

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

**PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION FOR SILICA, SAND AND CLAY ON THE
FARM PAPKUILFONTEIN 469JR, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

DMR REF NO: MP 305/1/1/2/5428 PR

ENVASS REF NO: 110/12

DUE DATE FOR COMMENT: 10 OCTOBER 2012

1. PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to inform Interested and / or Affected Parties (I&APs) about the proposed project, to explain the prospecting right process to be followed for the application, identify key issues associated with the proposed project and provide IAPs with an opportunity to comment and / or raise any concerns they may have regarding the planned project.

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) can become involved in the project, thereby contributing to the prospecting right process. I&AP comment, issues, concerns and suggestions on any aspect of the proposed project, including the technical and public participation processes, will help to refine the environmental and technical studies and will ultimately assist the authorities to make an informed decision.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

Construction Phase (Planning phase):

Desktop study target generation should be generated through investigation of available geological maps and reports. With field evaluation the general soundness and appearance of silica, sand and clay are defined. The first step in field evaluation is to identify the colour of the silica, sand and clay. Detailed mapping will be undertaken. During the detailed mapping several samples of the material should be collected along the traverses.

Operational Phase (Prospecting phase):

The proposed prospecting operation will consist of the TLB accessing the site and excavating a hole with dimensions 1m X 1m X 6m. The holes will be sampled every 1m and samples will be placed in plastic bags for removal to the laboratory for analysis. Once sufficient samples have been taken, the hole will be backfilled with the soil which was stockpiled to one side. The topsoil will be covered with branches cut from the Eucalyptus trees grown on the farm in order to protect it from being blown away or being eroded.

The total size of the prospecting area (approximately 100 sample pits) will be approximately 1,5ha and will easily be accessed with the small type equipment intended to utilise for the prospecting of silica, sand and clay. The product will be stockpiled for not longer than 24 hours.

Decommissioning after prospecting:

Decommissioning will occur at the end of each prospecting pit and this will be done according to an approved closure plan. At most only one prospecting sample pit will be exposed at a time, which should limit the environmental impacts associated with prospecting.

A major issue to be addressed during reclamation of a prospecting site is the restoration of the land surface, the water quality and waste disposal areas so that long term water pollution, soil erosion, dust generation, or vegetation problems do not occur. The restoration of native plants is often a very important part of this process, as the plants help build a stable soil structure and naturalise the area.

3. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

The legal requirements that must be fulfilled before Meepo Ya Mmu Mineral Resources (Pty) Ltd may continue with the prospecting of the silica, sand and clay is summarised below:

The Environmental Impact Assessment regulations (2010) promulgated in Chapter 5 of the national Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) provide for the control of certain activities that are listed in Government Notice (GN) R 544, 545 and 546.

The proposed project triggers listed activities in Government Notice R544 as follow:

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| 18. | The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock from
(i) a watercourse;
(ii) the sea;
(iii) the seashore;
(iv) the littoral active zone, an estuary or a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea or an estuary, whichever distance is the greater- |
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| 19: | Any activity which requires a prospecting right or renewal thereof in terms of section 16 – 18 respectively of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Act (Act 28 of 2002). |
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| 22. | The construction of a road, outside urban areas,
(i) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters or,
(ii) where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres, or
for which an environmental authorisation was obtained for the route determination in terms of activity 5 in Government Notice 387 of 2006 or activity 18 in Notice 545 of 2010. |
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The proposed project triggers listed activities in Government Notice R545 as follow:

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| 15. | Physical alteration of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land for residential, retail, commercial, recreational, industrial or institutional use where the total area to be transformed is 20 hectares or more; |
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The proposed project triggers listed activities in the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) Section 21:

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| 21a | Taking water from a water resource; |
|-----|-------------------------------------|

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| 21b | Storing of water |
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| 21c | Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse |
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- | | |
|-----|---|
| 21i | Altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse |
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These activities may not commence until Environmental Authorisation has been received from the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). Therefore, a Basic Assessment process must be undertaken in order to apply for Environmental Authorisation. Environmental Assurance (Pty) Ltd has been appointed to undertake the required environmental processes.

4. THE STUDY PROCESS

- **OBJECTIVES OF THE PROSPECTING PROCESS**

The objectives of the Prospecting process are to provide:

- i. Interested and Affected parties (I&APs) with adequate information to understand the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts of the proposed project; and opportunities for them to comment on the project and the process;
- ii. The applicant with information that will assist them to incorporate effective mitigatory measures into the design and execution of the project; and
- iii. The approving authorities with sufficient information to serve as a basis for effective decision making.

- **PHASES OF THE PROSPECTING PROCESS**

Public and stakeholder participation in the Prospecting process is widely recognised as being an essential component of the Mining Right process. Public Participation is of crucial importance in gathering information, issues, concerns and local knowledge, and in contributing towards designing and implementing the project in a manner that will promote minimisation of negative impacts and optimisation of benefits.

The public participation process during the Prospecting process will enable interested and affected parties (I&APs) to review the findings of the independent studies that are undertaken. Environmental Assurance (ENVASS) will correspond directly with registered I&APs during the Basic Assessment process to keep them informed of progress and the timing of opportunities to be involved.

5. INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

Please complete the enclosed comment and registration sheet or contact Environmental Assurance by mailing or faxing a letter, telephone or e-mail.

In terms of the EIA Regulations, your attention is drawn to your responsibilities as an I&AP:

- In order to participate in this Basic Assessment process, register yourself on the project database (see attached Registration form);
- Inform any other parties (neighbours, friends, colleagues, etc) who may be interested and / or affected by the proposed project about the prospecting process and encourage them to become involved;
- Ensure that any comments regarding the proposed project are submitted within the timeframes that have been approved or set by the approving authority; and
- Disclose any direct business, financial, personal and or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the proposed Prospecting of silica, sand and clay.

Should you wish to deliver any issues of concerns / comments with regards the proposed development, please register as an I&AP, by completing and submitting the attached registration and Comment sheet on or before 14 October 2012. Your registration in this matter will ensure your active participation and involvement throughout the Prospecting process.

Queries regarding this matter should be referred to:

Environmental Assurance

Ilze Ueckermann

394 Tram Street

Tel: (012) 460 9768

Fax: (012) 460 – 3071

Cell: 079 527 5775

Email: ilze@envass.co.za



6. KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED FOR THE MEDIUM DENSITY FIBRE PROJECT

The following key issues and potential impacts have been identified:

- Impact on natural vegetation;
- Heritage Impacts;
- Economic Impacts;
- Traffic Impacts; and
- Surface and Ground water impacts.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
For the proposed
PROSPECTING OF SILICA, SAND AND CLAY
ENVASS Ref Nr: BA-110 - 12
DMR Ref Nr: MP 305/1/1/2/5428 PR
REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET



Title: _____ Name: _____

Surname: _____

Company name / Interest _____

Postal or Residential address _____

Area: _____

Postal code: _____

Tel: () _____

Mobile: _____

Fax: () _____

Email address: _____

Please mark with a X to indicate whether you would

like to participate in the EIA process:

Yes, I would like to participate in this EIA	
No, I am not interested in participating	

COMMENTS. (You are welcome to attach separate sheets)

The following issues must be addressed by the EIA:
