

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED MINING PERMIT APPLICATION FOR COAL, PSEUDOCOAL AND TORBANITE/OILSHALE WITHIN PORTION OF PORTION 4 OF THE FARM VAALBANK 74 HT, UNDER MAGESTERIAL DISTRICT OF WAKEERSTROOM IN MPUMALANGA PROVINCE. DMRE: MP 30/5/1/1/3/13229 MP)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



Purpose of this Document

This Background Information Document (BID) introduces all stakeholders to the Environmental Authorisation application process for the proposed **Coal, Pseudocoal and Torbanite/Oil shale** mining permit on **Sillage Capital Pty Ltd**. Portion of Portion 4 of the Farm Vaalbank 74 HT. Project area is located approximately 9.12 km South West of Dirkiesdorp, 24.37 Km North East side of Wakkerstroom and 52.51 km South West of Piet Retief. The BID provides a description of the project, the environmental authorisation process to be followed, the role of stakeholders in the process and details for registration as a stakeholder.

Overview of Project

The applicant (Sillage Capital Pty Ltd) intends to extract Coal using opencast mining method. Mining activities will be undertaken over a period of two (2) years. This project will entail an open cast method of excavation. The mine design will be developed according to the dimension of the mineral applied 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 permit boundary and will be used during rehabilitation period. Once a box cut has been made, the overburden and mineral 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. All the activities will be guided by the project's EMP such that the project does not impact the environment negatively. The following work activities will be undertaken:

- Site clearing
- Overburden stockpile
- Access road
- Topsoil stockpile
- Run of Mine (RoM) stockpile area
- Clean water trench
- Dirty water trench
- Berms
- Mobile office
- Toilets and sanitation
- PCD

- Box cut
- Drilling and blasting
- Coal extraction
- Load and haul
- Rehabilitation

The conventional truck and shovel method will be used in conjunction with single-direction roll-over techniques. Sustainable development applied to mining works includes the rehabilitation of the mining area to as close as reasonably possible to its pre-mining state.

Legal framework

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and its promulgated EIA Regulations of 2017 (GNR 982, 983, 984 and 985) the prospecting activities require an Environmental Authorisation.

An Environmental Authorisation in terms of Section 24 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) read with Regulation 19 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and Section 27 of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002), as amended by Section 12 of the MPRDA, 2008 (Act No. 49 of 2008) is required for a Mining Permit. The proposed mining project triggers GNR: 327, Listing Notice 1: Activities 21 and 27.

In order to meet the requirements of the NEMA, a Basic Assessment Report (BAR) will be compiled. The BAR will be carried out in accordance with the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations.

Purpose of Basic Assessment Process

- Identify potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed mining permit
- To identify feasible and reasonable process, technology and design/layout alternatives;
- Propose measures that avert or minimise environmental risk, or enhance positive aspects associated with the re-alignment process of proposed mining permit
- Public participation is a legal requirement in terms of the EIA regulations, the BAR process aims to provide transparency by involving the public, authorities and interested organisations; and
- To provide the Mpumalanga Department of Mineral Resources and Energy with sufficient information to grant

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an Environmental Authorisation to the applicant for the mining permit to extract a mentioned minerals.

Stakeholder engagement process

The purpose of stakeholder engagement is to consult with interested and affected parties in the public and private sectors to inform the decision-making process. The process aims to develop and maintain open channels of communication between the project team and stakeholders.

As part of the process stakeholders are notified of and are invited to participate in the environmental authorisation process by commenting on the project, asking questions and raising issues/concerns that will be included in the project documents. In addition to this document, at various stages of the environmental authorisation process information and reports will be made available for registered stakeholders to comment on. The EAP will document the views and concerns of stakeholders, and make the project team and relevant authority aware of issues that need to be considered during the compilation and evaluation of the potential risks and impacts associated with the development of the proposed mining permit.

