



DEA&DP-WC Reference Number: 16/3/1/1/F5/16/3063/14
DMR Reference Number: MP30/5/1/2/2/10065MR

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

05 February 2015

To whom it may concern

RE: NOTICE OF APPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998 NEMA) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS OF 2010 AS WELL AS SECTION 22 OF THE MINERALS AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2002 (ACT NO 28 OF 2002)

Afrimat Aggregates Operations (Pty) Ltd has applied for environmental authorization to mine 92 ha of Portion 2 of the farm Woodlands 874, Malmesbury, Western Cape Province. (Reference No: 16/3/1/1/F5/16/3063/14)

SITE DESCRIPTION

Portion 2 of the farm Woodlands 874 is situated approximately 15 km south of Malmesbury along the R302/R304. The area earmarked for the proposed mining falls on a section of the farm previously used for agricultural purposes where the fynbos has been removed to create pastures. The GPS coordinates of the proposed mining is as follows:

- A. -33.598267°S 18.744117°E
- B. -33.599500°S 18.753983°E
- C. -33.598583°S 18.757317°E
- D. -33.603367°S 18.759683°E
- E. -33.604300°S 18.756667°E
- F. -33.605233°S 18.751683°E
- G. -33.608633°S 18.746867°E

LEGAL COMPLIANCE

The proposed project triggers the following listed activities in terms of NEMA and therefore requires environmental authorisation:

Government Notice (GN) No. 545 Listing No. 2 Activities 15 (2010):

Physical alteration of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land for residential, retail, commercial, recreational, industrial or institutional use where the total area to be transformed is 20 hectares or more.

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



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The applicant received permission to apply for a Basic Assessment process instead of a Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting process on the 13th of November 2014 as:

- The footprint of the proposed mining area has previously been disturbed by the agricultural activities of the farm transforming the vegetation of the area from natural occurring Fynbos to pasture. The mining of the sand from the proposed footprint area will therefore not necessitate the removal of fynbos. This is of high importance as the property falls within the critically endangered ecosystem listed as Atlantis Sand Fynbos (FFd4).
- The proposed mining method will have a very low impact on the surrounding environment as it will simply entail the removal of the sand with an excavator loading it directly onto tipper trucks transporting it from site. The mining activity will not require blasting, crushing or washing of sand to be done.
- Strip mining is proposed that will entail a strip of approximately 6 x 80 meters mined at a time. Once the sand has been removed from the strip the topsoil is replaced and another strip is opened. This method ensures concurrent rehabilitation being done that allows mined-out areas recovering throughout the operational phase of the project. It also has the advantage that only a small portion (<1 ha) of the mining area (92 ha) is open at any given time.
- The mining site will require only four workers to be employed at the site that will daily be transported to site.
- The mining area will not require the building of any permanent structures. A container will be used for office purposes with solar panel to generate power. A chemical toilet will be placed at site that will be serviced by a contractor. No weighbridge will be needed.

Upon acceptance of the application DEA&DP-WC required the inclusion of the applicable listed activities in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 with respect to the proposed development. The following listed activities in terms of the above mentioned act is applicable to the project:

Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 Activity 28:

Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture or afforestation on or before 01 April 1998 and where such development will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare.

List of other legislation triggered by the proposed project:

An application for a Mining Right in terms of Section 22 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No 28 of 2002) has been submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources and MP30/5/1/2/2/10065MR was assigned as reference number.



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An application for Water Authorization in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) will be submitted to the Department of Water and Sanitation.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The mining procedure will entail strip mining of the proposed footprint area. The applicant will:

- grade the topsoil off a strip of approximately 6 x 80 meter long. The topsoil will be stockpiled at the edge of the strip to be replaced during the rehabilitation of the area,
- remove the sand from the stripped area to a depth of ± 1.5 m with an excavator that will load it onto a truck,
- arrange the transport of the sand from the mining area to the clients using the existing farm road that joins the R304.
- once the sand has been removed from a strip, rehabilitation (replacement of topsoil) of the area will commence. Subsequent to the closure of the strip the consecutive area will be opened.

