



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Applicant:

Lomeza Opencast Operations (Pty) Ltd
Postnet Suite 398
Private Bag x 7297
Witbank
1035
Tel: 012 665 2261/2

To whom it may concern:

7 July 2020

RE: NOTICE OF APPLICATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 16 OF THE MINERALS AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2002 (ACT NO 28 OF 2002) AND THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO 107 OF 1998 NEMA) AS WELL AS THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS OF 2014 (AS AMENDED BY GNR 326 EFFECTIVE 7 APRIL 2017).

Lomeza Opencast Operations (Pty) Ltd ("hereinafter referred to as "the Applicant") intends to apply for a prospecting right on portion 5 of the farm Kloppersbos 128 JR and portions 1, 7 and 8 of the farm Ekuphumuleni 716 JR (409.7979 ha), which falls in Magisterial District of Cullinan (Nokeng Tsa Taemane Local Municipality), City of Tshwane, Gauteng Province.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The farms portion 5 of the farm Kloppersbos 128 JR and portions 1, 7 and 8 of the farm Ekuphumuleni 716 JR is situated approximately 15.63 km North-West of Cullinan. The commodity of interest is Coal.

The GPS coordinates of the proposed prospecting area is as follows:

Name	DEC DEGREES	
	LAT	LONG
A	-25.493619831	28.381092381
B	-25.497155124	28.387415755
C	-25.500204797	28.393007643
D	-25.503179312	28.391373813

the goal isn't to live forever, it is to protect a planet that will

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E	-25.51496320	28.413069678
F	-25.526847987	28.409158355
G	-25.523968817	28.402242076
H	-25.512392208	28.394590841
J	-25.511548660	28.394936059
K	-25.508341210	28.387014650
L	-25.505521377	28.380050866
M	-25.499793584	28.380818082
N	-25.498606615	28.378577787
A	-25.493619831	28.381092381

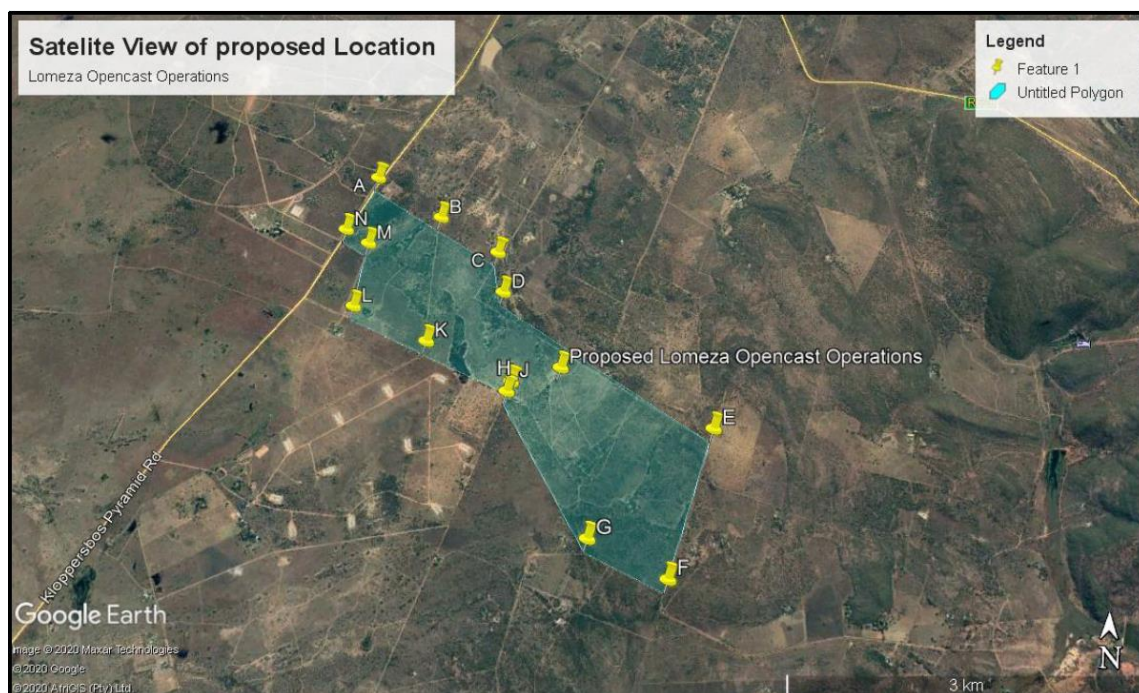


Figure 1: Satellite view of the proposed prospecting right area of Lomeza Opencast Operations.



