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Environmental Regulatory Process required for the Proposed Sand Mining Project near Sasolburg, Free State Province, FS30/5/1/3/2/10308MP

Background Information Document

Prepared for:
Copper Sunset Sand (Pty) Ltd

Project Number:
COP6147

July 2020

**TO REGISTER AND FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING
CONTACT INFORMATION**

Ms. Modiegi Monaedi

Digby Wells Environmental

PO Box 10046, Randburg, 2125

Tel: (011) 789 9495/ Fax: (011) 789 9498 / (011) 069 6801

Email: sh@digbywells.com

Website: www.digbywells.com /OR data-free link: <http://view.datafree.co/PublicDocuments/>

1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to provide all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with information relating to the proposed Mining Permit application submitted by Copper Sunset Sand (Pty) (Copper Sunset) to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) for the proposed Sand Mining of an area located within an existing coal mining operation namely the New Vaal Colliery. The Background Information Document (BID) also aims to provide I&APs with an understanding of the required Environmental Authorisation Application Process to be undertaken. This document aims to:

- Provide a description of the proposed Project;
- Provide an overview of the required regulatory processes;
- Provide details in terms of the regulated Public Participation Process (PPP); and
- Invite all I&APs to register as stakeholders, provide comment, raise issues or concerns, and provide suggestions for the enhanced benefit of the Project.

2 PROJECT LOCATION

The Copper Sunset Project is located in the northern part of the Free State Province, approximately 2.8 km south of the town of Vereeniging. The Project falls under the Metsimaholo Local Municipality and Sasolburg Magisterial District. The proposed Mining Permit application area is located on the remaining extent of the farm Maccaw Vlei No. 121 (Figure 3-1).

3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Copper Sunset intends to apply for a Mining Permit for mining of sand on a 5 hectares (ha) area that exists within the existing New Vaal mining area (New Vaal Life Extension Project), in terms of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA). Copper Sunset is proposing to extract the sand by means of the following mining process:

- The vegetation will be cleared prior to mining. Vegetation clearance will involve the removal of oak trees (area was previously utilised for an oak plantation) and surrounding shrubbery;
- The topsoil will be stripped and stockpiled separately for use in rehabilitation;
- A strip-mining method will be utilised to extract the sand. A screening process will also be utilised where required should sand become contaminated with unusable particles;
- Sand will then be stockpiled and loaded onto the customers' trucks and removed off site; and
- Concurrent rehabilitation will be undertaken once the sand has been extracted. The area will be sloped and allowed to revegetate naturally.

Figure 3-1 below presents the land tenure of the project affected properties.

