

GOLDI, A DIVISION OF ASTRAL OPERATIONS LIMITED

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION FOR RECTIFICATION OF UNLAWFUL COMMENCEMENT AND CONTINUATION OF A LISTED ACTIVITY IN TERMS OF SECTION 24(G) OF NEMA, 1998, AS AMENDED: GOLDI FARM COMPOSTING SITE (MDEDET REF: 17/2/10/24G (GS) - 01/2013/14; SMS REF: EAR-STA-13-01-08)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Notice is hereby given that the applicant, Goldi, a Division of Astral Operation Limited, is applying for rectification in terms of Section 24(G) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, for the unlawful establishment and continuation of a composting facility on Portion 15 of the farm Vlakfontein 388, IS, Standerton, Mpumalanga Province. Shangoni Management Services (Pty) Ltd was appointed, as the Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), responsible for the facilitation of the rectification application.

1 Project Name

Goldi Farm Composting Site

2 Legislation

Notice is hereby given to interested and affected parties of section 24(G) read together with section 24(F) and 12(3) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, and Section 20 of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act No. 59 of 2008) that the Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism is considering:

- a) Granting Goldi rectification in terms of Section 24(G), 24(F) and 12(3) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended) and the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act No. 59 of 2008); and

- b) Granting authorisation to Goldi from complying with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, R544, Listing Notice 1 of 18 June 2010, which has been promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, as amended, and Government Notice R718 of 3 July 2009, which has been promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management, Waste Act, 2008, as stipulated below

for the Goldi Farm Composting Site in the Mpumalanga Province with reference number 17/2/10/24G (GS) – 01/2013/14 under the following:

Government Notice R544 of 18 June 2010, Listing Notice 1, Activity 11: “The construction of:

- (i) canals;
- (ii) channels;
- (iii) bridges;
- (iv) dams;
- (v) weirs;
- (vi) bulk storm water outlet structures;
- (vii) marinas;
- (viii) jetties exceeding 50 square metres in size;
- (ix) slipways exceeding 50 square metres in size;
- (x) buildings exceeding 50 square metres in size; or
- (xi) infrastructure or structures covering 50 square metres or more

where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, excluding where such construction will occur behind the development setback line”.

Government Notice R544 of 18 June 2010, Listing Notice 1, Activity 23(ii): “The transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land to – residential, retail, commercial, recreational, industrial or institutional use, outside an urban area and where the total area to be transformed is bigger than 1 hectare but less than 20 hectares”.

Government Notice R718 of 3 July 2009, Category A, Activity 2: “The storage including the temporary storage of hazardous waste at a facility that has the capacity to store in excess of 35m³ of hazardous waste at any one time, excluding the storage of hazardous waste in lagoons”.

Government Notice R718 of 3 July 2009, Category A, Activity 17: “The storage, treatment, or processing of animal manure at a facility with a capacity to process in excess of one ton per day”.

Government Notice R718 of 3 July 2009, Category A, Activity 18: “The construction of facilities for activities listed in Category A of this schedule (not in isolation to associated activity)”.

Government Notice R718 of 3 July 2009, Category B, Activity 1: “The storage including the temporary storage of general waste in lagoons”.

Government Notice R718 of 3 July 2009, Category B, Activity 4: “The biological, physical or physico-chemical treatment of hazardous waste at a facility that has the capacity to receive in excess of 500kg of hazardous waste per day”.

Government Notice R718 of 3 July 2009, Category B, Activity 5: “The treatment of hazardous waste using any form of treatment regardless of the size or capacity of such a facility to treat such waste”.

Government Notice R718 of 3 July 2009, Category B, Activity 11: “The construction of facilities for activities listed in Category B of this schedule (not in isolation to associated activity)”.

3 Applicant

Goldi, a Division of Astral Operations Limited.

4 Location

Property Description: Portion 15 of the farm Vlaktefontein 388, IS, Standerton, Lekwa Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. The GPS coordinates for the site are as follow: 26°58'58.23"S and 29°11'46.98"E. The site is situated 10km outside of the town Standerton heading in a North-westerly direction.



