

# AQUARIUS PLATINUM (SOUTH AFRICA) (PTY) LTD (AQPSA)

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE AQPSA K5 UPPER UNDERGROUND MINING AREA

OCTOBER 2014

### INTRODUCTION

AQPSA currently operate the Kwezi Shaft and associated underground mining operations near Rustenburg. AQPSA propose to extend the Kwezi underground mining operations by accessing an additional area of the K5 Upper mining block (referred to as "the project") (Figure 1). This block of ground would be accessed via the existing Kwezi shaft and underground workings (Figure 1).

### AUTHORISATION PROCESS

Prior to the commencement of the project, an environmental decision from the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) is required, in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 28 of 2002 (MPRDA). An environmental assessment and addendum to the mine's environmental management programme (EMP) is required to inform the decision. In order to facilitate the environmental assessment process, public consultation is required.

SLR Consulting (Africa) (Pty) Ltd (SLR), an independent firm of environmental consultants, has been appointed by AQPSA to manage the environmental assessment process.

Other authorisations/licenses that may be required:

- amendment of AQPSA's current Water Use License in terms of the National Water Act (NWA), 1998 (Act 36 of 1998).

Any other possible secondary approvals and/or permits (from various parties) will be determined during the course of the environmental assessment process and applied for where necessary.

### PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document has been prepared by SLR to inform you of:

- \* the project
- \* the environmental assessment and EMP Addendum process
- \* how you, as an interested and affected party (IAP), can have input into the project and environmental assessment process.

### YOUR ROLE

**Public involvement is an essential part of the environmental assessment process.**

You have been identified as someone who may want to be informed about the project and have input into the environmental assessment process.

You have opportunity to provide input through responding to this document, attending the information-sharing meeting (see details below), and through review and comment on the EMP Addendum report.

All comments will be recorded and presented to the project team and decision-making authorities. You will receive feedback on how your comments have been taken into account and the outcome of the assessment.

### INTERESTED? HOW TO RESPOND

If you are interested in hearing more about this project and the environmental assessment process, please respond to this document by contacting SLR (see contact details below) and providing us with your contact details.

Please ensure that you include the following reference numbers on all correspondence:

DMR Ref. No.: *RDNW (KL) 6/2/2/334*

### INVITATION TO THE PUBLIC INFORMATION-SHARING MEETING

A public information-sharing meeting has been scheduled for the project - you are hereby cordially invited to attend the meeting:

**Place:** Rustenburg Platinum Mines – Rustenburg Section – Sports and Recreation Club

**Date:** 4 November 2014

**Time:** 17h00 – 19h00

The purpose of the meeting will be to share information on the project and provide you with an opportunity to raise issues and ask questions related to the project.

### WHO TO CONTACT

SLR Consulting (Africa) (Pty) Ltd

Nicholas Arnott \* Tel: (011) 467 0945 \* Fax: (011) 467 0978

Email: [narnott@slrconsulting.com](mailto:narnott@slrconsulting.com)

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project involves the extension of underground mining activities – no additional surface infrastructure will be required. Mining will occur below built up areas and natural drainage lines. Further detail is provided below.

PROJECT OVERVIEW	
Aspect	Details
Access	Through the development of the adjacent underground workings
Mining method	Same as that used for the existing underground mining operations. Sub-surface blasting will be required.
Mining depth	30 to 70m below ground level (this is similar in depth to the current underground workings)
Life of mine	The life of mine will be extended by the proposed project by approximately 3 years.
Activities	Underground mining, sub-surface blasting, dewatering (if required)
Services / resources	Use will be made of services and resources available at the Kwezi shaft. No additional capacity or infrastructure needed.
Employment	This project will result in the continuation of the approved mining activities and therefore no new employment opportunities are expected.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The environmental assessment process is in the early stages. Further detail on the steps to be followed and timing of the process will be provided at the public meeting.

IAPs that should be involved in the process include landowners/ land users/tenants on or surrounding the project area, government departments with jurisdiction in the area and an interest in the environment, third party service providers with services in the area, and any person who has an interest in the project.

## POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

From the available project information, a preliminary list of potential environmental issues has been identified by SLR. This list is based on issues associated with typical underground mining projects and will be updated with input from IAPs during the public consultation process.

- **Biodiversity** – the project has the potential to influence drainage lines and associated riparian wetland habitat in the event that dewatering of the underground mine works affects the base flow to, or direct seepage from, these features.
- **Groundwater** – dewatering of the underground mine workings may influence groundwater levels and availability within the area.
- **Blasting** – the underground mining activities will require sub-surface blasting which has the potential to impact people and infrastructure on and below surface through ground vibrations.
- **Land use (third party infrastructure)** – the underground mining activities may impact any third-party infrastructure located below the surface.

Where required, a suitably qualified specialist will be commissioned to investigate potential impacts.

FIGURE 1 - LOCAL SETTING