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LEGAL COMPLIANCE

An application for a prospecting right in terms of Section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) [MPRDA] will be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE).

The proposed project triggers the following listed activities in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) [NEMA] and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (as amended by GNR 326 effective 7 April 2017), and therefore requires a basic assessment process to obtain environmental authorisation:

■ **GNR 327 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2017 Activity 20:**

Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a prospecting right in terms of Section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002), including —

(a) associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks, directly related to the prospecting of a mineral resource

(b) the primary processing of a mineral resource including winning, extraction, classifying, concentrating, crushing, screening or washing;

but excluding the secondary processing of a mineral resource, including the smelting, beneficiation, reduction, refining, calcining or gasification of the mineral resource in which case activity 6 in Listing Notice 2 applies.

■ **GNR 327 Listing Notice 1 of 2017 Activity 22:**

The decommissioning of any activity requiring –

i) a closure certificate in terms of section 43 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (act No. 28 of 2002); or

ii) a prospecting right, mining right, mining permit, production right or exploration right, where the throughput of the activity has reduced by 90% or more over a period of 5 years excluding where the competent authority has in writing agreed that such reduction in throughput does not constitute closure.

■ **GNR 324 Listing Notice 3 of 2017 Activity 12:**

The clearance of an area of 300 square meters or more of indigenous vegetation.

c) Gauteng Province

i. Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004;



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- ii. Within Critical Biodiversity Areas or Ecological Support Areas identified in the Gauteng Conservation Plan or bioregional plans; or*
- iii. On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning.*

Other legislation triggered by the proposed project includes:

- An application for a Prospecting Right in terms of Section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) has been submitted to the Department of Mineral Resource.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed prospecting area is a natural area. The planned activities for the proposed site's is detailed below. All activities will be contained within the boundaries of the site.

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED NON-INVASIVE ACTIVITIES:

(These activities do not disturb the land where prospecting will take place, e.g. aerial photography, desktop studies, aeromagnetic surveys, etc)

Phase 1 (months 1 to 2), phase 3 (months 6 to 9) and phase 4 (months 10 to 12)

Desktop studies form a very important preparatory step in a new coal exploration project, and as the name suggests, this task is executed mainly from an office environment. Desktop studies will be conducted by the project geologist as part of preliminary investigations into the prospecting area by looking at all relevant published literature, geological maps, mining maps and any available evidence or records of coal findings. The outcome of the desktop studies will be a geological report of the prospecting area with a particular emphasis on the prospectivity of the area. This report will also inform other subsequent prospecting steps.

Field geological studies will follow after the desktop studies, and they typically include walking over the prospecting area making general observations of the geology and topography. Geological mapping activities, if terrain is suitable, may include detailed outcrop mapping, identification of coal hosting strata, coal seam outcrop mapping and sampling of exposed coal seams where available.

The 3D geological modelling and resource estimation step will follow after favourable exploration drilling results. This geological modelling step mainly entails geological interpretation of collected logsheet data and the subsequent geological domaining. The geological model, which shows the physical continuity of the coal seams and the distribution of the coal qualities, is a critical input in coal resource estimation. The coal resource statement, which is an outcome of the resource estimation process, gives an indication of the amount of available coal resources in tonnage and associated qualities.



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DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED INVASIVE ACTIVITIES:

(These activities result in land disturbances e.g. sampling, drilling, bulk sampling, etc.)

