

Blue Rock Quarries (PTY) LTD



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BLUE ROCK QUARRIES (PTY) LTD



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Blue Rock Quarries (PTY) LTD

IDENTIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION IN RESPECT OF WHICH THE SCOPING & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MINING RIGHT IS SUBMITTED.

ITEM	COMPANY CONTACT DETAILS
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ITEM	CONSULTANT CONTACT DETAILS
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INTRODUCTION

Blue Rock Quarries (Pty) Ltd will submit an application for a mining right of an area of 19.8348 ha for the mining of stone aggregate gravel, sand general, and dolerite. The mining right area is situated on Allotment 50 of Mdlankomo, in the Nyandeni Local Municipality, Eastern Cape. The Allotment is un-surveyed state land. Algoa Consulting Mining Engineers (ACME) has been commissioned by Blue Rock Quarries to conduct all necessary studies and permissions required to obtain the mining right. An existing mine (Ikwezi Quarries cc) currently operates within the proposed mining right area. This current mining operation be decommissioned, after which all activities and operations will be carried over to the new mining right.

An opportunity exists to develop the mineral resources of South Africa. The existing dolerite quarry supplying aggregates and road-stone to the construction and building sector of Mthatha and its surrounding areas needs to expand its pit to ensure the longevity of the mine.

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) , Act of 1998 : Amendment of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Listing Notice 1 (GN 327), 2 (GN 325), and 3 (GN 324) (2017), a Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process is required as the following Listed Activities apply to this application:

Table 1 List of Activities triggered by the present application.

Relevant Notice And Activity No	Activity number (in terms of the relevant notice):	Project Activity
GNR 325 (17)	Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a mining right as contemplated in section 22 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002).	An application for a Mining Right Application will be done
GNR 327 (27)	The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation	The clearance of 9 ha of vegetation
GNR 327 (22)	The decommissioning of any activity requiring – (i) a closure certificate in terms of section 43 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002); or (ii) a prospecting right, mining right, mining permit, production right or exploration right, where the throughput of the activity has reduced by 90% or more over a period of 5 years excluding where the competent authority has in writing agreed that such reduction in throughput does not constitute closure;	Decommissioning of the mining right after the completion of mining requires a closure certificate

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The National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (NEM:AQA), Act 39 of 2004: National Atmospheric Emission Reporting Regulations (2015) identifies all mining operations as a Category C Emissions Source Group. These regulations will be complied with. All mining activities will be in compliance with the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998, as well. Other potential applications which will run concurrently with the EA includes a Water Use License Application (WULA).

A Scoping & Environmental Assessment Report (S&EIR) process, as described in the flow diagram in Figure 1, includes Public participation at a number of stages. Public participation is governed by the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Act 107 of 1998: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014, as amended, as well as the Mineral & Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA), Act 28 of 2002. During the Public Participation Process, input from stakeholders will be collected to inform the identification of possible impacts on the social, ecological and economic environment.

The purpose of the Scoping & Environmental Assessment Report (S&EIR) process is to allow IAPs to participate in the impact assessment phase of the EIA, by providing comments and input. Any comments or concerns raised by IAPs will be addressed initially in the Scoping Report (SR), as well as in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) at a later date, and draft versions of all reports, including the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) will be provided for a 30 day comment period.

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to consult with the lawful landowner(s) and all Interested and Affected Parties (IAP's) of the proposed project and provide IAP's with the opportunity to receive information, comment, and raise concerns in relation to the mining right application.

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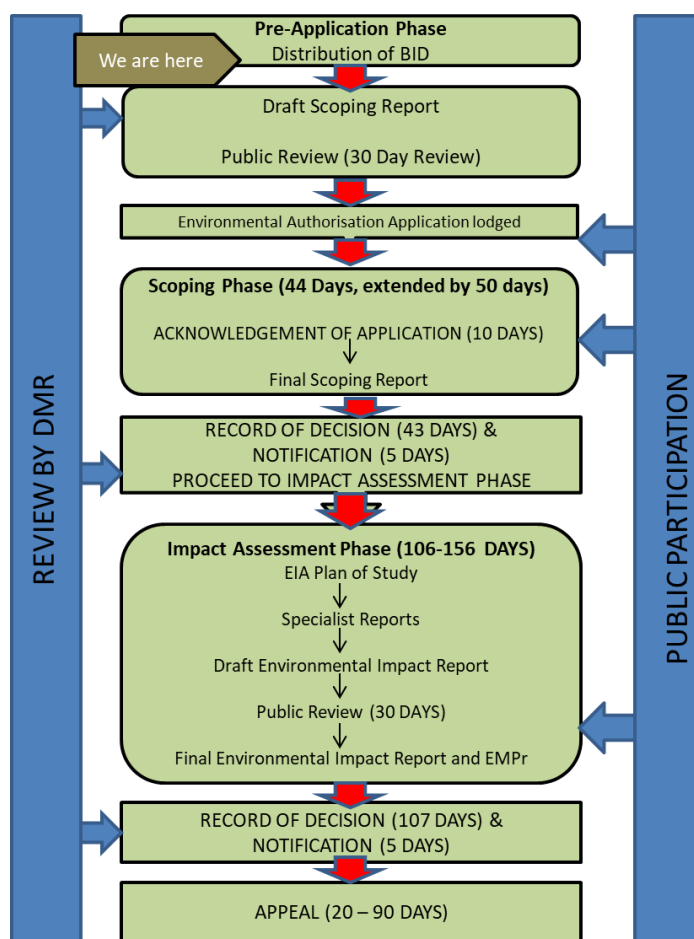


