

APPLICATION FOR A MINING RIGHT – WITKOP FLUORSPAR MINE (PTY) LTD

KANAKIES 332, CALVINIA RD, NORTHERN CAPE

1. INTRODUCTION

Witkop Fluorspar Mine (Pty) Ltd intends to submit an application for a mining right in terms of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, Act 28 of 2002 (MPRDA) over Portion 0 (the Remaining Extent), Kanakies 332, Calvinia Rd.

The proposed mining right area comprises 7,456.70 hectares and is located approximately 45km east-south-east of the town of Loeriesfontein and 40km north-north-west of the town of Nieuwoudtville, within the Northern Cape Province (Figures 1 and 2).

This application for a mining right is subject to an application for an Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Act 107 of 1998.

In addition to this, the project may also require a waste management license in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (NEM:WA), Act 59 of 2008 and a water use license in terms of the National Water Act, Act No. 36 of 1998 (NWA).

Cabanga has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to complete the necessary environmental applications and oversee the various specialist studies.

2. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document (the Background Information Document or "BID") has been compiled to provide you, the Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), with information on the proposed project and the associated environmental authorisation process.

You are hereby invited to participate freely and submit any questions or information you feel may contribute to the process. All comments received will be recorded and addressed as part of the environmental impact assessment process.

Please complete the attached questionnaire and return to us on Fax: 011 794 6946 or michelle@cabangaenvironmental.co.za to register as an I&AP. Alternatively call us on Cell: 072 859 7268

3. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Mineral: Gypsum

Mining Method: Surface trench mining

Depth of Mining: 1.4 – 2.5 metres

Life of Mine: 30 years +

Product: Agricultural and Industrial Markets

Of the overall Mining Right Area, approximately 689 Ha will be earmarked for mining, whilst a further 9Ha will be affected by surface infrastructure. The deposit consists of 2 layers of gypsum i.e. a powder layer and nodular crystalline (clay) layer of gypsum.

Mining will be conducted via surface trench mining the dimensions of a single mining block will be approximately 50m x 100m. The powder will be screened to remove foreign materials and is expected to be recovered by a margin of at least 90%. The clay layer will be roll-crushed and screened by means of high frequency screening plant at an estimated recovery of approximately 50%.

Product will be stockpiled in designated areas for pre-qualification prior to being either trucked to market or loaded onto train trucks using the existing rail siding on the farm.

Proposed Infrastructure:

- A mobile crushing and screening plant will be utilised onsite.
- Mobile "container" offices will be erected.
- A vehicle park area, including workshop and bays will be constructed.
- A built hydrocarbon storage will be required (max 30m³).
- Gravel access roads (10km x 5m wide) will be constructed.

Service Requirements:

- All mining and ancillary minerals handling will be performed using diesel driven machinery and/or electricity generated by diesel driven generators.
- Water will be required for dust suppression and potable/domestic use only. This will be sourced from a borehole located on site. At this stage it is anticipated that the water requirements are 81m³/day.
- General waste will be collected for disposal at the Municipal dump.
- Industrial waste (if generated) will be collected for disposal at a suitably licensed facility.
- Sewage will be collected within conservancy tanks to be emptied by honey sucker for treatment at a suitably licensed facility.

Employment:

- The project will create employment for approximately 14 people.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS

Following the submission of an application for an environmental authorisation the applicant is required to subject the application to either a Basic Assessment or a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

During this process the positive and negative impacts associated with the development are assessed and suitable alternatives and/or management measures are proposed to reduce the environmental impacts.

As the application relates to mining activities (Listing Notice 2), a full Scoping and EIA process will be followed. The steps in this process are briefly outlined below:

- **Pre-application Phase**
 - Finalise project description
 - Identify I&APs
 - Circulate BIDs, place site notices and advertisements
 - Submit application forms to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR)
- **Scoping**
 - Consider baseline environment (commence with specialist studies)
 - Identify potential impacts for further consideration

WE ARE HERE

- Initial public meeting to identify I&AP issues and concerns
- Assess alternatives
- Identify plan of study for the EIA
- The Scoping Report is then compiled and put out for public review for a period of 30 days
- Scoping Report is finalised and submitted to DMR
- **EIA / EMP Phase**
 - Specialist studies are finalised
 - Impacts are rated and mitigation measures proposed where possible
 - Monitoring programmes proposed to ensure mitigation measures are efficient;
 - EIA/EMP Report is compiled and put out for public review for a period of 30 days
 - 2nd Public meeting is held to present the EIA/EMP Report and note any additional comments and concerns
 - EIA/EMP Report is finalised and submitted to DMR
- **Decision**
 - DMR makes a decision on the application and issues a record of decision
 - All I&APs are notified of the outcome of application, and their right to appeal.

