

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

STEVESTAN EXPLORATIONS (PTY) LTD

Mining permit Ref: NW30/5/1/1/2/10593MP

**Mining Permit and Environmental Authorisation for the
Proposed Stevestan Explorations Project**

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PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to consult with lawful landowner(s) and all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the proposed mining project and to provide the I&APs with the opportunity to receive information, provide comments, and to raise any concerns related to the mining permit application process as required.

*Background Information Document: Basic Assessment Process for a Mining Permit Application,
Mankwe Magisterial District, North West Province.*

INTRODUCTION

Stevestan Explorations (Pty) Ltd submitted an application for a Mining Permit and an Environmental Authorisation in order to prospect for stone aggregate. The application for the Mining permit was accepted by the North West Province Department of Mineral Resources on the 20th of November 2018. The aim of the proposed project is to mine the potential stone aggregate reserve. In order to undertake mining activities, Stevestan Explorations requires a granted Mining Permit (MP) in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA, Act No.28 of 2002). Stevestan Explorations is also required to obtain an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998) which requires the submission of a Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and an Environmental Management Programme (EMPR). Geopoint Africa (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Stevestan Explorations as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist in complying with these requirements.

AIM OF THE BID

This document aims to provide the following:

- To provide background information to landowners and interested and affected parties (I&APs) on the proposed mining activities and the legal framework.
- To give an overview of environmental baseline information and environmental impacts that may potentially occur.
- To explain the Public Participation Process (PPP) to be followed.
- To consult stakeholders and provide them the opportunity to register as I&APs.

LOCALITY

The area of interest is approximately 4.92Ha and is approximately 54km north-west of Rustenburg, near the Witrandjie area. The proposed mining area is located within the Mankwe Magisterial District. Figure 1 below indicates the locality map.

