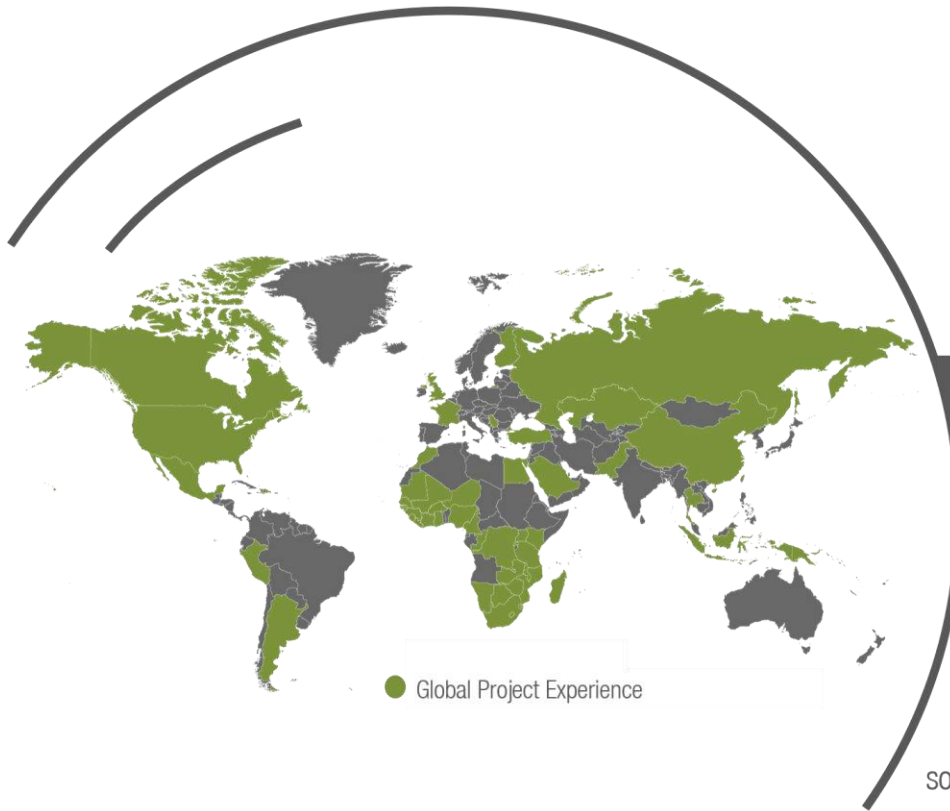




Appendix D: Public Participation Process



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Basic Assessment, Regulation 29 and 31 Amendment for the Venetia Mine

Background Information Document

Prepared for:

De Beers Consolidated Mines Limited

Project Number:

DBG6952

November 2022



DIGBY WELLS
ENVIRONMENTAL

This document has been prepared by Digby Wells Environmental.

Report Type:	Background Information Document
Project Name:	Basic Assessment, Regulation 29 and 31 Amendment for the Venetia Mine
Project Code:	DBG6952

Name	Responsibility	Signature	Date
Bongane Nkuna	Report Compiler		November 2022
Brett Coutts	Project Manager		November 2022

This report is provided solely for the purposes set out in it and may not, in whole or in part, be used for any other purpose without Digby Wells Environmental prior written consent.

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1. Introduction

De Beers Group (De Beers) appointed Digby Wells Environmental (Digby Wells) to undertake an Integrated Regulatory Process (IRP) to obtain the requisite environmental related authorisations to transition the Venetia Mine (Venetia) from an open pit to an underground diamond mining operation.

Venetia is located approximately 80 km west of Musina and 40 km northeast of Alldays in the Limpopo Province. Mining commenced in 1992 using an open pit mining process, but as the depth of the pit increased mining using this method has become economically unviable. The decision has thus been taken to continue mining using underground methods.

