



Office 9 ; Moffett on Main Lifestyle Centre ; c/o Main Rd. & William Moffat ; Walmer, P.E., 6001
PO Box 16501, Emerald Hill, 6011
Republic of South Africa
Telephone : +27 (0) 41 367 5501
Facsimile : +27 (0) 86 657 7703
e-mail : rudi@algoacme.co.za



Verona Office Park Unit 1 ; c/o Malibongwe & MacArthur Streets ; Randburg
P.O. Box 1436 ; Fontainebleau ; 2032
Telephone : +27 (0) 11 721 3156
Telefax : +27 (0) 11 888 7303
e-mail : denzel@kalkor.co.za

SOUTHWELL LIMESTONE



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION : BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



mineral resources

Department:
Mineral Resources
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

This report is undertaken in compliance with Regulation 49 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, Act 28 of 2002. All text in *italics* within this report are quoted *verbatim* from the Standard Directive.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION IN RESPECT OF WHICH THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING REPORT IS SUBMITTED.

ITEM	COMPANY CONTACT DETAILS
Name	S.A. Lime Eastern Cape (Pty) Ltd
Contact Person	Mr Denzel Janse van Vuuren
Tel no	011 721 3156
Fax no:	011 888 7303
Cellular no	082 900 0774
E-mail address	denzel@chloorkop.co.za
Postal address	P.O. Box 1436 Fontainbleau Randburg 2032

ITEM	CONSULTANT CONTACT DETAILS (If applicable)
Name	Algoa Consulting Mining Engineers
Contact Person	Mr Rudi Gerber
Tel no	041 367 5501
Fax no:	086 657 7703
Cellular no	082 653 2568
E-mail address	rudi@algoacme.co.za
Postal address	P.O. Box 16501 Emerald Hill Port Elizabeth 6011

1. INTRODUCTION

S.A. Lime, Eastern Cape (PTY) LTD has submitted a mining right application for the mining of Dolomite, Limestone, Sand (General), Stone Aggregate, Gravel and Building Sand on Portions of Portion 17 and the Remainder of the Farm Lombard's Post, 289, Bathurst, within the Eastern Cape.

Algoa Consulting Mining Engineers (ACME) had been appointed as independent consultants who will be responsible for managing the mining right application in terms of Section 22 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act 28 of 2002) hereafter, MPRDA.

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to consult with all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the proposed project and provide them with the opportunity to receive information, comment, and raise concerns in relation to the mining right application process, as required in terms of Sections 16(4)(b) and 27(5)(b) of the MPRDA.

2. NEED FOR THE PROJECT

The proposed minerals to be mined are limestone for agricultural use and aggregates for basic construction materials in the area. Significant amount of mineral sources have been identified on the proposed farms. At present, the agricultural lime is sourced from the Western Province whilst the construction materials are sourced further away to either Port Alfred or Grahamstown. This project will therefore contribute to the Ndlambe Municipality economy, and in doing so, will contribute to the social upliftment initiatives in the area.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY

The minerals that will be mined are all found on the surface and only open cast mining methods will be deployed.

The existing gravel access road (DR01949) off the Regional R72 - road, will be used as access and as such, will minimise the impacts. No new roads will be necessary to be constructed.

The mining methods do not utilise electricity at all, as all machinery is diesel driven self-propelled vehicles.

The only water required in the mining process is that to be used for dust suppression. It is estimated that the water browser would consume a maximum of 10 kilolitres of water per day.

No further construction of infrastructure is required for this project.

Although the mining right area will be 605 hectares in extent, the mining operation would limit itself to an area of only 10 to 15 hectares at any given time. Of this, a third will be engaged with mine development, a third with mine production and a third with rehabilitation. The applicant will therefore not start with mine development in a fourth block, unless the first block has been rehabilitated. In this way, the mining operation has a limited impact on the land.

The planned end use of the land is to rehabilitate it so that it can be used for agriculture. Hence, the land after mining had ceased should be useable as agricultural land – also those parts of the existing land not being able to be utilised as such.

4. PROPOSED SITE

The site is situated at latitude 33° 32' 41" S and longitude 26° 41' 56" E in the south-eastern section of the Ndlambe Local Municipality within the Cacadu District Municipal Area in the Eastern Cape. The extent of the Mining area is 607,4324 hectares; of which 2,1482 hectares extend over Portion 1; 431,7535 hectares extend over Portion 17; and the remaining 173,5307 hectares extend over the Remainder of the farm Lombard's Post, 289, Bathurst.

