



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Applicant:

B&E International (Pty) Ltd
 PO Box 26730
 East Rand
 Kempton Park
 1462
 Tel: 011 966 4300

Department of Rural Development and Land Reform

Private bag 11305

Nelspruit

1200

013 766 6067/8

Attention: Ms Zithini Dlamini

9 June 2017







Dear Madam

RE: NOTICE OF APPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF SECTION 27 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)

B&E International (Pty) Ltd intends to apply for a mining permit to mine 4.9 ha of the remaining extent of portion 2 of the farm Witkloof 408 JT, which falls in the Albert Luthuli Local Municipality in the Gert Sibande administrative district, Mpumalanga Province.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The remaining extent of portion 2 of the farm Witkloof 408 is situated approximately 0.7 km East of the R33, 14.55km North-West of Carolina, Mpumalanga Province. The area earmarked for the proposed mining falls on a section of the farm that was previously used as an existing quarry and the intention of this application is to increase the existing quarry. The GPS coordinates of the proposed mining area are as follow:

Preferred Alternative	
Decimal Degrees	Degrees; Minutes: Seconds
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  A – 25.964892°S; 30.023357°E  B – 25.966291S; 30.021705°E  C – 25.967790°S; 30.023021°E 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  A 25°57'53.61"S 30° 1'24.09"E  B 25°57'58.65"S 30° 1'18.14"E  C 25°58'4.04"S 30° 1'22.88"E

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

DMR Reference Number: MP 30/5/1/3/2/11433MP
BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

D – 25.966602°S; 30.024680°E	D 25°57'59.77"S 30° 1'28.85"E
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ALTERNATIVE SITE DESCRIPTION

The following alternative site was assessed for the proposed mining but found not environmentally and practically suitable. The site still has a green status and the natural area will need to be disturbed for the quarry to be established.

Site Alternative	
Decimal Degrees	Degrees; Minutes; Seconds
A -25.966287°S 30.021722°E	A 25°57'58.63"S 30° 1'18.20"E
B -25.968253°S 30.023456°E	B 25°58'5.71"S 30° 1'24.44"E
C -25.969258°S; 30.022011°E	C 25°58'9.33"S 30° 1'19.24"E
D -25.967659°S; 30.020373°E	D 25°58'3.57"S 30° 1'13.34"E

LEGAL COMPLAINE

An application for a mining permit in terms of Section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) [MPRDA] will be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR).

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 21:

Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a mining permit in terms of section 27 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 extraction of a mineral resource [,]; or [including activities for which an exemption has been issued in terms of section 106 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002)]*
- (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.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

■ GNR 327 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 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;*

but excluding the decommissioning of an activity relating to the secondary processing of a –

- (a) mineral resource, including the smelting, beneficiation, reduction, refining, calcining or gasification of the mineral resource; or*
- (b) petroleum resource, including the refining of gas, beneficiation, oil or petroleum products; – in which case activity 31 in this Notice applies.*

■ GNR 327 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 Activity 27:

The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation.

■ GNR 327 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 Activity 28:

Commercial and industrial developments where such land was used for agriculture or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare.

■ GNR 327 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2017 Activity 35:

The expansion of residential, retail, recreational, tourism, commercial or institutional developments on land previously used for mining or heavy industrial purposes, where the increased development footprint will exceed 1 000 square meters; excluding—

- (i) where such land has been remediated in terms of part 8 of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) in which case the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 applies; or*
- (ii) where an environmental authorisation has been obtained for the decommissioning of such a mine or industry in terms of this Notice or any previous NEMA notice; or*
- (iii) where a closure certificate has been issued in terms of section 43 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) for such land.*

DMR Reference Number: MP 30/5/1/3/2/11433MP
BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Other legislation triggered by the proposed project includes:

- An application for a Mining Permit in terms of Section 27 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 mining site will be an extension of the existing quarry pit previously distributed by stone aggregate mining activities. The mining methods will make use of blasting means of explosives in order to loosen the hard rock, the material is then loaded and hauled out of the excavation to the mobile crushing and screening plants. The aggregate will be stockpiles and transported to clients via trucks and trailers. All activities will be contained within the boundaries of the site.