Through this environmental authorisation process, it is intended that the following will be undertaken:

Table 1-1: Summary of Activities under Application

BA Process Activities	Regulation 29 Amendment Activities	Regulation 31 Amendment Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional pipelines which transports dangerous goods; • Hydrocarbon storage requirements at underground and surface workshops. • Construction of the clean water attenuation pond and several small underground water storage dams; • AEL renewal and variation application that is underway; • Clearance of vegetation; and • Decommissioning of any infrastructure not required for the duration of the authorisation. The authorities will be notified of specific infrastructure that will be decommissioned as this information becomes available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment of the EMP to include the decline area; and • The EMP Boundary will be amended to reflect the same footprint as the mine's operational boundary (current and future operational areas) as well as exclude majority of the neighbouring mine's (Diamcor Incorporated) Mining Right area which falls within Venetia's security fence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of the WRD and Red Area Tailings footprint.

2. Purpose of the document

This document aims to provide all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with information relating to the proposed amendment activities. This document is intended to:

- Provide a summary description of the proposed project;
- Provide an overview of the required regulatory processes;
- Provide details in terms of the regulated Public Participation Process (PPP); and
- Invite the public to register as I&APs, provide comment, raise issues or concerns, and provide suggestions for the enhanced benefit of the proposed project.

3. Project Description

De Beers appointed Digby Wells to undertake an IRP to obtain the requisite environmental authorisations to transition from an open pit to an underground diamond mining operation.

This application for EA comprises various activities which as briefly indicated below of this report constitute the application of newly triggered listed activities, as well as amendments to existing approvals. The various components of this application have been detailed separately below:

3.1. New Application Requirements

3.1.1. Construction of a clean water attenuation pond and underground dams

A clean water attenuation pond will be constructed south of Pollution Control Dam (PCD) 1 (Coordinates: 22° 26' 49.00"S 29° 19' 14'.17"E) to attenuate clean runoff reporting to this natural low-lying area and will have a storage capacity of 74 000 m³.

Several small underground water storage dams will also be constructed ranging from 90m³ – 450m³

3.1.2. The expansion of facilities or infrastructure for the bulk transportation and storage of dangerous goods to address the mine's future needs

As this activity has been applied for and authorised in the EA (Ref. No. 12/1/9/2-V9), the new pipelines will constitute an amendment of the details of the EA only.

3.1.3. Regulation 29 Amendment

The approved EMPr does not explicitly mention the include the existing underground decline shaft; however, has included two shafts. The change in the access mining method will not in itself trigger a listed activity. However, it could be included as a non-substantive amendment, as the change has no new additional impacts based on the initial approval and no other person's rights will be affected by the change. The decline shaft will be included as a non-substantive amendment. This amendment to the details of the EMPr will require a Regulation 29 Amendment Application in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014.

The EMP Boundary will be amended to reflect the same footprint as the mine's operational boundary (current and future operational areas) as well as exclude majority of the neighbouring mine's (Diamcor Incorporated) Mining Right area which falls within Venetia's security fence.

3.1.4. Regulation 31 Amendment of the EMP

Expansion of the WRD and Red Area Tailings footprint.

3.1.5. Administrative Amendments

Administrative changes to the WML is required.

3.2. New Activities

3.3. Clearance of vegetation

Approximately 14.52 ha of vegetation will be cleared associated with the footprint expansion of the WRD and Red Area Tailings Footprint, and clean water attenuation pond.

3.4. Decommissioning of facilities and infrastructure

Decommissioning of any infrastructure not required for the duration of the authorisation. The authorities will be notified of specific infrastructure that will be decommissioned as this information becomes available.

3.5. Atmospheric Emissions Licence Variation Application

An Atmospheric Emissions Licence Variation Application is currently underway.

