

**NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY PROCESS FOR THE
PROPOSED LESLIE 1 COAL MINING PROJECT NEAR LEANDRA,
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

MARCH 2018

DMR REFERENCE NUMBER: MP30/5/1/2/2/10207MR

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document has been prepared to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with information regarding the following:

- ❖ Description of the proposed Leslie 1 project;
- ❖ The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process to be followed;
- ❖ The public participation process to be undertaken; &
- ❖ How I&APs can participate in the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Anglo Operations (Pty) Ltd (hereafter Anglo) holds a Prospecting Right (PR) over farms covering approximately 9700 hectares (ha) of land in the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality (GMLM). Anglo plans to submit an application for a Mining Right which will then be ceded to a joint venture (JV) company known as Leslie Coal Mine (Pty) Ltd (Leslie Coal Mine).

The applicant intends to develop underground mining operations, with mining predominantly exploiting the No. 2 and No 4. coal seam within the Witbank Coalfield. The mineral proposed to be mined will be Bituminous Coal, with Pseudocoal and Torbanite being mined if encountered. Coal produced by the proposed Leslie 1 Project will be for the local South African market, primarily Eskom and possibly other domestic and export markets.

Based on previous prospecting work conducted within the development footprint, five underground mining areas (**Leslie: 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D and 1E**) have been identified as containing feasible ore deposits worth developing. It is expected that the total Life of Mine (LOM) period will be in excess of 35 years, including a ramp-up period, a tapering-down period and rehabilitation. The mining areas will be designed to process a total of approximately 125 million tonnes of coal during the LOM. The No. 5 seam encountered during the construction of the incline shafts will also be mined (approximately 116 000 tonnes ROM for Leslie 1A).

PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE

It is anticipated that the infrastructure for the proposed Leslie 1 project will comprise of:

- ❖ Offices, workshops, change houses, storehouses, warehouses;
- ❖ Internal roads, fuel storage facilities;

- ❖ Incline shaft and adits, ventilation shafts, underground sections, crushing circuits, a beneficiation plant, conveyors;
- ❖ Water supply networks, storm water networks, pollution control dams, raw water dams, effluent dams, water treatment works;
- ❖ Topsoil stockpiles, discard dumps, and ROM stockpiles; and
- ❖ Possibly a railway line and railway siding.

It is anticipated that the water usage strategy for the proposed project will be designed to operate as a closed water system and most of the water on site is to be recycled where possible. Electricity for the proposed project will be supplied by Eskom.

MINING METHOD

It is proposed that the coal will be mined by conventional methods using Continuous Miners (CMs) and shuttle cars. The “**bord and pillar**” mining technique will be used to ensure that the surface remains stable. In mechanized bord and pillar mining, extraction is achieved by developing a series of roadways (bords) in the coal seam and connecting them by splits (cut-through) to form pillars that act as the primary roof support system. Pillar extraction is not envisaged for the proposed Leslie 1 project.

Seams will be accessed through an incline shaft. **Leslie 1A** will have an East and West incline shaft to access the east and west portions of the mining area. **Leslie 1B, 1C, 1D and 1E** will have one incline shaft each. The incline shafts allow for conveying and travelling, as well as return airways and escape routes. Ventilation within the underground pits will be via mine ventilation shafts, where required. Coal will be transferred via conveyor belt from the underground to surface from where it will be sent to its final destination either by rail or truck.

LOCALITY

The proposed Leslie 1 project will be located near Leandra, Mpumalanga. The footprint area will cover approximately 9 700 hectares of land within Govan Mbeki Local Municipality and Gert Sibande District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. For a detailed locality of the proposed project, please refer to the attached copy of the Locality Map.

The approved Prospecting Right covers a total area of approximately 9 705 hectares in separate blocks over the following properties:

Farm Name	Portion numbers
Weltevreden 307 IR	Portions: 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18 and Remaining Extent.
Goedehoop 308 IR	Portions: 1, 5, 10, 15, 16, 18, 19, 26, 27, 29 and Remaining Extent.
Brakfontein 310 IR	Portions: 12, 13, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 3, Remaining Extent of portion 1 and Remaining Extent of portion 14.
Springboklaagte 306 IR	Portions: 8 and 11.
Grootlaagte 311 IR	Portions: 7, 24, 25, Remaining Extent of portion 8, Remaining Extent of portion 12 and Lebohang Ext 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23.
Watervalshoek 350 IR	Portions: 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 27, 28, 33, 34, 4, 51, 52, 63,

	Remaining Extent of portion 11, Remaining Extent of portion 12 and Remaining Extent of portion 9.
Salpeterkranz 351 IR	Portions: 1, 10, 13, 18, 4 and 9.
Klipfontein 357 IR	Portion: 6.
Frischgewaagd 87 IS	Portion: 1.