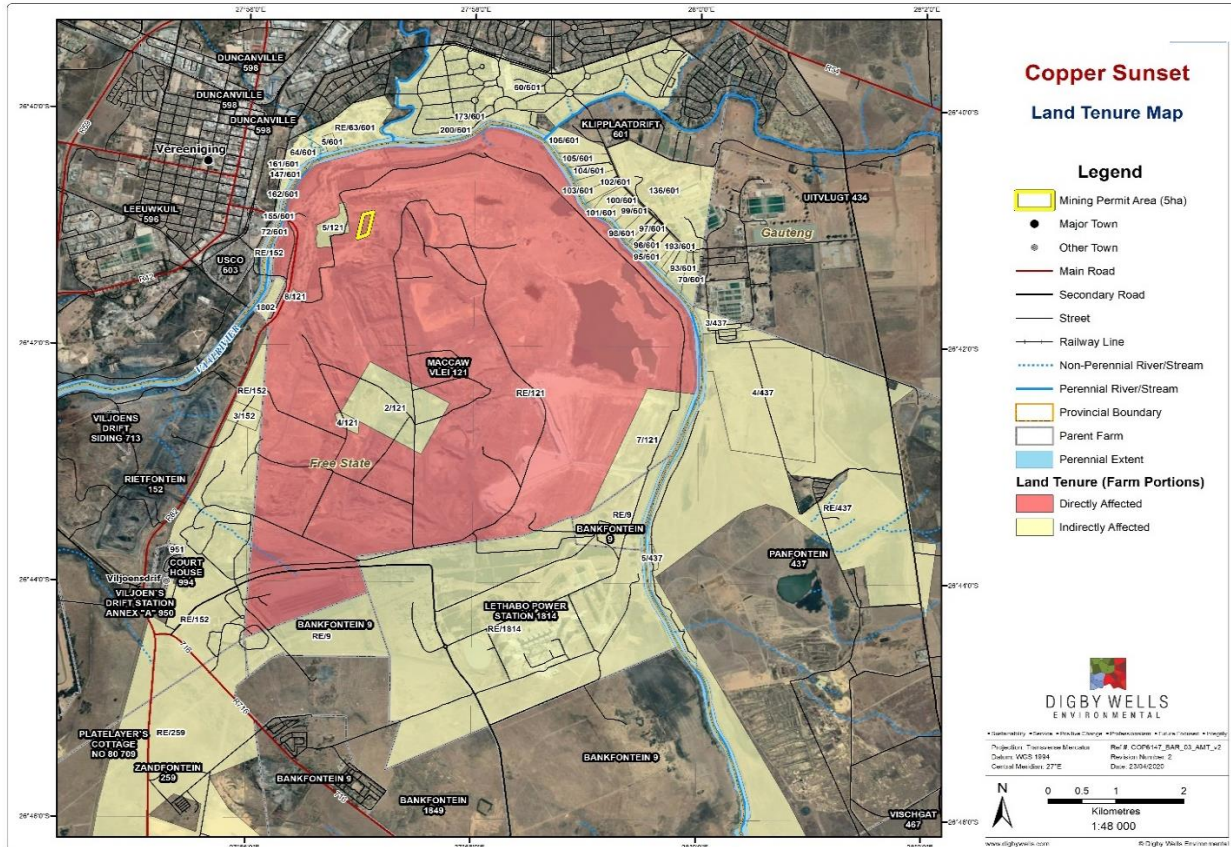


Figure 3-1: Land Tenure Map for the Proposed Sand Mining Project

There will be no change to the existing New Vaal Colliery infrastructure and limited infrastructure will be constructed on site for the sand mining operation. All machinery will be mobile and brought in by Copper Sunset. An access road will be constructed to gain access to the sand mine area so as not to disturb the coal mining operation (Figure 3-2).

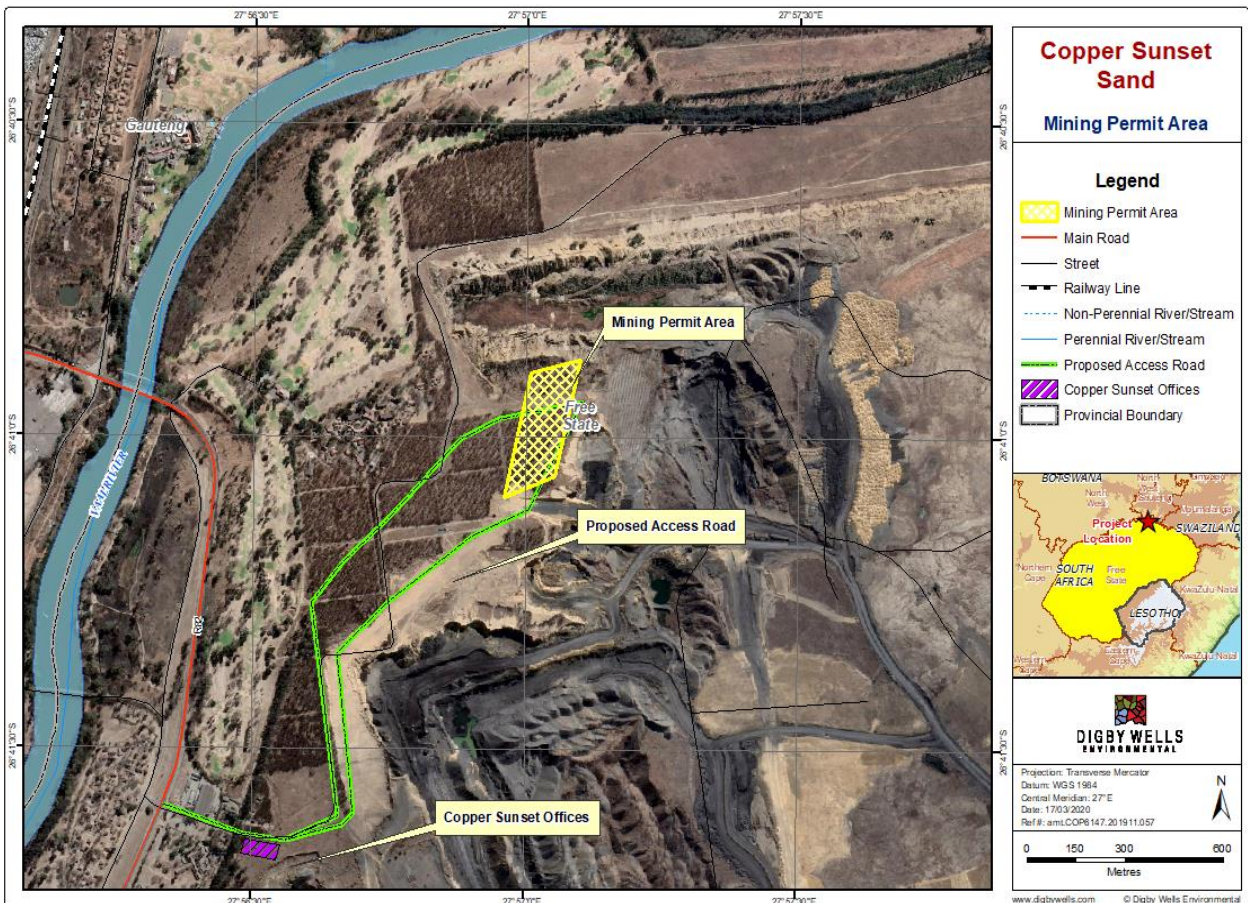


Figure 3-2: Infrastructure Map for the Proposed Sand Mining Project

It is proposed that Copper Sunset will mine the 5 ha of sand through a Mining Permit Application (MPA). If still feasible thereafter, Copper Sunset will apply for a Mining Right to mine an additional 9.2 ha to extract the remaining sand from the larger area. The latter is not included in this application.