4. Environmental Authorisation Process

A Basic Assessment (BA) process will be followed to apply for the EA and as part of the BA process, a Public Participation Process will be undertaken. The BA process is governed by a 197-day timeframe, from the date of submission of the EA application until is approved or rejected by the competent authority. The timeframes and the BA process are shown below in Figure 4-1:

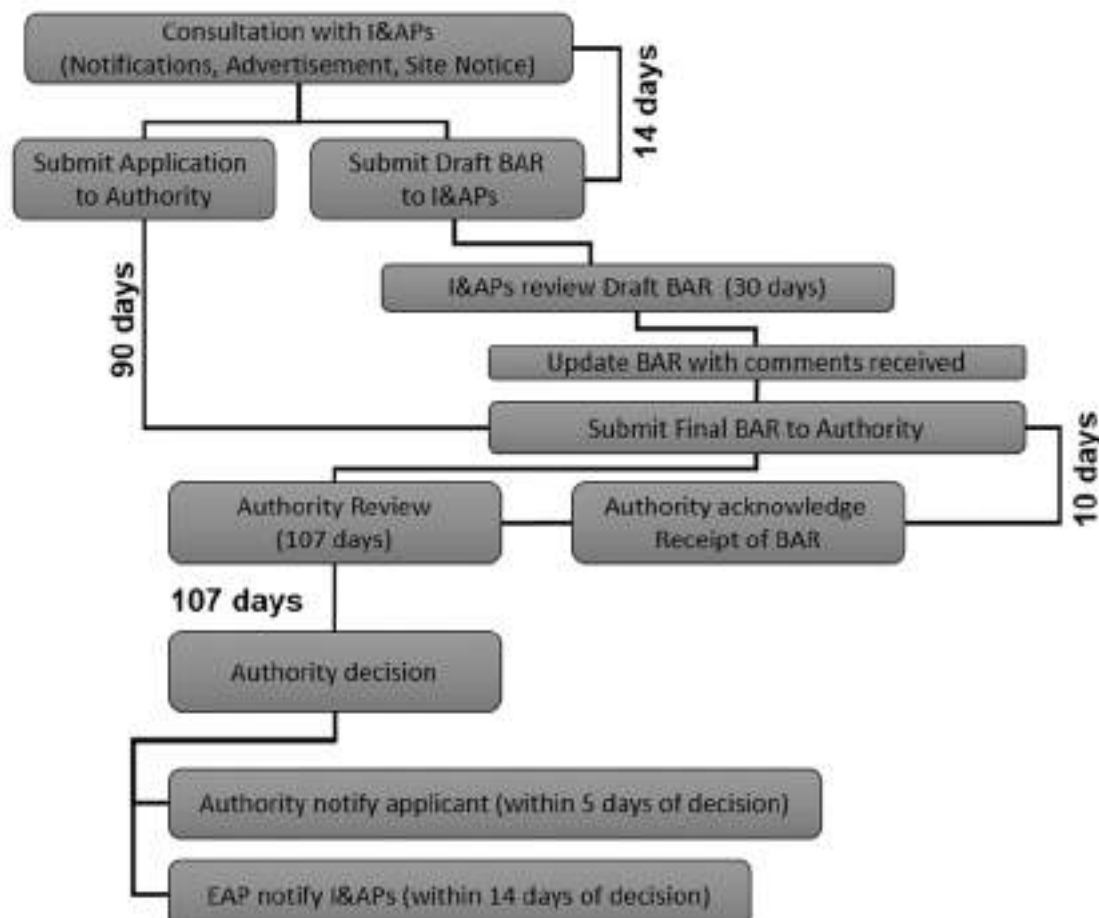


Figure 4-1: Basic Assessment Flow Chart

5. Public Participation Process

A Public Participation Process will be undertaken as part of an EA Application Process. The Public Participation Process involves notifying stakeholders of the proposed project and providing I&APs with sufficient information to enable effective engagement.

Digby Wells hereby invites I&APs to register and submit their comments regarding the proposed project. The comments from I&APs will assist in informed decision-making for authorities and provide information to be considered by the Project team and specialists conducting studies. I&APs can submit their comments and issues or recommendations directly to the Digby Wells Stakeholder Engagement Team.