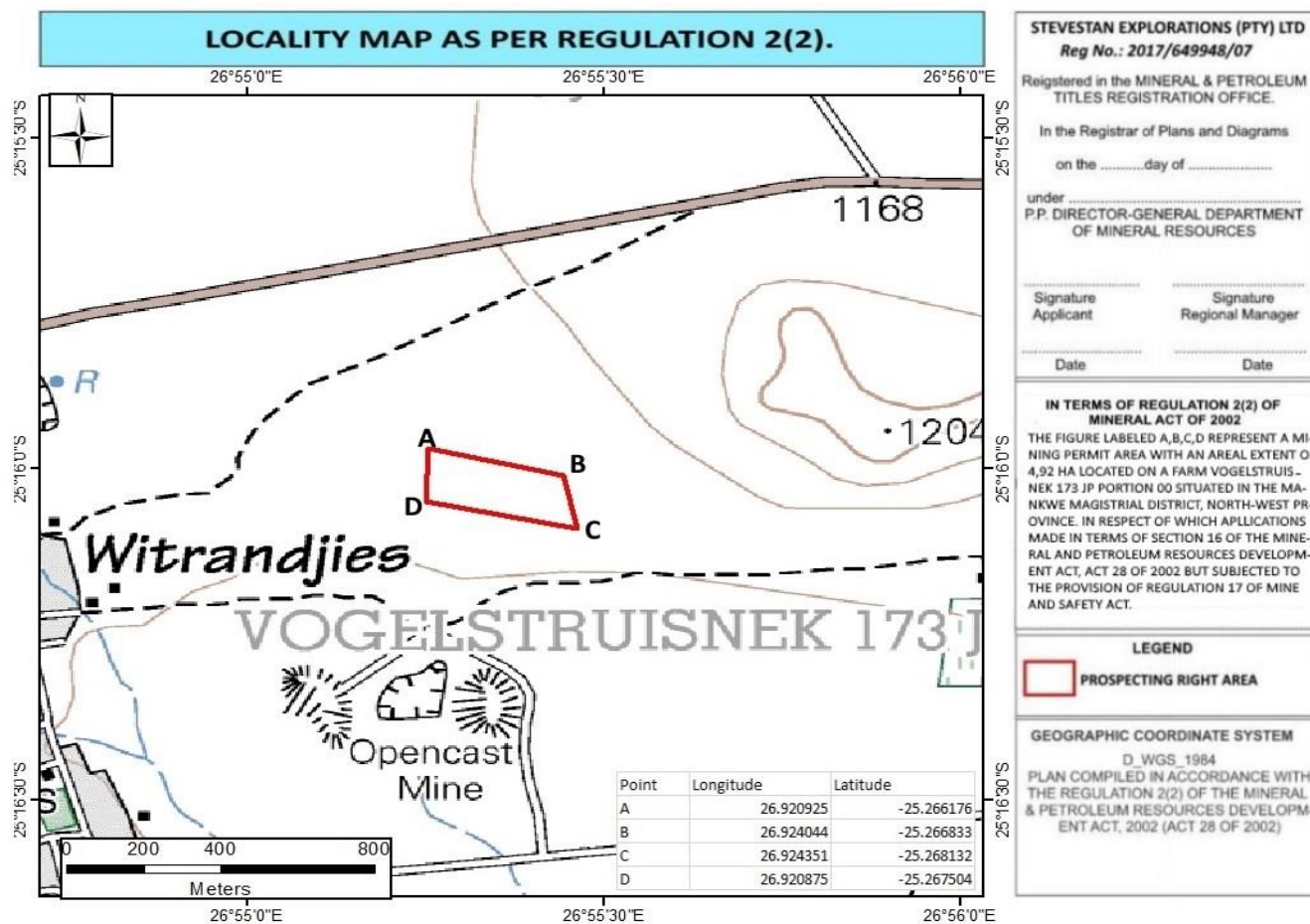


Figure 1: Locality Map of Farm Vogelstruisnek 173JP certain portion of Portion 0.

THE NEED FOR THE PROJECT

The proposed mineral to be mined is stone aggregate with the purpose of supplying it to local, regional and international customers. Stone aggregate are the most common varieties of stones that are found worldwide. They are used in construction as a reinforcement to add strength to the overall composite material such as but not limited to roads and buildings. Analysis has shown the potential of Stone aggregate mineral resource on the proposed property. It is important to implement this project because stone aggregate has a good market.

This project will not only benefit the company but the community as well. The project will contribute to the economic development in the Local Municipal area. This is because:

- The project has the potential to improve the living standard of people residing within and around affected communities by offering job opportunities for the locals and will therefore alleviate poverty. The jobs created would change their lives for the better, they shall be given an opportunity to gain experience within the mining industry and earn an income.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The mining permit application is subjected to the following Acts:

- The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (act no.28 of 2002) (“MPRDA”). In terms of the MPRDA, the application for a mining permit is subject to an application for an environmental authorisation in terms of NEMA.
- NEMA GN 983, Listing Notice 1, Activity Number 21: Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a mining permit in terms of section 27 of the MPRDA (Act No. 28 of 2002), including associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks, directly related to the extraction of a mineral resource, including activities for which an exemption has been issued in terms of section 106 of the MPRDA.

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Basic Assessment (BA) Process is a tool used to obtain an objective view of the potential impacts of a proposed project including environmental, social and economic impacts. A BAR is compiled as part of the Mining permit Application to ensure that potential impacts associated with the proposed mining activity are identified, considered and mitigated. It is intended to supply the competent authority with sufficient information to make an informed decision in granting or refusing an environmental authorisation associated with the mining permit application.

The Basic Assessment Report will encompass the following:

- Description of the local environment including environmental conditions, historic and cultural aspects and socio economic conditions,
- Identification and assessment of the significance of potential impacts of the proposed mining activities on the local environment,
- Evaluation of the proposed mitigation and management options available to minimise any negative impacts and to enhance any positive impacts,
- A record of any issues, comments and concerns raised by I&AP's and minutes of any meetings held with stakeholders.

