

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

## NOTICE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS FOR THE MINING PERMIT APPLICATION FOR COAL, PSUEDOCOAL AND TORBANITE/OIL SHALE WITHIN PORTION OF PORTION 1 OF FARM UITKYK 220 IS, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE DMRE REF: MP 30/5/1/1/3/13778 MP

### PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with background information about the proposed mining permit application and introduce the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process to be followed. It also aims to inform I&APs on how to fully participate in the EIA and encourages response to documents distributed for review and active attendance meetings.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**Proposed Mining Permit Application**, situated in Ermelo Magisterial District in Mpumalanga Province, which is approximately 9.8 km South East of Hendrina, 33.07 km South West of Carolina, 59.32 km South East of Middelburg and proposed site also located approximately 41.05 km North of Carolina.

**Umjantshi-Esporweni Trading Enterprise (Pty) Ltd** applied for Mining Permit and Environmental Authorization in terms of section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA), Act No 28 of 2002, for **Coal, Psuedocoal and Torbanite/Oil Shale**.

**Umjantshi-Esporweni Trading Enterprise (Pty) Ltd** appointed **Sigana Enviro and Construction (Pty) Ltd** as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), to conduct Environmental Impact Assessment process for the proposed project.

Notice is hereby given in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Development Act (MPRDA) (Act 28 of 2002) and EIA regulations 2014, published under Government Notice No.982 in Gazette No. 3822 of 4 December 2014, amended on 7 April 2017 that Umjantshi-Esporweni Trading Enterprise (Pty) Ltd has applied for a Mining Permit.

### APPLICABLE LISTING NOTICE

<b>GNR: 327, Listing Notice 1</b>	<b>Activity 21:</b> Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a mining permit in terms of section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002.
<b>GNR: 327, Listing Notice 1</b>	<b>Activity 27:</b> The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) Maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.

### LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

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.

### WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT?

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a planning and decision-making tool that is used to identify the environmental consequences of a proposed project, before the development takes place. The purpose of the EIA is to describe the potential consequences of the proposed development in environmental, economic and social terms. Public issues and concerns must therefore be identified timeously so that these can be recorded and responded to in the EIA. All comments received in writing are included in the submission to the competent authority for their consideration.

The EIA process consists of two stages. The first stage is a Scoping Study, which identifies potential issues requiring more detailed investigation via specialist studies. A complete list of specialist studies and the issues they should address will be detailed in the Draft Scoping Report, which will be made available for public and authority review.

The second stage is the Impact Assessment phase, during which detailed investigations of the issues identified during scoping, will be undertaken.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS.

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

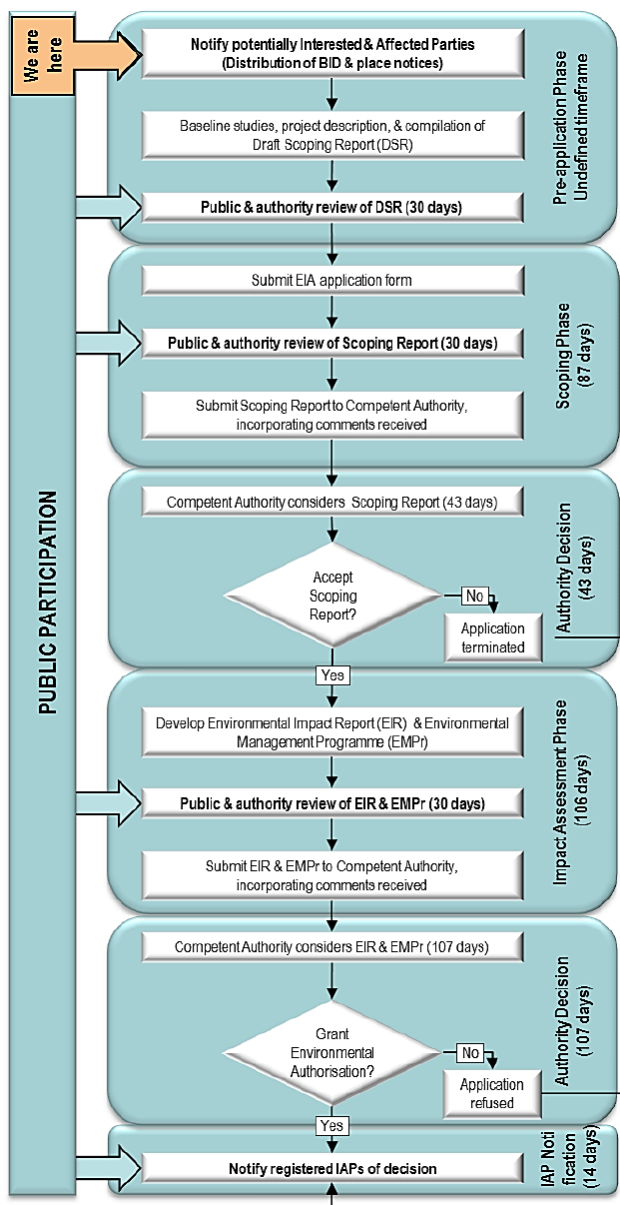


Figure 1: A typical Environmental Impact Assessment process and stages where public comment will be invited.