The Scoping and EIA/EMP reports will be compiled in the format prescribed by the DMR, in accordance with NEMA and NEM:WA (integrated application).

The overall timeframe for the environmental authorisation process is approximately 300 days as regulated by NEMA.

5. LISTED ACTIVITIES

The following table summarises the preliminary list of activities identified in terms of NEMA and NEM:WA. These activities will be included in the application for environmental authorisation:

APPLICABLE LISTING NOTICE	ACTIVITY NO.:
Listing Notice: 1 of NEMA	12, 19,22, 27,30,
Listing Notice 3 of NEMA	6, 15, 17,
GNR 921 of NEM:WA	4, 10, 12

6. WATER USES

The lead authority for the authorisation of water uses in terms of the NWA is the Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation (DWS). In terms of Section 21 of the NWA, all water uses that are not deemed to be Schedule 1 uses must be licensed with DWS. The following water uses are anticipated to occur on site:

- 21(a) Abstraction from a borehole
- 21(c) and (i) Activities within 500m of a wetland (*to be confirmed*)
- 21(g) Stockpiling
- 21(j) Dewatering of mine workings (*to be confirmed*).
-

6. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The following potential impacts have been identified and will be assessed further during the environmental authorisation process:

- Potential to alter the topography
- Loss of soil characteristics - erosion and compaction
- Change in land use from farming to mining
- Loss of biodiversity – vegetation clearance and habitat destruction
- Potential for alien invasive establishment
- Reduced flow to downstream water catchment
- Potential pollution to water resources through sedimentation
- Increased dust and emissions
- Increased noise levels
- Visual aesthetics and sense of place will be altered
- Potential damage to heritage sites (grave and/or archaeological artefacts)
- Influx of job seekers to the area
- Increased traffic – coal haulage

The following specialist studies are currently proposed and will form part of the EIA:

- Freshwater Ecology (Wetlands)
- Terrestrial Ecology (Fauna & Flora)
- Soils, land use and land capability
- Visual Assessment
- Air quality
- Surface water
- Groundwater
- Heritage
- Traffic

Should you be aware of any additional impacts or should you wish to propose an alternative mitigation measure, please do so by completing the attached questionnaire.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public involvement is an essential component of the environmental process. It addresses the right of the Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to be informed of the proposed activities and to be involved in decisions that affect them. It also affords the environmental assessment practitioner the opportunity to assess and address the issues and concerns raised by Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) thus allowing us to assess all the potential impacts of the proposed project.

It is envisaged at this stage that two public meetings will be held during the course of the application (1) during the Scoping Phase, and (2) during the EIA / EMP Phase of the application process.

You are hereby invited to attend the Open Day:

Date: Friday, 9th February 2018

Time: 10:00 am- 15:00 pm

Venue: Loeriesfontein Community Hall, Rossouw Street

Further to this, please note that all environmental reports will be made available for public review and comment for a minimum period of 30 Days.

Please register as an I&AP to receive information on the document availability as well as the venue, date and time of the public participation meetings.



Contact Us:

Michelle Venter

Cabanga Environmental

Cell: 072 859 7268 / Fax: 011 794 6946

michelle@cabangaenvironmental.co.za

REGIONAL LOCATION OF KANAKIES 332



Figure 1: Regional Plan

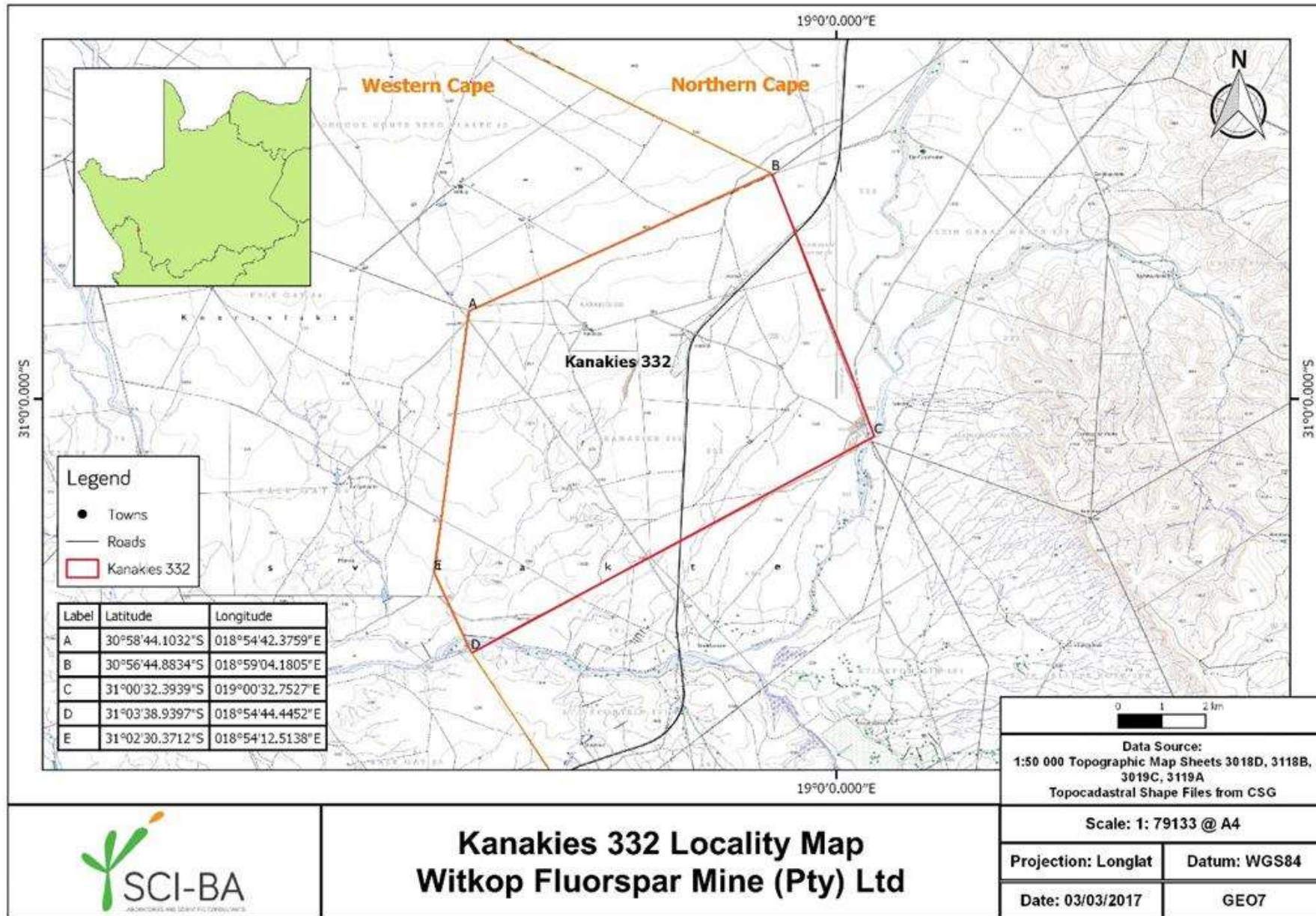


Figure 2: Locality Plan

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION QUESTIONNAIRE: KANAKIES

To register as an I&AP, please complete and return to Cabanga via e-mail:, fax or post:



michelle@cabangaenvironmental.co.za; Fax: (011) 794 6946

Postnet Suite 470, P/Bag X3, Northriding, 2162

Alternatively please register on www.cabangaenvironmental.co.za click on "Public Participation"

Name:		Surname:	
Telephone No.:		Fax No.:	
Post:			
E-mail:			
How would you prefer to be contacted:	<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Fax <input type="checkbox"/> Post <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone <input type="checkbox"/> SMS		
Are you an immediately affected or adjacent land owner or user? If no, what is your interest in the project? If yes, please indicate your farm / property name as well as details on the current land use.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Do you have any vested interest in the approval or refusal of this project? If yes, please elaborate.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Do you feel that the proposed activities will impact on you and / or your socio-economic conditions? How?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Are you aware of any additional impacts not yet identified?			
Are you aware of any sensitive areas that should be avoided (i.e. graves, cultural sites, endangered species, special environmental features or areas etc.)			
Do you have any alternative mitigation measures to propose?			
Do you know of any other persons, organisations or parties that should be notified? Please provide contact details.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Do you have any additional comments, concerns or queries?			