

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A CONVEYOR BELT FROM THE STYLDRIIFT MINE COMPLEX TO THE BAFOKENG RASIMONE PLATINUM MINE (BRPM) FOR ORE TRANSPORTATION, RUSTENBURG, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

NWDEDECT Reference Number: NWP/EIA/73/2013

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



February 2014

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide stakeholders with initial information on the proposed construction of a conveyor belt from the Styldrift Mine Complex to the Bafokeng Rasimone Platinum Mine (BRPM) for ore transportation purposes.

Environmental authorisation is required in terms of the National Environmental Management (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (GNR 543).

A Basic Assessment Report (BAR) process will be undertaken and prepared for this project by SRK Consulting. This BAR will be submitted to the competent authority, North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (NWDEDECT), on behalf of the applicant, Royal Bafokeng Resources (Pty) Ltd (RBPlat).

This BID forms part of the environmental authorisation process and describes the various components of the proposed conveyor to enable Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to get a better understanding of the potential environmental and social impacts that could be expected

from the proposed project. It also outlines the environmental authorisation process and the opportunities for the public to become involved during the course of the study.

Furthermore the BID also provides I&APs with the opportunity to register, and to participate in the environmental authorisation process.

Comments on any aspects of the proposed project will help to focus the studies, to ensure that relevant issues are evaluated during the EIA process, as well as assist the authorities to make an informed decision. This will also assist the environmental consultants to obtain local and regional knowledge on the surrounding areas, which in turn will help them focus the BAR and on areas of concern identified by the I&AP's, where appropriate.

Please complete the enclosed registration and comments form, write a letter, provide a written submission, call or email the public participation office with your contributions, by 17 March 2014.

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

The Royal Bafokeng Resources Styldrift Mine Complex has an existing Environmental Management Programme (EMPR), authorised under the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA), for its mining operation (Department of Mineral Resources Reference Number: NW 30/5/1/2/3/2/1/(312) EM). A Water Use License (WUL) has been issued for the crossings of the Bonwakgogo stream (License No. 26031507) in terms of the

National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA). The construction of a conveyor belt has been approved in terms of the above mentioned EMPR and WUL, but due to a number of listed activities which will be triggered during the construction of a conveyor belt, environmental authorisation needs to be granted in terms of the NEMA, forming the basis of this application.

LOCATION

The Styldrift Mine Complex is located near the existing BRPM concentrator plant in the Bafokeng area, which forms part of the North West Province of South Africa, approximately 120 km north-west of Johannesburg. Immediately outside the Bafokeng boundaries lies Sun City to the north and Rustenburg to the south. The Styldrift Mine Complex is located approximately 37.5 km north west of Rustenburg (Figure 1). The Styldrift mining area is located \pm 7 km from the Pilansberg National Park and 4 km from the Magaliesberg Protected Environment Park on the farm Styldrift 90 JQ.

Villages in the area are Mafenya, Chaneng, Robega and Rasimone.

The proposed site location for the overland conveyor belt is located on the following farm portions (see Figure 2):

- Styldrift 90 JQ;
- Boschkoppie 104 JQ Portion 1;
- Boschkoppie 104 JQ Remainder; and
- Elandsfontein 102 JQ Portion 4.

WHO TO CONTACT ABOUT THIS PROJECT?

Should you wish to be registered as a stakeholder, discuss your concerns further with the SRK project team, or to receive further information, please contact:

Mr Andrew Caddick

P.O. Box 35290
Menlo Park
0102

Tel: 012 361 9821
Fax: 012 361 9912

E-mail: acaddick@srk.co.za

Ms Annerine Prinsloo

P.O. Box 35290
Menlo Park
0102

Tel: 012 361 9821
Fax: 086 514 9762

E-mail: aprinloo@srk.co.za

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The approved Styldrift EMPR allows for the mining of 230 000 tonnes of ore per month. Two economic reefs are mined at the Styldrift Mine Complex, namely Merensky and UG2. The Styldrift EMPR states that the mining method will be a combination of conventional and mechanised mining.

Ore will be transported from the Styldrift Mine Complex to the existing BRPM concentrator plant.

The proposed construction of the conveyor belt from the Styldrift Mine Complex to the BRPM concentrator plant will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of NEMA, forming the basis of this application.

The proposed project will include the following activities:

- The clearing of servitude area of approximately 13 hectares of vegetation for the construction and operation of the overland conveyor belt;
- The construction of an overland conveyor belt system within the servitude of approximately 13 hectares for the transportation of ore from the Styldrift Mine Complex to the BRPM concentrator plant;
- Expansion of existing river crossing infrastructure, covering an area of more than 10 square metres, to accommodate the overland conveyor;

- Construction of culvert channels, bridges and bulk storm water outlet structures associated with the implementation of water management measures;
- Earth moving activities associated with the overland conveyor and related river crossings and water management infrastructure.

