



DENC Ref. Nr.: 01/02/2015(L1.3.8) & 2/03/2015

16 November 2015

Dear interested and / or affected party

**Notification of an Environmental Impact Assessment Process with regard to an application for rectification in terms of Section 24 G of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA Act 107 of 1998) for the Remhoogte Diamond Mine near Prieska , Northern Cape Province.**

Notice is given of an application submitted on behalf of the applicant (i.e. Pioneer Minerals (Pty) Ltd) to the Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (DENC) in terms of Section 24 G of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) for Environmental Authorisation in order to rectify the mining activities on the Remainder and portion 1 of the Farm Remhoogte 152 (mining right NC 0291 MR) as well as the Remainder of Portion 3 of the Farm Holsloot 47 (mining right NC 0277 MR).

The applicant and practised mining activities are authorised in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development of 2002 (MPRDA Act 28 of 2002) but still require an Environmental Authorisation in order to be compliant with the NEMA Act 107 of 1998.

**The following listed activities are taking place in the mining area and is being applied for:**

Government Notice 1 Regulation 983 of 2014 Activity 9	The mine has constructed a 4.37 km pipeline for the bulk transportation of water from the Orange River to the plant for use the processing of the diamond bearing gravels.
Activity 14	The mining operations make use of three diesel storage facilities with a combined capacity of 87 m <sup>3</sup> .
Activity 19	A gully has been excavated along the banks of the Orange River in order to install the water transportation pipeline. Furthermore, historically several endorheic pans occurring on the site were mined. This has ceased and the remaining pans will be excluded from mining.
Activity 24	The mining area makes use of internal hauling roads, access roads and construction roads which all have a width of 15 meters.
Activity 56	The mining roads will continually be expanded in order to gain access to new mining area.
Government Notice 2 Regulation 984 of 2014 Activity 6	The mining operations are in possession of a mining right and has also applied for a Water Use License.
Activity 15	The mining operations will involve the clearing of vegetation in excess of 20 hectare.

Activity 16	The slimesdam will have a final damwall height of 5 meters upon completion.
Activity 17	The mining operations is in possession of a mining right.
Activity 21	The mining operations include the primary processing of diamond mineral resources.

**The mining activities at Remhoogte comprise of the following:**

The mining operation is based on alluvial diamond mine reserves which will be mined by means of an opencast method using heavy earthmoving machinery and occasional blasting. The ore will then be treated through a 4 pan plant. The estimated production is 80 000 m<sup>3</sup> per month and the expected lifespan of the mine is 8 years. The diamondiferous ore will be screened, scrubbed, crushed and processed on site. The rough diamond product will then be removed from site for further beneficiation.

There are three diesel storage facilities at the Remhoogte site. These consist of diesel tanks contained in a bund wall, each with a capacity of 29 m<sup>3</sup>. Electricity to the plant site area is supplied by 32 kV Eskom distribution power lines routed from a nearby Eskom substation. An agreement to draw 750 kVa from the power grid has been signed with Eskom. Electrical reticulation will be established from a transformer to the mining infrastructure, as required. A portable generator will be provided on site as a back-up electricity supply. Mineral processing water will be abstracted from the Orange River by means of a 4.37 km pipeline at 64 000 l/hr using a 37kW pump. The water will be pumped directly to a reservoir; which consists of an old dumper truck bin with the capacity of 84 m<sup>3</sup>. This reservoir will be used to maintain water routing and requirements on the mining site. From the reservoir water is pumped to where it is required on the plant. Water for re-use on the plant is collected from the mine residue deposit return water dam.

All infrastructure and activities has been completed and already commenced with.

**Public Involvement:**

An Environmental Impact Assessment Process by EKO Environmental is currently underway. You are requested to send any issues and/or concerns regarding the proposed project to Darius van Rensburg at EKO Environmental : Suite 158, Private Bag X01, Brandhof, Bloemfontein, 9324; or 051 444 4700 (Tel), 086 697 6132 (Fax) or [darius@ekogroup.co.za](mailto:darius@ekogroup.co.za) before 11 January 2016.

Please refer to the Map 1 attached hereto for more information on the locality of the proposed project.

The results of this process will be submitted to the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation on behalf of the applicant. A copy of this report will be supplied to all **registered** Interested and affected parties.

Kind regards,



Darius van Rensburg