The proposed mining area is approximately 4.9ha is extent and the applicant, B&E International (Pty) Ltd, intends to win material from the area for at least 2 years with a possible extension of another 3 years. The aggregate / stone gravel to be removed from the quarry will be used for road construction in the vicinity. The proposed quarry will therefore contribute to the upgrading / maintenance of road infrastructure in and around the Carolina area.

The mining activities will consist out of the following:

- Stripping and stockpiling of topsoil;
- Blasting;
- Excavating;
- Crushing;
- Stockpiling and transporting;
- Sloping and landscaping upon closure of the site; and
- Replacing the topsoil and vegetation the disturbed area.

The mining site will contain the following:

- Drilling equipment;
- Excavating equipment;
- Earth moving equipment; and
- Mobile crushing and screening plants.

DUST:

- 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.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

- All disturbed or exposed areas will be re-vegetated as soon as possible during mining to prevent any dust source from being created.
- Water from the existing pit will be pumped out of the quarry and reused for mineral processing and dust suppression.

NOISE:

- It will be ensured that employees and staff conduct themselves in an acceptable manner while on site.
- All mining vehicles will be equipped with silencers and maintained in a road worthy condition in terms of the Road Transport Act.
- The noise generated from the mining machinery will be similar to noise generated along the R33 by public vehicles. Blasting noise will be instantaneous and of short duration. This will only occur once every two to three weeks.
- The type, duration and timing of the blasting procedures will be planned with due cognisance of other land users and structures in the vicinity.
- Surrounding land owners will be notified in writing prior to blasting occasions.

ACCESS ROUTE:

- 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.
- Should any other access roads to the mining area be required it will be established in consultation with the landowner however existing roads will be used as far as practicable.

SURFACE AND GROUND WATER:

- The proposed activities are not expected to have a negative impact on any surface and ground water of the area.
- The proposed operation is more than 5 km from the Nooitgedacht dam, there are no close rivers, or subsidiary to the site.

VEGETATION:

- Slightly to moderately undulating plains, including some low hills and pan depressions. The vegetation is short dense grasslands dominated by the usual Highveld grass composition (*Aristida*, *Digitaria*, *Eragrostis racemosa*, *Themenda triandra*, *Tristachye leucothrix* etc.), with small scattered rocky outcrops with wiry, sour grasses and some woody species.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**GEOLOGY & SOILS:**

- Red to yellow sandy soil of the Ba and B.D. land types found on shales and sandstone or mudstone of the Madzaringwe Formation (Karoo Supergroup) or the intrusive Karoo Suite dolerites which feature prominently in the area. The topsoil is between 0 -300mm deep.

CLIMATE:

According to SA Explorer, Carolina normally receives about 614mm of rain per year, with most rainfall occurring during summer. The chart below (Figure 1) shows the average rainfall values for Carolina per month. It receives the lowest rainfall (1mm) in July and the highest (119mm) in November. The monthly distribution of average daily maximum temperatures (Figure 2) shows that the average midday temperatures for Carolina range from 15.4°C in June to 23.4°C in January. The region is the coldest during June when the mercury drops to 0.9°C on average during the night. Consult the chart below (Figure 3) for an indication of the monthly variation of average minimum daily temperatures.

