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Dear Stakeholder

NEW LARGO COLLIERY

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (17/2/3N-41), INTEGRATED WATER USE LICENSE AND WASTE MANAGEMENT LICENSE

Final Scoping Report available for public comment

Anglo American through its subsidiary Anglo American Inyosi Coal (Pty) Ltd (AALC) is proposing to develop a new open cast coal mine, the New Largo Colliery, to supply coal to the new Kusile Power Station that is currently under construction, just south of the N4 highway between Bronkhorstspuit, and Emalaheni (Witbank) in Mpumalanga Province.

The New Largo coal reserve is located directly east of the Kusile Power Station, 30 kilometres west of Witbank in Emalaheni, 100 km east of Johannesburg and 20 kilometres north-east of Ogies. The majority of the coal reserve lies between the N4 highway in the north and the N12 highway in the south, but a small portion is found to the south of the N12 highway. Kendal Forest Holdings and Kendal Power Station lies to the south, with Wilige village and Phola town to the east of the coal reserves.

The proposed project was announced in March 2011 with the distribution of notification letters, a background information document and a Draft Scoping Report which was available for public review from 4 April to 20 May 2011. Three public meetings (11 and 12 May 2011 and on 26 July 2011) were held to inform stakeholders of this project and to discuss the environmental assessment processes and approvals that are required. In addition, several meetings were also held with all involved authorities to discuss the proposed project with them.

The Final Scoping Report has been finalised considering the issues and concerns which were received from stakeholders during the review of the Draft Scoping Report. Included in the electronic version of this letter is Version 2 of the Issues and Response Report (IRR). The IRR lists all the questions, concerns and issues raised since the beginning of the project and responses to these. Should you not have received this letter via email and you wish to receive a copy of the IRR, please contact our office.

Updates from the Draft Scoping Report to the Final Scoping Report

A number of changes have been made to the Final Scoping Report in an effort to address comments raised by interested and affected parties (I&APS). Below is a summary of the changes that have been made:

- Issues Identified during the 2011 Scoping Phase Public and Authority Consultation Processes have been added (a summary is provided in the main report and the full list of issues in Appendix A).
- Details of the public participation undertaken to date are provided.
- The report explains that it was confirmed that a Waste Management License in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (No. 59 of 2008) is required for all non-mineralogical wastes associated with the New Largo Colliery (the draft report stated that it was uncertain if this would be required).
- A preliminary list of waste activities to be included in the Waste Management License is included in the report.
- The report explains that the EIA for the replacement of the R545 will be combined with the EIA for the New Largo Colliery (the Draft Scoping Report stated that there will be two separate EIA processes).
- The list NEMA activities have been updated to include those activities triggered by the replacement of the R545 (an amendment to the NEMA application will be submitted to MDEDET to include these activities).
- The land claim data had been updated.
- A number of small corrections and updates have been made – **all of which are highlighted in grey (as per the example).** This should assist you in your review of the Final Scoping Report.

PLEASE NOTE: Every comment that has already been submitted to Zitholele Consulting on the Draft Scoping Report has been attached to the Final Scoping Report. Since the MDEDET will be receiving these comments with the report it is not necessary to resubmit comments. Only new comments that have not already been submitted to Zitholele should be submitted to the MDEDET. You are welcome to clarify whether your comments have been included by accessing the report at the aforementioned websites.

The way forward

The following are the next steps in the EIA process:

- MDEDET will review the Final Scoping Report, including the Plan of Study for the EIA and Version 2 of the IRR and issue a letter either :
 - Accepting the Final Scoping Report including Plan of Study for EIA and advise the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to proceed with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for EIA, or
 - Request the EAP to make such amendments to the Report or the Plan of Study for EIA as the competent authority may require.
- Specialists will continue their specialist assessments and compile specialist assessment reports.
- The specialist assessment reports will be studied and integrated into the Draft EIA Report. The Draft EIA Report and Draft Environmental Management Programme (EMP) will be made available for public review and a series of meetings will be held to discuss the reports December 2011 / January 2012 . Notification to this effect will be sent to all stakeholders.

Do not hesitate to contact the public participation office should you need any assistance.

Yours sincerely



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