

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

For Mining Permit for coal on portion of portion 5 of the farm Waaikraal 385 JT

Mpumalanga

MP 30/5/1/3/2/13625 MP

PREPARED FOR



REG NO: 2012/056737/07

Office 03, Joubert Street, Middelburg,
1050

Tel.: +27 13 243 0652

Email: info@sistdtrainings.co.za

PREPARED BY



Office No. 870, 5 Balalaika Street, Tasbet Park Ext 2,
eMalahleni (Witbank), 1040

Tel: 013 692 0041

Fax: 086-514-4103

E-mail: admin@singoconsulting.co.za

Purpose

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

Introduction

SISTD Mining has applied for a Mining Permit with associated Environmental Authorisation in order to mine coal.

- Mining Permit Requirements:
 - A granted Mining Permit (MP) in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA, Act No.28 of 2002).
 - 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 and Environmental Management Programme Report.

The application was lodged with the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy of Mpumalanga Province on the 5th of September 2022. Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by SISTD Mining as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist in complying with these requirements.

Table 1: Environmental Technician Details

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICIAN	SINGO CONSULTING (PTY) LTD
Contact Person(s)	: Boitumelo Moholola
Cell No.	: 071 130 9956
Tel. No.	: 013 692 0041
Fax No.	: 086 5144 103
Email(s)	: boitumelo@singoconsulting.co.za
Physical Address	: Office No. 870, 5 Balalaika Street, Tasbet Park Ext 2, eMalahleni (Witbank), 1040
Postal Address	: c/o P/Bag X7214, Postnet Suit 125, Ben Fleur, Witbank 1035

Table 2: Environmental Assessment Practitioner Reviewer Details

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER REVIEWER	SINGO CONSULTING (PTY) LTD
Contact Person(s)	: Kenneth Singo
Cell No.	: 072 081 6682 / 078 272 7839
Tel. No.	: 013 692 0041
Fax No.	: 086 5144 103
Email(s)	: kenneth@singoconsulting.co.za
Physical Address	: Office No. 870, 5 Balalaika Street, Tasbet Park Ext 2, eMalahleni (Witbank), 1040
Postal Address	: c/o P/Bag X7214, Postnet Suit 125, Ben Fleur, Witbank 1035

Table 3: Project Applicant Details

NAME OF APPLICANT	SISTD MINING
Contact Person	: Elizabeth Nkosi
Tel. No.	: 013 243 0652
Email	: info@sistdtrainings.co.za
Physical Address	: Office No. 03, Joubert Street, Middelburg, 1050
Postal Address	: Office No. 03, Joubert Street, Middelburg, 1050
DMRE Reference Numbers.	: MP 30/5/1/3/2/13625 MP

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; and
- To consult stakeholders and provide them the opportunity to register as I&APs.

NOTE: The proposed application directly affects a portion owned by: **MERLOT CREEK FARMS CC (Portion 5 of the farm Waaikraal 385 JT)**. Should you have any information about the above-mentioned owner, or you are the owner please kindly contact us immediately so that a formal meeting can be arranged, to formally notify, discuss activities to be undertaken and conditions of accessing the farm. Your assistance will be highly appreciated.

Locality

The area of interest is situated approximately 15 Km Southwest of eNtokozweni, approximately 16 Km Southeast of Belfast and approximately 2.63 km north of Mmanyoni Primary School within the eMakhazeni Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. Figure 1 below illustrates the regulation map of the proposed project and Figure 2 is the Google Earth Map showing activities around the proposed project area.