Phase 2 (months 3 to 5)

The objective of the exploration drilling is to confirm the presence of coal measures, delineate the vertical and lateral extents of the coal measures, and, through suitable tests, the quality of the coal. Percussion and diamond coring are the preferred drilling methods. The resultant drill holes will be cased and capped to make it safe for people and animals, and also allow for future access by the exploration team.

DESCRIPTION OF PRE-/FEASIBILITY STUDIES:

(Activities in this section include but are not limited to: initial geological modelling, resource determination, possible future funding models, etc.)

The pre-/feasibility studies team will comprise of a diverse team of technical expertise in the field of mineral projects, including, geologists, mining engineers, metallurgical engineers, civil engineers, mechanical engineers, environmental scientists, marketing professionals and mineral project finance professionals. The list of activities under pre-/feasibility studies includes the following:

- Geological modelling and coal resource estimation;
- Coal reserve estimation;
- Mine design and scheduling;
- Metallurgical processing;
- Market development;
- Infrastructure design
- Engineering development
- Human resourcing
- Project development and operational costing

The prospecting site will contain the following:

- Surveying Equipment;
- Drilling equipment;
- Geophysical logging equipment;
- Field Vehicles;
- Sample Analysis equipment; and
- Other relevant field equipment.



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MAIN PROSPECTING ACTIVITIES:

- Drill site establishment:
A drill site of approximately 200 m² will be established that will require:
 - Clearing of vegetation for sumps and the drill entrance point – a maximum of three sumps, with each sump not measuring more than 1 m² will be operation at a time, a total of 3 m² will be cleared per site.
 - Laydown area for drill rods,
 - Fuel and chemical will be stored in a field vehicle;
 - Chemical toilets will be placed in the vicinity of the site.

- Drilling and removal of geological cores:
Drilling a hole of approximately 67 mm in diameter and removing of rock core. Number of boreholes will be finalised once non-invasive prospecting is completed.

BIOPHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

GEOLOGY & SOILS:

The large southern and eastern parts of this area are underlain by granite of the Lebowa Granite Suite and some granophyre of the Rashoop Granophyre Suite (both Bushveld Complex, Vaalian). In the north, the sedimentary rocks of the Waterberg Group (Mokolian Erathem) are most important. Specifically, sandstone, conglomerate and siltstone of the Alma Formation and sandstone, siltstone and shale of the Vaalwater Formation. Well-drained, deep Hutton or Clovelly soils often with a catenary sequence from Hutton at the top to Clovelly on the lower slopes; shallow, skeletal Glenrosa soils also occur. Land types mainly Bb, Fa, Ba, Bd and Ac

Soils vary from planted grassland previously improved grassland, to cultivated, temporary/permanent, commercial/subsistence irrigated/dryland. Soil fall within the following patterns:

LP1 – soils with minimal development, usually shallow or hard or weathered rock, with or without intermitted diverse soils. Lime rate to absent in in the landscape

Management:

- Activity should be limited to area of disturbance. Where required the compacted soils should be disked to an adequate depth and re-vegetated with indigenous plants.
- All vehicles will be regularly serviced to ensure they are in proper working condition and to reduce risk of leaks. All leaks will be cleaned up immediately using an absorbent material.
- Ensure activities occur only within the designated areas and stockpile and revegetated soil as soon as possible.



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SURFACE AND GROUND WATER:

The proposed site falls within the Crocodile (West) and Marico Water Management Area, in the A23B quaternary catchment area. There are various streams and small farm dams in the area. The Pienaars River is located approximately 3 km south west of the site and the Boekenhoutspruit located approximately 3 km to the east of the site area.

Management:

- Truck, machinery and equipment will be regularly serviced to reduce risk of leaks. Any leakages should be reported and treated immediately in a reputable manner. For large spills Hazmat will called in.
- All vehicles will be regularly serviced to ensure they are in proper working condition and to reduce risk of leaks. All leaks will be cleaned up immediately using an absorbent material.
- Ensure water management facilities are operating adequately. Clean out silt build up over dry season.
- Monitor area for erosion and pooling and rehabilitate if necessary. Continue with Surface water monitoring.
- Portable toilets will be managed by reputable contractors and inspected daily for potential leaks
- Waste generated on site should be recycled as far as possible and sold/ given to interested contractors. Recycled waste should not be stored on site for excessive periods to reduced risk of environmental contamination. Refuse bins will be placed around site to collect all non-recycle waste for disposal at the municipality.
- Rigs will be regularly serviced to reduce risk of leaks. Pans will be placed under potential leak sites. Any leakages should be reported and treated as per the emergency response plan. For large spills a hazardous materials company will called in.