Copper Sunset entered into an agreement with Seriti Resources to mine sand within the Mining Right Area (MRA). The proposed sand mining Project is anticipated to continue for approximately five months. Subsequently, Seriti will proceed to mine coal within that area.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS

Digby Wells Environmental (Digby Wells) was appointed by Copper Sunset to independently facilitate the Environmental Authorisation Process and submit the required documentation in support of a Mining Permit Application. Copper Sunset intends to apply for a Mining Permit in accordance with Section 27 of the MPRDA. The proposed Project triggers Listed Activities of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (GN R 982 of 4 December 2014 as amended by GN R 326 of 7 April 2017) promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA). The project triggered Activity 21 of Listing Notice 1 (GN R 983 of 4 December 2014), which requires a Basic

Assessment (BA) process to be undertaken. This process requires a comprehensive public consultation process to be undertaken.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The national South African Regulatory Framework requires a PPP to be undertaken as part of an Environmental Authorisation Application Process. A PPP involves notifying stakeholders of the proposed Project and providing I&APs with sufficient information to enable effective engagement.

To satisfy the requirements of Regulations 40 through 44 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), this BID serves to inform you as a potential I&AP of the proposed Project, the associated Environmental Authorisation Process and the availability of the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) for public review.

All I&APS are invited to register as stakeholders to participate in the PPP. Registered stakeholders will be informed of information and report availability via their preferred means of communication, limited to Short Message System (SMS), email, post or fax. Contributions from stakeholders will assist in informed decision-making for authorities and provide information to be considered by the Project team and specialists conducting the required studies.

All comments can be submitted using the contact details provided or as part of the Comment and Registration Sheet.

Table 5-1: Information Relevant to Commenting

Method of Communication	Contact Information
Completing Registration and Comment Form	See Attached Document
Write to Digby Wells	Private Bag X10046, Randburg, Johannesburg, 2125 sh@digbywells.com . Telephone: 011 789 9495

The draft Basic Assessment will be available for public comment for 30 days on the Digby Wells website from the **08 July 2020 to 08 August 2020**.

Due to the COVID-19 national lock down, the Draft BAR has been released electronically. To access the report electronically, please refer below:

Electronic Copies
Visit our website: www.digbywells.com (under Public Documents). Alternatively, You can access the report via our data-free service: http://view.datafree.co/PublicDocuments/



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REGISTRATION AND COMMENT FORM

July 2020

Registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) will be informed of ongoing developments via their preferred means of communication (SMS, email, post or fax). The reports will be made available via the Digby Wells website www.digbywells.com (under Public Documents) and public places presented above. Comments raised by stakeholders will assist in informed decision-making for authorities and provides information to be considered by the project team and specialists conducting the Environmental Assessment Process. Please register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and provide comments by sending this form, or other written correspondence, to the contact details provided below:

Ms. Modiegi Monaledi of Digby Wells Environmental Stakeholder Engagement Office:

Fax: (011) 789 9498, **Telephone:** (011) 789 9495, **Postal Address:** Private Bag X10046, Randburg, 2125

Email: sh@digbywells.com

Please formally register me as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP)	Yes		No	
I would like to receive my notifications by	Email	SMS	Post	Fax

Please indicate which sector you represent and also provide a name

Government Department	
Municipality	
Community	
Non-Government Organisation	
Business	

Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2014, promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, as amended, Section 44 (1) requires that we *gather comments* from I&APs. Please complete the questions below. Should you require assistance in completing these

If you are a <i>landowner</i> or <i>land occupier</i>, please indicate which farm(s) and portion(s) you reside on			
Landowner			
Land occupier			
Please fill in your contact details below for the project database			
Title, Full Name			
Designation			
Cell phone		Fax	Tel
Email			
Postal Address			

questions please contact the Stakeholder Engagement Office at contact information provided above.

How do you think the project might impact (affect) you?
How do you think the project might impact (affect) your socio-economic conditions? (e.g. livelihoods, farm, business, household)



How can these impacts be managed, avoided and / or fixed?

If you are a landowner or occupier, what is your land currently being used for?

Are there any environmental, social or heritage features on the proposed project area we need to be aware of?

Where are these found?

Do you think the project could impact (affect) infrastructure you might have? (e.g. houses, buildings, roads)

If so how can these impacts (affects) be managed, avoided or fixed?

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General Comments

If there are any other stakeholders, we should include onto the stakeholder database for the proposed project, please provide their contact details.

Title, Full Name		Title, Full Name	
Organisation		Organisation	
Cellphone		Cellphone	
Email		Email	

Signature _____

Date _____

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