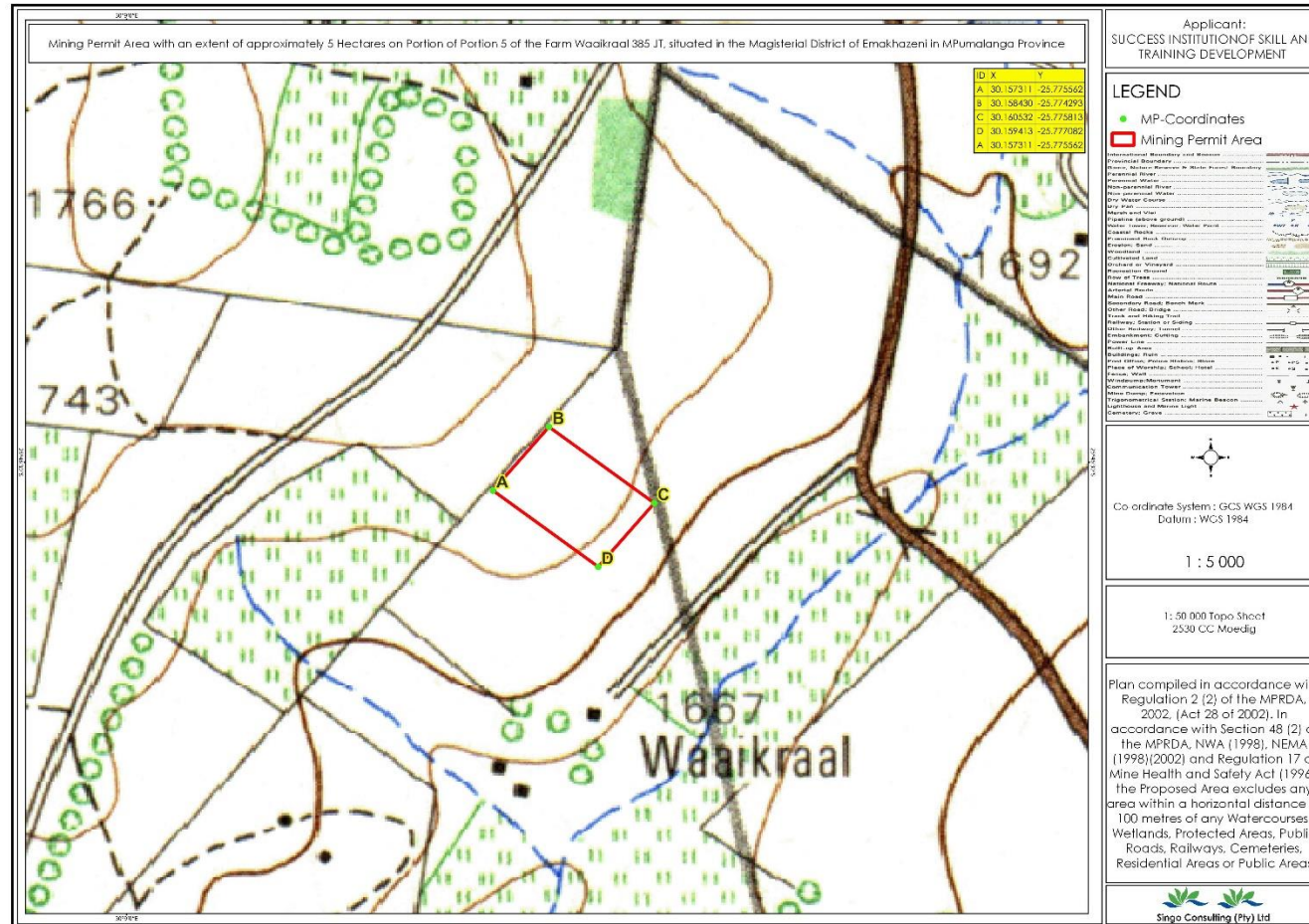


Figure 1: Regulation map of the proposed project area. A (30.157311; -25.775562)