These activities will occur within 32 meters of the Bonwakgogo stream and is located approximately 7 km from the Pilanesberg National Park.

A conveyor belt normally consists of two or more pulleys, placed at two different locations, with a continuous loop of rubber/PVC that rotates to transport ore from one place to another. Using a conveyor belt to transport ore, instead of heavy vehicles or railways, eliminates part of the carbon footprint of the operations alleviating the contribution of the Styldrift Mine Complex to traffic on the roads in the mining area. The proposed project will also result in other benefits, such as a larger contribution to the economy and job creation.

The proposed conveyor will be approximately 6.5 km in length with 25 m wide servitude. The concentrate will continue to be transported by road from the BRPM concentrator to the Rustenburg Platinum Mine's smelting and refining operations near Rustenburg.

SPECIALIST STUDIES

During the Impact Assessment Phase of a proposed project the specialists, engineers and scientists, with appropriate knowledge, usually evaluate and identify potential environmental and social impacts which may occur as a result of the project. Mitigation and management measures proposed by RBPlat would also then be assessed by the specialists, and where necessary additional measures would be proposed, in order to reduce any negative and enhance any positive biophysical and social impacts to an acceptable level, within the context of the project situational analysis.

Comprehensive studies have already been conducted by specialists within the proposed project footprint, as part of the original Styldrift Mine Project EMPR. Additional specialist

studies will be considered for this particular proposed project, as required.

It is envisaged that the proposed project will have some negative impacts on the biophysical aspects of the project footprint and surrounding environment, but the socio-economic advantages of the project will be far greater. Any positive and negative impacts identified in the original EMPR will again be assessed and the significance of each determined.

