

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION DDOCUMENT

MINING PERMIT FOR COAL, PSUEDOCOAL AND TORBONATE/ OIL  
SHALES RESOURCES ON PORTION OF PORTION 01 OF THE FARM  
ELANDSLAAGTE 368 JS, MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MIDDELBURG,  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

**Prepared by:**

**Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd**

**Prepared for:**

**AARNOOT MINING (PTY) LTD**

**DMR Reference for the proposed project**

DMR REFERENCE	FARM NAME & PORTION
MP30/5/1/3/2/12053MP	Portion of portion 01 of the Farm Elandslaagte 368 JS

**For any project related information contact:**



T: +27 13 6920 041

E: [livhuwani@singoconsulting.co.za](mailto:livhuwani@singoconsulting.co.za)

E: [admin@singoconsulting.co.za](mailto:admin@singoconsulting.co.za)

Office No.16, Corridor Hill Crossing, 09  
Langa Crescent, Corridor Hill, eMalahleni

**APPLICANT:**

**AARNOOT MINING (Pty) Ltd**

T: 079 024 2252

E: [kekanamofls@gmail.com](mailto:kekanamofls@gmail.com)

P.O Box 71534, Mamelodi, 0041



## 1. INTRODUCTION

**Aarnoot Mining (Pty) Ltd** submitted Mining Permit Application to the Department of Mineral Resources Mpumalanga in terms of section 27 of Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act 28 of 2002) for the proposed establishment of a Coal, Pseudocoal and Torbonate/ Oil shale mine pit (DMR Ref: MP30/5/1/3/2/12053MP). This application directly affects **Portion of portion 01 of the Farm Elandslaagte 368 JS**, situated under the Magisterial District of Middelburg, Mpumalanga Province.

## 2. PROJECTS DESCRIPTION

The proposed project directly affects a portion of portion 01 of the Farm Elandslaagte 368 JS situated on the north eastern side of Middelburg and Witbank towns respectively. From Witbank the project area is approximately 56.9 km away and it is approximately 25.9 km away from Middelburg. The site is within the jurisdiction of Steve Tshwete local municipality which is overall administered by the Nkangala District Municipality. There are no communities near the project area instead the area is dominated by agricultural activities.