The abovementioned properties will be mined sequentially, commencing with the farms Springboklaagte 306 IR, Weltevreden 307 IR, Brakfontein 310 IR and Goedehoop 308 IR (Leslie 1A). The application for a Mining Right will be for an initial period of 30 years but the total resource would support a LoM exceeding 35 years.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Prior to proceeding with the proposed mining operations, the applicant is required to obtain various licences and an Environmental Authorisation from the relevant Competent Authorities.

An integrated Environmental Authorisation (EA) application will be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) as the Competent Authority for the proposed project. The applicable applications to be assessed by the DMR are as follows:

- ❖ Mining Right Application (MRA) in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resource Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA);
- ❖ Application for an Environmental Authorisation for listed activities triggered in Listing Notices **GN R327, GN R325 and GN R324** in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2017, as promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA); and
- ❖ Application for listed waste activities in terms of **GN 921 (Category B, Activity: 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11)** of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008), as amended (NEM:WA).

In addition to the aforementioned, an Integrated Water Use Licence Application (IWULA) will be undertaken in accordance with the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No.36 of 1998) (NWA). The Department of Water and Sanitation will be the Competent Authority to assess the IWULA for the proposed project.

Please note that water uses for the proposed project are currently being investigated, as such a separate Public Participation Process for the IWULA will be undertaken once the water uses for the propose project have been finalised. All stakeholders will be informed about the IWULA process and how they can become involved.

SCOPING & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Kongwe Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner to conduct the EIA process for the proposed Leslie 1 project.

In accordance with the provisions of the EIA 2014 Regulations (as amended), the EIA process for the the proposed Leslie 1 project will be to be carried out in the following phases:

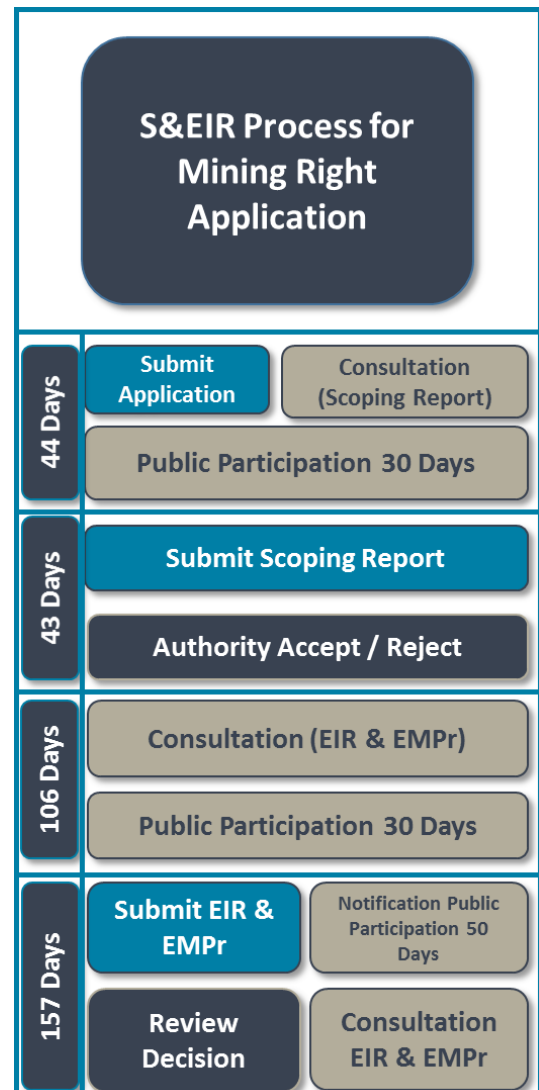
- ❖ Scoping Phase;
- ❖ Impact Assessment Phase; and
- ❖ Decision making Phase.

A schematic representation of the EIA process to be followed is presented in the adjacent figure.

Once the MRA and EA applications are submitted to the DMR, the Scoping phase begins. Within 44 days of submitting the applications, a Scoping Report must be submitted for authority review. During that 44-day period, the public will be entitled to a 30-day Scoping Report review and comment period. This period will also include a public meeting and consultations with the relevant stakeholders.

Once the Scoping Report has been submitted, the DMR as the Competent Authority will either accept or reject the Scoping Report within 43 days. Once the DMR has accepted the Scoping Report the Impact Assessment phase commences and will run for a period of 106 days. Within the 106 days, I&AP’s will be afforded a 30-day period in which to review and comment on the draft EIA Report/Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) documentation.

Prior to expiry of the 106 days, an EIA/EMPr document must be submitted to the DMR for review, after which, the DMR will have 107 days to reach a decision on the project (Record of Decision (RoD)) which may be appealed by the I&APs or the Applicant.



Various specialist studies will be undertaken as part of the EIA to assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed project. Specialist studies to be undertaken include:

- ❖ Soils, Land Use & Land Capability
- ❖ Closure & Rehabilitation;
- ❖ Wetlands;
- ❖ Aquatic Ecology;
- ❖ Climate Impacts;
- ❖ Noise;

- ❖ Air Quality & Dust;
- ❖ Heritage & Archaeology;
- ❖ Fauna and Flora;
- ❖ Surface and Ground Water;
- ❖ Social Impact Assessment;
- ❖ Visual Impacts;
- ❖ Traffic & Safety;
- ❖ Blasting & Vibration;
- ❖ Community Health Study.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The public participation process will form part of the integrated Environmental Authorisation, Waste Management Licence Application and IWULA process. The public participation process offers stakeholders the opportunity to be informed about the proposed project, to raise issues of concern, and to make suggestions for enhanced project benefits. The Project team will consider relevant issues and suggestions during the integrated environmental authorisation process.

AVAILABILITY OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

The Draft Scoping Report will be made available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days, from **28 March 2018-02 May 2018** at the following locations:

Location	Physical address	Contact person
Hardcopies		
Lebohang Public Library	1095 Butana Nkambula, Lebohang, 2265	Ms Rosina Mosako, Librarian (073) 324 5451 speed dial 16769
Leandra Public Library	8 Pretorius Street, Eendrag, 2266	Ms Natalie Potgieter, Librarian (072) 236 3357
Devon Public Library	399 Schuurman Street, Devon	Ms Nelia Nienaber, Librarian (017) 688 0028
Electronic Copies		
For a CD copy please contact the stakeholder engagement team (Sibongile Bambisa/Vanessa Viljoen) Tel: 010 140 6508		
Kongwe Environmental website: www.kongiwe.co.za		