### 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.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public participation is the cornerstone of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. The principles of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) govern most aspects of Environmental Impact Assessments, including public participation. These include the ongoing provision of sufficient information (in a transparent manner) to Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs).

During the Public Participation Process, input from the applicant, technical experts, government authorities and the general public will be gathered to result in a better understanding of the project for all involved, and more informed decision-making throughout the process. IAPs will be given the opportunity to comment on the findings of both the Scoping and EIA Reports, and findings of the Specialist studies during the specified comment periods. IAPs are hereby invited to comment on environmental, social and economic issues relating to the proposed project.

### HOW TO REGISTER AS AN INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY

To receive further communications regarding this development, please register by sending the completed and signed registration sheet on the last page of this document by no **later than 03 April 2023**. Notification Period will start on the 03 March 2023 to 03 April 2023. A draft report will be out from 04 April 2023 to 08 May 2023.

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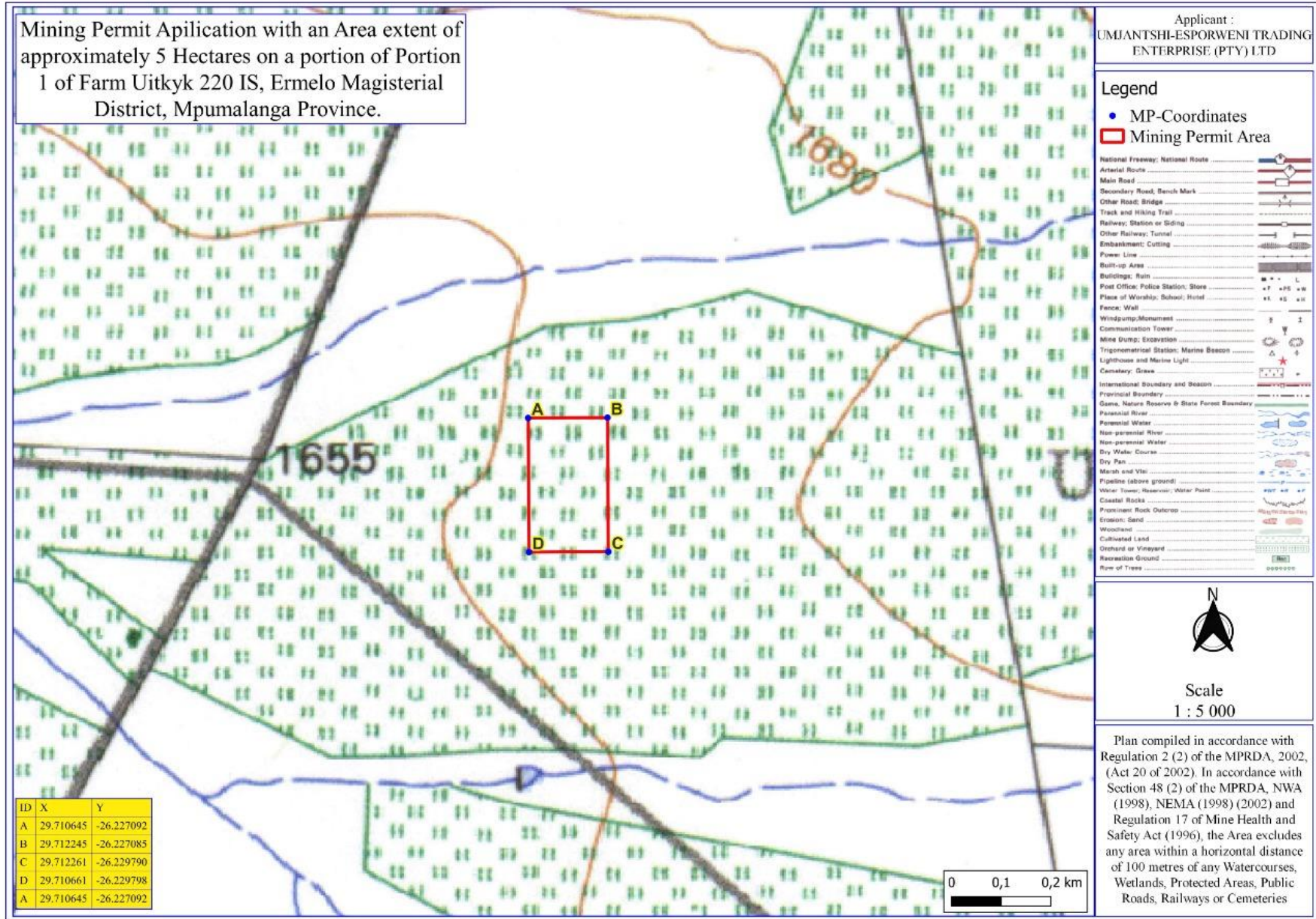


Figure 1: Locality map of the proposed Prospecting Right project area