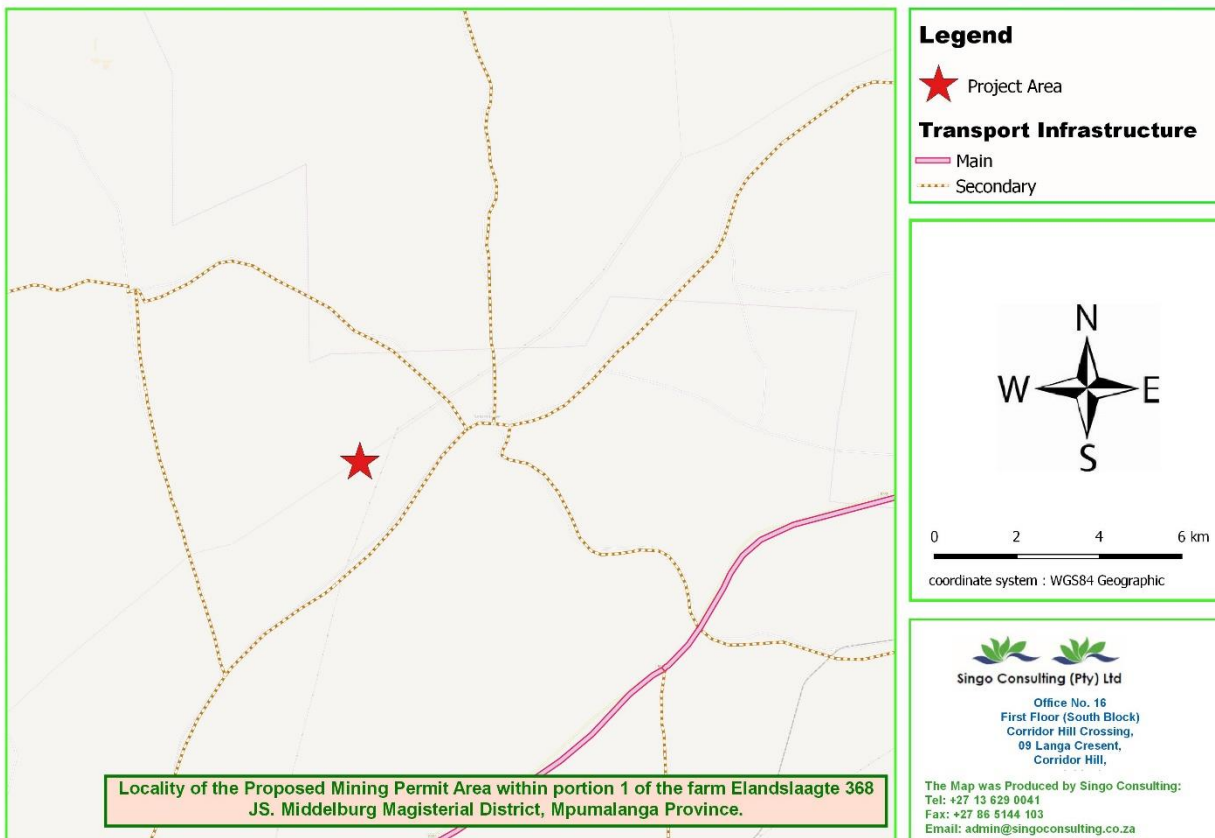


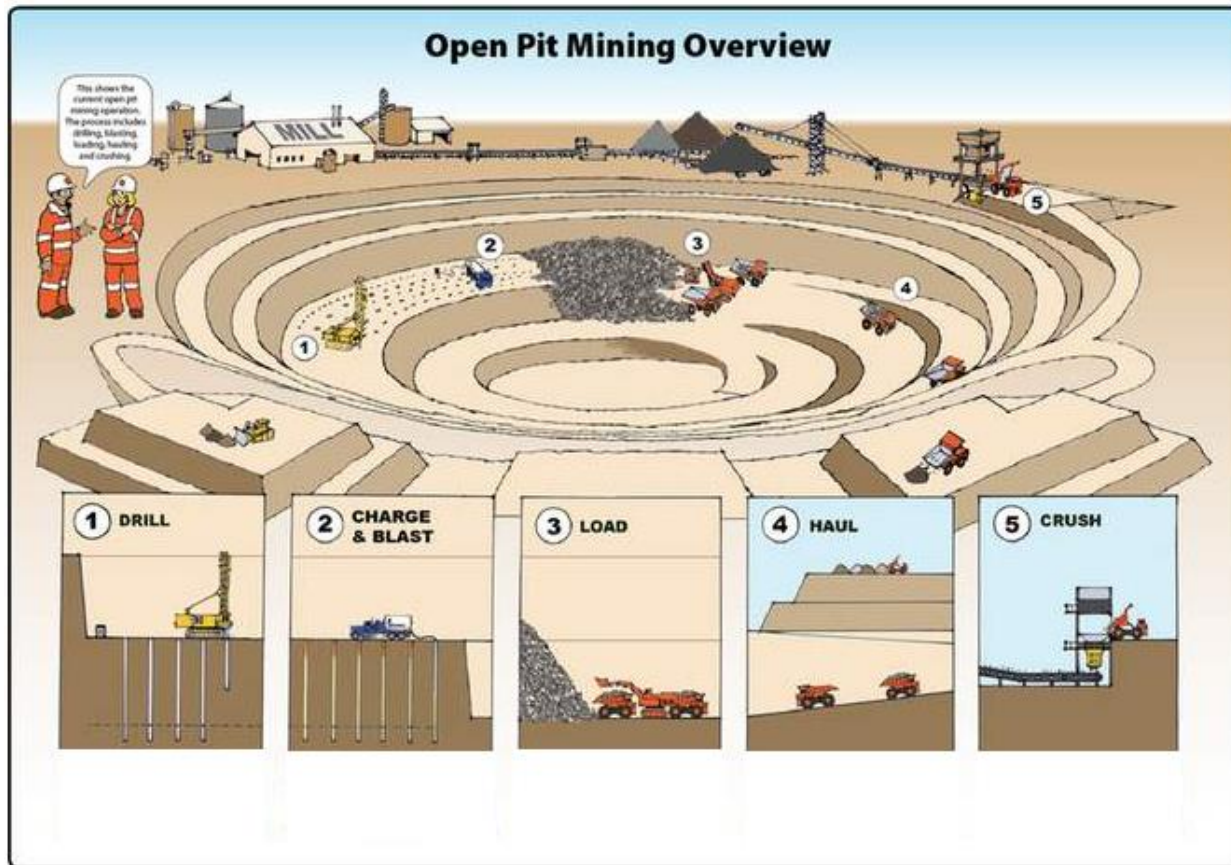
Figure 1: Location of the project.



**Figure 2: Google Earth view showing the mining permit applied area.**

This project will entail an open cast method of excavation. The box cut will be developed according to the dimension of the applied minerals deposit within the project area, but overall mining activities will be limited to an area of **5 Ha** as per mining permit requirements. The top soil will be stockpiled elsewhere on site preferably next to the farm boundary and will be used during rehabilitation period. Once a box cut has been made, the overburden and minerals resources where necessary will be loosened by blasting. The loosened material will then be loaded onto trucks by excavators. A haul road will be situated at the side of the pit, forming a ramp up which trucks can drive, carrying ore and waste rock. Waste rock will be piled up at the surface, near the edge of the open pit (waste dump). The waste dump will be tiered and stepped, to minimize degradation.

This simplified graphic below describes the sequence of events for open-cast mining:



**Figure 3: Sequence of events for open-cast mining.**

Only mobile and temporary facilities will be utilized, so no destruction will be involved in the decommissioning phase. The surface area will be rehabilitated by establishing the general topography of the surrounding area, ensuring that there are no remnants of the structures. Closure and rehabilitation of pits will be undertaken during the operational phase of the operation when the activities are completed in those pit. Post-closure monitoring will assist in determining the success of the rehabilitation and identify whether any additional measures need to be taken to ensure the area is restored to a reasonable and acceptable condition.

### **3. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS**

South African law requires that the Environmental Authorization be sought for certain activities prior to commencement. As part of the application process for Environmental Authorization it is necessary to assess the environmental and social impacts associated with the activities, so as to identify any potential negative and/or positive consequences as result thereof. Measures must be proposed to avoid or minimize these impacts. In terms of NEMA and its EIA Regulations (GN R.



324/GN R. 325/GN R. 327) the following listed activity may be applicable to the proposed projects, as such the application is subject to a Basic Assessment Report process:

**GN R. 324 (of 2017), Activity 12(b):** The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of such indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purpose undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan (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 and (ii) within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans.

**GN R. 327 (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.

**GN R. 327 (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. The EMPs will be compiled and implemented to ensure that potential impacts of the proposed mining activities are mitigated and managed.

According to the MPRDA, the EMP need to include the following activities but is not limited to:

- Describing the environment that is likely to be affected by the proposed mining permit;
- Identifying the potential impacts;
- Assessing the significance of the potential impacts of the proposed project on the environment, socio economic conditions and cultural heritage; and
- Evaluating the proposed mitigation measures to minimize negative impacts.

#### **4. BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

The key steps involved in a typical Basic Assessment process are described below.

##### **Initiation and Application**

- Compile and submit application form(s) to DMR

##### **Public Participation Process**

- Identification of I&APs.
- Preparation of notification documents (BID, letter, advert, site notice, registration form).
- Notification of I&APs and relevant stakeholders of the project.
- Placement of site notices and advertisement.

##### **Basic Assessment Report (BAR and Environmental Management Programme Report (EMPR)**

Compilation of baseline environment data and identification of potential impacts associated with the project.

- Assessment of alternative project aspects.
- Specialist studies undertaken (if applicable).
- Potential impacts are rated and mitigation measures proposed.
- Monitoring programmes proposed to ensure mitigation measures are efficient.
- BAR/EMPR is updated to include all comments prior to submission to the DMR
- DMR accepts the BAR/EMPR or requests additional information.

## Record of Decision

- DMR makes a decision and either approves or rejects the application for Environmental Authorization.
- All I&APs are notified of the outcome of the application, and their right to appeal.

### 5. Public Participation Process

Stakeholders affected by or who are interested in the proposed Project are invited to register as I&AP to become involved in the PPP. The following anticipated dates are important to note for the PPP going forward.

□ Stakeholder engagement and consultation: 27 February 2019 –28 March 2019

#### PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- \* Contributions from stakeholders will assist in informed decision-making for authorities and provides information to be considered by the project team for each project and specialists conducting research. All comments can be submitted using the contacts details which appear on the cover page or as part of the Comment and Registration Sheet below.

Please complete the form below in clear handwriting or typing to register as an interested and affected party (I&AP) and **return by no longer than 28 March 2019.**

## I&AP'S DATA SHEET

THE PROPOSED MIDDELBURG MINING PROJECT SITUATED ON PORTION OF PORTION 01 OF THE FARM ELANDSLAAGTE 368 JS IN THE MAGESTRIAL DISCTRICT OF MIDDELBURG, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

REGISTRATION AND COMMENT FORM FOR CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS:

**Please comment and return to:**



Physical address:	Office No. 16, First Floor (South Block), Corridor Hill Crossing,  09 Langa Crescent Corridor Hill,  Emalahleni,  1035.
Postal address	P/Bag X7297 Postnet Suite 87 Highveld Mall Witbank 1035
Tell No:	+27 13 6920 041
Fax No:	+27 86 5144 103
Email:	livhuwani@singoconsulting.co.za



**Personal Details:**

<b>Full Names and Surname:</b>							
<b>Contact Details:</b>							
<b>Tel(w):</b>		<b>Tel(h):</b>		<b>Fax No:</b>		<b>Cell No:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>							
<b>Physical Address:</b>							
<b>Postal Address:</b>							
Preferred method of communication: fax <input type="checkbox"/> e-mail <input type="checkbox"/> post <input type="checkbox"/>							
Preferred telephonic communication: cell <input type="checkbox"/> home <input type="checkbox"/> work <input type="checkbox"/>							
<b>Organisation/Representative:</b>							
<b>Farm name, number and subdivision or Street Address (if applicable):</b>							

1. What is your interest in the proposed project? E.g. Property Owner/ Lessee/ Tenant?  
Please provide details of the property.

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2. Do you have grounds for concerns in respect to this application? **Please tick the appropriate box and substantiate.**

YES

NO

3. Categorized issues of concerns: **Please "X" the appropriate box**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Air quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	Noise
<input type="checkbox"/>	Archeology	<input type="checkbox"/>	Soil
<input type="checkbox"/>	Surface water	<input type="checkbox"/>	Employment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Groundwater	<input type="checkbox"/>	Security
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ecology	<input type="checkbox"/>	Visual
<input type="checkbox"/>	Land use and Planning Waste management	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quality of life Property value
<input type="checkbox"/>	Economy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nuisance

4. If yes, please list elaborate further.

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5. Are there, in your opinion, any other interested/ or affected parties that should be contacted in relation to this application? Please "X" appropriate box.

YES

NO

6. If yes, please provide their contact details:

Name:		Organization:
Contact details		
Address:		
Tel No:	Fax No:	Cell No:
Email address:		

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**Signed**

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**Date**