



**Applicant:**  
Aeterno Investments 215 (Pty) Ltd  
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Richards Bay  
3900  
Tel: 035 751 1119  
Fax: 035 751 1344

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

06 May 2015

To whom it may concern

### **RE: NOTICE OF APPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF SECTION 27 OF THE MINERALS AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2002 (ACT NO 28 OF 2002) AND THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998 NEMA) AS WELL AS THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS OF 2014**

Aeterno Investments 215 (Pty) Ltd intends to apply for a mining permit to mine 2.89 ha of a portion of Portion 0 (Remaining Extent) of Lot 23 Umfolozi No 13734 GV, Mtubatuba, Kwa-Zulu Natal Province.

#### **SITE DESCRIPTION**

Portion 0 (Remaining Extent) of Lot 23 Umfolozi No 13734 is situated approximately 7.6km south of Mtubatuba approximately 600m from the N2. The area earmarked for the proposed mining falls on a section of the farm previously used for crop farming purposes. The GPS coordinates of the proposed mining is as follows:

- A 28°27'28.03"S; 32°9'15.42"E (28.457785°S 32.154283°E)
- B 28°27'19.84"S; 32°9'26.34"E (28.455511°S 32.157317°E)
- C 28°27'20.70"S; 32°9'26.99"E (28.455709°S 32.157491°E)
- D 28°27'30.15"S; 32°9'19.63"E (28.45837°S 32.155442°E)

#### **LEGAL COMPLIANCE**

An application for a mining permit in terms of Section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No 28 of 2002) will be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources.

The proposed project triggers the following listed activities in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations as amended 2014 and therefore requires a basic assessment process to obtain environmental authorisation:

- GNR 983 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 Activity 21:

*Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a mining permit in terms of section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (act No. 28 of 2002), including associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks directly related to the extraction of a mineral resource, including activities for which an exemption has been issued in terms of section 106 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No 28 of 2002).*

**the goal isn't to live forever, it is to protect a planet that will**

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- GNR 983 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 Activity 22:  
*The decommissioning of any activity requiring a closure certificate in terms of section 43 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No 28 of 2002).*
- GNR 983 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 Activity 27:  
*The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation.*
- GNR 983 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 Activity 28:  
*Commercial developments where such land was used for agriculture or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare.*

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The applicant intends to mine the proposed area for gravel through mechanical excavation. The mining method will not require any blasting, crushing or screening to be done. Upon stripping and stockpiling of the topsoil the gravel will be loaded by excavator onto trucks that will transport it from the site to the clients. All activities will be contained within the boundaries of the site.

The proposed mining area is approximately 2.89ha in extent and the applicant intends to win gravel from the area for at least three years with a possibility of a two year extension. The gravel to be removed from the mining area will be supplied to the building and road construction industry in the district. The proposed mining project will contribute to the upgrading/maintenance of road infrastructure in and around the Teza and Mtubatuba areas.

### **THE MINING ACTIVITIES WILL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- Stripping and stockpiling of topsoil
- Excavation of gravel
- Loading and transportation of mineral to clients
- Sloping and landscaping upon closure of the site
- Replacing the topsoil and vegetating the disturbed area

### **THE MINING SITE WILL CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING:**

- Excavation Equipment
- ADT trucks
- Chemical toilet to be used by employees

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### **DUST:**

- ▀ Speed on the access road will be limited to 40km/h to prevent the generation of excess dust.
- ▀ Roads will be sprayed with water or an environmentally friendly dust-allaying agent that contains no PCB's (e.g. DAS products) if dust is generated above acceptable limits.

### **NOISE:**

- ▀ It will be ensured that employees and staff conduct themselves in an acceptable manner while on site.
- ▀ All mining vehicles will be equipped with silencers and maintained in a road worthy condition in terms of the Road Transport Act.

### **ACCESS ROUTE:**

- ▀ The existing farm road to the area will be used to provide the applicant with access,
- ▀ Haul roads will be extended into the mining area as mining progress.

### **SURFACE AND GROUND WATER:**

- ▀ The proposed activities are not expected to have a negative impact on any surface and ground water of the area.
- ▀ The Mfolozi River borders the proposed mining area approximately 700m to the west, north-west and north.

### **VEGETATION**

- ▀ The site earmarked for the proposed mining activity has previously been used for crop farming purposes. Although some indigenous vegetation did re-establish through succession the vegetation of the area can be described as disturbed with a high invasion of alien invader plants.
- ▀ No red data or protected plants could be identified in the proposed footprint area of the mining area.

### **GEOLOGY & SOILS**

- ▀ Up to about 18 000years old Quaternary sediments of marine origin – mainly yellowish and argillaceous redistributed sands (Berea and Muzi Formations of the Maputaland Group, respectively). Soils nutritionally very poor and well leached, except in the interdune depressions where organic – rich soils are sometimes found. The dominant land types include Hb and Ha, with some contribution of Db and land type.

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### **CLIMATE**

- Weak rainfall seasonality near the coast tending toward summer rainfall towards the interior. Relatively high precipitation attaining annual values up to 1200mm in coastal localities, decreasing rapidly to the interior. High humidity and temperature.

### **SENSITIVE LANDSCAPES**

- No sensitive landscapes under statutory protection occur on the site. The proposed mining area was chosen to be further than 500m from any wetland and Lake Eteza Nature Reserve is more than 3km from the site.

