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Our Reference GCS Ref - 12-561

Your Reference 002/12-13/E0230

Memo

To: GDARD

Attention: Faith Mlambo

CC: Justine Chan; Phuti Matlamela

Subject: Motivation for not conducting additional specialist biodiversity studies

From: GCS - Estie Retief

Date: 2013/07/05

Motivation for not conducting additional specialist biodiversity studies

GCS was requested to conduct additional biodiversity studies to investigate the following aspects:

- Plants, with specific reference to *Gnaphalium nelsonii*;
- Mammals, with specific reference to *Lutra maculicollis* (Spotted-necked otter);
- Vegetation;
- Wetland; and
- Rivers.

It was however confirmed before project initiation that Gold One had previously conducted the abovementioned studies for their Geluksdal Mega Tailings Storage Facility (MTSF) project (Digby Wells Environmental, 2012, GDARD ref no: 002/09-10/N073). The Geluksdal MTSF project followed the exact same pipeline route, just extending further south from where the Backfill Plant pipeline ends. Extensive studies were done for the Geluksdal MTSF project and included the pipeline route that will be followed for the Tailings Backfill Plant project.

The pipeline will furthermore follow existing servitudes and pipeline routes that have been cleared for access in order to conduct maintenance to the existing pipes. The disturbance to natural vegetation will thus be minimal.

The Backfill plant will be constructed on a brownfields area within the Cooke 2 shaft perimeter, which was previously used for stockpiles. The area was thus already disturbed and no further impacts to natural habitat are envisaged.

For the reasons stated above, it was decided not to conduct further biodiversity studies, as the area has been covered previously, and no significant impacts to natural vegetation is envisaged.



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Your Reference SAHRA CaseID: 1956
GDARD 002/12-13/E0230

Memo

To: GDARD

Attention: Andrew Salomon

CC:

Subject: Motivation for not conducting additional heritage studies

From: GCS - Estie Retief

Date: 2013/07/05

Motivation for not conducting additional heritage studies

GCS was requested to conduct additional heritage studies for the Tailings Backfill Plant project. It was however confirmed before project initiation that Gold One had previously conducted the abovementioned studies for their Geluksdal Mega Tailings Storage Facility (MTSF) project (Digby Wells Environmental, 2012, GDARD ref no: 002/09-10/N073). The Geluksdal MTSF project followed the exact same pipeline route, just extending further south from where the Backfill Plant pipeline ends. A full heritage assessment was done for the Geluksdal MTSF project and included the pipeline route that will be followed for the Tailings Backfill Plant project.

The pipeline will furthermore follow existing servitudes and pipeline routes that have been cleared for access in order to conduct maintenance to the existing pipes. No sites of historical importance will thus be impacted.

The Backfill plant will be constructed on a brownfields area within the Cooke 2 shaft perimeter, which was previously used for stockpiles. The area was thus already disturbed and no further impacts are envisaged.

For the reasons stated above, it was decided not to conduct further heritage studies, as the area has been covered during previous studies, and no significant impacts are envisaged. The Heritage study conducted for the Geluksdal MTSF project is attached to the EIA report as reference.