Specialist studies to be conducted

The appointments of the specialists will be done to inform an EAP for decision making, however the actual specialist assessment will be done during the Environmental Impact Assessment to address issues requiring further investigation. These studies involve the gathering of data relevant to identifying and assessing impacts that may occur as a result of the proposed project. The specialists will recommend appropriate mitigation/control or optimisation measures to minimise potential negative impacts and enhance potential benefits. The relevant specialist assessment reports will be made available during the EIA phase for review. Specialists to be done for the proposed project will be confirmed during site assessment which will include Biodiversity, Hydrological and Geohydrological studies.

Potential Impacts

A number of potential impacts have been identified which will be considered further in the process as required. Typical impacts that may be investigated as part of this EIA include:

- Heritage (archaeology and palaeontology)
- Impacts on fauna and flora
- Agricultural impacts
- Air quality and noise impacts
- Terrestrial and aquatic ecology and wetlands.

Visual impacts Additional impacts can be added based on the findings of the desktop and site inspection as well as input from the public during Public Participation Process.

Who is a stakeholder?

Any person, group of persons or organisation interested and/or affected by the proposed development.

Register your interest by completing the Registration and Comments Form attached to this document and send it to Ecological Fields Environmental Consultancy (Pty) Ltd.

What does the Public Participation Process consist of?

Notification of Project

The first step is to notify the public through the following mediums:

- Newspaper advertisements;
- Site notice boards;
- Meetings;
- Written, direct notification letters to surrounding landowners and municipal ward councilors; and
- Distribution of the BID to surrounding landowners and registered stakeholders.

Stakeholder Comments and Document Review

All comments received in response to the project will be recorded so that they can be addressed in an Issues Comments and Response Report.

Once the Draft Basic Assessment Report has been completed, it will be made available for public review for 30 days. Ecological Fields Environmental Consultancy (Pty) Ltd will notify all registered stakeholders of the location of the documents for review and date of the public review period for the Basic Assessment Report.

EAP Details

Consultant : Mrs. Bridget Seroka
Company : Ecological Fields Environmental Consultancy (Pty) Ltd
Address : P O Box 2003, Middelburg, 1050
Tel : 082 782 1378 or (013) 243 1939
Fax : 086 608 0513
Email : admin@ecologicalfields.co.za

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The flow diagram below provides an overview of the EIA process according to the 2014 EIA Regulations:

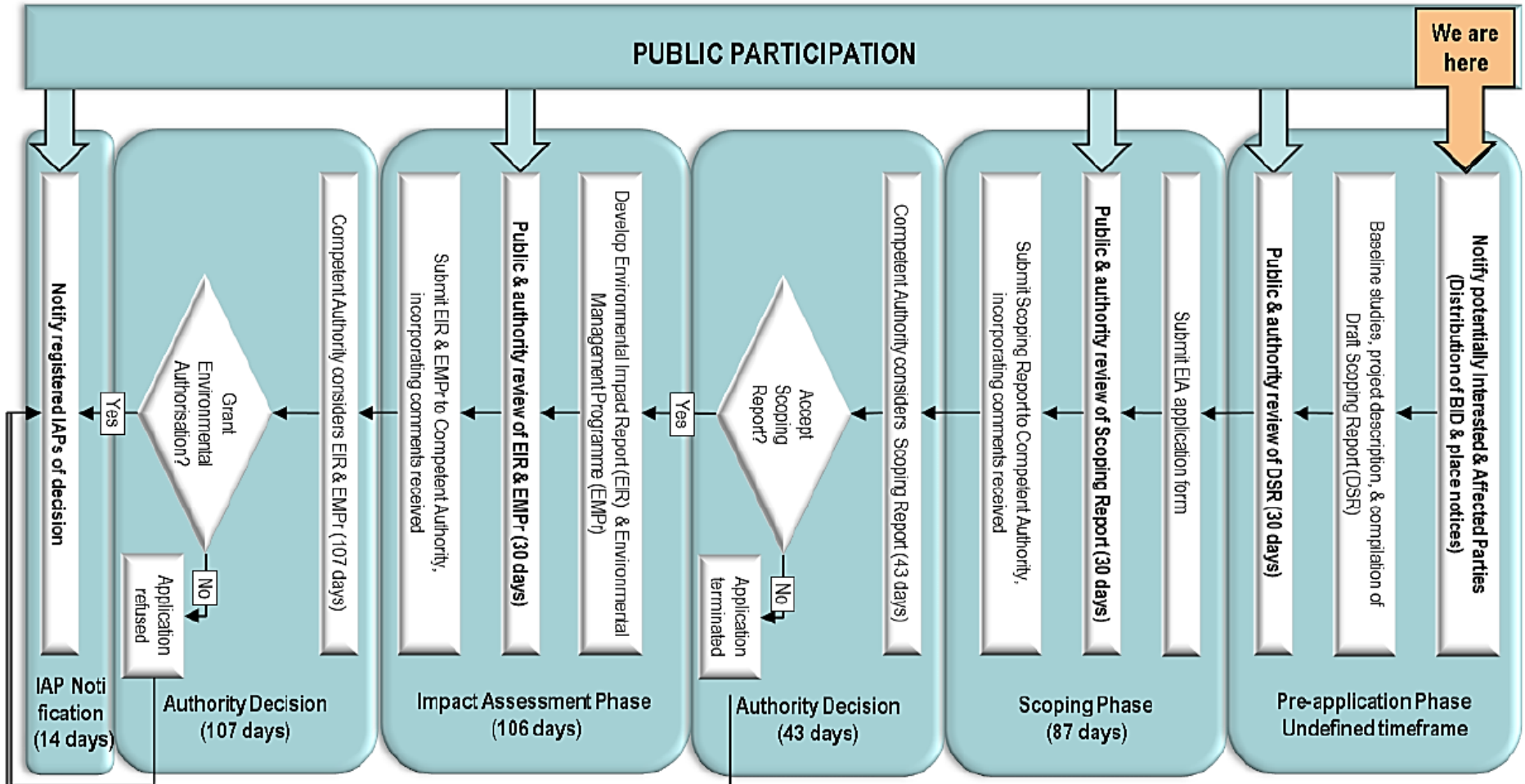
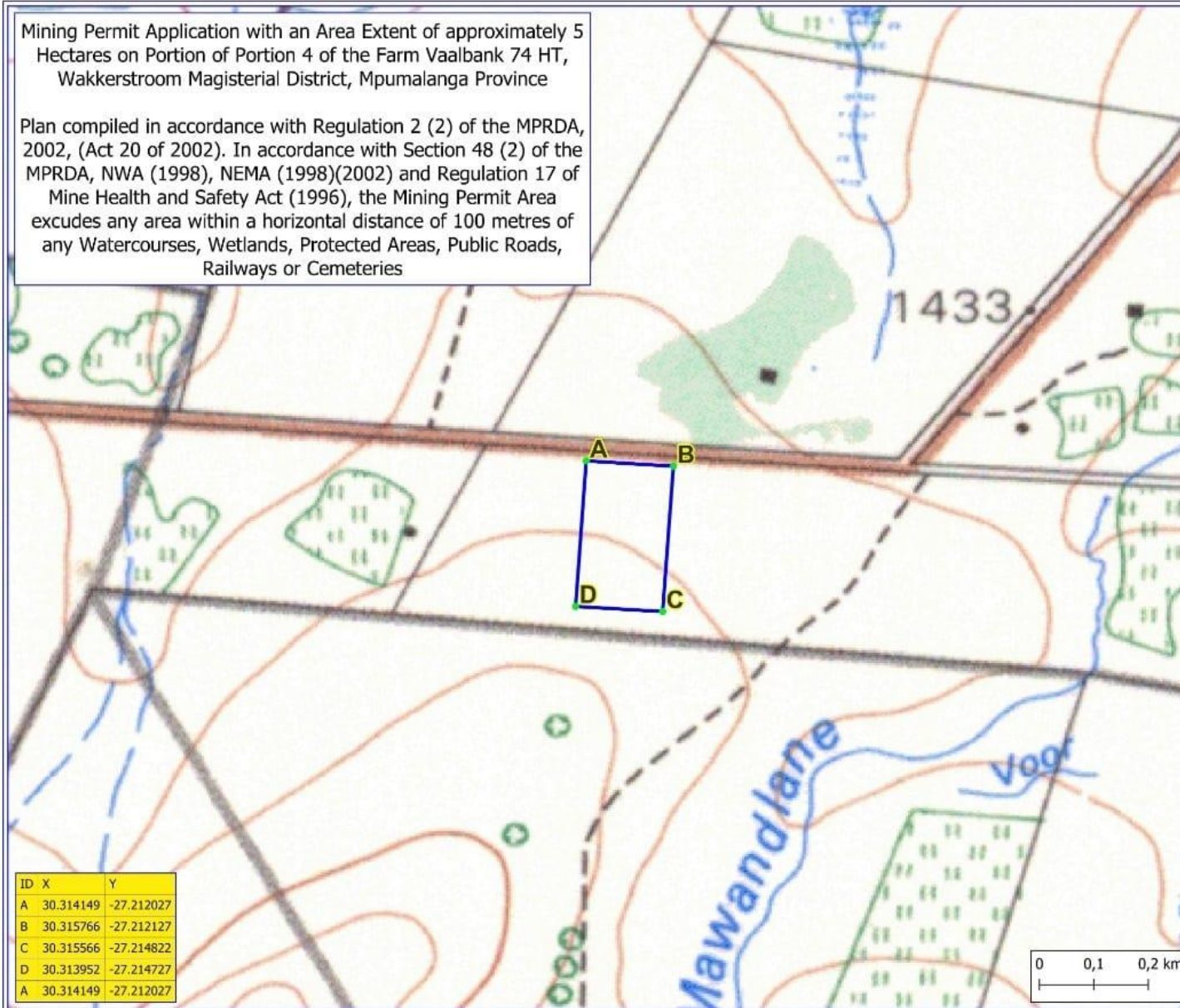


