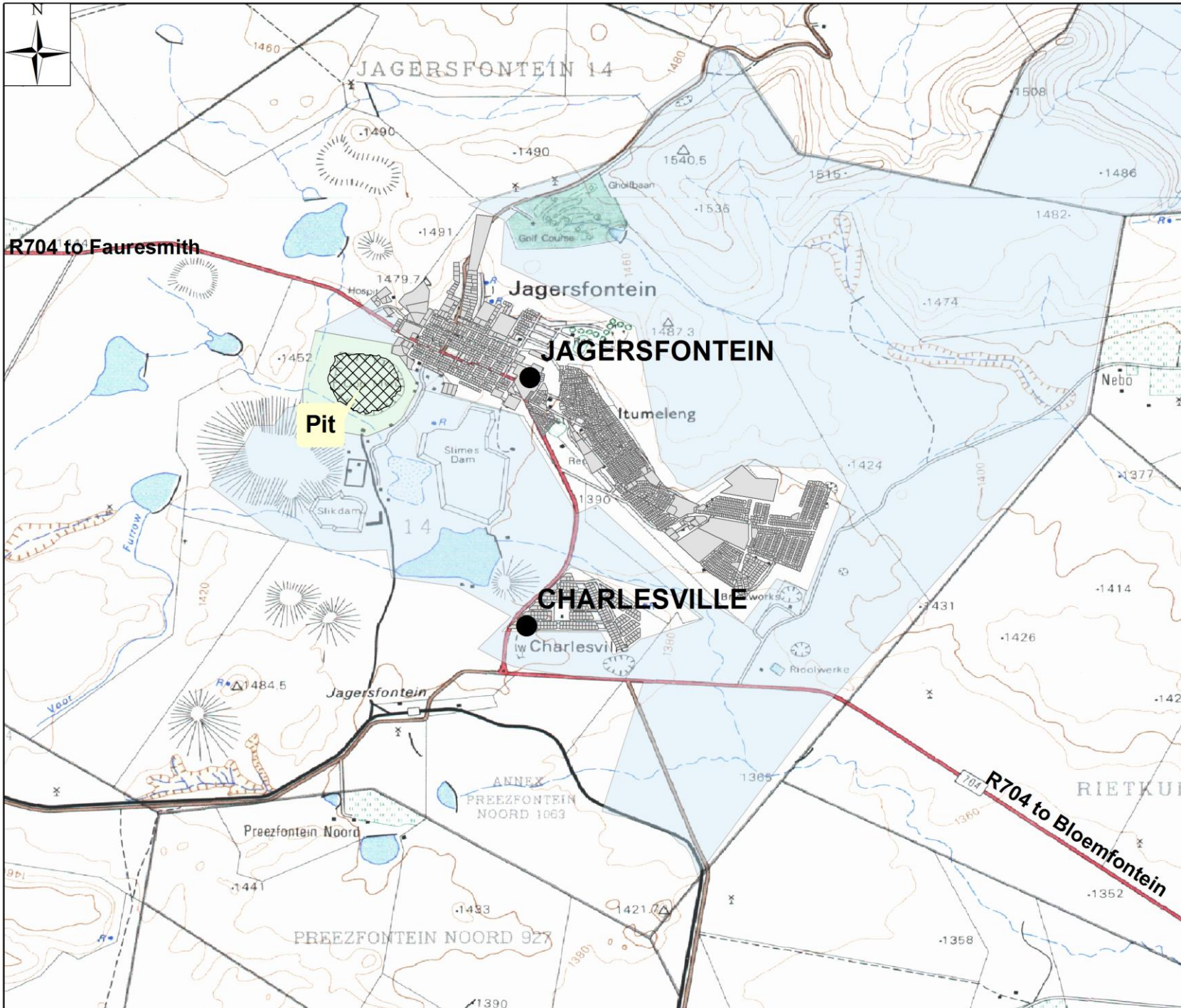
Your comments regarding the proposed project as mentioned above would be appreciated on or before **23 February 2018**.

We trust that you find this in order.

Kind Regards



Louis De Villiers



Map 1: Location of the pit on portion 15 of the farm Jagersfontein 14, Fauresmith district, Free State

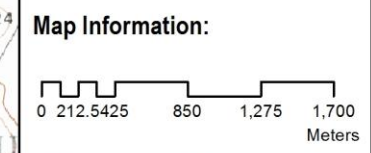
Applicant:
 Applicant: Jagersfontein Developments (Pty) Ltd
 Address: P.O. Box 263, Durbanville, 7550

Date: March '16

Environmental Consultant:
 Consultant: Eko Environmental
 Address: Suite 158, P/Bag X01, Brandhof, 9324
 Tel: 051 444 4700
 Fax: 086 697 6132
 Contact: Mr. Louis De Villiers

Site Information:
 Coordinates: 29° 45' 51.09" S 25° 25' 8.80" E

- Legend**
-  Pit
 -  Jagersfontein 14/RE
 -  Jagersfontein 14/15



Spheroid: WGS 84
 Topo Cadastre Sheet: 2925CD