The land is privately owned by Mr Colin Stirk (ID, 6111055009087), Mr Peter Keaton (ID, 5110205013080) and the Diocese of Grahamstown (Anglican Church of Southern Africa). No land claims are involved.

The mining area will be accessed via an existing road off the R72, between Port Elizabeth and Port Alfred. The proposed site is approximately 25km south west of Bathurst, 21km west of the coastal town Port Alfred and 26km north of Kenton-on-Sea. (see Figure 1).



Figure 1. Locality of S.A. Lime EC's Southwell Limestone as shown on a Google Earth™ image.

5. EXISTING STATUS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Regulation 49(b) of the MPRDA

5.1. Biophysical environment

a) Climate

The proposed mining area is located in a semi-arid area, with small occurrences of dry sub-humid conditions. Summer and winter rainfall regions meet in this area, but 59% of the rain falls in summer (October – March), with some rainfall in midsummer (December – January). The mean annual run-off in the area is approximately 600 mm per annum.

Temperatures vary from an average maximum of ~28°C in January, to an average minimum of ~8°C in July. The lowest monthly temperatures occur from June to August, with the highest average temperatures occurring between December to March.

The predominant wind direction is south-west to south-east in summer and westerly in winter.

b) Topography and Soils

The proposed mining area is located within an undulating topography and irregular hills, with a tendency to extend parallel to the coast and rise to various heights above the coast. The highest point is 340 m.a.m.s.l. at the Belton trigonometrical beacon on a short ridge running east – west, but this is only approximately 76m above the surrounding area.

Soils are moderately deep (>800mm), close to the coast and lowland areas, and become slightly shallower (<600mm) in inland areas. The soils are of moderate - to good agricultural value depending on the availability of water. These soils may have an affinity to erode if exposed to the atmosphere.

c) Geology

The geological map 3326 – Grahamstown, published by the Council of Geoscience provides a detailed description of the geology of the area. The geology of the area is predominantly aeolian sandstone of the Nanaga Formation of the Algoa Group, overlaying a conglomerate, calcareous sandstone layer of the Alexandria formation. The surrounding area consists of shale and quartzite of the Witteberg Formation.

d) Flora

The Subtropical Thicket Ecosystem Programme (STEP) defines the natural vegetation of the area as Subtropical Thicket vegetation type. The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) classified the vegetation of this area as least concern. This is due to the fact that most of the area has already been transformed by previous agriculture and mining activities.

The vegetation changes inland fairly suddenly to grassland especially on the coastal plain. The lower lying areas are covered with scattered bush or shrubs. The hills are also generally covered with grass, but often have a patch of bush clump savannah towards the sea side. *Euphorbia* and woody shrubs are common in the thicket vegetation, with *Rhus*, *Helichyrsom* and *Senecio* species being the most abundant herbs. Succulents such as *Crassula* species, *Aloe* species and *Vygies* are likely to occur in the area. The river valleys are most densely vegetated, but are restricted in size.

e) Fauna

The occurrence of fauna is largely related to habitat availability. Small mammals, such as duikers, steenbok, rodents, reptiles, mostly snakes, and numerous bird species are likely to be associated with these respective habitats.

f) Surface Water

The mine area is situated in the south-eastern part of the Fish to Tsitsikamma water catchment area. The area is rich with surface supplies of water. A number of rivers enter the Ndlambe Municipal area. From east to west they are the East Kleinmond, the Wes-Kleinmond, Kowie, Kariega, Bushmans, and Boknes Rivers. The Kleinmonds, the Kowie, the Kariega and the Bushmans originate outside the area, the others all within the area. Only the larger rivers keep their mouths open continuously and are tidal for some distance. These are the Kowie for ~ 20km, the Kariega for ~18km, and the Bushmans for 30km. The Bushmans River is the second longest tidal river in South Africa. The average rainfall for the area is 600mm p.a. but the water carried by the larger rivers are derived from outside the area.

g) Groundwater

The 1 : 500 000 scale hydrogeological maps indicates the aquifer types in broader Bokkeveld and Witteberg Groups to be fractured. These fractured aquifers play a role both quantitatively and qualitatively in the occurrence of groundwater, causing borehole yields and chemistry to vary widely. In general, these aquifers cannot be economically exploited as they generally possess low to moderate yields and are mostly saline.

h) Heritage

The Ndlambe area is home to various heritage and tourism sites, however, no significant heritage resources (archaeological, fossils) are known to occur on the farm. A comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessment will be done.

