

Background Information Document

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Swartberg Mine,
Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

DENC Reference: NC/EIA/02/NAM/KHA/AGG1/2014

Introduction

Black Mountain Mining (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as BMM) a subsidiary of Vedanta Resources Plc, proposes to re-establish the Swartberg Mine in Northern Cape Province, South Africa. The project of this nature is subject to authority approval prior construction and operation. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and associated Public Participation Process (PPP) must be undertaken to assess any potential environmental and social impacts.

To this end, BMM has appointed Parsons Brinckerhoff Africa (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as Parsons Brinckerhoff) as the Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner to undertake the EIA of the proposed Swartberg Mine and associated infrastructure.

Project area

The proposed Swartberg Mine is located in Namakwa District, just north of the N14 highway linking Upington and Springbok, and approximately 13 km west of the Gamsberg zinc mine. It is located approximately 113 km north east of Sprinkbok and is situated immediately west from the town of Aggeneys (Figure 2).

Purpose of this Document

This document, Background Information Document (BID) intends to provide Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) with brief information on the proposed project. This document forms part of the Public Participation Process (PPP) which is undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact

Assessment (EIA). It also outlines the manner in which I&APs can become involved in the project by creating an opportunity to raise issues of concern and that may be of interest.

The BID also describes the manner in which the EIA process will be undertake and it is therefore essential that I&APs become actively involved in the project through public participation process and give input as far as this project is concerned.

Project description

BMM intends the re-establishment of the Swartberg Mine for the mining of lead, copper, silver and zinc for export purposes. The proposed mine is expected to produce 1, 8 million tonnes per annum ore. The proposed mine will also include the following auxiliary components:

- waste rock dump;
- Tailings dam; and
- Surface Infrastructure.

Ore concentrate will be transported from the mine to the Port of Saldanha for export to global markets.



BMM concentrate plant site



Typical tailings dam



Typical waste rock dump

Environmental Legislation

The proposed Swartberg mine constitutes a number of listed activities under the National Environmental Management Act (No.107 Of 1998) (as amended) EIA Regulations R543 of 2010, and as such a full EIA process is required prior to the commencement of any activities on site.

Who are I&APs?
Any person, group of persons or organisation interested in and / or affected by the proposed development.

Public Participation Process

Public Participation Process (PPP) is an integral part of the EIA process and aims to regularly involve I&APs by informing them on the progress of the project and encourage them to express their views and concerns. Through the EIA process the project will be transparent and allow I&APs to comment and raise concerns which are to be included in the Scoping and Impact Assessment Reports. A summary of key elements of EIA process is provided in figure 1 below:



Figure 1: EIA process

Registration as an Interested and Affected Party

Should you wish to comment or express your views regarding the proposed development, you are invited to register as an I&AP. Should you wish to register as an I&AP, kindly complete the registration form below and provide your inputs, comments and concerns about the proposed project. If your comments are not received within **30 days** of receipt of this notice it will be assumed that you don't have issues regarding the proposed project. Please submit your complete form to **Nomasonto Mnisi** of **Parsons Brinckerhoff** (see details below).

Nomasonto Mnisi
 Tel : 011 514 7200
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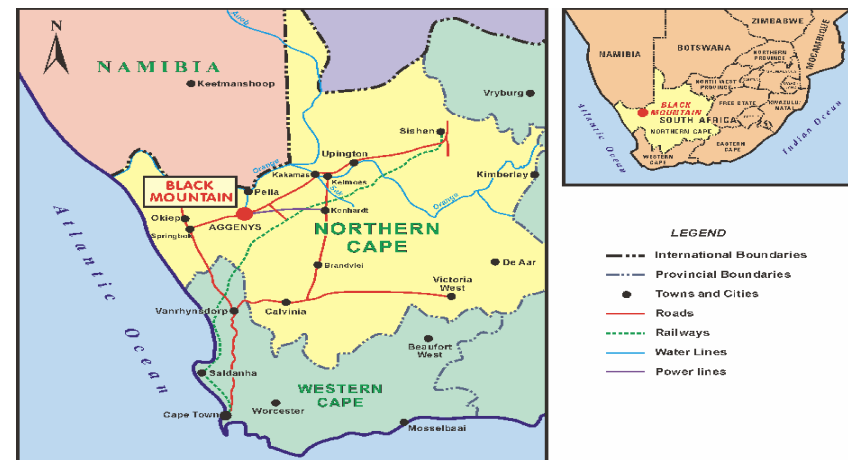


Figure 2: Location of Swartberg Mine