

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT FOR A
MINING PERMIT APPLICATION FOR COAL ON PORTION
OF PORTION 1 OF THE FARM ALBERT 429 IS,
MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, GERT SIBANDE
DISTRICT, IN MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.**

DMRE REF.: MP 30/5/1/3/2/13938 MP

PREPARED FOR:



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1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

ASGS Holdings has appointed Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd, an independent consulting company, to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in terms of the EIA Regulations of 2014, to evaluate the potential Environmental and Socioeconomic Impacts of the proposed project. ASGS Holdings has applied for Coal Mining Permit in terms of the Minerals and Petroleum Resource Development Act (MPRDA), No 28 of 2002. Mining Permits are legally limited to an extent of 5 ha and a maximum mining period of three years inclusive of a one-year renewal option.

2 PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project site is situated approximately 24.46 km West of Ermelo, in Msukaligwa Local Municipality, Gert Sibande District in Mpumalanga Province. The mining permit application area is a 5 ha on Portion of portion 1 of the farm Albert 429 IS. Refer to figure 1

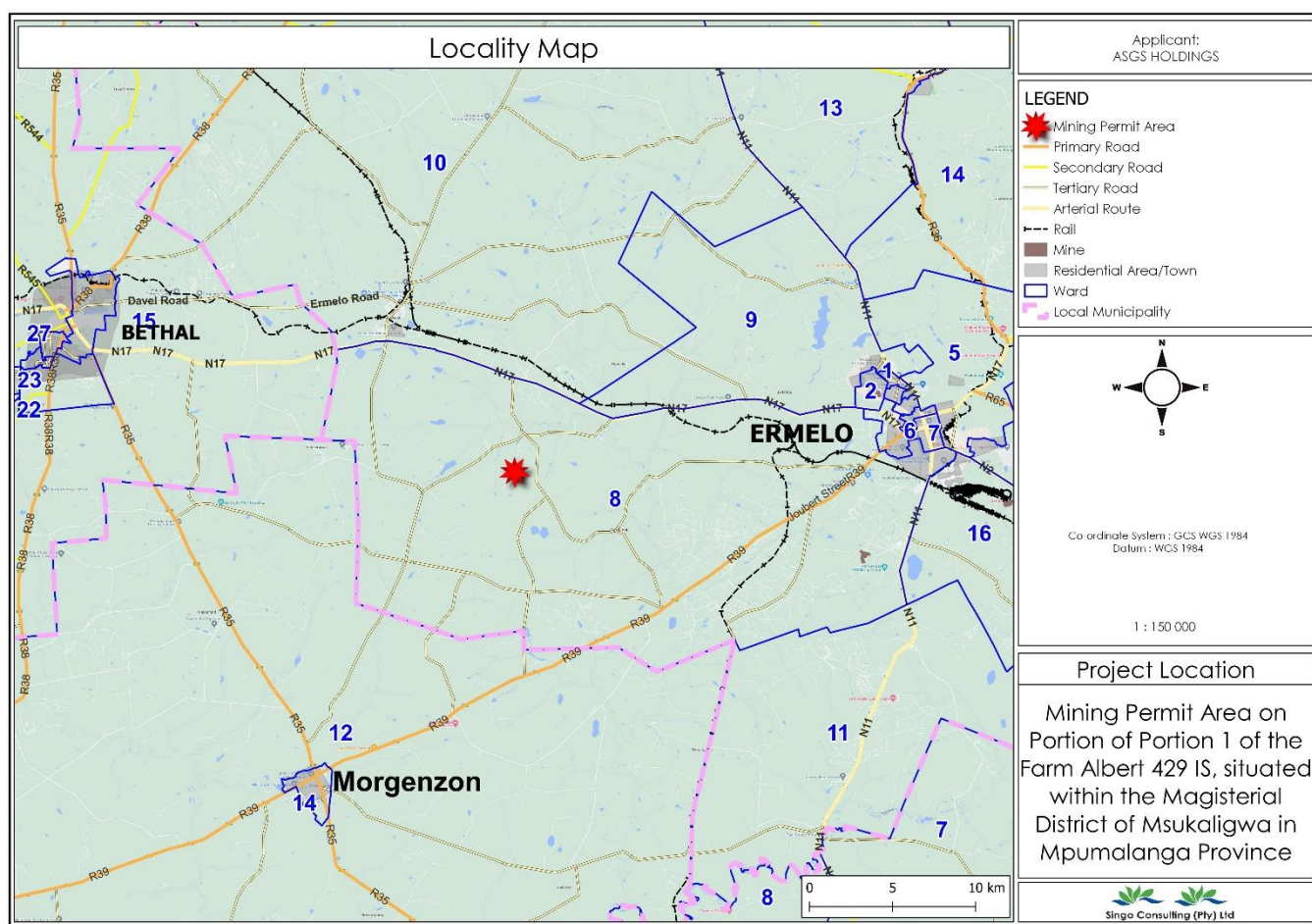


Figure 1: Locality map

3 PURPOSE OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

- Provide background about the proposed project.
- Inform stakeholders and Interested and Affected parties (I&AP's) about the proposed mining project and invite them to participate in the Public Participation Process,
- Provide applicable Legislations;
- List potential impacts and
- Provide means for engagement between the EAP and the IAP.

4 APPLICABLE LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

- National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998
- The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act No 28 of 2002
- National Water Act 36 of 1998
- Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996 (Act No. 29 of 1996).
- Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No. 73 of 1989).
- Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 43 of 1983
- National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act 57 of 2003.
- National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act 10 of 2004.
- National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act 39 of 2004).
- National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999.
- National Forest Act 84 of 1998 and National Veld and Forest Fire Act 101 of 1998(administered by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries); and
- Other Provincial ordinances and municipal bylaws.

5 THE PROPOSED MINING PROCESS

The proposed mining process to extract the coal resource will be through the surface mining method known as opencast mining, is a surface mining technique that extracts coal resource from an open pit in the ground. Mining activities will be undertaken over a period of two (2) years. This project will entail an open cast method of excavation. The mine design will be according to the dimension of the applied mineral deposit within the project area, but overall mining activities will be limited to an area of 5 Ha as per mining permit requirements. The topsoil will be stockpiled elsewhere on site preferably next to the farm boundary and will be used during rehabilitation period.

Once a box cut has been made, the overburden and mineral resources where necessary will be loosened by blasting. The loosened material will then be loaded onto trucks by excavators. A haul road will be situated at the

side of the open cast, forming a ramp up which trucks can drive, carrying ore and waste rock. Waste rock will be piled up at the surface, near the edge of the open cast (waste dump). The waste dump will be tiered and stepped, to minimize degradation. All the activities will be guided by the project's EMPr such that the project does not impact the environment negatively.



Figure 2: Coal extraction process

Typical mine infrastructure will include: haul roads, spoil dumps, surface facilities (e.g. Toilets, stockpiles and storage yard), transport and service corridors (e.g. roads), product stockpiles, chemicals and fuel storage, storm watermanagement infrastructure and site offices.

5.1 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

- Fencing and site establishment
- Site preparation;
- Building a PCD;
- Clean and dirty water separation system;
- Trenching 1.8 meters deep and 2 meters wide and placement of a berm 2 meterswide and 1.5 meters high around the perimeter;
- Topsoil, subsoil, overburden, discard and ROM stockpiles;
- Box cut open cast mining with roll over rehabilitation sequence;
- Drilling and blasting and explosive handling;
- Waste management; &
- Mine closer and rehabilitation.

6 THE EIA PROCESS

An application for environmental authorisation (EA) was lodged together with the Mining Permit application. According to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2017, a Basic Assessment Process must be undertaken for an EA application for a MiningPermit.

A basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme will be compiledfor the Mining Permit application. The compiled reports will undergo public review for a period of at least 30 days. The timeframes for conducting the EIA Process for Mining Permit is indicated below.

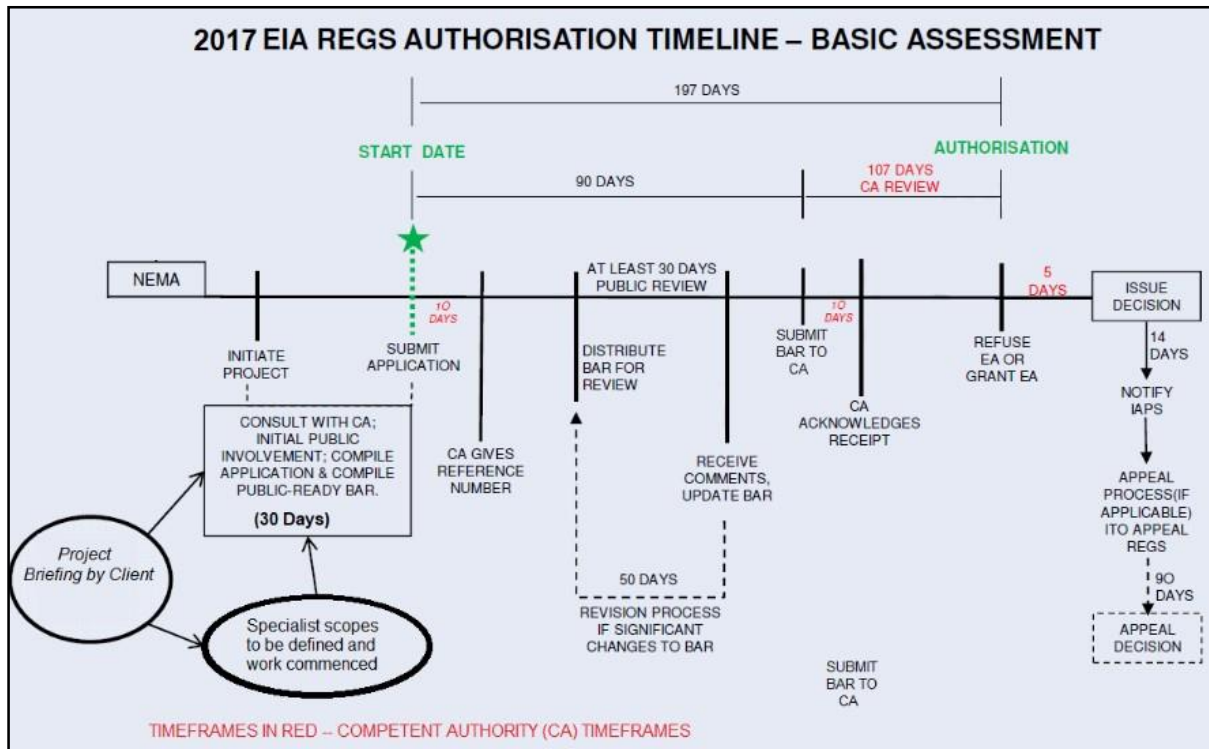


Figure 3: Basic Assessment Process

The Basic Assessment (BA) Process is a tool used to obtain an objective view of the potential impacts of a proposed project including environmental, social and economic impacts. A BAR is compiled as part of the Mining Permit Application to ensure that potential impacts associated with the proposed mining activity are identified, considered and mitigated. It is intended to supply the competent authority with sufficient information to make an informed decision in granting or refusing an environmental authorisation associated with the mining permit application.

The Basic Assessment Report will encompass the following:

- ❖ Description of the local environment including environmental conditions, historic and cultural aspects and socio economic conditions,
- ❖ Identification and assessment of the significance of potential impacts of the proposed mining activities on the local environment,
- ❖ Evaluation of the proposed mitigation and management options available to minimise any negative impacts and to enhance any positive impacts,
- ❖ A record of any issues, comments and concerns raised by I&AP's and minutes of any meetings held with stakeholders.

6.1 LISTED AND SPECIFIED ACTIVITIES

NAME OF ACTIVITY E.g. for prospecting: drill site, site camp, ablution facility, accommodation, equipment storage, sample storage, site office and access route; and for mining: excavations, blasting, stockpiles, discard dumps/ dams, loading, hauling, transport, water supply dams and boreholes, accommodation, offices, ablution, stores, workshops, processing plant, storm water control, berms, roads, pipelines, power lines and conveyors.	Aerial extent of the activity Ha or m ²	Listed activity Mark with X where applicable	Applicable listing notice (GNR 517 amended on the 01 st of June 2021)
Open cast mining and crushing to produce coal specs required by clients	5Ha	X	GNR 517 Listing notice 1 activity 21: Any activity, including the operation thereof, which requires a mining permit in terms of section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA), 2002 (No. 28 of 2002), including related infrastructure, structures and earthworks directly related to the extraction of a mineral resource, including activities for which an exemption has been issued in terms of section 106 of the MPRDA, 2002 (28 of 2002)
Vegetation Clearance	5 Ha	X	GNR 517 Listing Notice 1 activity 27: The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for - (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or

			(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.
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6.2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The public participation process is the process of identifying, inviting and engaging with potential and registered interested and affected parties (I&APs). According to Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulation of 2017 (GNR 326) The I&APs (potential and registered) must be notified about the proposed mining permit application through fixed notices, newspaper advert, and written notices (SMS, WhatsApp, emails, etc.).

The registered IAPs must in terms of this regulation be provided with a minimum of 30 days to review all environmental reports which in this case are the Basic Assessment Report and the Environmental Management Programme.

An I&APs register will be maintained for submission to DMRE on completion of the Public Participation Process. All the received correspondence will be included in the final report to be submitted to the DMRE.

What Public Participation is not?

- Not a public relations exercise
- Not a means to satisfy personal grievances – rather to record issues related to the proposed mining activities and to respond to these

What is expected from the Public?

- The Public is expected to participate and be involved in the decision making by giving relevant comments to the project in order for adequate mitigations to be implemented.

7 HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED

- By responding (by phone, fax or e-mail) to our invitation and confirm your involvement in the process
- By completing the attached comment sheet/ form and mailing or faxing before the 30 days' public participation time period is over.
- By telephonically contacting consultants if you have a query, comment on the project within 30-days public participation process period.

8 NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT:

The Environmental Reports will be made available to all registered Interested and Affected Parties for review for a period of 30 days. Electronic copies of the DBAR and EMPR will be made available upon request via emails, Dropbox link, Google drive, We Transfer, etc. from Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd using the contact details of the EAP below.

9 HOW TO CONTACT US

In order to participate in the process and/or provide comments and or to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&APs) pertaining to the above-proposed activity, you are invited to contact Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd quoting the project reference number before the end of the commenting period via the following methods:

tshepo@singoconsulting.co.za or alternatively on Tel: +27 13 692 0041/Cel: (+27) 72 924 0633. **Contact Person: Ms Tshepo Mkhabela**

See comment form below.

 <p>Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd</p>	<p>Office No 870, 5 Balalaika Street</p> <p>Tasbet park Ext 2,</p> <p>eMalahleni,</p> <p>1040</p> <p>Cell: +27 72 924 0633</p> <p>Tel: +27 13 692 0041</p> <p>Fax: +27 86 5144 103</p> <p>Email: tshepo@singoconsulting.co.za</p> <p>:admin@singoconsulting.co.za</p>
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REGISTRATION & COMMENT SHEET

Mining Permit and Environmental Authorization application for coal on portion of Portion 1 of the farm Albert 429 IS, situated in the Magisterial District of Msukaligwa in Mpumalanga Province (DMRE Ref: MP 30/5/1/3/2/13938 MP)

Attention: **Ms Tshepo Mkhabela**

Email: tshepo@singoconsulting.co.za

Title	Name	Surname
Company		
Designation		
Address		
Tel No.	Fax No.	
E-mail	Cell No.	
I would like to receive my notifications be (mark with "X"):	Post: <input type="checkbox"/>	E-mail: <input type="checkbox"/>
	SMS: <input type="checkbox"/>	Fax: <input type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate why you would have an interest in the above-mentioned project.		
Please provide your comments and questions here:		
<i>Please feel free to attach a separate document</i>		
Please add any person you think may be interested and affected parties:		
Full name	Company	
Address		
E-mail	Contact No.	