The Draft BA report will be made available for a 30 day commenting period from 14 November 2022 – 09 January 2023 as part of the PPP. Additionally Focus Group Meetings will be held with identified communities and other stakeholders. Should you wish to receive further information on the project and/or interested in attending a Focus Group Meeting, please kindly contact Digby Wells utilising the reference number DGB6952, and the details provided below:

Table 5-1: Stakeholder Engagement Team

Digby Wells Environmental and Stakeholder Engagement Office	
Contact Persons	Mr Bongane Nkuna
Postal Address:	Private Bag X10046, 2125
Tel :	(011) 789 9495
Email :	sh@digbywells.com



14 November 2022

Digby Wells Reference Number: **DBG6952**

NOTIFICATION REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT, REGULATION 29 AND 31 Amendment REPORT AS PART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY PROCESSES REQUIRED FOR THE PROPOSED VENETIA MINE TRANSITION FROM OPEN PIT TO UNDERGROUND, SITUATED, 80 KM WEST OF MUSINA AND 40 KM NORTHEAST OF ALLDAYS IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE

Dear Stakeholder,

1. Introduction

De Beers Group – Venetia Mine (hereafter Venetia) is a diamond mine that is located approximately 80 km west of Musina and 40 km northeast of Alldays in the Limpopo Province. Mining commenced in 1992 using an open pit mining process, but as the depth of the pit increased mining using this method has become economically unviable. The decision has thus been taken to continue mining using underground methods.

Venetia appointed Digby Wells Environmental (Digby Wells) to undertake an Integrated Regulatory Process (IRP) to obtain the requisite environmental authorisations for the Venetia to transition from an open pit to an underground diamond mining operation. The IRP will consist of Basic Assessment (BA), Regulation 29 and 31 Amendment Process in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amended) (EIA Regulations, 2014) promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) needs to be followed and concluded prior to proposed activities commencing.

2. Environmental Regulatory Process

Digby Wells has been appointed as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner to independently facilitate the environmental-legal application relevant to the proposed Project. The Environmental Impact Assessment process is guided by the EIA Regulations, 2014 (GN R 982 of 4 December 2014 as amended by GN R326 of 7 April 2017) (EIA Regulations, 2014), as amended, promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA).

3. Public Participation Process

This letter serves to inform you, as a potential Interested and Affected Person (I&AP) of the Draft Basic Assessment, Regulation 29 and 31 Amendment Report being available for public comment. As part of the Environmental Process, a public participation process must be undertaken in terms of Regulation 40 to 44 of the NEMA. The public participation process involves notifying stakeholders of the proposed applications and providing stakeholders with

sufficient information to enable effective stakeholder engagement. Stakeholders affected by, or who are interested in the proposed application process, are invited to register as an I&AP.

The Draft Basic Assessment Report is available for public review and comment. The report is available from **14 November 2022 to 09 January 2023** for a 30-day legislated period.

The Report is only available on Digby Wells website as indicated in the table below and can be downloaded data-free:

Please use the project reference number when providing your comment: **DBG6952**

Person	Location	Contact
Bongane Nkuna/Karabo Mantsho	The Draft Basic Assessment Report can be accessed on the link provided below: http://view.datafree.co/PublicDocuments/	(011) 789 9495 sh@digbywells.com

Regards,



Bongane Nkuna

Stakeholder Engagement and Environmental Consultant



November 2022

Integrated Regulatory Process for the Venetia Mine Transition from Open Pit to Underground, Situated, 80 km west of Musina and 40 km northeast of Alldays in the Limpopo Province

POPIA CONSENT:

Consent Form to obtain permission and register as Interested and Affected Persons on the Integrated Regulatory Process for the Venetia Mine Transition from Open Pit to Underground, in compliance with Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013) (POPIA)

Dear Stakeholder,

De Beers Group – Venetia Mine (hereafter Venetia) is a diamond mine that is located approximately 80 km west of Musina and 40 km northeast of Alldays in the Limpopo Province. Mining commenced in 1992 using an open pit mining process, but as the depth of the pit increased mining using this method has become economically unviable. The decision has thus been taken to continue mining using underground methods.