LAND USE

The current surrounding land uses can be classified as agricultural land, chicken farming, grazing, game farming and tourism. The Kloppersbos Explosion Research facility is located to the west of the property. It was noted that there were plantations on the property.

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SENSITIVE LANDSCAPES:

According to the Gauteng C-Plan 3.3 terrestrial Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs), sections of the proposed site falls within an Ecological Support Area. This area will be excluded from prospecting activities.

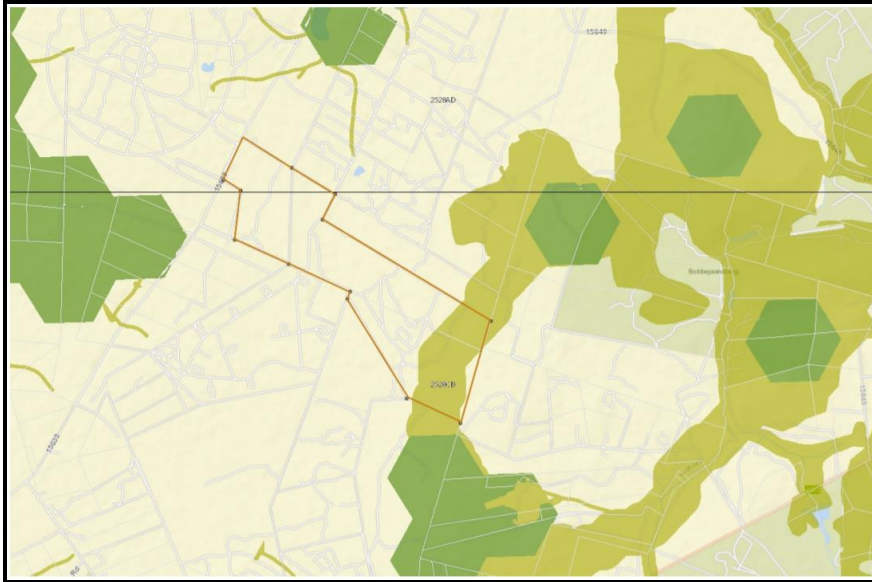


Figure 2: View of the proposed prospecting right area of Lomeza Opencast Operations - Gauteng C-Plan 3.3 terrestrial Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs).

Management:

- Protected areas must be cordoned off with at least 100m horizontal distance buffer zones and no activity is to take place within these areas.

AIR QUALITY:

Management:

- Speed on the access road will be limited to 30 km/h to prevent the generation of excess dust.
- Roads will be sprayed with water or an environmentally friendly dust-allaying agent that contains no PCB's (e.g. DAS products) if dust is generated above acceptable limits.
- All vehicles will be regularly serviced to ensure they are in proper working condition and to reduce the risk of excessive emissions.



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NOISE:

Management:

- Vehicles will be regularly serviced to ensure acceptable noise levels are not exceeded.
- All prospecting vehicles will be equipped with silencers and maintained in a road worthy condition in terms of the Road Transport Act.
- It will be ensured that employees and staff conduct themselves in an acceptable manner while on site.

FLORA:

According to Mucina and Rutherford (2012) the vegetation type of the surrounding natural areas are known as the SVcb 12 Central Sandy Bushveld which is listed as a vulnerable ecosystem. The vegetation type of the surrounding natural areas consists of low undulating areas, sometimes between mountains, and sandy plains and catenas supporting tall, deciduous *Terminalia sericea* and *Burkea africana* woodland on deep sandy soils (with the former often dominant on the lower slopes of sandy catenas) and low, broad-leaved *Combretum* woodland on shallow rocky or gravelly soils. Species of *Acacia*, *Ziziphus* and *Euclea* are found on flats and lower slopes on eutrophic sands and some less sandy soils. *A. tortilis* may dominate some areas along valleys. Grass-dominated herbaceous layer with relatively low basal cover on dystrophic sands. The study area consists of leve plains with some relief, irregular plains with high hills or ridges can be noted in the area. The vegetation of the area is classified as Savanah Biome, specifically the Central Sandy Bushveld.

