

21February 2013

By Hand:

ATTENTION: INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY/IES

**NOTIFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROCESS: APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
AUTHORISATION – ADDITIONAL HOUSING UNITS ON PTN. 3
OF THE FARM NCHWANING 267, HOTAZEL DISTRICT,
NORTHERN CAPE**

NCDENC Reference: NC/BA/JTG/JOE/GLO/HOT01/2013

EScience Associates Reference: ABRH

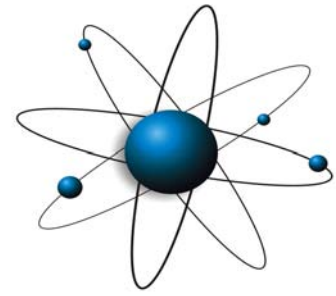
Dear Sir / Madam,

This letter hereby serves to notify you and / or the organisation that you represent, in terms of Regulation 54 of the regulations gazetted in Government Notice No. R. 543 of 18 June 2010, promulgated under 24 (5) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)[NEMA], to all potentially interested and affected parties (I&APs) that Assmang Limited have made application to the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (NCDENC) for the environmental authorisation of an additional 120 housing units on approximately 15ha of Ptn. 3 of the farm Nchwaning 267 near Hotazel in the Northern Cape

Project Description:

Assmang's Black Rock Mine Operations (BRMO) propose to establish approximately 120 residential dwelling units at their operations north of Hotazel in the Northern Cape (proposed development footprint of 15ha in extent). Each dwelling unit would house 4 people. The project would thus ultimately provide housing for 480 Assmang employees and contractors over the operational lifetime of the mine. The proposed development would occur on Ptn. 3 of the farm Nchwaning 267 (Appendix 1 – Locality Map, refers).

The construction and development of the residential units is proposed in a phased manner; whereby Assmang's immediate priority is to establish an initial 40 units (Phase 1 - housing for 160 people) with an approximate development footprint of 3ha in extent. These 40 units are required in order to relocate hostel dwellers at the BRMO to more suitable accommodation in line with the requirements of the Mining Charter (i.e. one person per room with their own bathroom / shower and kitchenette, etc.).



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The proponent's preferred development site is located immediately east of the Santoy Rec. Club, and north and east of the associated soccer field and pavilion. The development of such residential units elsewhere on the BRMO surface rights area is limited largely by land ownership, as well as the current operational mining activities taking place on the greater site.

The proposed development would tie in with the existing sewage reticulation and associated treatment plant at the Black Rock Village (new pump station required). There would be no immediate need, according to the proponent, to upgrade the sewage treatment plant capacity as part of the development and occupation of the first 40 units (phase 1); where the treatment demand is merely being moved geographically from the existing hostels to the new development site, and no additional burden will be placed on the treatment plant. The development of the further 80 units (Phases 2 and 3) would require the proponent to upgrade the plant and apply for any requisite licences in terms of the 'Waste Act' (Act 59 of 2008)[NEM:WA] to do so.

Similar to the above, the potable water- and electrical demand for the development would be sourced from existing connections for each in close proximity to the site. The proposed development also makes provision for parking and hard landscaping associated therewith (e.g. internal roads, parking bays, walking paths, etc.).

Legal Trigger for EIA process:

The proposed project includes activities identified in terms of listing notices 1 and 3 of the 2010 NEMA EIA Regulations (GN. R543 & GN R545 respectively) of 18 June 2010 (as follows), which require that a Basic Assessment EIA process be undertaken to assess the potential impacts thereof on the environment:

Activity 22 of Listing Notice 1: The construction of a road, outside urban areas where the road is wider than 8 metres.

Activity 23 of Listing Notice 1: The transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land to residential, retail, commercial, recreational, industrial or institutional use, outside an urban area and where the total area to be transformed is bigger than 1 hectare but less than 20 hectares.

Activity 56 of Listing Notice 1: Phased activities for all activities listed in this Schedule, which commenced on or after the effective date of this Schedule, where any one phase of the activity may be below a threshold but where a combination of the phases, including expansions or extensions, will exceed a specified threshold.

Activity 14 of Listing Notice 3: The clearance of an area of 5 hectares or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation, ...in the Northern Cape in an area outside of an urban area.

Call for Initial Comments and Registration of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs):

In terms of the requirements of the 2010 NEMA EIA Regulations, all stakeholders and other interested and affected parties (I&APs) must be provided with opportunities to participate in the EIA process, and voice comments / concerns around the application and associated project proposal. To make sure that you are registered as an interested and / or affected party, please kindly complete and submit the attached Registration Form (Appendix 2) to me either on, or before, the 27th of March 2013.

Should you require more information on the project and associated environmental impact assessment process, please do not hesitate to contact me in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'B. Thorpe', written in a cursive style.

Bradley Thorpe
EScience Associates (PTY) Ltd.

Black Rock Mine Operations Proposed Housing Development