Venetia appointed Digby Wells Environmental (Digby Wells) to undertake an Integrated Regulatory Process (IRP) to obtain the requisite environmental authorisations for the Venetia to transition from an open pit to an underground diamond mining operation. The IRP will consist of Basic Assessment (BA), Regulation 29 and 31 Amendment Process in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amended) (EIA Regulations, 2014) promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) needs to be followed and concluded prior to proposed activities commencing.

Digby Wells Environmental (Digby Wells) has been appointed by Venetia as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner to undertake this amendment process for the Project. Digby Wells is required to comply with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013) (POPIA) which took effect on 01 July 2021.

The purpose of POPIA to regulate and formalise how South African companies collect, store, protect, access, and distribute consumer information and to protect the ongoing integrity and sensitivity of that private information. To this effect, Digby Wells hereby requests all potential and identified Interested & Affected Persons (I&APs) to provide consent for using their personal information throughout for purposes of conducting the Project's public participation process (PPP). In this regard Digby Wells is obliged to use this information only for the PPP associated with the Project's BA process.

As part of the BA process, Regulation 29 and 31 Amendments, Digby Wells Stakeholder Engagement Team will be required to compile a Stakeholder Database and Comment and

Response Report which includes I&APs personal information which will be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) during the adjudication of the EA Application.

In the context of the Project and the PPP, your personal information will include: (i) your full name and surname; (ii) your email address; and (iii) the comments, concerns or objections you submit (if any) during the PPP as an I&AP. By providing your consent you hereby agree to the circulation of your aforementioned personal information to:

- Venetia, as the applicant in the BA process;
- The DMRE, as the relevant competent authority for purposes of processing and managing the BA process, as the information is deemed required by the authority to exercise or perform its powers, duties, and functions in terms of the applicable law (in this instance the EIA Regulations).

You may withdraw this consent at any time. If you choose to do this, please contact Digby Wells using the details below. Please use the Project reference number when providing your comment: **_DBG6952**

Contact Person:	Bongane Nkuna
Email:	sh@digbywells.com
Tel:	(011) 789 9495
Fax:	(011) 789 9498
Post:	Private Bag X10046, Randburg, 2125

You also have the following rights with respect to the collection of information about you:

- the right to refuse to provide any information you choose to withhold, including your full name, in which case only your comments submitted during the PPP (if any) will be shared;
- the right to request the record or a description of the personal information about you, including information about the identity of all third parties, or categories of third parties, who have, or have had, access to that information;
- the right to request access to the information which we hold about you;
- the right to request, where necessary, the correction, destruction, or deletion of your personal information;
- the right to object, on reasonable grounds relating to your particular situation to the processing of your information; and
- the right to request the deletion of any information which we hold about you.

The information will be protected by being stored on Digby Wells' secure cyber servers and will be retained for a period of no longer than 1 year following the grant of the amended EA, or 1 year following the conclusion of any appeals processes in relation to the EA amendment. Thereafter the information will be destroyed through permanent removal from Digby Wells' electronic and tangible archives.

Bongane Nkuna



Environment and Stakeholder Engagement Consultant

Digby Wells Environmental

DE BEERS GROUP - VENETIA MINE BASIC ASSESSMENT, REGULATION 29 AND 31 AMENDMENT FOR VENETIA MINE

Introduction: De Beers Group – Venetia Mine (hereafter Venetia) is a diamond mine that is located approximately 80 km west of Musina and 40 km northeast of Alldays in the Limpopo Province. Mining commenced in 1992 using an open pit mining process, but as the depth of the pit increased mining using this method has become economically unviable. The decision has thus been taken to continue mining using underground methods.

Venetia appointed Digby Wells Environmental (Digby Wells) to undertake an Integrated Regulatory Process (IRP) to obtain the requisite environmental and water related authorisations for the Venetia to transition from an open pit to an underground diamond mining operation. The IRP will consist of Basic Assessment (BA) and Regulation 29 and 31 Amendment Process in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amended) (EIA Regulations, 2014) promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) needs to be followed and concluded prior to proposed activities commencing.