5. 2. Cultural environment

The cultural environment indicates the majority of the population of this area to be 20 – 64 years of age. This age group is considered as people who are of working age, which implies a high potential for economic growth. It is however estimated that the majority of the people are living in poverty, and earn less than R2500 per month.

Gender distribution is about equal, with 51.46% females and 48.54% males. This suggests a stable pattern.

5. 3. Socio-economic environment

The population of the Ndlambe Municipality is currently estimated at approximately 82 252 people, with 80% of the people being Black African, 12% White and 7% Coloured.

The area surrounding the proposed mining area is rural and the predominant land use is for agricultural purposes, both livestock – and crop farming. Agriculture, tourism and recreational sectors drive the Ndlambe Municipality economic sector.

I agree with the description in regard to the existing:

☐ ***Biophysical environment;***

☐ ***Cultural;***

☐ ***Social-economic***

6. ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL IMPACTS

Regulation 49(c) of the MPRDA

The possibility that the proposed mine will impact on the following :

6.1. Biophysical environment

Impacts on the biophysical environmental are identified below.

a) Flora and fauna

The proposed mining area is located on semi-transformed land and is not located in a Critical Biodiversity Area. No significant impacts on flora and fauna are anticipated.

b) Soil and agricultural potential of the land

The farms are located in an area of medium agricultural potential. The mining area will be rehabilitated so that it can continue to be used for agricultural purposes. Although the mining areas affecting the immediate agricultural land may have a significant impact, it is only of a temporary nature and confined to small localised area. The latent impacts, however, due to the mining on the agricultural potential is considered to be of low significance, seeing that rehabilitation would restore the agricultural potential.

c) Dust and Noise

Earthmoving equipment, such as excavators, bulldozers and front-end loaders, will be used to dig and load the material onto trucks. Considering that the size of the proposed mining area will be small in relation to the size of the farm and the local landscape, no significant impacts regarding dust and noise is anticipated. Under both the Mine Health & Safety Act and the Minerals & Petroleum Resources Development Act, the applicant is obliged to introduce measures to mitigate the impacts of dust and noise to standards set by legislation.

d) Water resources

Limited water from a borehole will be used for dust suppression. The area does not contain a significant aquifer, and the proposed mining activities is located more than 50m away from a water course. No significant impacts on water sources are therefore anticipated.

e) Visual

The proposed mine will not be visible from public roads, hence no significant visual impacts are anticipated.

f) Roads

The existing gravel road (DR01949) will have to be maintained to meet its original design specifications.

The low frequency of traffic from the additional trucks using this road to access the proposed mine would be of low significance impact.

g) Heritage Impacts

No significant heritage resources (archaeological artefacts, fossils) are known to occur on the farm. No significant impacts to heritage resources are anticipated. However, both paleontological - and archaeological impact assessments would be conducted prior to mining has started all in accordance with the guidelines of the South African Heritage Research Agency.

6.2. Social & Cultural Impacts

Permanent employment of approximately 3 local inhabitants may occur, increasing their financial status and social upliftment in the process. Approximately 42 indirect employment opportunities will be created.

Concerns/comments from I&AP on how the following will potentially be impacted on by the proposed mining operation :

- ***Biophysical environment***

- ***Cultural***

- ***Socio-economic***

**7. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED LAND USE / DEVLEOPMENT
ALTERNATIVES**

The current land uses of the proposed mining area is agricultural use.

The “no-go” - option would be considered as an alternative land use option. This implies that mining operations would not commence and therefore would forego an opportunity to provide Aglime and building & construction material to customers in the area. This would impede social upliftment of the neighbouring communities, as required by the MPRDA. Lastly, should this mining venture not continue then the existing scars created by previous mining activities would remain and an opportunity to develop the land would be forfeited.



Office 9 ; Moffett on Main Lifestyle Centre ; c/o Main Rd. & William Moffat ; Walmer, P.E., 6001

PO Box 16501, Emerald Hill, 6011

Republic of South Africa

Telephone : +27 (0) 41 367 5501

Facsimile : +27 (0) 86 657 7703

e-mail : rudi@algoacme.co.za

Ref. : S.A. LIME, EASTERN CAPE , SOUTHWELL LIMESTONE

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 page :

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

or

I have no comments /objections on the proposed project.

Signed :

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 :