



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

For Prospecting Right application on Portion 1 and Remaining Extent of the farm Rietspruit 425 GT Whole Farm, situated in Magisterial District of Mzinyathi in KwaZulu-Natal Province.

DMRE Ref: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11407 PR

PREPARED FOR:

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INTRODUCTION AND THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as an independent Environmental Consultant by **Big Sky Mining (Pty) Ltd** to conduct Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), compile a Basic Assessment Report (BAR), compile an Environmental Management Programme report (EMPr), and undertake Public Participation Process (PPP). This is done for the process of acquiring Environmental Authorization for the proposed Prospecting Right Application on **Portion 1 and Remaining Extent of the farm Rietspruit 425 GT Whole Farm, situated within the Magisterial District of uMzinyathi, KwaZulu-Natal Province. (KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11407 PR).**

The Purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide a perfunctory description of the project and outline EIA processes to be followed and contributions from Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) on the issues related to the project in question, allowing comments and concerns to be raised.

Results of the EIA, both negative and positive will be submitted and made available to the relevant Departments such as the Department of Mineral Resources and if requested, Environmental Affairs, Water and Sanitation, Landowner and other interested stakeholders.

This Background Information Document therefore requests and invites I&APs to comment on the environmental, physical, social and economic impacts associated with the proposed Prospecting Activities. Be assured that your comments are of great value as they ensure that relevant issues are taken into consideration. Attached at the end of this document is a registration form, kindly complete it and send it back to **Ms Mazithi Mangcu** through given means of communication also attached there.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Prospecting right Application has been submitted for the searching(drilling) of coal resource on the properties mentioned above. This proposed prospecting Area, as seen in Figure 2 and Figure 3, is situated approximately 20.79 km northeast of Dundee.

Prospecting activities will be undertaken over a period of five (5) years and are designed in phases, each phase conditional on the success of the previous phase. Both invasive and non-invasive methods will be implemented. Invasive are those activities which have footprint or cause harm (if not mitigated or managed properly) or those that have a physical impact on the environment, while non-invasive do not cause any harm or effects on the environment. See **Figure 1** for drilling setting and equipments example.

Non-invasive: Desktop study of the area has commenced, and this incorporates desktop geographical and geological mapping. This will be followed by detailed geochemical and geotechnical surveys. In turn, this is followed by detailed geophysical studies.

Invasive: A detailed drilling, sampling, assaying and mineralogical study will be carried out. Diamond method will be utilized to prospect Coal. To ensure or minimize impacts on the receiving environment, All the activities will be guided by the project's BAR & EMPr.



Figure 1: Example of drilling equipment and site setting (Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd, 2023)

