

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

PROSPECTING RIGHT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROSPECTING FOR PSEUDOCOAL AND TORBANITE/OIL SHALE ON ALL PORTIONS OF THE FARM SCHOONGEZICHT 86 HT, SITUATED UNDER THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF DR PIXLEY ISAKA SEME, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

DMRE REF: MP 30/5/1/1/2/17544 PR

Prepared by:



Prepared for:



Notre Coal

INTRODUCTION AND THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as an independent Environmental Consultant by **Notre Coal** to conduct Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), compile Basic Assessment Report (BAR) & Environmental Management Programme report (EMPr) and to undertake Public Participation Process (PPP). This is done for processes of acquiring Environmental Authorization for the proposed Prospecting Right application for **Pseudocoal and Torbanite/Oil Shale** on all portions of the Farm **Schoongezith 86 HT**, situated under the Magisterial District of **Dr Pixley Isaka Seme** in **Mpumalanga** Province, with **DMRE Ref: MP 30/5/1/1/2/17544 PR**.

The Purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide a perfunctory description of the project in question and outline EIA processes through BAR & EMPr 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 (BAR & EMPr), both negative and positive, will be submitted and made available to the relevant departments such as the Department of Mineral Resources & Energy and if requested, Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment, Department of Water and Sanitation, landowners, and other interested stakeholders.

This Background Information Document therefore requests and invite 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 **Mr Ncamiso Mathenjwa** through given means of communication also attached there.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Prospecting Right Application has been submitted for the purpose of prospecting **Pseudocoal and Torbanite/Oil Shale** on the property mentioned above. This proposed prospecting area, as seen in figure 1 and figure 2 below is situated approximately 51.51 km north of Newcastle and approximately 13.04 km northwest of Wakkerstroom.

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.

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 utilised to prospect in situ of Pseudocoal and Torbanite/Oil Shape. To ensure or minimise impacts on the receiving environment, all the activities will be guided by the project's BAR & EMPr.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Therefore, EIA (BAR & EMPr) process 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 Pseudocoal and Torbanite/Oil Shape 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: 2013).

These all will accurately be followed to ensure that identified impacts are assessed and mitigated according to their significance so that the protection of the receiving environment and populations is met.

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 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.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS (PPP)

Public Participation remains a cornerstone of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. It ensures provision of relevant and enough information with openness and transparency. PPP 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 (BAR & EMPr) process.

I&AP 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.

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 proposed project.

Kindly keep the following dates:

- ❖ Stakeholder engagement and consultation: **Ongoing throughout the BAR & EMPr Process**
- ❖ Review of draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and Environmental Management Programme report (EMPr): **Monday the 10th of October 2022 to Tuesday the 8th of November 2022 (Excluding Public Holidays).**

This report will be available at the **Dr Pixley Isaka Seme Local Municipality** (Cnr. Nelson Mandela Drive and Adelaide Tambo Street, Volksrust, 2470) and **Wakkerstroom Public Library** (R543, Marthinus Wessel Stroom, Wakkerstroom, 2480, South Africa). Furthermore, the report will be available upon request, via email from **Mr Ncamiso Mathenjwa**.

Comments on the DBAR and EMPr must be submitted to Mr Ncamiso Mathenjwa no later than the 8th of November 2022.

For comments or concerns about the proposed project, please contact Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd, using the contact details of the Consultant below.



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admin@singoconsulting.co.za

REGISTRATION & COMMENT SHEET-DMRE Ref: MP 30/5/1/1/2/17544 PR.

Attention: **Ncamiso Mathenjwa**

Email: **ncamiso@singoconsulting.co.za**

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:		
Please feel free to attach a separate page should the space provided be depleted.		
Please add any person you think may be interested and affected parties:		
Full name	Company	
Address		
E-mail	Contact No.	