The proposed activity will not require any blasting, crushing or washing of sand to be done. A temporary container will be placed in the mining area that will serve as an office. A solar panel fitted to the container will provide power and potable water will daily be transported to site in closed containers. The mining activities will not require any process water and the solid waste produced during the operational phase of the project will be transported from site to the Malmesbury landfill site. A chemical toilet will serve as ablution facility to the employees on site and will regularly be serviced by a recognized contractor. Approximately three workers will be employed at the site. Mining will only be done during daylight hours.

The mining activities will consist of the following:

- Stripping and stockpiling of topsoil,
- Removal and stockpiling of sand to be sold,
- Landscaping and replacement of topsoil over stripped area prior to the opening and mining of the next strip.

The mining site will contain the following:

- One container with solar power for office purposes,
- A chemical toilet,
- One excavator to load the sand.

Dust Generation:

- Due to the nature of the project the expected dust generation at the site is deemed to be low.
- Speed on the access road will be limited to 40 km/h to prevent the generation of excess dust.



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- 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.
- Areas devoid of vegetation that could act as a dust source will be minimised by the proposed strip mining process.

Noise:

- Due to the small configuration of the proposed activity the expected noise impact is deemed to be of low significance. Noise to be generated by the proposed mining activity will represent the noise levels originating from farm equipment.
- It will be ensured that employees and staff conduct themselves in an acceptable manner while on site.
- All mining related vehicles will be equipped with silencers and maintained in a road worthy condition in terms of the Road Transport Act.

Access Route:

- The existing access road of the farm will be used to gain access to the mining area.

Surface and Ground water:

- The proposed mining area will be further than 100m from any natural water source.
- Due to the immediate adjacent topography of the areas the amount of runoff expected to enter the mining area is limited. Due to the sandy geology of the area, rainwater that falls directly on the mining site, will effectively soak away eliminating the risk for soil erosion.

Visual Exposure:

- It is expected that the north-eastern side of the mining area will be visible from the R304. The visual impact will be mitigated by the continuous rehabilitation of the stripped areas.

Ablution, Waste Water & Waste Disposal:

- The proposed project will require four employees to be employed at the site.
- Ablution facilities will be provided in the form of a chemical toilet.
- Should any spillage occur, such as oil or diesel leaking from a burst pipe, the contaminated soil will be collected in a suitable receptacle and removed from the site, either for resale or for appropriate disposal at a recognised facility.
- General waste that may be generated in the office will be collected in a closed bin and disposed of at the Malmesbury landfill site.



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- No waste will be buried or burned on site.

Final rehabilitation:

- Final rehabilitation shall entail landscaping, levelling, top dressing, land preparation, seeding (if required), and weed / alien clearing of the last strip as well as those areas in the remaining area that needs additional attention.
- All infrastructures, equipment, and other items used during the mining period will be removed from the site (section 44 of the MPRDA).
- General waste material of any description will be removed from the mining area and disposed of at Malmesbury 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 an ongoing basis.
- Final rehabilitation shall be completed within a period specified by the Regional Manager.

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 environment that you may have, on the proposed project. If we do not receive any comments from you within 40 days of receipt of this notice, it will be accepted that you do not have any objections/comments with regard to the project.

Please contact Christine Fouche at the contact details as presented in the letterhead or at 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 16 March 2015.

The DBAR will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning – Western Cape (DEA&DP) for review purposes. This report will also be made available to the public for a 40 days review period. An electronic copy of the report will be published on the Greenmined Environmental website (www.greenmined.com). All registered I&AP's and stakeholders will be notified of the commenting period in advance.



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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 DEA&DP 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).

CONTACT DETAILS:

Name/Name	
Organisation/Instansie	
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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fouche', is written over a horizontal line.

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Christine Fouche
Greenmined Environmental