### **SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL INTEREST**

- No sites of archaeological or cultural importance were identified during the site inspection as the site has been extensively used for agricultural purposes.

### **FAUNA:**

- The fauna at the site will not be impacted by the proposed mining activity as they will be able to move away or through the site, without being harmed. Workers should be educated and managed to ensure that no fauna at the site is harmed.

### **VISUAL EXPOSURE:**

- The mining area was identified to constitute the lowest possible visual impact on the surrounding environment. The surrounding area has previously been disturbed by agricultural activities, and this application entails the mechanical winning of gravel from the area. No quarry pit with high walls will be created that will negatively impact on the visual exposure of the area.
- The mining area will not be visible from any public road or area.
- The applicant should however ensure that housekeeping is managed to standard, as this will mitigate the visual impacts during the operational phase of the mine.
- Upon closure the site will be rehabilitated and sloped to insure that the visual impact on the aesthetic value of the area is kept to a minimum.
- The site will have a neat appearance and be kept in good condition at all times.

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### **ABLUTION, WASTE WATER & WASTE DISPOSAL:**

- Ablution facilities will consist of chemical toilets hired from a contractor and serviced regularly.
- Any effluents containing oil, grease or other industrial substances will be collected in a suitable receptacle and removed from the site, either for resale or for appropriate disposal at a recognised facility.
- Spills will be cleaned up immediately to the satisfaction of the Regional Manager by removing the spillage together with the polluted soil and by disposing of them at a recognised facility.
- Non-biodegradable refuse such as glass bottles, plastic bags, metal scrap, etc., will be stored in a container at a collecting point and collected on a regular basis and disposed of at a recognised landfill site.
- Biodegradable refuse generated will be handled as indicated above.
- No waste will be burned or buried on site.

### **FINAL REHABILITATION:**

- Rehabilitation of the surface area shall entail landscaping, levelling, top dressing, land preparation, seeding (if required), and weed / alien clearing.
- All infrastructures, equipment, and other items used during the mining period will be removed from the site (section 44 of the MPRDA).
- Waste material of any description, including receptacles, scrap, rubble and tyres, will be removed entirely from the mining area and disposed of at a recognized landfill facility. It will not be permitted to be buried or burned on the site.
- Weed / Alien clearing will be done in a sporadic manner during the life of the mining activities. Species regarded as Category 1 weeds according to CARA (Conservation of Agricultural Recourses Act, 1983 – Act 43; Regulations 15 & 16 (as amended in March 2001) need to be eradicated from the site on final closure.
- Final rehabilitation shall be completed within a period specified by the Regional Manager.

Aeterno Investments 215 will make use of temporary infrastructure during the mining operations. Workers will be transported to and from the site daily.

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### **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

This document is to inform you about the proposed activity and to determine whether there are any concerns or objections from interested and affected parties (I&AP's) that need to be considered.

As interested and affected party you are kindly requested to complete the comments form and give any comment/concern or input with regard to the current land use of the area, the environment as well as socio-economic conditions that you feel might be affected by the proposed activity. When submitting response please provide suggestions to mitigate the anticipated impact of each identified activity.

Please contact Christine Fouche at the contact details as presented in the letterhead or at [christine.f@greenmined.co.za](mailto:christine.f@greenmined.co.za) through any means should you need more information, have concerns or comments that need to be considered or if you want to be registered as an interested and/or affected party and would like to receive a copy of the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) on or before 7 June 2015. If we do not receive any comments from you within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be accepted that you do not have any objections/comments with regard to the project.

A register of interested and affected parties (I&AP's) will be opened and maintained containing the names, contact details and address of all persons who have submitted written comments, attended meetings or have in writing requested to be registered and all organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the activity. Please note that only registered I&AP's and stakeholders will be entitled to comment on reports and plans to be submitted to the Department provided that the party provide its name, contact details and address and discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which he/she may have in the approval or refusal of the applications.

The DBAR will be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources – KZN for review purposes. This report will also be made available to the public for a 30 days review period. An electronic copy of the report will be published on the Greenmined Environmental website ([www.greenmined.com](http://www.greenmined.com)).

The DBAR will then be updated to reflect the comments received during the public commenting period. Upon which, the final basic assessment report (FBAR) will be submitted to the DMR for its consideration as part of the authorization process in terms of the NEMA regulation. A copy of the final report will be made available on the Greenmined Environmental website ([www.greenmined.com](http://www.greenmined.com)). All registered I&AP's and stakeholders will be notified in writing within 14 days of the date of the decision of the outcome of the application, including the reasons for the decision and the right of appeal.

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**CONTACT DETAILS:**

<b>Name/Name</b>	
<b>Organisation/Instansie</b>	
<b>Interest/Belange</b>	
<b>Postal Address/Pos Adres</b>	
<b>Tel</b>	
<b>Fax/Faks</b>	
<b>E-mail/E-pos</b>	

**COMMENTS/ OPMERKINGS:**

<b>No Objection:</b>	
<b>Request additional information:</b>	
<b>Concerns:</b>	

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Are there any other organisations or individuals that you feel should be invited to comment? If so, please provide their contact details:**

Contact name:
Organisation (if applicable):
Address:
Tel:
Fax
E-mail

Your feedback is valued and will be addressed appropriately.

Kind Regards



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Christine Fouche  
Greenmined Environmental