Environmental Regulatory Processes: The following is required to be approved as part of this application:

Amendment of the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) in terms of Section 29 and 31 of the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended) (Government Notice No. R. 982 of 4 December 2014 as amended by Government Notice No. R.1816 of 11 June 2022).

New activities to be applied for:

- Additional pipelines to transport dangerous goods, such as hydrocarbons (diesel);
- Construction of the clean water attenuation pond and several small underground water storage dams;
- Storage of hydrocarbons at underground and surface;
- Decommissioning of facilities and infrastructure;
- Expansion of the Waste Rock Dumps (WRD) and Red Area Tailings Footprint;
- Clearance of vegetation.

The Listed Activities are being carried out on the following farms:

Farm Names

- Venetia 103MS Portion 1
- Venetia 103MS Portion 2
- Venetia 103MS Portion 3
- Venetia 103MS Portion 4
- Venetia 103MS Portion 5
- Remaining extent of the farm Venetia 103MS
- Portion 1 of the farm Krone 104MS ;
- Remaining extent of the farm Krone 104MS
- Remaining extent of the farm Rugen 105MS
- The farm Drumsheugh 99MS ;
- The farm Schroda 46MS ; and
- The farm Greefswald 37MS.

Public Participation Process: You are hereby notified, as a potential Interested and Affected Person (I&AP) of the proposed application processes. As part of the Environmental Process, a Public Participation Process (PPP) must be undertaken in terms of Regulation 40 to 44 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). The Draft Basic Assessment Report is available for a 30-day legislated period from 14 November 2022 to 09 January 2023.

Please note: The application is only available electronically, to access the application (free of charge/ data-free); please click on the following link <http://view.datafree.co/PublicDocuments/> or copy the link onto your URL to download the Report for your review and comment or visit our website www.digbywells.com (under Public Documents).

Stakeholders are requested to submit written comments via email, or contact Digby Wells telephonically (Project reference number: **DBG6952**).

Digby Wells Stakeholder Engagement Office:

Bongane Nkuna: **Fax:** 011 069 6801, **Telephone:** (011) 789 9495

Postal Address: Private Bag X10046, Randburg, 2125, **Email:** sh@digbywells.com

DE BEERS GROUP - VENETIA MINE TEKOLO YA MOTHEO, PHETOŠO YA MOLAWANA WA 29 LE 31 WA MOEPO WA VENETIA

Matseno: De Beers Group – Moepo wa Venetia (ka morago ga fao Venetia) ke moepo wa ditaamane wo o hwetšagalo dikilometara (km) tše e ka bago tše 80 ka bodikela bja Musina le dikilometara (km) tše 40 ka leboabohlabela bja Alldays ka Profentsheng ya Limpopo. Meepo e thomile ka 1992 ka go šomiša tšhepedišo ya meepo ya molete wo o bulegilego, fela ge botebo bja molete bo oketšega go epa ka go šomiša mokgwa wo e fetogile yeo e sa kgonegego mo ekonoming. Ka go realo, go tšeerwe sephetho sa go tšwela pele go epa ka go šomiša mekgwa ya ka fase ga mmu.

Venetia e thwetše Digby Wells Environmental (Digby Wells) go dira Tshepetšo ya Taolo yeo e Kopantšwego (IRP) go hwetša ditumelelo tše di nyakegago tše di amanago le tikologo le meetse gore Venetia e fetoge go tšwa moleteng wo o bulegilego go ya go tšhepedišo ya go epa ditaamane ka fase ga mmu. IRP e tla bopša ke Tekolo ya Motheo (BA) le Tshepedišo ya Phetošo ya Molawana wa 29 le 31 go ya ka Melawana ya Tekolo ya Kgahlamelo ya Tikologo, ya 2014 (GN R982 ya la 04 Desemere 2014, bjalo ka ge e fetošitšwe) (Melawana ya EIA, ya 2014) yeo e tšhepedišo go fase ga Molao wa Bosetšhaba wa Taolo ya Tikologo, wa 1998 (Molao 107 wa 1998) (NEMA) o swanetše go latelwa le go phethwa pele ga ge mediro ye e šišintšwego e thoma.

