



Applicant:
Van Eeden Projects Trust
P.O. Box 166
Kwambonambi
3915
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BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

12 February 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

Van Eeden Projects Trust intends to apply for a mining permit to mine 4.9 ha of a portion of Portion 1 of Lot 29 Umfolozi No 15607, Mtubatuba, Kwa-Zulu Natal Province.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Portion 1 of Lot 29 Umfolozi No 15607 is situated approximately 3.5 km east of Teza approximately 1.5 km from the N2. The area earmarked for the proposed mining falls on a section of the farm previously used for mining purposes. The GPS coordinates of the proposed mining is as follows:

- A28°30'3,24"S; 32°7'8,98"E
- B28°29'59,89"S; 32°7'3,67"E
- C28°29'52,37"S; 32°7'9,97"E
- D28°29'55,55"S; 32°7'14,9"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:

- 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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- 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).

- Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 Activity 35:

The expansion of commercial developments on land previously used for mining or heavy industrial purposes, where the increased development footprint will exceed 1 000 square metres.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed mining site will be an extension of the existing quarry pit previously disturbed by aggregate mining activities. The mining methods will make use of blasting by means of explosives in order to loosen the hard rock; the material is then loaded and hauled out of the excavation to the mobile crushing and screening plants. The aggregate will be stockpiled and transported to clients via trucks and trailers. All activities will be contained within the boundaries of the site.

The proposed mining area is approximately 4.9 ha in extent and the applicant intends to win material from the area for at least three years with a possibility of a two year extension. The aggregate / stone gravel to be removed from the quarry will be used for road construction in the vicinity. The proposed quarry will therefore contribute to the upgrading/maintenance of road infrastructure in and around the Teza and Mtubatuba area.

THE MINING ACTIVITIES WILL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Stripping and stockpiling of topsoil
- Blasting
- Excavating
- Crushing
- Stockpiling and transporting
- Sloping and landscaping upon closure of the site
- Replacing the topsoil and vegetating the disturbed area

THE MINING SITE WILL CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING:

- Drilling Equipment
- Excavating Equipment
- Earth Moving Equipment

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DUST:

- Speed on the access road will be limited to 40 km/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.
- The type, duration and timing of the blasting procedures will be planned with due cognisance of other land users and structures in the vicinity.
- Surrounding land owners will be notified in writing prior to blasting occasions.

ACCESS ROUTE:

- The existing farm road to the area will be used to provide the applicant with access,
- Should any other access roads to the mining area be required it will be established in consultation with the landowner however existing roads will be used as far as practicable.
- All new roads will be selected as far as possible to avoid watercourses and steep gradients. Adequate drainage and erosion protection in the form of cut-off berms or trenches will be provided where necessary.
- The roads to be established to the site will be below the threshold of the EIA regulations of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No 107 of 1998) as amended June 2014.

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 Msunduzi River is located 150m south east of the site.

VEGETATION

- The site earmarked for the proposed mining activity is surrounded by sugarcane fields, with only a very small portion ($\pm 1\ 500\text{m}^2$) of natural vegetation occurring at the top of the current quarry face.
- The surrounding vegetation landscape is composed of pockets of various forest types (separated into different vegetation units), thickets, primary and secondary grasslands, extensive timber plantations and cane fields.

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GEOLOGY & SOILS

- Up to about 18 000 yrs 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.

CLIMATE

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

SENSITIVE LANDSCAPES

- No sensitive landscapes under statutory protection occur on 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 mining and sugar cane farming 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 mining activities, and this application entails the extension of the existing mining 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 would 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.

Van Eeden Projects Trust 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 Sonette Smit at the contact details as presented in the letterhead or at sonette.s@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 13 March 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).

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). 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:

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

COMMENTS/ OPMERKINGS:

No Objection:	
Request additional information:	
Concerns:	

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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Sonette Smit
Greenmined Environmental