Figure 1: Google earth image of the site



Figure 2: Google earth image of the areas surrounding the site

5 Environmental Consultants

Shangoni Management Services (Pty) Ltd – Lizette Crous

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Pretoria

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6 Official – S24(G) Application in terms of NEMA, 1998, and NEMWA, 2008

Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism

Official: Mr Musa Luhlanga

Private Bag X11215

Nelspruit

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Tel: (017) 811 4830

Fax: (086) 596 9946

E-mail: mmmluhlanga@mpg.gov.za

7 Activity Description

The activity that was illegally commenced with entails the development and operation of a composting process that can biodegrade organic poultry waste. The waste streams comprise of poultry litter generated by Goldi broiler farms in the area, as well as a low percentage of organic matter from the Goldi hatchery, the Goldi abattoir and its rendering facility.

The method of composting is known as the Windrow composting method and involves the production of compost by piling organic matter or biodegradable waste, such as animal waste, in long rows. The rows are frequently turned and watered in order to improve porosity and oxygen content, to mix in or remove moisture and to redistribute cooler and hotter portions of the pile. Windrow composting is an effective method to produce good quality compost on a large scale.

The illegal activities were commenced with on 22 November 2012. The activities that have already been completed include:

- Approximately 13ha of old cropland has been cleared to establish a Windrow-composting process area.
- Approximately 4 500m³ of poultry waste is currently stored onsite.
- A storm water control berm has been constructed on the Southern border of the site in order to divert affected storm water run-off from entering the adjacent earth dam.

Activities to still be completed:

- An evaporation pond would need to be constructed at the lowest point of the berm, in order to contain affected storm water run-off.
- Composting of approximately 11 315m³ of poultry waste (chicken manure, chicken hatchery waste, rendering facility carcass meal sediment and abattoir and rendering facility effluent waste). Waste will be fed into the composting plant at a daily rate of 31m³.

Table 1: Site photographs

Photo 1: Site photo to the North	Photo 2: Site photo to the East
	

Photo 3: Site photo to the South	Photo 4: Site photo to the West
	
Photo 5: Compost Stockpile	Photo 6: Compost windrows
	

8 Description of Receiving Environment and Current Spatial Planning

The table below contains a general description of the receiving environment and the related strategic planning details of the area where the site is situated:

Table 2: Description of the receiving environment

Vegetation Type	Soweto Highveld Grassland Indigenous vegetation with heavy alien infestation
Rainfall	Mean annual rainfall of 601 – 800mm per annum
Temperatures	Mean maximum annual temperature of 25.1 – 27°C Mean minimum annual temperature of -1.9 - 0°C
Water Management area	Upper Vaal
Quaternary catchment area	C11M
Mpumalanga Conservation Plan	Important and Necessary and No Natural Habitat Remaining
Previous activities on site	Crop production
Current Activities	Composting facility
Current Town Planning Status of the site	Agriculturally zoned land

9 Public Participation Process

Your role in the assessment:

You have been identified as an interested and/or affected party (IAP) who may wish to be informed of the above mentioned application and given an opportunity to provide input to the section 24G rectification application and planning decisions. All comments will be recorded and presented to the planning team and regulatory authorities. You will receive feedback on how your comments have been taken into account and the outcome of the assessment.

How to respond:

Responses to this document can be made in writing by completing the attached stakeholder registration form and comment sheet and submitting these documents to Lizette Crous before or on the **18th of August 2014**.

Contact details: Shangoni Management Services:

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Fax: (012) 807 1014
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E-mail: lizette@shangoni.co.za

Objections and comments must also be copied to:

Chief Director: Environmental Services: Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development,
Environment and Tourism
Attention: Mr Musa Luhlanga
Private Bag X11215, Nelspruit, 1200
Tel: 017 811 4830
Fax: 086 596 9946
Email: mmluhlanga@mpg.gov.za

Project description:

- Section 24G rectification application;
- Section 24G rectification report to identify environmental issues; and
- Public Participation Process which includes an advertisement in the local newspaper, site notices and letters of notification to adjacent landowners and organs of state.

Parties to be involved in the section 24G rectification application: Project proponent:

Applicant

Goldi, A Division of Astral Operations Limited

Environmental Consultants:

Shangoni Management Services (Pty) Ltd

I&APs:

- Surrounding landowners and farmers
- Surrounding residents and land users

Leading Regulatory Authority:

- Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism

National Regulatory Authorities:

- Department of Water Affairs
- Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration
- Mpumalanga Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs
- Mpumalanga Department of Safety, Security and Liaison
- Mpumalanga Department of Health and Social Development
- Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements
- Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport
- South African Heritage Resources Agency
- Gert Sibande District Municipality

Local Regulatory Authority

- Lekwa Local Municipality