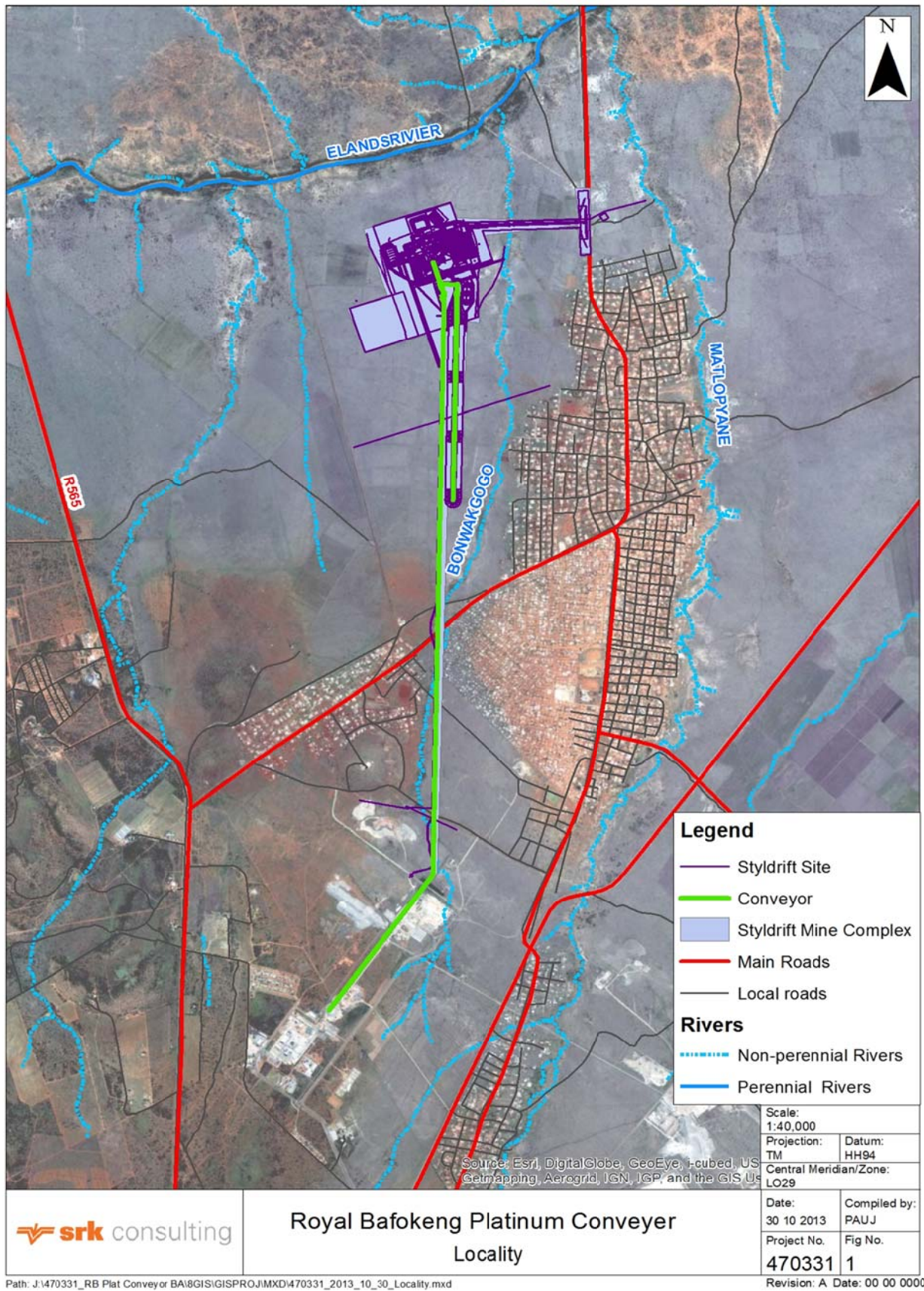


Figure 1: Locality Map for the Proposed Overland Conveyor Belt

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION PROCESS

The environmental authorisation process will be conducted in terms of the NEMA. A BAR will be required due to the triggering of GNR 544 activity number 11 and 24, and under GNR 547 activity numbers 14(a)(i), 16 (c) (hh) and 24 (c) (hh).

RBPlat is required by Section 17 of GNR 543 printed in terms of the NEMA to appoint an Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake an EIA process and to assess the potential biophysical and social impacts of the proposed project.

SRK Consulting will evaluate and identify potential environmental and social impacts of the project and provide mitigation and management measures to minimise negative impacts and enhance benefits, within the context of the project situational analysis. The process that will be followed to apply for an environmental authorization process will include:

- Compilation of a BAR (Figure 2); and
- Undertaking of a public participation process.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS AND PROJECT SCHEDULING

Public involvement is seen as an integral part of the environmental authorization process and will aim to include I&APs in the process by notifying them of the proposed project and encouraging them to raise their issues and concerns. This will aid the EAP to gather local and regional

knowledge on the area and identify the common concerns. The following section details the methodology with which SRK proposed to undertake the public participation process during the EIA Process.

NOTIFICATION

An advertisement has been lodged in the Rustenburg Herald and Platinum Weekly newspaper on 14 February 2014. This was conducted in order to ensure broad spectrums of stakeholders are notified of the proposed project.

In addition, identified I&APs will be notified of the project and opportunities for interaction by means of:

- The placement of site notices;
- Distribution of BIDs (this document) to identified I&APs;

- Placement of draft and final reports in the public domain and notification to registered I&APs on the availability of these reports for comment;
- Continual engagement with I&APs throughout the process and addressing their issues and concerns for consideration in the draft and final reports.

INTERACTION WITH I&APS

It is important that the I&APs are afforded ample opportunity to understand the technical issues associated with the project so they may add valuable contributions to the EIA Process. The following is proposed:

- Invitation to all identified I&APs to register and participate in the EIA process;
- A draft BAR will be made available for public review and comment for a 30 day review period. I&APs will be notified once the report has been made available;
- Comments received during this period will be considered and incorporated into the final BAR and placed in the public domain for another 21 day commenting period;
- Comments will again be incorporated into the final BAR and submitted to the NWDEDECT.

The following entities have been identified to date as key stakeholders in the project:

- Rustenburg Local Municipality;
- Bojanala District Municipality;
- Land owners;
- Adjacent Land Owners;
- Land occupiers;
- Traditional Authorities;
- Eskom;
- Non-governmental organisations.

FEEDBACK

Feedback may be provided to I&APs via letters, emails, and SMSs. The public participation process for the BAR has been designed to ensure that interaction with I&APs is focused yet comprehensive. Feedback will be provided to registered I&APs during the impact assessment phases. Following receipt of I&APs comments on the BAR and associated

documentation will be submitted to the competent authority for a decision on the project. Once a decision has been made, registered I&APs will be notified of the outcome, as well as the procedure to appeal the decision, should they wish to do so.

