

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Prepared by:



Prepared for:



Proposed Prospecting Right Application for Coal on Remaining Extent of the farm ST. Helena 386 IT.

MKHONDO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

INTRODUCTION AND THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as an independent Environmental Consultant by **Foloyi Construction and Project CC** 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 **Coal on Remaining Extent of the farm ST. Helena 386 IT**, situated in the Magisterial District of Mkhondo (Piet Retief) Mpumalanga Province with **DMRE Ref: MP 30/5/1/1/2/ 17740 PR**.

The Purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide a perfunctory description of the project and outline EIA processes to be followed and contributions from Stakeholders, 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 process through (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, Environmental Affairs, Water and Sanitation, Landowners, and other interested stakeholders.

This Background Information Document therefore requests and invites 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 **Ms Masindi Nefale** through given means of communication also attached there.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Prospecting Right Application has been submitted for the Purpose of prospecting Coal on the properties mentioned above. This proposed prospecting Area, as seen in figure 1 and 2 below, is situated approximately 4 km West of Heyshope Dam, approximately 36 km West of Piet Retief, adjacent to Driefontein and Mkhize Village.

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 negatively.

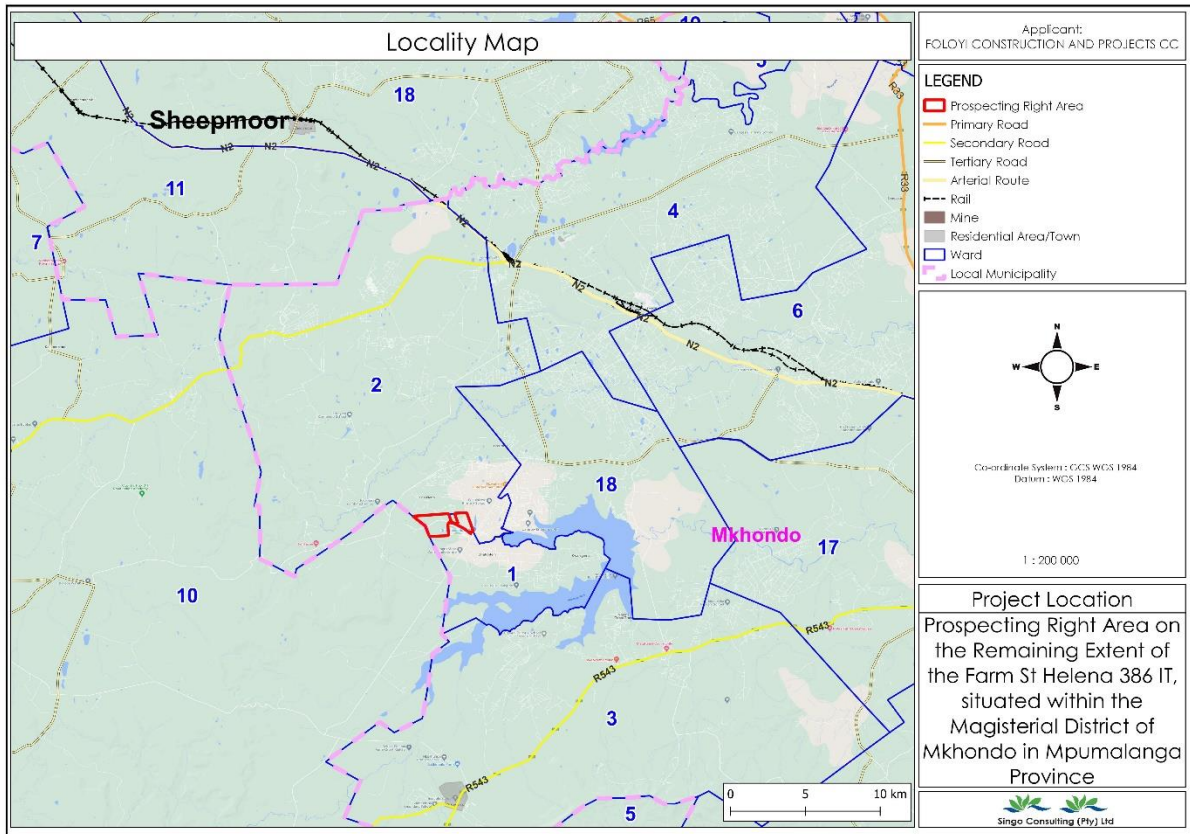


Figure 1: Locality Map of the Proposed Project Area (A: -26.980741, 30.374236)

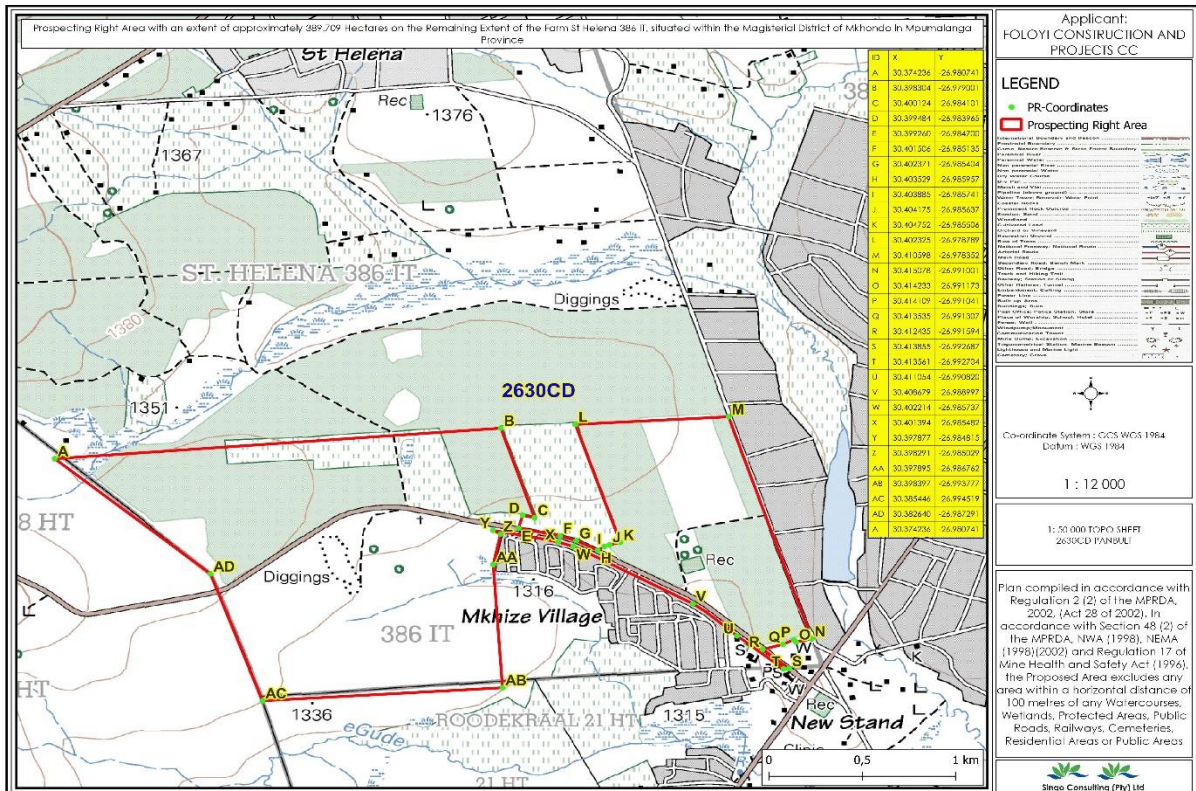


Figure 2: Regulation 2(2) Map of the Proposed prospecting Project Area.

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 Coal. 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 through BAR & EMPr 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 Coal 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 Ambient 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 as 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

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

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. The key objective of PPP is to afford the I&APs with an opportunity to comment and provide valuable inputs during the planning phase of the project.

For this specific proposed project, I&APs will be given a period of 30 days to comment and raise issues/concerns with regards to this BID.

Kindly keep the following dates:

✚ Stakeholder engagement and consultation: **Ongoing throughout the process of compiling the BAR & EMPr**

✚ Review of draft BAR & EMPr: **Monday the 20th of February 2023 – Wednesday the 22nd of March 2023 (excluding public holiday).**

Comments on the BAR and EMPr must be submitted to Ms Masindi Nefale no later than **Wednesday the 22nd of March 2023.**

For comments or concerns about the proposed project, please contact Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd, using the contact details of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) Dr Kenneth Singo and Environmental Technician (Envir. Tech.) Miss Masindi Nefale below.



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REGISTRATION & COMMENT SHEET-DMRE REF.: MP 30/5/1/1/2/ 17740 PR.

Attention: **Masindi Nefale**

Email: **masindi@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 document		
Please add any person you think may be interested and affected parties:		
Full name	Company	
Address		
E-mail	Contact No.	