Management:

- Ensure permits are obtained to remove protected species if needed. Relocate all protected species with aid of specialists. Only remove species in areas designated for activity and do not disturb surrounding areas.
- Rehabilitate disturbed areas with natural indigenous flora. Monitor for cover abundance.
- Eradicate and control all alien invasive species on site. Rehabilitate and revegetated all areas where alien invasive species were removed.



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FAUNA:

Various small mammals and reptiles occur on the property. Larger herbivore species are very scarce or absent due to the conflicting land use. Small mammals, reptiles and insects will occur in the area. The fauna at the site will not be impacted by the proposed prospecting activity as they will be able to move away or through the site, without being harmed. Workers should be educated and managed to ensure that no fauna at the site is harmed. At this stage no resident protected or red data faunal species were identified within the earmarked footprint, and the project is expected to have a negligible impact in this regard as prospecting activities will be done by drilling prospecting boreholes comprising an area of less than 400 square meters per site.

Management:

- Workers should be educated and managed to ensure that no fauna at the site is harmed.

SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL INTEREST:

The proposed site falls in the surrounding area of the Komjekejeke Heritage site, therefore a Heritage Impact Assessment will be conducted. This report will be made available for public comments during with the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR)

Management:

- Should artefacts archaeological items be observed, then all activity should cease immediately, the area marked off and a specialist consulted prior to any further activity.
- Should graves be observed on site during activity progress then all activity should have ceased and the area demarcated as a no-go zone. A specialist will need to be consulted and responsible action considered, whether grave relocation or ceasing activity completely within the area and 50m buffer zone.

ACCESS ROUTE:

- The site can be accessed via the Kloppersbos/Pyramid Gravel Road. The site is located approximately 14.26 km towards N1 North (Polokwane), via the off ramp 163 towards Pyramid/ Wallmannsthal/ R101, right on the Kloppersbos/Pyramid Road (D327) the site is located on the right. Informal roads already exist on site and no new roads will be constructed. Vehicular movement will be restricted to existing access routes to prevent crisscrossing of tracks through undisturbed areas.

Management:

- Should any other access roads to the prospecting area be required it will be established in consultation with the landowner however existing roads will be used as far as practicable.
- All intersections with main tarred roads will be clearly signposted. Drivers will be enforced to keep to set speed limits. Trucks will be road-worthy condition with reflective strips.



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- A fund will be set aside to maintain the serviceability of the road verge where the trucks approach or depart from the main road.

VISUAL EXPOSURE:

The project is expected to have a negligible impact in this regard as prospecting activities will be done by drilling prospecting boreholes comprising an area of less than 400 square meters per site. The sites will also be rehabilitated prior to the opening of another site.

Management:

- The applicant should however ensure that housekeeping is managed to standard, as this will mitigate the visual impacts during the operational phase of the mine.
- Upon closure the site will be rehabilitated and sloped to ensure that the visual impact on the aesthetic value of the area is kept to a minimum.
- The site will have a neat appearance and be kept in good condition at all times.

ABLUTION, WASTE WATER & WASTE DISPOSAL:

- Ablution facilities will consist of chemical toilets hired from a contractor and serviced regularly.
- Any effluents containing oil, grease or other industrial substances will be collected in a suitable receptacle and removed from the site, either for resale or for appropriate disposal at a recognised facility.
- Spills would be cleaned up immediately to the satisfaction of the Regional Manager by removing the spillage together with the polluted soil and by disposing of them at a recognised facility.
- No prospecting waste will be generated. General waste will be disposed at an authorised disposal facility.
- Non-biodegradable refuse such as glass bottles, plastic bags, metal scrap, etc., will be stored in a container at a collecting point and collected on a regular basis and disposed of at a recognised landfill site.
- Biodegradable refuse generated will be handled as indicated above.
- No waste will be burned or buried on site.