Figure 1: Basic Assessment Process

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Mining Permit Application with an Area Extent of approximately 5 Hectares on Portion of Portion 4 of the Farm Vaalbank 74 HT, Wakkerstroom Magisterial District, Mpumalanga Province

Plan compiled in accordance with Regulation 2 (2) of the MPRDA, 2002, (Act 20 of 2002). In accordance with Section 48 (2) of the MPRDA, NWA (1998), NEMA (1998)(2002) and Regulation 17 of Mine Health and Safety Act (1996), the Mining Permit Area excudes any area within a horizontal distance of 100 metres of any Watercourses, Wetlands, Protected Areas, Public Roads, Railways or Cemeteries



ID	X	Y
A	30.314149	-27.212027
B	30.315766	-27.212127
C	30.315566	-27.214822
D	30.313952	-27.214727
A	30.314149	-27.212027

Applicant :
SILLAGE CAPITAL

Legend

- MP-Coordinates
- ▭ Mining Permit Area

National Freeway: National Route	
Arterial Route	
Main Road	
Secondary Road, Bench Mark	
Other Road: Bridge	
Track and Hiking Trail	
Railway: Station or Siding	
Other Railway: Tunnel	
Embankment: Cutting	
Power Line	
Built-up Area	
Buildings: Ruin	
Post Office: Police Station: Store	
Place of Worship: School: Hotel	
Fence: Wall	
Windpump: Monument	
Communication Tower	
Mine Dump: Excavation	
Trigonometrical Station: Marine Beacon	
Lighthouse and Marine Light	
Cemetery: Grave	
International Boundary and Season	
Provincial Boundary	
Game, Nature Reserve & State Forest Boundary	
Perennial River	
Non-perennial River	
Dry Water Course	
Dry Pan	
Marsh and Vlei	
Pipeline (above ground)	
Water Tower: Reservoir: Water Point	
Coastal Rocks	
Perennial Rock Outcrop	
Erosion: Sand	
Woodland	
Cultivated Land	
Orchard or Vineyard	
Recreation Ground	
Row of Trees	



Scale
1 : 5 000



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Figure 2: Locality Map