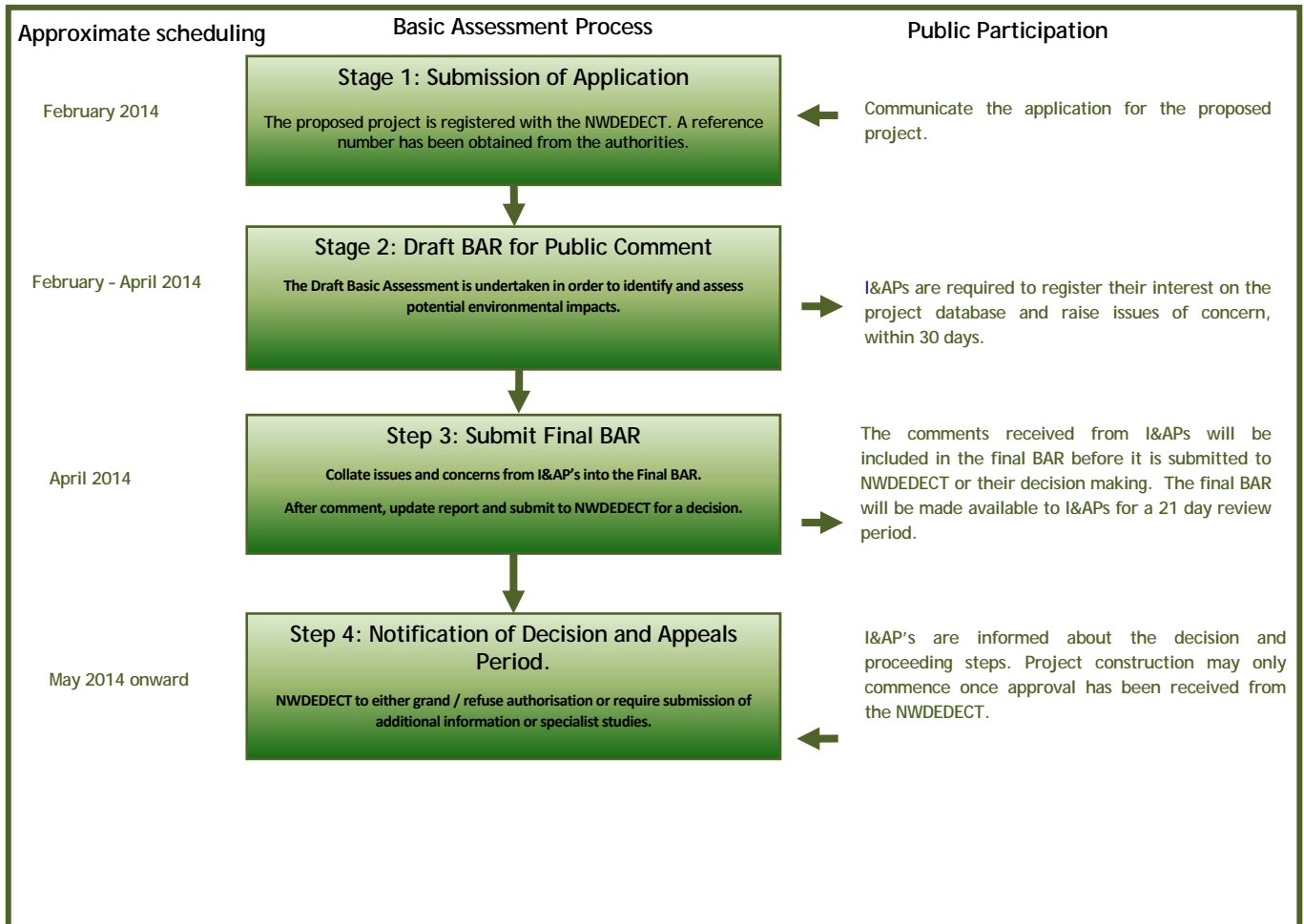


Figure 2: Environmental Impact Assessment Process and Proposed Scheduling

SUMMARY ON HOW AN I&AP CAN PARTICIPATE

I&APs can participate in the EIA process by submitting their comments in the following ways:

- Respond to our invitation to register as an I&AP, which will be advertised in a local newspaper and through site notices, placed at the location of the proposed activities and public places;
- Mail, fax or e-mail the attached registration and comments form to the relevant personnel at SRK Consulting;
- Review and comment on the BAR which will be made available to the public for a 30 and 21 day period for each the draft and final report respectively.

REGISTRATION AND COMMENTS FORM

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A CONVEYOR BELT FROM THE STYLDRIFT MINE COMPLEX TO THE BAFOKENG RASIMONE PLATINUM MINE (BRPM) FOR ORE TRANSPORTATION, RUSTENBURG, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

STAKEHOLDER REGISTRATION / COMMENTS FORM				
DATE:				
FULL NAME				
ORGANISATION AND ROLE				
POSTAL ADDRESS				
POSTAL CODE				
WORK / DAY TEL No.		WORK/DAY FAX No.		
CELL PHONE No.		E-MAIL ADDRESS		
I would like to receive further information and notifications during this process and request that you please register me on your database as an interested and affected party.				YES
				NO
I would like to receive notifications by:	EMAIL	FAX	POST	TELEPHONE
Please let us have your comments on the Environmental Authorisation for the Proposed Construction of A Conveyor Belt from the Styldrift Mine Complex to the Bafokeng Rasimone Platinum Mine (BRPM) for Ore Transportation, Rustenburg, North West Province: (please feel free to attach additional sheets if required).				
In terms of EIA process regulations, I hereby disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interests I may have in the approval or denial of this application:				
NAME: _____ SIGNATURE: _____				
DATE: _____				
<i>THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS. YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS APPRECIATED</i>				