FINAL REHABILITATION:

- Rehabilitation of the surface area shall entail landscaping, levelling, top dressing, land preparation, seeding (if required), and weed / alien clearing.
 - All infrastructures, equipment, and other items used during the prospecting period will be removed from the site (section 44 of the MPRDA).
- Waste material of any description, including receptacles, scrap, rubble and tyres, will be removed entirely from the prospecting area and disposed of at a recognised landfill facility. It will not be permitted to be buried or burned on the site.



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- The rehabilitation area will be cleared of weeds and invader plant species. Priority will be given to species regarded as Category 1a and 1b invasive species in terms of NEM:BA (National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act 10 of 2004 and regulations applicable thereto).
- Final rehabilitation shall be completed within a period specified by the Regional Manager.

APPLICATION FOR CLOSURE

- Once the full prospecting area was rehabilitated the PR Holder will submit a closure application to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy in accordance with section 43(4) of the MPRDA, 2002 that states: "An application for a closure certificate must be made to the Regional Manager in whose region the land in question is situated within 180 days of the occurrence of the lapsing, abandonment, cancellation, cessation, relinquishment or completion contemplated in subsection (3) and must be accompanied by the prescribed environmental risk report".
- The Closure Application will be submitted in terms of Regulation 62 of the MPRDA, 2002, and Government Notice 940 of NEMA, 1998.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

This document is to inform you about the proposed activity and to determine whether there are any concerns or objections from Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) that need to be considered.

As an Interested and Affected Party you are kindly requested to complete the comments form and give any comment, concern or input with regard to the current land use of the area, the environment as well as socio-economic conditions that you feel might be affected by the proposed activity. When submitting response please provide suggestions to mitigate the anticipated impact of each identified activity.

Please contact Sonette Smit at the contact details as presented in the letterhead or at sonette.s@greenmined.co.za through any means should you need more information, have concerns or comments that need to be considered or if you want to be registered as an interested and / or affected party and would like to receive a copy of the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) on or before **11 August 2020**. If we do not receive any comments from you within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be accepted that you do not have any objections / comments with regard to the project.

A register of interested and affected parties (I&AP's) will be opened and maintained containing the names, contact details and address of all persons who have submitted written comments, attended meetings or have in writing requested to be registered and all organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the activity.

Please note that only registered I&AP's and stakeholders will be entitled to comment on reports and plans to be submitted to the Department provided that the party provide its name, contact details and address and discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which he / she may have in the approval or refusal of the applications.



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The DBAR will be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy(DMRE), Gauteng, for review purposes. This report will also be made available to the public for a 30 days review period. An electronic copy of the report will be published on the Greenmined Environmental website (www.greenmined.com)

The DBAR will then be updated to reflect the comments received during the public commenting period. Upon which, the Final Basic Assessment Report (FBAR) will be submitted to the DMRE for its consideration as part of the authorization process in terms of the NEMA regulation. A copy of the final report will be made available on the Greenmined Environmental website (www.greenmined.com). All registered I&AP's and stakeholders will be notified in writing within 14 days of the date of the decision of the outcome of the application, including the reasons for the decision and the right of appeal.



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CONTACT DETAILS:

Name/Naam	
Organisation/Instansie	
Interest/Belange	
Postal Address/Pos Adres	
Tel	
Fax/Faks	
E-mail/E-pos	

COMMENTS/ OPMERKINGS:

No Objection:	
Request additional information:	
Concerns:	

Signature: _____



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Are there any other organisations or individuals that you feel should be invited to comment? If so, please provide their contact details:

Contact name:
Organisation (if applicable):
Address:
Tel:
Fax
E-mail

Contact name:
Organisation (if applicable):
Address:
Tel:
Fax
E-mail

Your feedback is valued and will be addressed appropriately.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sonette Smit'.

Sonette Smit
Greenmined Environmental