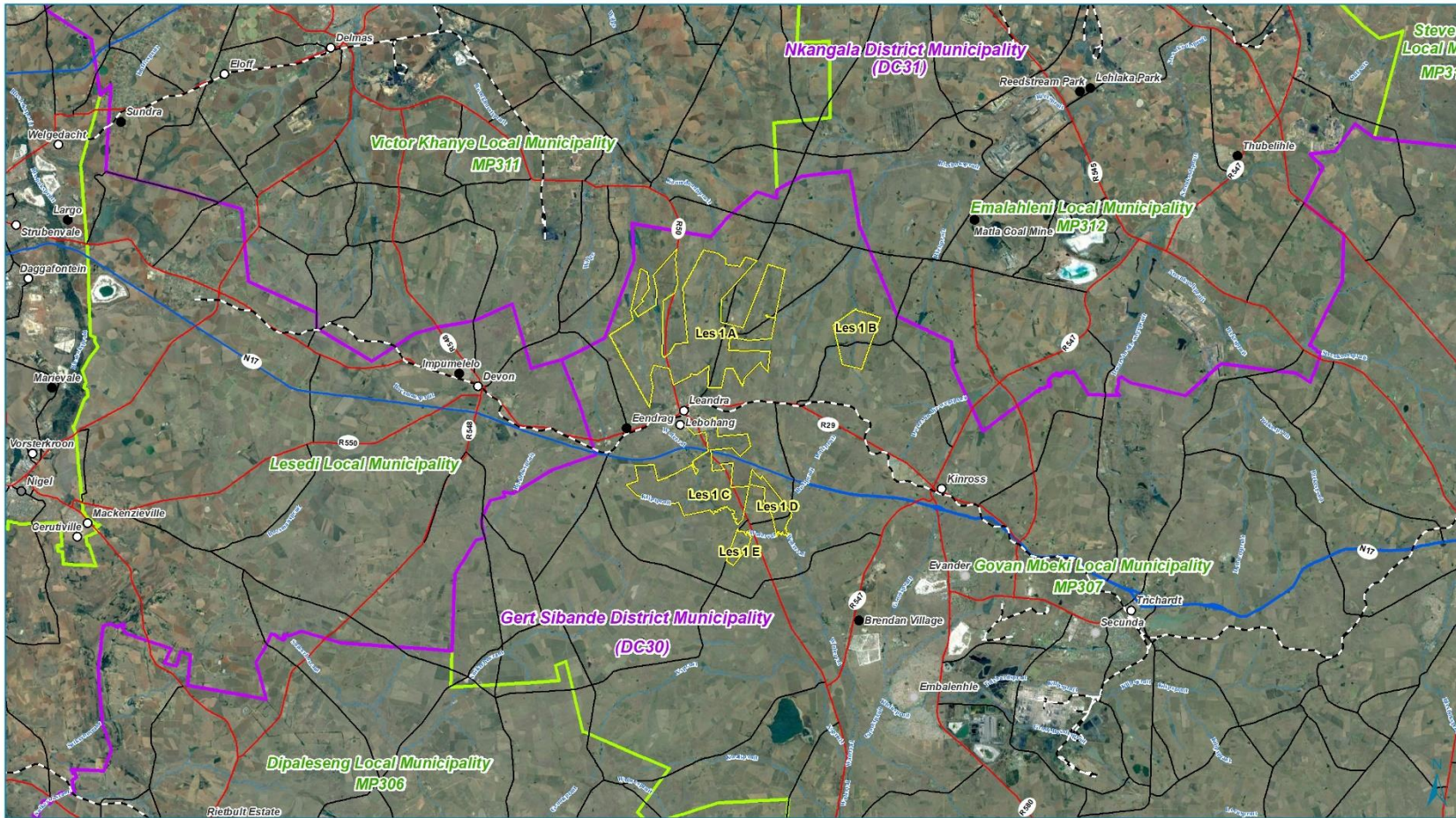
INVITATION TO A PUBLIC MEETING

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APS) are invited to attend a public meeting which will be held on **18 April 2018 at 10H00** at **Tholulwazi Thusong Service Centre Boardroom, 307 Norda Street Leandra / Leslie**. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the proposed project, contents of the Scoping Report and also to provide I&APs with an opportunity to raise their concerns/comments.

HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED

Any person affected by or who may be interested in the proposed project is asked to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) by contacting the stakeholder engagement team. **Contact person: Sibongile Bambisa/Vanessa Viljoen, Email: stakeholders@kongiwe.co.za, Tel: (010) 140 6508**. Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process.

Environmental Authorisations - Leslie 1: Locality





**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR
THE PROPOSED LESLIE 1 PROJECT
IN LEANDRA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
STAKEHOLDER REGISTRATION AND REPLY FORM**

Please return completed reply form to the Stakeholder Engagement team: Sibongile Bambisa / Vanessa Viljoen of Kongiwe Environmental (Pty) Ltd

Phone: 010 140 6508 or Fax: +27 (86) 476 6438

E-mail: stakeholders@kongiwe.co.za

Postal Address: PostNet Suite no 163, Private Bag X21, Bryanston, 2021

Please provide your complete contact details:

If you are a landowner or you are occupying land, please indicate farms and who owns the farm.

Landowner	Farm/s			
Land occupier	Farm		Farm owner	

Title	Mr	Mrs	Ms	Dr	Prof	Other			
First Name									
Surname									
Organisation/Farm/ Business/ Village. Etc.									
Position in organisation									
Contact Numbers	Cell phone				Fax			Tel	
Email address									
Postal address									
Please indicate your preferred method of communication	Email		SMS		Post		Fax		

I intend attending the Public Meeting

Thursday, 18 April 2018 at 10H00, Tholulwazi Thusong Service Centre Boardroom, 307 Norda Street Leandra / Leslie.	Yes	No
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To assist us with the specialist studies please answer the questions below. Should you require any assistance with filling in the questions please contact the abovementioned persons from the stakeholder engagement team.

How do you think the project might affect / impact you?

How do you think these effects/impacts can be managed, avoided and / or fixed should they happen?

What is the land currently being used for?

Where are these land uses taking place?

Are there any natural environmental/ ecological aspects which we need to be aware of? (water, heritage sites, grave sites, special plants or animals)

Where are these aspects found?

Do you think the project could affect / impact any structures you might have? (e.g. houses, buildings, roads, dams)

If so how can these effects/ impacts be managed, avoided or fixed should they happen?

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Any other comments

Please include more pages should the space provided not be enough.

Please provide contact details of any other stakeholders we should consult.

Title	Mr	Mrs	Ms	Dr	Prof	Other	
First name							
Surname							
Organisation/ Farm / Business							
Cell phone							
Email							
Title	Mr	Mrs	Ms	Dr	Prof	Other	
First name							
Surname							
Organisation/ Farm / Business							
Cell phone							
Email							

Signature:		Date:	
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