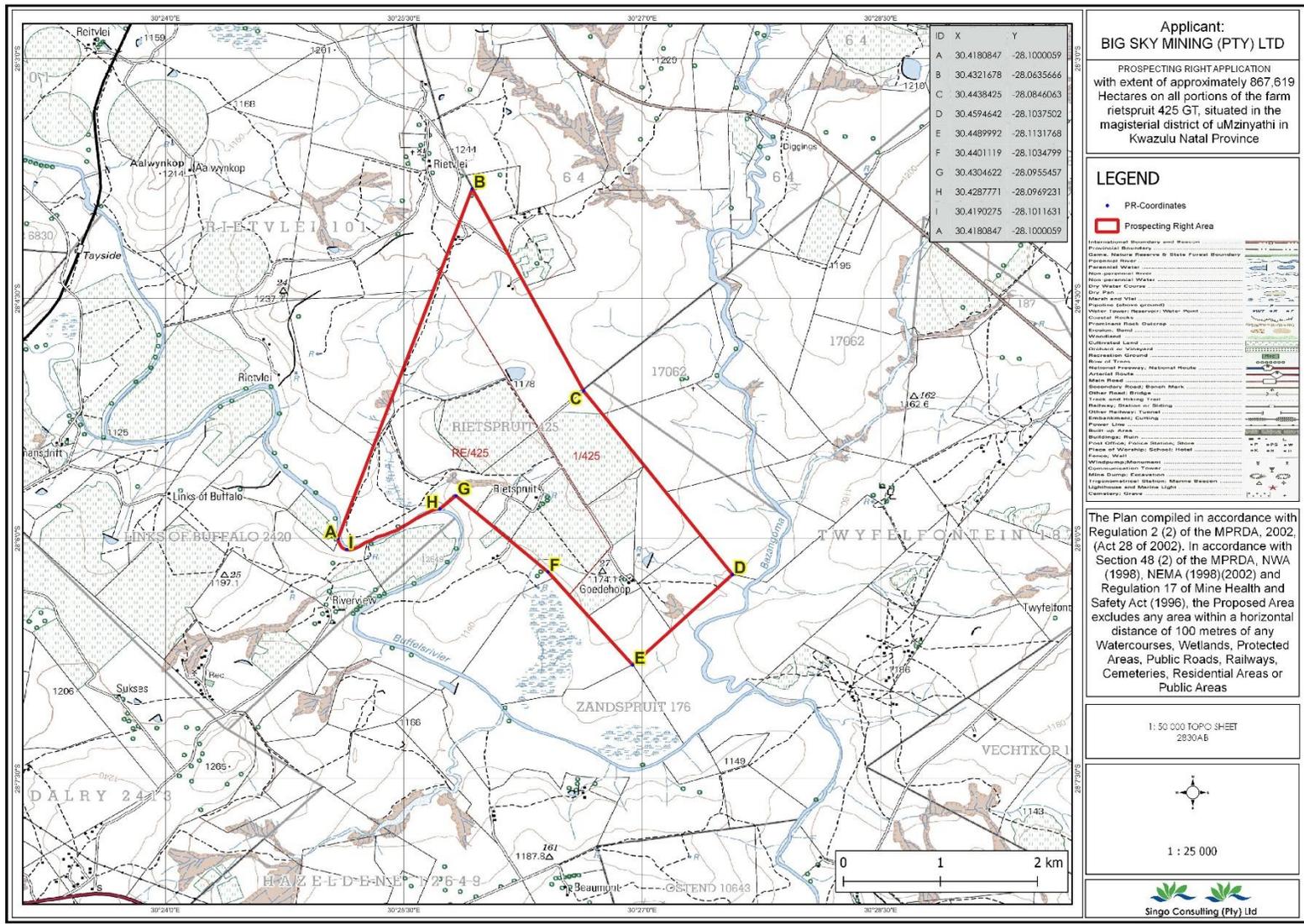


Figure 3: Regulation 2.2 Map for the proposed Area. (A: -28.1000059, 30.4180847)

BASIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESSES

These are planning and decision-making tools used in identifying potential environmental, economic and social consequences of a proposed activity prior the commencement of the activity.

These together with the public issues and concerns are to be identified sufficiently early so that they can be assessed and incorporated into the final reports when/if necessary.

These tools are regarded as crucial because they are utilized to demonstrate to the relevant stakeholders about the potential impacts, which in turn leads to the prospecting application process being a success or declined.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Therefore, EIA through BAR & EMPr to be undertaken will be conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) and Environmental Impact Assessment regulations as amended (April 2017).

The activity is to prospect the existence and occurrence of coal therefore, this will be conducted in accordance with Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, (Act 28 of 2002). Other regulatory guidelines to be followed include National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998), National Air Quality Standards (GN 1210: 2009) and National Dust Control Regulations (GN 827 of GG NO. 36974).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public Participation remains a cornerstone of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. It ensures provision of relevant and enough information with openness and transparency. Public Participation process presents to I&APs, an opportunity to understand what the project is about, and affords them an opportunity to make valuable contributions towards the EIA process.

I&APs can be any person, group of persons or organization interested in or affected by the proposed activity, and any organ of state that may have jurisdiction over any aspect of the activity.

The key objective of PPP is to afford the I&APs with an opportunity to comment and provide valuable inputs during the planning phase of the project.

For this specific proposed project, I&APs will be given a period of 30 days to comment and raise issues/concerns with regards to the BAR and EMPr which will be available at the **Dundee Public Library** (Boundary Rd, Dundee, 3000) and **Endumeni Local Municipality** (64 Victoria Street, Dundee). A soft copy is available from **Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd** upon request, using the contact details of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) and Public **Participation Process Officer (PPP Offer) Miss Mazithi Mangcu**.

Kindly note the following dates:

- ❖ Announcement of the Prospecting Right Application: **30th of June 2023**.
- ❖ Review of Draft BAR & EMPr: **Saturday the 29th of July 2023 to Monday the 28th of August 2023 (with the exclusion of public holidays)**.

REGISTRATION & COMMENT SHEET

Proposed Prospecting Right Application for Coal on Portion 1 and Remaining Extent of the farm Rietspruit 425 GT Whole Farm, situated within the Magisterial District of uMzinyathi, KwaZulu-Natal Province. (KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11407 PR).

Attention: **Mazithi Mangcu**

Email: mazithi@singoconsulting.co.za

Date			
Title	Name	Surname	
Company			
Designation			
Address			
Tel No.		Fax No.	
E-mail		Cell No.	
I would like to receive my notifications be (mark with "X"):		Post <input type="checkbox"/>	E-mail: <input type="checkbox"/>
			Fax: <input type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate why you would have an interest in the above-mentioned project.			
Please provide your comments and questions here:			
<i>Please feel free to attach a separate document</i>			
Please add any person you think may be interested and affected parties:			
Full name		Company	
Address			
E-mail		Contact No.	