

27 February 2012

Dear Stakeholder,

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS AND WASTE LICENSE APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED DECOMMISSIONING AND REMEDIATION OF THE TAR DAMS AT RUSTENBURG PLATINUM MINES

Rustenburg Platinum Mines Limited (RPM) has four existing tar dam footprints within their mine lease area near Rustenburg, North West Province. The tar dam footprints contained legacy residues that were generated from the gas fired smelter at Klipfontein, which existed more than 60 years ago. The tar residue from the smelter was stored in four separate clay-lined, soil compartments. Each tar dam footprint is approximately 1600m² in size and contained an estimated 3200m³ of tar residue. Tar dam footprints A and B (referred to as the Bleskop tar dams) are located between the Bleskop Stadium and the RPM Hospital, while tar dam footprints C and D are located north of the Klipfontein Concentrator, adjacent to the road to TEMSO (Refer to attached BID locality map).

The tar dams posed an environmental, health and safety risk and as a result, the tar residues were removed by an independent waste contractor to a permitted hazardous waste landfill site (Holfontein). Subsequent remediation of the underlying and surrounding contaminated soil is required. It is proposed that the contaminated soil will be remediated to a predetermined standard prior to being backfilled, shaped and grassed with indigenous self-sustaining grasses. Furthermore, as part of the project, the facilities (tar dams) will also be decommissioned.

Notice is hereby given in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998), as amended (NEMA), with specific reference to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2010, Government Notice Regulation (GNR.) 543 and 544, as well as the National Environmental Management Waste Act (No. 59 of 2008) (NEM:WA), GNR.718 of 2009 with the intent to decommission, and remediate the area associated with the Bleskop and TEMSO tar dams at RPM.

The project involves undertaking the following listed activity contained in the EIA NEMA Regulations GNR.544 of 2010:

- Activity 27(iv)
 - The decommissioning of existing facilities or infrastructure for activities, where the facility or land on which it is located is contaminated.

The following waste management activities listed in the NEM:WA GNR.718 of 2009 are also considered relevant:

- Category A, Activity 12
 - The remediation of contaminated land.
- Category A, Activity 20
 - The decommissioning of activities listed in GNR.718 Category A.

As activities contained in GNR.544 and GNR.718 are triggered, and in order for environmental authorisation and a waste management license to be granted, a basic assessment (BA) process is required in accordance with NEMA EIA Regulations. An integrated BA and waste management license application form has been submitted, in terms of the NEMA and NEM:WA, to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), who will be the competent authority for this project.

WSP Environment and Energy (WSP) has been appointed to undertake the function of the independent environmental assessment practitioner to facilitate the stakeholder engagement process and undertake the necessary environmental authorisation in accordance with NEMA and NEM:WA. WSP will compile a draft BA Report and a draft Environmental Management Programme document which will be made available to stakeholders for review and comment for a period of 60 days.

Thereafter, WSP will include and respond to all comments received during the public review period prior to finalising and submitting the reports to the DEA for authorisation.

Please find attached the background information document which contains additional information regarding the decommissioning and remediation project. Please note that a Public Meeting will be held for the project, to determine the response from the public and stakeholders. The meeting will be held at the RPM Sports Club on 16 March 2012 from 16h00 – 17h00. Should you wish to attend the Public Meeting, please respond and submit your details to Jared O'Brien by 12 March 2012. If you would like to register as a stakeholder, please submit your details to Jared O'Brien by 28 March 2012.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jared O'Brien', with a horizontal line underneath.

Jared O'Brien

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