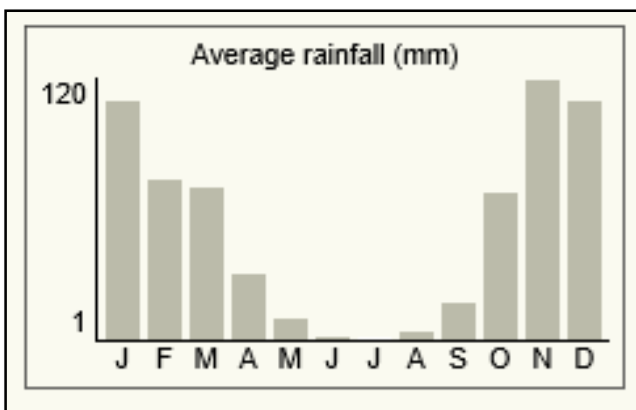


Figure 1: Average rainfall for Carolina

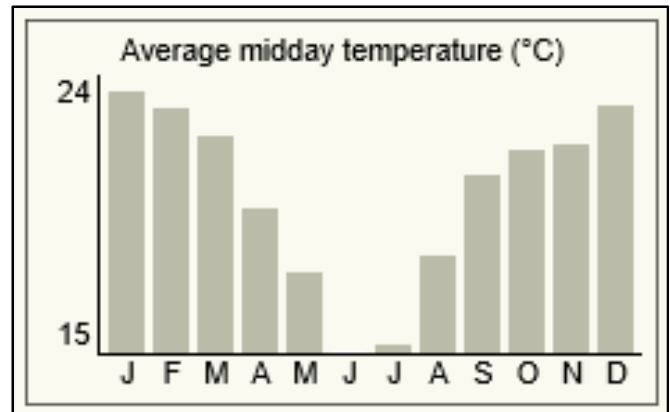


Figure 2: Average midday temperature

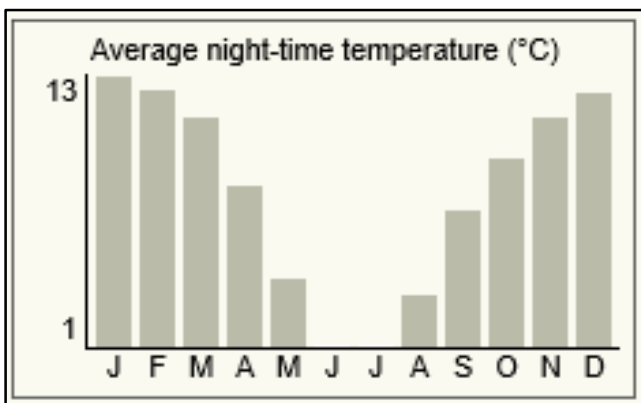


Figure 3: Average night-time temperature

DMR Reference Number: MP 30/5/1/3/2/11433MP
BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

SENSITIVE LANDSCAPES:

- No sensitive landscapes under statutory protection occur on the site.
- There are no protected areas (game parks/ nature reserves or monument) in close proximity to the proposed site.

SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL INTEREST:

- No sites of archaeological or cultural importance were identified during the site inspection as the site has been extensively used for mining and sugar cane farming purposes.

FAUNA:

- No animals were spotted during the site inspection. Animals that may occur in the area will be very similar to those found around Carolina. The area was previously disturbed for the recovery of gravel. Small mammals, reptiles and insects will occur in the area.
- The fauna at the site will not be impacted by the proposed mining 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.

VISUAL EXPOSURE:

- The mining area was identified to constitute the lowest possible visual impact on the surrounding environment. The surrounding area has previously been disturbed by mining activities, and this application entails the extension of the existing mining area.
- The site will be visible from the R33.
- 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 insure 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 mining waste will be generated. General waste will be disposed at the authorised Carolina Disposal facility.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

- 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 mining 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 mining area and disposed of at a recognised landfill facility. It will not be permitted to be buried or burned on the site.
- Weed / Alien clearing will be done in a sporadic manner during the life of the mining activities. Species categorised as weeds according to the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004) [NEMBA] Alien and Invasive Species Regulation GNR 598 and 599 of 2014 Species regarded as need to be eradicated from the site on final closure.
- Final rehabilitation shall be completed within a period specified by the Regional Manager.

B&E International (Pty) Ltd will make use of temporary infrastructure during the mining operations. Workers will be transported to and from the site daily.

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 Yolandie Coetzee at the contact details as presented in the letterhead or at yolandie.c@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 **3 July 2017**. 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.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

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.

The DBAR will be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR), Mpumalanga, 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 DMR 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.

DMR Reference Number: MP 30/5/1/3/2/11433MP
BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

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: _____

DMR Reference Number: MP 30/5/1/3/2/11433MP
BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

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



Yolandie Coetzee
Greenmined Environmental

DMR Reference Number: MP 30/5/1/3/2/11433MP

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT