

Background Information Document (BID)

NOTICE OF COAL MINING RIGHT, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION (INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME REPORT), WATER USE LICENSE AND WASTE MANAGEMENT APPLICATIONS ON PORTION 5 OF THE FARM GELUK 234 IR SITUATED IN THE VICTOR KHANYE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

DMRE REFERENCE NUMBER: TO BE ANNOUNCED



Prepared by:

Consultants' contact person (EAP)



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1.1 INTRODUCTION

Motau mining Services wishes to apply for a mining right in terms of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act No.28 of 2002) (MPRDA) (as amended) over portion 5 of the farm Geluk 234 IR, DMRE Ref: **To be announced**.

This project is intended to acquire a mining right as a result subject to an application for an Environmental Authorization in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Act 107 of 1998, and a Water Use License in terms of the National Water Act, Act No. 36 of 1998 (NWA) and the Waste Management License (WML) for waste management activities in terms of section 45 of the National Environmental Management Waste Act 2008 (Act,1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA)

Motau Mining Services has appointed Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), to complete the necessary environmental applications and oversee the various specialist studies:

Various proposed specialist studies:	
Soil Study	Traffic Impact Assessment
Hydrogeology study	Archaeology & Heritage Impact Assessment
Ecological Assessment	Hydrology study
Rehabilitation Plan	Integrated Water and Waste Management Plan
Wetland Ecological Assessment	Waste Classification Study
Hydropedology study	Storm Water Management and Pollution Control Dam
Blasting and vibration assessment	Geotechnical Investigation
Mine Work Programme	Social Labour Plan

2. LOCATION

The proposed project is situated on a portion of portion 5 of the farm Geluk 234 IR within the jurisdiction of Victor Khanye Local Municipality under the Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. It is located approximately 3.77 km northwest of the town of Delmas and approximately 11.71 km southeast of Klipspruit and can be accessed through the R50 & R42 road network, 80km east of Johannesburg. Motau Mining Services' mining methodology to be used will be open cast. The application is on Portion 5, farm Geluk 234 IR covering approximately 81.751 hectares (ha) in extent.

3. PURPOSE OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

➤ **The purpose of this document is to:**

- Provide background information to landowners and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) on the proposed mining activities,

- Consult stakeholders and provide them the opportunity to register as I&APs
- Announce the availability of a draft Scoping Report available for public review and comment
- Obtain I&AP comments and contributions to incorporate these into the environmental reporting

Please complete the attached Comment and Registration Form attached in **Appendix A** if you wish to register as an I&AP or contribute comments. Register / comment and return the form to Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd by the **10th of October 2022**.

Communities, neighbors, government representatives, stakeholders such as community leaders, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are invited to participate in the scoping and EIA process by means of published advertisements, site notices, and written correspondence. I&APs are invited to assist in:

- Identifying issues of concern to be investigated, as well as possible impacts of the project on the natural & social environment.
- Suggesting alternative means in which to mitigate possible negative impacts and enhance positive impacts.

You are hereby invited to participate freely and submit any questions or information you feel may contribute to the process. All comments received will be recorded and addressed as part of the environmental impact assessment process. Please complete the attached comment form (**APPENDIX A**).

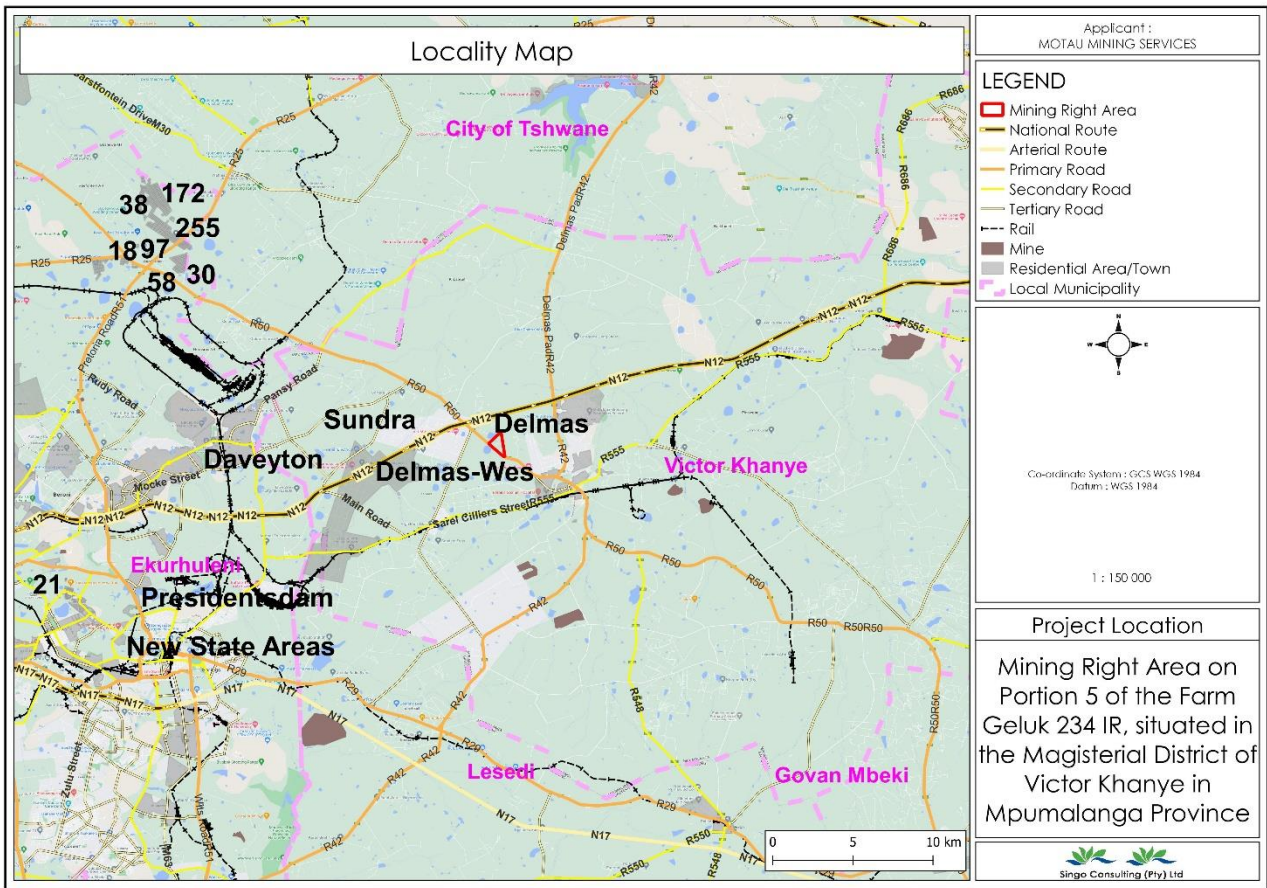


Figure 1: Locality Map of the project area (in red polygon) **28.6363835; -26.1193322**

4. Project Overview

Mineral Applied for: Coal

Mining Methods: Open cast Mining

Life of Mine: 30 years lifespan

Mining Method and Associated Infrastructures

- Mining Method

The mining method will be a standard truck and shovel application where the topsoil is removed and stored. Thereafter, softs will be removed and stored at the designated material stockpiles. Drilling and blasting of the hard materials will then take place. Following the blasting process, material will be dozed into the void following the coaling operation. A conservative estimate of 15 % dozer gain has been in the calculations. The remainder of the hard material will be loaded, trucked out of the pit, and dumped over the highwall into the void created by the mining operation. Coaling will then commence, and the process repeated on a strip-by-strip basis. Material (apart from the topsoil) will then be rolled over into the void created by the removal of the coal in the previous bench, with the hard overburden and interburden forming the base. This is followed by the soft overburden, levelled, and finally topsoil will be placed and seeded.

Drilling and blasting activities will be required for hard material. Waste material will be handled by excavators and small-articulated trucks, as well as dozers. Where practical, throw blasting will be utilized to minimize loading and hauling requirements of hard material. Blast gain is entirely dependent on the competency of the overburden. Where the overburden consists mainly of soft material, throw blast gain is minimal. When it is classified as competent overburden, throw blast gain increases to as much as 20 % of the blasted material. Approximately 15 % of the overburden will be moved by the dozer-push method to the waste side of the pit.

Establishing the backfill dumps as quickly as possible will minimize haul distances and ensure the waste fleets are kept to a minimum. Mine planning will sequence waste drilling, blasting, and removal to provide a continuous source of coal from the respective coal seams for beneficiation purposes.

The following infrastructures will form part of the operation:

Access & Haul roads (with necessary security) including the upgrading of the access point to the gravel road.	Contractor's Yard with septic/chemical ablution facilities
Offices	Weighbridge
workshop and stores (with septic/chemical ablution facilities)	Parking Area
Diesel facilities and a hardstand	Generators for Power and Water
Boxcut	Stockpiles (topsoil, overburden, subsoil/softs, ROM)

Surface water management measures (stormwater diversion berms and trenches, pollution control dams, tailings dam etc.)	Discard Facility
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The proposed mining method and sequence comprised of the following main mining activities:

- Initial topsoil and soft overburden removal which will be stockpiled to ensure it can be replaced back in the initial box cut;
- The physical mining of the mineral seam which includes drilling of hard overburden material, charging and blasting;
- The mineral is loaded into trucks and hauled to the crushing and screening facility;
- Discard material will be extracted and replaced in the bottom of the open cast, while the product will be taken to the weighbridge via trucks and then removed off-site;
- The overburden is replaced back into the pit as mining progresses leaving a minimum area open at a single time.
- The topsoil which was stripped and stockpiled separately before mining commenced is then replaced. The findings of the land capability study will determine the optimal composition to ensure pre-mining conditions for utilization.

Service Requirements:

- ❖ Electricity for the operation will be sourced from Eskom.
- ❖ It is envisaged that potable/ domestic water will be sourced from boreholes on site, other alternatives are also being considered.
- ❖ General waste will be collected for disposal at the Municipal dump.
- ❖ Sewage will be collected within conservancy tanks to be emptied by honey sucker for treatment at a suitably licensed facility. Alternatively, a small, package sewage plant will be installed on site.

Employment:

- ❖ The project will create employment for people near the project area.

5. LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

In order for the proposed mine to operate, the applicant is required to submit an application for a mining right in terms of Section 22 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002) with the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE). In support to the application to obtain the mining right, the applicant is required to conduct a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process that needs to be submitted to the DMRE for adjudication, which includes activities triggered under the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2014 (as amended) promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) and activities triggered under the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (NEM:WA) (Act 59 of 2008).

The extent of the mining right entails a life of mine of 30 years and covers the above-mentioned farm and portion. The proposed open cast mining operations constitutes various listed activities which have been listed within the scheduled activities in Government Notice Regulation No 517 (amended 11 June 2021) and therefore require an integrated Scoping and EIA process to be followed. Prior to any listed activity being approved by the DMRE, it is required that an environmental process is undertaken and a report is submitted to the relevant environmental authority for consideration. The purpose of the S&EIA process is to ensure that potential environmental, economic and social impacts associated with operation and closure/rehabilitation of a project are identified, assessed and appropriately managed. There are two primary phases, namely the scoping phase and the impact assessment phase. These two phases are discussed in more detail below:

✓ **Scoping Phase**

The scoping phase is conducted as the precursor to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process during which:

- Project and baseline environmental information are collated. Baseline information for the scoping report is gathered through visual inspections during field visits of the proposed project area and surroundings, desktop studies which include GIS mapping, and review of existing reports, guidelines and legislation.
- Landowners, adjacent landowners, local authorities, environmental authorities, as well as other stakeholders which may be affected by the project, or that may have an interest in the environmental impacts of the project are identified.
- Interested and affected parties (I&APs) are informed about the proposed project.

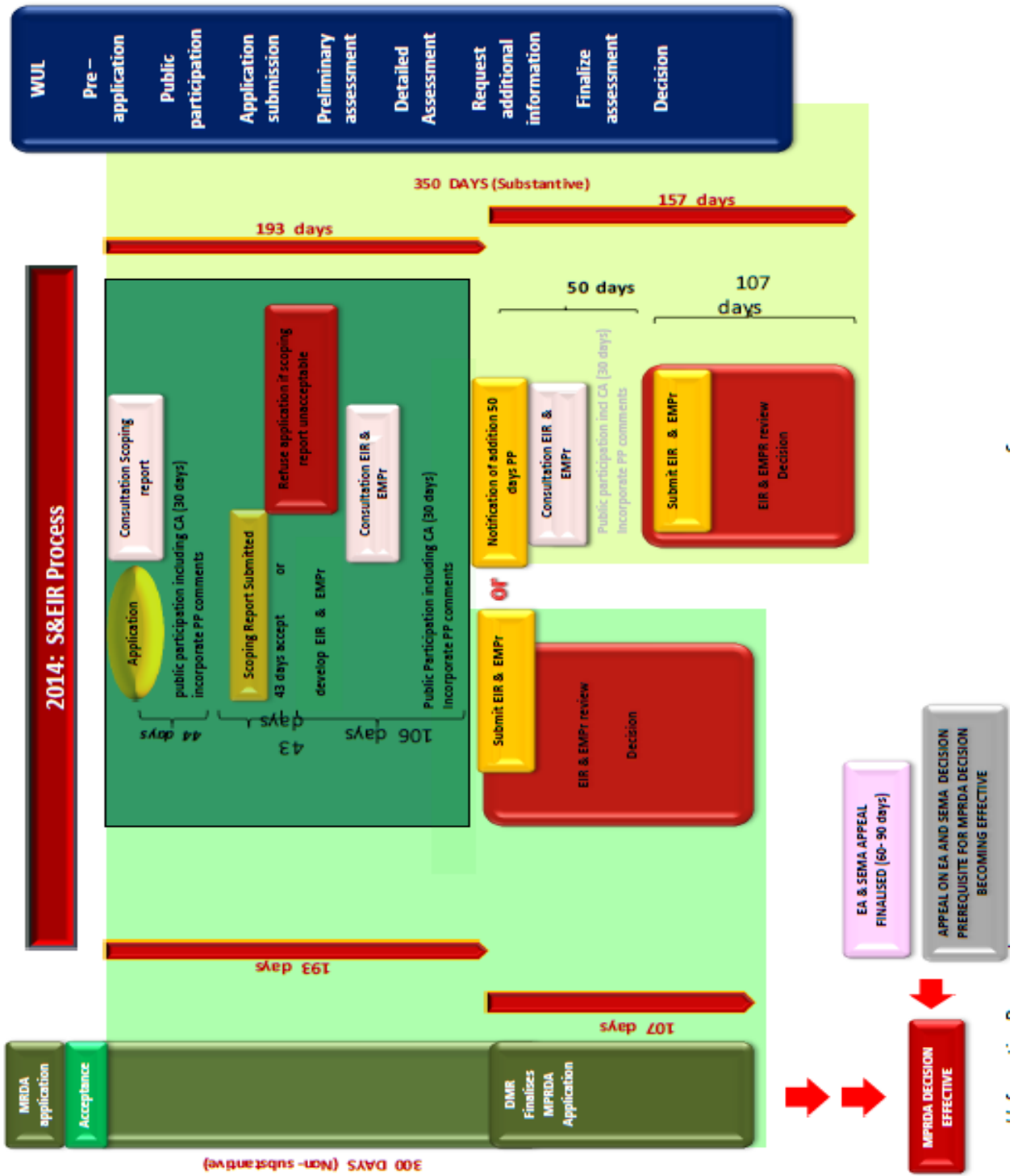
- Environmental authorities are consulted to confirm legal and administrative requirements.
- Environmental issues and impacts are identified and described.
- Development alternatives are identified and evaluated, and non-feasible development alternatives are eliminated.
- The nature and extent of further investigations and specialist input required in the EIA phase are identified.
- The draft and final scoping reports are submitted for review by authorities, relevant organs of state, and I&APs.
- Key I&AP issues and concerns are collated into an issues and response report for consideration in the EIA phase.

✓ **EIA Phase Process**

After the initial scoping phase, the EIA phase of the application includes:

- Specialist investigations are undertaken in accordance with the terms of reference established in the scoping assessment (the plan of study for EIA appended to the scoping report). The scope for specialist work is determined accordingly to the nature and scale of the project impacts.
- An evaluation of development alternatives and identification of a proposed option.
- An assessment of existing impacts (no-go development option), environmental impacts that may be associated with the proposed project option, and cumulative impacts using the impact assessment methodology.
- Identification of mitigation measures to address the environmental impacts and development of actions required to achieve the mitigation required.
- Consultation with I&APs.
- Incorporation of public comment received during scoping the draft EIA report.
- Issuing of the draft EIA report for review.
- After the draft EIA report was reviewed, comments received are incorporated in the final EIA report and final Environmental Management Programme report (EMPr).

The requirements for the S&EIA process are specifically contained in Chapter 4 Part 3 of the NEMA Reg No 326 (amended on 7 April 2017). The EIA process can take up to 300 days to complete (87 days for scoping phase, 106 days for EIA phase, and 107 days for competent authority to review). In addition, an Integrated Water Use License Application (IWULA) will be submitted to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in accordance with the National Water Act 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA) for listed water uses. See illustration below;



6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS (PPP)

6.1 OBJECTIVES OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Provides Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with an opportunity to voice their support, concerns, and questions regarding the project, application, or decision;
- Provides an opportunity for I&APs, EAP, and the Competent Authority (CA) to obtain clear, accurate and understandable information about the environmental, social and economic impacts of the proposed activity or implications of a decision;
- Provides I&APs with the opportunity of suggesting ways of reducing or mitigating negative impacts of an activity and for enhancing positive impacts
- Enables the applicant to incorporate the needs, preferences and values of affected parties into the application;

6.2 LEGISLATION

The PPP must comply with the several important sets of legislation that require public participation as part of an application for authorization or approval; namely:

- The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act No. 28 of 2002 - MPRDA);
- The National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998 - NEMA);
- The National Environmental Management Waste Act (NEM: WA, Act No. 59 of 2008); and
- The National Water Act (NWA, Act No. 36. Of 1998).

Adherence to the requirements of the above-mentioned Acts will allow for an Integrated PPP to be conducted, and in so doing, satisfy the requirement for public participation referenced in the Acts. The details of the Integrated PPP are provided below.

6.3 IDENTIFICATION OF I&APS

An Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) database will be compiled of key stakeholders and I&AP's identified for notification of the Environmental Authorisation application. The I&AP database includes, amongst others; landowners, communities, regulatory authorities and other specialist interest groups. I&AP's are notified of the proposed project through site notices, public notices and newspaper advertisements. Where contact information is available email notifications has also been sent out.

6.4 NOTIFICATION AND REGISTER OF I&APS

I&APs will be given an opportunity to register and submit their concerns on or before **the 10th of October 2022** using the EAP's contact details provided below. The public is invited to review and comment on the Draft Scoping Report which will be made available for the 30 calendar days period commencing from **11th of October 2022** to the **09th of November 2022**.

All I&AP's are encouraged to send through their concerns or comments and call to **register as I&APs for the proposed project**. The notification procedure includes:

- Newspaper advertisement;
- Site Notices;
- Letters and emails.

6.5 NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF SCOPING REPORT AND SCHEDULED MEETING

With submission of the application to the DMRE, the formal 300 days EIA process will be initiated, as per the NEMA Regulations (2014, as amended). The Draft Scoping Report (DSR) will be available to stakeholders and I&APs for a period of 30 days to review and provide comments. All registered I&APs will be notified via email of the availability of the DSR from **11th of October 2022** to the **09th of November 2022** at the following location:

Address	
Delmas Public Library	Cnr Sarel Cilliers & Van Riebeeck Str

APPENDIX A: REGISTRATION AND COMMENT FORM SHEET

NOTICE OF COAL MINING RIGHT, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION (INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME REPORT), WATER USE LICENSE AND WASTE MANAGEMENT APPLICATIONS ON PORTION 5 OF THE FARM GELUK 234 IR SITUATED IN THE VICTOR KHANYE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE. DMRE REFERENCE NUMBER: TO BE ANNOUNCED

Please complete this form and return it to **Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd** to ensure that you are registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP).

By answering the questions below you will help us to develop a better understanding of your information requirements. The form also gives you the opportunity to make comments regarding the project. **Additional pages may be attached.**

I&AP Details:

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

Questions(s):

1. Where did you get information about the project?

Newspaper advertisement notice board flyer other (please specify)

2. Do you represent a company/organization or is your interest on behalf of yourself?

3. Do you know of anyone that is affected by the proposed activity who was not informed of the project? (Please provide contact details)

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

Do you have any specific concerns or comments regarding the project?

YES

NO

If yes, please indicate what the comments are?

.....

Signed

.....

Date

