

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED
CONSTRUCTION OF AN ASBESTOS DISPOSAL FACILITY ON THE
FARM TWEEPAD 176 WITHIN THE BUFFELS MARINE MINING
RIGHT, NORTHERN CAPE

WNECS REF: 20004

DMR REF: NCS 30/5/1/2/2/ (520) MR

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to inform Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) about the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) Process that is being conducted for the proposed development and construction of an asbestos waste disposal facility on the Farm Tweepad 176 within the Buffels Marine Mining Right by De Beers Consolidated Mines. The proposed development is for the disposal of asbestos waste associated with historical mine buildings and infrastructure located throughout the mining right area.

In addition to supplying information about the project and the S&EIA process, this BID will also provide I&APs with the opportunity to:

- Register as an I&AP and to respond to the environmental compliance process
- Raise issues of concern and provide suggestions for enhanced benefits or alternatives
- Contribute local knowledge
- Comment on the Scoping Report
- Inform any other person / organization they feel should be informed about the project

INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Applicant, De Beers Consolidated Mines: Namaqualand mines (Pty) Ltd, is applying for the proposed construction of an asbestos disposal facility within an existing opencast mining void on the farm Tweepad 176, in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA), as amended; National Environmental Management: Waste Act, Act 59 of 2008, as amended; and The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, Act 28 of 2002, as amended. This application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) and Waste License is being made to the Competent Authorities, namely, the Department of Mineral Resources and Department of Environment, Nature and Conservation. This is required as the proposed development includes activities which are listed in terms of the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment and Waste Regulations. W Nel Environmental Consulting Services (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by the Applicant to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) Process for the proposed development.

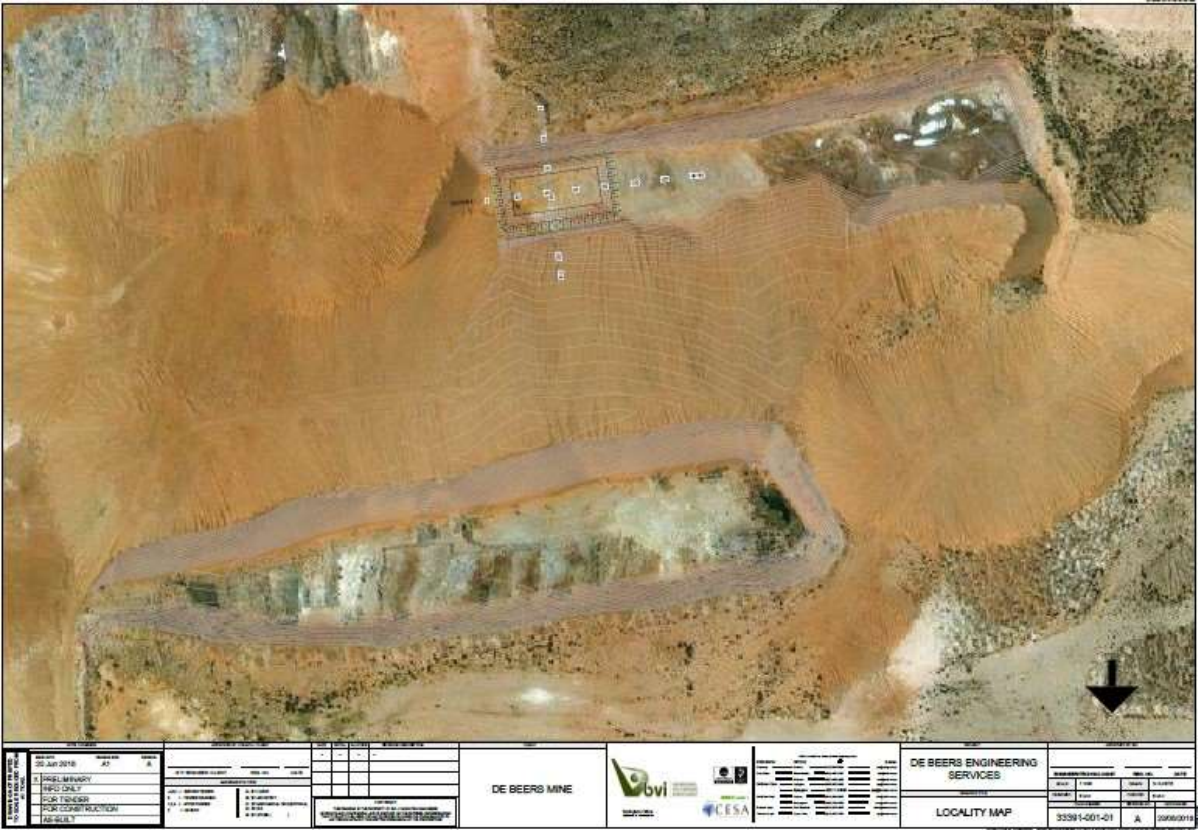
The proposed development entails the following:

De Beers Consolidated Mines: Namaqualand Mines proposes the development of an asbestos waste disposal facility on farm Tweepad 176, in the Buffels Marine Mining Complex between the towns of Kleinzee and Port Nolloth in the Northern Cape. The proposed

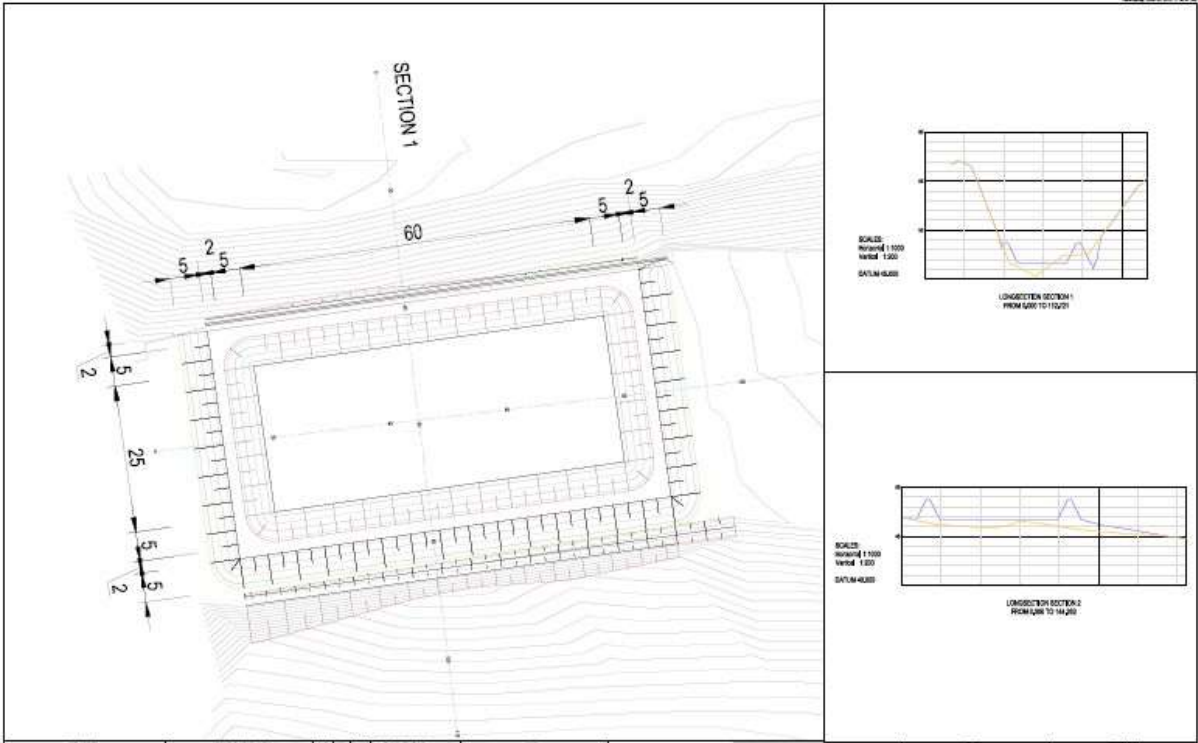
development will consist of a Class A Hazardous waste disposal site, for the disposal of asbestos waste. The source of the asbestos waste is the existing mine buildings that are in the process of being demolished and all infrastructure that does not have an alternative use or future purpose need to be demolished. This includes a number of different buildings constructed with asbestos sheeting, as well as various asbestos pipes used for transportation of both potable and process water while the mine had been operational.

The estimated volume of asbestos to be disposed of at the site amounts to approximately 1000 tons (approximately 3000 m³).