Figure 1: The EIA process indicating stages where public participation will occur.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

Blue Rock Quarries is located at latitude 31° 31' 55" S and longitude 28° 57' 12" E, approximately 20 kilometres (km) east-north-east of the CBD of Mthatha (Figure 2), on un-surveyed state land. The proposed mine is situated within the Mdlankomo community within Mpindweni, which is under traditional authority.

The vegetation type on site is Bisho Thornveld, with Mthatha Moist Grassland occurring to the north (Vegmap, 2018). Bisho Thornveld is classified as Least Threatened and Mthatha Moist Grassland as Endangered according to the National Biodiversity Assessment (2011). The proposed site is located on a ridge that slopes roughly north-east to south-west. There are no aquatic features within or the direct vicinity of the proposed area.

The screening report for an EA as required by the 2014 EIA Regulations shows that the proposed site environmental sensitivity features include: Very High Sensitivity for Aquatic and Terrestrial Biodiversity; Medium Sensitivity for Plant species, Paleontology, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage, Agriculture, and Animal species; and Low Sensitivity for Civil Aviation and Defence.

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Figure 2: Location of the proposed Blue Rock Quarries within OR Tambo District Municipality area shown on a Google Earth™ image. Inset: Regional setting of the proposed mine.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will be an expansion of the existing quarry and activities of Ikwezi Quarries cc. The mining methods will make use of drilling and blasting with explosives in order to loosen the hard rock. Once blasted, open cast mining methods will be applied. The material is then loaded and hauled out of the excavation to the crushing and screening plant. The minerals will be stockpiled and transported to clients via trucks.

The Dolerite mineral, ultimately producing General Sand and Stone Aggregate and Gravel, is found beneath the surface. The total area of the excavation is planned to be 5 ha. Mining is conducted during daylight hours only, Monday to Friday.

The mining operation follows the sequence of :

- a) Search and Rescue of plants
- b) Topsoil Removal and stockpiling the overburden
- c) Drilling and Blasting of intact rock
- d) Excavation and Loading of blasted rock using excavator and dump truck
- e) Hauling of blasted rock to the crushers using haul trucks
- f) Crushing and screening
- g) Rehabilitation of site, including sloping, return of topsoil and revegetation
- h) Eradicate alien invasive plant species
- i) Remove all infrastructure from site
- j) Apply for mine closure

Specialist Studies such as Botanical, Heritage, and Aquatic Impact studies will commence to determine possible impacts of the mining process onto the environment.

I&AP REGISTRATION

In terms of Sections 10 and 22 of the MPRDA and Section 41 of NEMA, the applicant must consult with the land owner and all potential Interested and Affected Parties. These requirements typically include the following :

1. Giving written notice to :
 - the Traditional authority(ies);
 - the Local Community Representative(s)
 - the Local municipality which has jurisdiction in the area ; and
2. Placing an advertisement in a local or regional newspaper.

3. Erecting site notices at :
- Entrances to the proposed mining area
 - Public service centre/s for locals

Are you an Interested and Affected Party (IAP)?

Any person or group of people concerned with, or affected by an activity and its consequences. This includes the authorities, local communities, investors, workers, customers and consumers, environmental interest groups and the general public.

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

During the public participation period, input from IAPs and government authorities will be gathered to result in a better understanding of the requirements for all involved. This will allow for more informed decision making throughout the process. The names of all registered IAP's, together with the comments received, will be incorporated into the Scoping Report and Environmental Management Plan, and will be submitted to the competent authority, namely the Department of Mineral Resources.

Should you wish to express your views regarding this proposed mining development , please feel free to register as an Interested & Affected Party by completing and submitting the form supplied at the end of this document. You may add comments on a separate page should the space not be sufficient. Please note that only registered IAPs will be sent communications regarding this process, as well as any written reports.

ALGOA CONSULTING MINING ENGINEERS cc



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BLUE ROCK QUARRIES (PTY) LTD

PLEASE RETURN BY E-MAIL ; FAX OR REGISTERED MAIL TO THE ABOVE CONTACTS

Contact details of Interested & Affected Party :

Name :

Land owner Tenant Other Interested Party

Postal Address :

Telephone : Fax No.:

Mobile Tel. No : E-mail :

Please list your comments on the project. Should you require more space, use additional pages:

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

OR

I have no comments /objections on the proposed project.	Signed :
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I, _____ confirm that I have received the Public Consultation Notice.

Signature I.D. Number Date

Name and contact details of alternate / nominated person to be contacted instead :

Name :

Land owner Tenant Other Interested Party

Postal Address :

Telephone : Fax No.:

Mobile Tel. No : E-mail :