The BA can be described as two interlinked processes which result in a BAR. Namely the Technical Process and the Public Participation Process:

I. **Technical process involves :**

- ✓ Submitting an Application form to the DMR via online portal;
- ✓ Compiling the Draft BAR
- ✓ Submit the Draft Bar to the DMR and I&APs for comment
- ✓ Incorporate comments into final Draft BAR
- ✓ Submit final BAR to the DMR

II. **Public participation:**

Public input is an important legislated requirement of the mining permit application process. The proposed PPP for this study will include a number of steps, as listed below:

- ✓ Issuing notification of this proposal to:
 - ❖ Owners and occupiers of the farms as well as those adjacent to the site;
 - ❖ The municipal councillor and local taxpayers association;
 - ❖ The municipality which has jurisdiction;
 - ❖ Any organ of the state having jurisdiction;
- ✓ Placing an advert in a local newspaper;
- ✓ Placing a notice on the site;
- ✓ Meetings with landowners and key I&APs, as required; and
- ✓ Public review of the BAR.
- ✓ Documenting stakeholder correspondence within the Draft BAR that will be made available for public review.
- ✓ Notifying the stakeholders when the final BAR is available for public review and the submission thereof
- ✓ Notifying stakeholders when the Environmental Authorisation is issued.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The mineral to be mined is found on the surface, therefore an opencast mining method will be deployed. The main activities to be undertaken include: mining and crushing.

POSSIBLE IMPACTS OF THE LISTED ACTIVITIES

The majority of impacts will be associated with the construction and operational phases of the project. Impact assessment methods were developed to:

- ✓ Identify the potential impacts of a proposed development on the social and natural environment;
- ✓ Predict the probability of these impacts.
- ✓ Evaluate the significance of the potential impacts.

The timeframe for the mining activities is approximately 2 years. The following are associated with the mining activities to be undertaken:

I. Waste Management

All waste generated at the mining site will be collected in plastic or steel drums and removed from site and disposed of at an appropriate waste facility. Hazardous waste will be collected and stored separately and disposed of at an appropriate facility. Chemical toilets will be provided for the employees and sewage will be disposed of at the nearest waste tip or sewage farm. Potential impacts associated with waste management on site include potential contamination of soil and surface water bodies with waste. If the appropriate mitigation measures are adhered to, including making use of portable toilets, buffering of sensitive landscapes, using reputable contractors and disposing of waste at a registered waste facilities the potential impact significance shall be low.

II. Access roads

The applicant will require access to the site for both personnel and machinery associated with mining activities. Existing routes will be used as much as possible and new access routes will be created only when necessary. Potential impacts associated with the creation and use of access roads include soil compaction, potential hydrocarbon contamination of soil, potential disturbance to wetlands and buffer zones (in instances mining activity proceeds indiscriminately), generation of dust on gravel roads, emissions into the atmosphere through the use of diesel powered equipment, machinery and vehicles, increased noise levels and potential road degradation. However, with the appropriate mitigation strategies in place, including applying buffers to sensitive landscapes and using existing roads and access tracks wherever possible, the significance of these potential impacts can be reduced to low/moderate-low.

III. Faunal Disturbance

Animals within the mining area will move to other locations because of the disturbances if precaution is not followed. Animals may also be killed by moving vehicles.

IV. Air pollution

Movement of trackless mobile machinery, front-end loader and a truck to the site. Dust will be generated during the stripping of soil.

Mitigation Measure:

- ✓ Air quality will be minimised by means of the following:
 - Dust suppressions by means of water spraying will be implemented on haul roads and unpaved areas when there is a need.
 - Avoidance of unnecessary removal of vegetation.
 - Vehicles will be properly serviced in order for them to minimise emission of CO₂.
- ✓ Re-vegetation of rehabilitated areas not occupied by plant infrastructure to take place as soon as possible.
- ✓ Keeping material in the aqueous phase.
- ✓ All workers will have access to respiratory protection equipment.
- ✓ Stock piles will always be dampened.
- ✓ Speed limit of 40km/hour will be maintained at all times during the lifespan of the mining activities.
- ✓ Dust fall-out buckets will be installed within and outside the mining area in order to monitor dust emission from the mining activities. The buckets will be placed in areas where accurate result will be attained.

V. Noise pollution

Noise will be generated by the construction equipment and may disturb inhabitants.

Mitigation measures:

- ✓ The company will comply with the Occupational Noise Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, Act 85 of 1993. As a minimum, ambient noise level emanating from the mine will not exceed 82dBA at the site boundary. The company will comply with the measures for good practice with regards to management of noise related impacts during construction and operation. The management objective will be to reduce any level of noise, shock and lighting that may have an effect on persons or animals, both inside the plant and that which may migrate outside the plant area. Hearing

protection will be available for all employees where attenuation cannot be implemented. If any complaints are received from the farm owner, the general public or state department regarding noise levels, the levels will be monitored at prescribed monitoring points. Appropriate measures will specifically be installed and employed at the plant to act as screen and to reflect/reduce the noise. The vehicles and the equipment will be equipped with silencers on their exhaust system. Mining will only take place during the day from 06h00AM-06h00PM. The site manager will be responsible for monitoring noise within the mine. No loud music will be allowed within the prospecting area. Workers will be inducted with regard to the measure to reduce noise pollution on site.

VI. Surface disturbance

Surface will be disturbed as a result of topsoil that will be stripped during this phase. Ground will also be compacted by the movement of vehicles within the mining area.

VII. Soil pollution

Contamination of soil may occur from accidental spillages from the machineries brought to the site.

Mitigation measures:

✓ **Soil pollution and surface & ground water contamination:**

Topsoil will be stripped and stored separate from overburden and will not be used for building or maintenance of access roads. The stored topsoil will be adequately protected from being blown away or being eroded. The topsoil will be used during the rehabilitation of any impacted areas, after sloping in order to re-establish the same land capability. If any soil is contaminated during the life of the mine activities, it will be immediately scooped and stored in the enclosed containers or plastic to be removed with the industrial waste to a recognized facility or company for further treatment. Small spills will be treated on site using bio-sorb or oil cap.

VIII. Vegetation Loss

Some of the vegetation will be disturbed on areas that topsoil will be removed. In all areas where site is going to be established vegetation will be disturbed. Mitigation measures:

Vegetation will be protected by avoiding unnecessary clearance and by using existing roads at all times. All vehicles will be monitored so that they move on the existing tracks at all times. All mined areas will be rehabilitated and revegetation will take place naturally. If re-vegetation do not take place naturally therefore seeding of the mining area with surrounding indigenous species will be considered. Rehabilitated area will be monitored to avoid other disturbances on rehabilitated area until vegetation is fully grown. Open fire that will end up destroying the vegetation will be avoided at all times. Fire extinguisher will always be available on site through the mining period. If invader species are encountered they will be uprooted, felled or cut off and can be destroyed completely. The plants will be treated with an herbicide that is registered for use in connection therewith and in accordance with the directions for the use of such an herbicide." Valid permits from the North West Department of Environmental Affairs will be obtained before any protected plant species are removed.

IX. Water Use

Water required for the operation and potable water for domestic use will be brought in with a water bowser. The details of where the water will be sourced from and the amount required will be finalised at a later stage.

X. Socio-Economic Factors

There is potential for temporary employment and business opportunities for small business in the area, as well as the potential for further development of the area. This is a positive impact for the area.

***NB: All the possible impacts will be discussed in detail during the public meeting.**

DECISION MAKING BY THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY

The Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) is the competent authority in respect of both the NEMA and the MPRDA processes. Based on the information provided in the BA, the DMR will make a decision regarding the granting of the Mining Permit. A Mining permit requires an approved environmental authorisation and technical and financial competence which will form part of the decision making for the Mining permit application. I&APs will be notified and given direction and information about the appeals process once an Environmental Authorisation has been granted or rejected.

TIME FRAMES AND IMPORTANT DATES

The Draft BAR and EMP Report will be available as an electronic copy and will be made available for download via dropbox upon request. In due course a public notice will be advertised within the Platinum Weekly Newspaper that will inform I&APs about the public meeting date, venue and time.

I&AP's are invited to review the report and kindly submit any comments to Miss Martha Monoke by no later than the 19th of January 2019 using the contact details provided below.

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