Ditšhepetšo tša Taolo ya tša Tikologo: Gore o amogelwe bjalo ka karolo ya kgopelo ye, go nyakega tše di latelago:

Phetošo ya Lenaneo la Taolo ya Tikologo (EMPr) go ya ka Karolo ya 29 le 31 ya Melawana ya EIA ya 2014 (bjalo ka ge e fetošitšwe) (Tšebišo ya Mmušo Ya R. 982 ya la 4 Desemere 2014 bjalo ka ge e fetotšwe ke Tšebišo ya Mmušo Ya. R.1816 ya la 11 June 2022).

Mešomo ye mefa yeo e swanetšego go direlwa kgopelo:

- Diphaephe tša tšaleletšo tša go sepetša dithoto tše kotsi, go swana le dikhaponetaeoksaete (disele);
- Kago ya letamo la go fokotša meetse a hlwekilego le matamo a mmalwa a manyane a polokelo ya meetse a ka fase ga mmu;
- Polokelo ya dikhaponetaeoksaete ka tlase ga mobu le godimo ga mmu;
- Go kgaotša go šoma ga dinolofatši le mananeokgoparara;
- Katološo ya Mafelo a go Lahlela Ditlakala tša Maswika (WRD) le Mohlala wa Mašaledi a Mahwibidu mo Lefelong;
- Go hlwekiša ga dimela.

Mešomo ye e Lokeleditšwego e dirwa dipolaseng tše di latelago:

Maina a Dipolasa

- Karolo ya 1 ya Venetia 103MS;
- Karolo ya 2 ya Venetia 103MS;
- Karolo ya 3 ya Venetia 103MS;
- Karolo ya 4 ya Venetia 103MS;
- Karolo ya 5 ya Venetia 103MS;
- Bogolo bjo bo šetšego bja polasa ya Venetia 103MS
- Karolo ya 1 ya polase ya Krone 104MS ;
- Bogolo bjo bo šetšego bja polasa ya Krone 104MS
- Bogolo bjo bo šetšego bja polasa ya Rugen 105MS
- Polasa ya Drumsheugh 99MS
- Polasa ya Schroda 46MS ; le
- Polasa ya Greefswald 37MS

Tshepetšo ya Bokgathatema bja Setšhaba: O tšebišwa, bjalo ka Motho yo a ka bago le Kgahlelo le yo a Amegago (I&AP) ka ga ditšhepedišo tše di šišintšwego tša kgopelo. Bjalo ka karolo ya Tshepetšo ya Tikologo, Tshepetšo ya Bokgathatema bja Setšhaba (PPP) e swanetše go dirwa go ya ka Molawana wa 40 go ya go 44 ya Melawana ya NEMA EIA, ya 2014 (bjalo ka ge o fetotšwe). Sethalwa sa Pego ya Tekolo ya Motheo se hwetšagala nakong yeo e beilwego ka molao ya matšatši a 30 go tloga ka la 14 Nofemere 2022 go fihla ka la 09 Janaware 2023.

Hle ela hloko: Kgopelo e hwetšagala fela ka mokgwa wa elektroniki, go hwetša kgopelo (ntle le tefo/ ntle le datha); hle kgotla kgokagano ye e latelago <http://view.datafree.co/PublicDocuments/> goba o kopiše kgokagano go URL ya gago go taonelouta Pego gore o e sekaseke le go e swayaswaya goba o etele weposaete ya rena www.digbywells.com (ka fase ga Ditokomane tša Setšhaba).

Bakgathatema ba kgopelwa go romela ditshwayotshwayo tše di ngwadilwego ka imeile, goba go ba ikgokaganye le Digby Wells ka mogala (Nomoro ya tšhupetšo ya projeke: **DBG6952**).

Ofisi ya Digby Wells ya go swarela Dikopano tša Bakgathatema:

Bongane Nkuna: Fekese 011 069 6801,

Nomoro ya Mogala: (011) 789 9495

Aterese ya Poso: Private Bag X10046,

Randburg, 2125,

Emeile: sh@digbywells.com