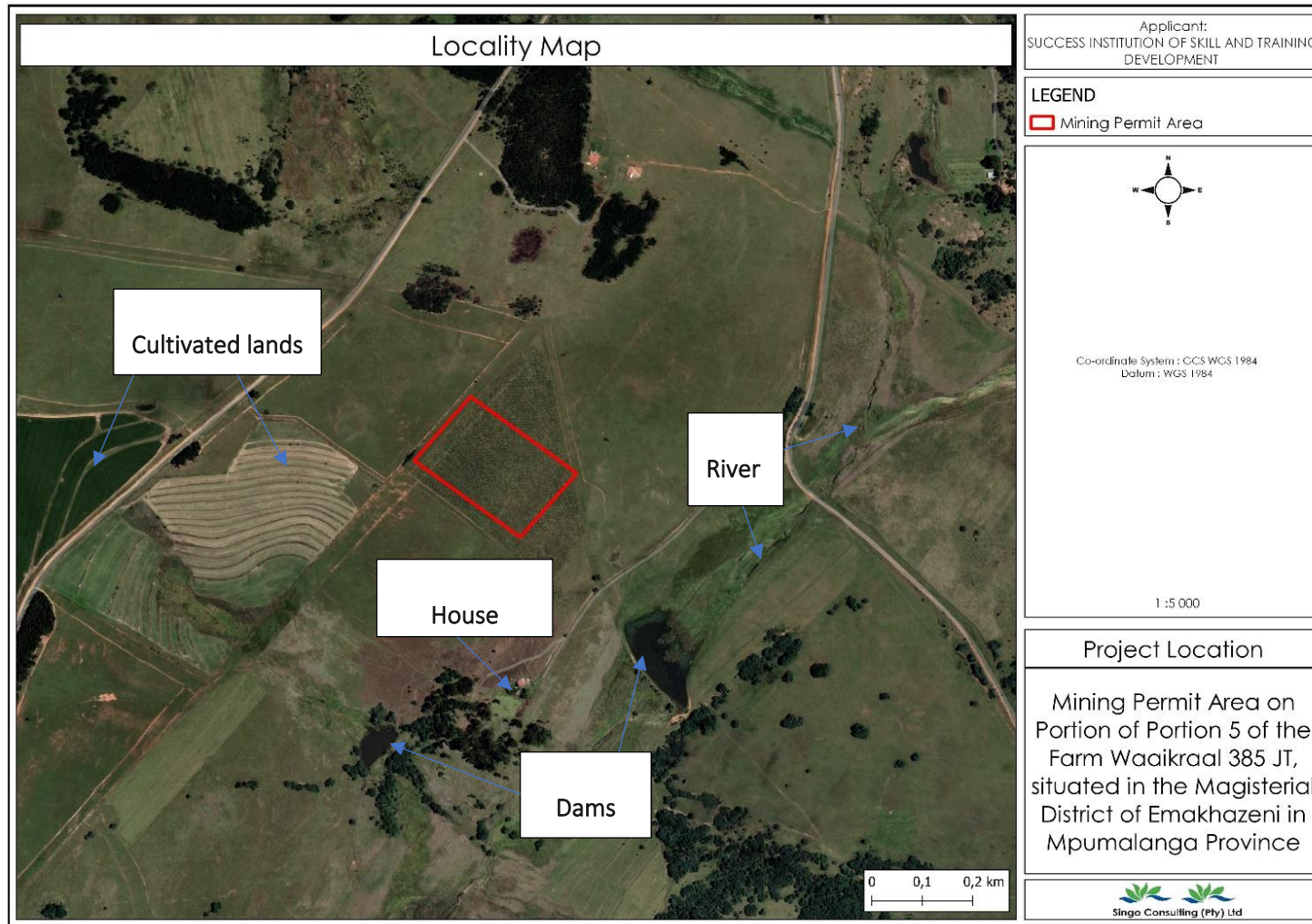


Figure 2: Google earth view of the activities around the proposed projects.

Need

The coal to be mined will supply local & regional power stations and possible international customers. Coal is crucial for the generation of electricity in South Africa, supplying more than 90% of the population. After prospecting activities, which is the thorough search of a mineral through core drilling, it could be found that mining coal would be extremely viable not only for the company but also for the community.

The project will contribute to the economic development in the Local Municipal area. This is because:

- The project has the potential to contribute and improve the living standard of people residing within and around affected communities by offering job opportunities for the locals and will therefore alleviate poverty; and
- Locals/employees shall be given an opportunity to gain experience within the mining industry.

Legislative requirements

The Mining Permit application is subjected to the following acts:

- Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002, (Act 28 of 2002) (MPRDA),
- National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 38 of 1998), EIA regulation, as amended (April 2017),
- National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998),
- National Air Quality Standards (GN 1210:2009) and
- National Dust Control regulations (GN 827:2013).

EIA Process

During this process, the positive and negative impacts associated with the development are assessed; and suitable alternatives and/or management measures are proposed to reduce the environmental impacts.

As the application relates to mining activities (Listing Notice 1), a Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme report will be completed for the Mining Permit and the EIA process will follow. 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 and Environmental Management Programme Report (BAR & EMPR) will encompass the following:

- Consider baseline environment (commence with specialist studies);
- Identify potential impacts for further consideration;
- Initial public meeting to identify I&AP issues and concerns;
- Assess alternatives;
- Identify plan of study for the EIA; and
- After compilation it will be put out for public review for a period of 30 days then the final Reports will be finalized and submitted to DMRE.

1. Technical process involves :

- Submitting application forms to DMRE via online portal;
- Compiling the Draft Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme Report;
- Submit the Draft Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme Report to all I&APs for comment;
- Incorporate comments into final Reports; and

- Submit final Reports to the DMRE.

2. 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 taxpayer's 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;
- Documenting stakeholder correspondence within the Draft Reports that will be made available for public review;
- Public review of the Draft Reports; and
- Notifying stakeholders when the Reports are approved.

Mining Methodology

The **Mining Permit** is for a period of 2 years and will include open cast mining operations and associated infrastructure. It will be a standard truck and shovel application where the topsoil is removed and stored. Thereafter, softs will be removed and stored at the designated material stockpiles. Drilling and blasting of the hard materials (hards) will then take place. Following the blasting process, material will be dozed into the void following the coaling operation. The remainder of the hard material will be loaded, trucked out of the pit, and dumped over the highwall into the void created by the mining operation. Coaling will then commence, and the process repeated on a strip-by-strip basis.

Develop Impacts Assessment Methods

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; and
- Evaluate the significance of the potential impacts.

The following are associated with the mining activities to be undertaken:

- **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.

- **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 with the agreement of the landowner, only when necessary. The proposed site can be accessed via a gravel road extending from west of R32 or alternatively by an offramp from N4 into a gravel road. 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.

- **Faunal Disturbance**

Animals within the mining area will be moved to other locations because of the disturbances if precaution is not followed.

- **Air pollution**

Movement of 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.
- ✓ All workers will have access to respiratory protection equipment.
- ✓ Stockpiles will always be dampened.
- ✓ Speed limit 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.

- **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. 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. 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.
- ✓ The site manager will monitor noise within the mine.
- ✓ Workers will be inducted with regard to the measure to reduce noise pollution on site.

- **Soil pollution**

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

- ✓ Topsoil will be stripped and stored separate from overburden and will be used during the rehabilitation of any impacted areas. If any soil is contaminated during the life of the mine activities, it will be immediately scooped and stored for collection in the enclosed containers or plastic and transported to a recognized facility or company for further treatment.
- ✓ Small spills will be treated on site using spill kit.

- **Surface disturbance**

Only a small segment of the surface will be disturbed as a result of topsoil that will be stripped due to mining activities. The ground will also be compacted due to the movement of vehicles within the mining area.

- **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. Rehabilitated area will be monitored to avoid other disturbances on rehabilitated area until vegetation is fully grown.
- ✓ Fire extinguisher will always be available on site through the mining period. If invader species are encountered, they will be uprooted or cut off and destroyed completely.

- **Water Use**

Water required for the operation and potable water for domestic use will be sourced and the details thereof will be finalised at a later stage.

- **Socio-Economic Factors**

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

Decision making by competent authority (CA)

The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) are the competent authorities in respect of both the NEMA and the MPRDA processes. Based on the information provided in the Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme Report, the CA will decide regarding the granting of the Mining Permit. I&APs will be notified and given direction and information about the approval of the projects, given an opportunity to appeal and a way forward.

Timeframes and Important Dates

I&AP's are invited to send us their comments on local knowledge or any relevant information regarding the project that we may incorporate into developing a well-informed draft Basic Assessment & Environmental Management Programme Report during the stakeholder engagement and consultation period which will call to order on the 16th of November 2022.

During the review period, kindly submit any comments based on the draft BAR & EMPR to Ms Boitumelo Moholola no later than the 16th of November 2022 using the contact details provided below on the comment form. The draft report will be made available via email upon request and may also be found at the eMakhazeni Public Library (-25.692577, 30.035323).

Kindly note the following dates:

- Announcement of the application: **16 September 2022-Ongoing**
- Stakeholder engagement and consultation: **16 September 2022– Ongoing**
- Review of Draft EMPR: **17 October 2022 – 16 November 2022**

THIS SERVES AS YOUR INVITATION TO PROVIDE COMMENTS.

We appreciate your interest and participation in this process. Should you wish to register as an I&AP and/or have any issues, questions or concerns regarding this proposed project please complete the form below. Please write neatly and legibly and feel free to attach an additional sheet.



Office No. 870, 5 Balalaika Street, Tasbet Park
 Ext 2, eMalahleni, 1040
 Tel: +27 71 130 9956 / +27 13 692 0041
 Fax: +27 86 514 4103
 Email: boitumelo@singoconsulting.co.za
 : admin@singoconsulting.co.za

REGISTRATION & COMMENT SHEET (DMRE REF NO. MP 30/5/1/3/2/13625 MP)

Attention: Boitumelo Moholola

Email: boitumelo@singoconsulting.co.za

Name & Surname :			
Company :			
Designation :			
Address :			
Tel No. :		Fax No. :	
E-mail :		Cell No. :	
How would you like to receive your notifications? (Mark with "X"):			
Post:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fax:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Email:	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Please provide your issues/interests/concerns & comments here.			
Please add any person you think may be an I&AP.			
Full name :		Company :	
Address :			
E-mail :		Cell No. :	