20 Jun 2018 PRELIMINARY INFO ONLY FOR TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES		DE BEERS MINE				DE BEERS ENGINEERING SERVICES	
LOCALITY MAP		33391-001-01		A		30/06/2018	



20 Jun 2018 PRELIMINARY INFO ONLY FOR TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES		DE BEERS MINE				DE BEERS ENGINEERING SERVICES	
LAYOUT AND SECTIONS		33391-100-01		A		30/06/2018	

APPLICABILITY OF NEMA REGULATIONS:

The proposed development of the asbestos disposal and storage facility requires compliance with the EIA Regulations of 2017, promulgated in terms of NEMA (as amended). The proposed activity requires a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment as listed **Activity 31** under **Government Notice 983** and **Activity 4** under **Government Notice 984** are triggered.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternatives are defined in the NEMA EIA Regulations (2014) as *'different means of meeting the general purpose and requirements of the activity, which may include alternatives to: (a) the property on which or location where it is proposed to undertake the activity; (b) the type of activity to be undertaken; (c) the design or layout of the activity; (d) the technology to be used in the activity; (e) the operational aspects of the activity and (f) the option of not implementing the activity'*.

For the purposes of this Application the area had been screened for potential sites, based on available open mining voids. The proposed sites had been selected based on the distance from the waste source, accessibility and the proximity to potential future mining activities. The choice have further taken into account inputs provided by various specialists. The specialists consulted included Geo-Hydrology, Heritage, Freshwater and Ecology (Fauna and Flora).

Site Alternatives:

Three possible sites had been identified within the mining area that complies to the abovementioned criteria. Site 1 is the preferred site based on the above-mentioned criteria.

No-Go Alternative:

The No-Go Alternative implies that the current status quo will remain unchanged. Should the current status quo remain, De Beers would need to transport and dispose of the asbestos waste at the closest Class A waste treatment facility. The closest registered facility is Vissershok, located approximately 700km away.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

You are invited to participate in the S&EIA process. In terms of the EIA Regulations 2017, your attention is drawn to your responsibilities as an I&AP:

- In order to participate in this S&EIA process, register yourself on the project database (see attached **Registration Form**);
- Inform any other parties (neighbours, friends, colleagues, etc.) who may be interested and/or affected by the proposed project and encourage them to become involved;
- Ensure that any comments regarding the proposed project are submitted within the timeframes that have been approved or set by Department of Environmental Affairs; and,
- Disclose any direct business, financial, personal, or other interest, which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application for the proposed project.

The public participation process is being undertaken in accordance with the NEMA EIA Regulations, as amended.

In addition, a newspaper advertisement was published in the Plattelander newspaper; site notices have been placed on site. The Draft Environmental Assessment Report was delivered to the Springbok and Port Nolloth Public Libraries and a copy had been provided to the mine for public viewing. Stake holders are given the opportunity to review and comment on the BAR for a period of 30 days (**22 October – 22 November 2020**).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Following the inputs from and assessment of the various specialists it has been shown that the proposed development would have a very low impact and would be an acceptable activity within the area.

To summarise, the impacts associated with the proposed development of an asbestos waste disposal facility are generally considered to be local in nature and can be mitigated to a low level of significance in accordance to the mitigation measures recommended by the specialists. The current transformed state of the receiving environment ensure that the development of the proposed facility would not lead to any associated negative impacts. The proposed development may in fact lure new skill associated with the disposal activities to the area.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Environmental Assessment Practitioner is therefore of the opinion that the limited negative environmental impacts associated with the proposed development can be mitigated in accordance with the specification and recommendations of the specialists.

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF AN ASBESTOS WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY IN THE BUFFELS MARINE MINING RIGHT ON THE FARM TWEEPAD 176, NORTHERN CAPE

**DMR Ref: NCS 30/5/1/2/2/ (520) MR
REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET**

YOUR COMMENTS AND QUERIES ARE WELCOME
PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN BY 21 NOVEMBER 2020 BY POST, FAX OR EMAIL TO:
W NEL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING SERVICES
20 GLOXINIA STREET
WELGEMOED, 7530
TEL: 082 447 5255
FAX: 086 6047 737
E-MAIL: info@wnecs.co.za

Title (Prof/Mr/Mrs):

First Name:

Surname:

Organisation:

Postal Address:

Tel:

Fax:

Please formally register me as an interested and affected party so that I may receive further information and notifications during the BA process. (Please circle applicable):
YES NO

I would like to receive my notifications by (Please circle applicable): Letter/Fax/Email

Any Comments / Concerns would you like to raise at this stage of the proposed project? (Please use additional pages, if required):

Signature: