

APPLICANT: SISHEN IRON ORE COMPANY (PTY) LTD:

ATTENTION: INTERESTED AND/OR AFFECTED PARTY / COMMENTING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS IN SUPPORT OF A WASTE MANAGEMENT LICENCE CLOSURE APPLICATION

1. Introduction

Notice is hereby given that Sishen Iron Ore Company (Pty) Ltd is applying for a Waste Management Licence (WML) for the closure of four (4) historic Borrow Pits developed in support of the Sishen Western Expansion Project (SWEP). The borrow pits are located on Portions 1 and 2 of the farm Fritz 540; Portion 1 and Remaining Extent (RE) of the farm Gamagara 541 and the Remaining Extent of the farm Nooitgedacht 469 in the Gamagara Local Municipality. The borrow pits were developed to source material for the construction of relocated infrastructure due to the SWEP. The borrow pits were also used for the disposal of construction (inert) waste post excavation.

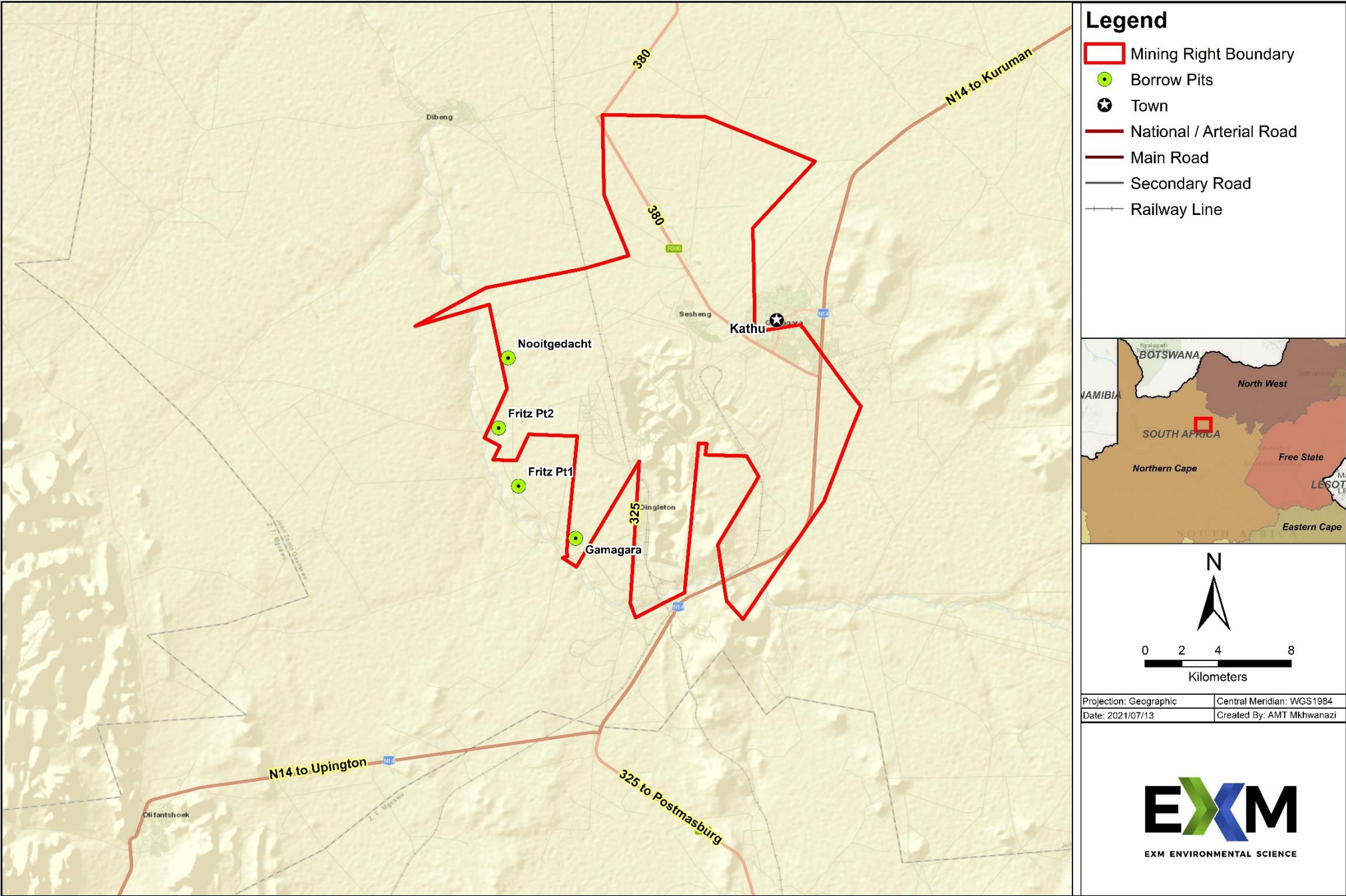
The extraction of material from the borrow pits were authorised in terms of Section 39 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA). Four separate Waste Management Licences (WML) were subsequently issued after excavation has stopped. The WMLs were issued by the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation with respect to Activity 9 under Category A of GNR 718 "*The disposal of inert waste to land in excess of 25 tons*", in terms of the National Environmental Management Waste Act (No. 59 of 2008) (NEM:WA).

SIOC is applying for the closure of the waste management activities in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (No. 59 of 2008) (NEM: WA) for Activity 14 under Category A of GNR 921: *The decommissioning of a facility for a waste management activity listed in Category A.*

The application is supported by a Basic Impact Assessment (BA) process in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation (GNR 326 of 2017). SIOC will also apply for a Closure Certificate from the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) in terms of Section 43 of the MPRDA the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (No. 28 of 2002) for the closure of the sites.

This letter serves to **notify you as a landowner, lawful occupier, interested or affected party of the environmental approval processes that is being sought.** EXM Environment Advisory (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as the Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioners responsible for administrating the abovementioned applications.

<p><u>PURPOSE:</u></p> <p>This document serves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Notify you of the applications for authorisation. ➤ Describe the application processes. ➤ Inform you as to how you can provide input into the process. 	<p><u>YOUR ROLE:</u></p> <p>As an interested and affected party, your role is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ask questions, raise issues and concerns. ➤ Review and provide comment on environmental reports
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Sishen SWEP Borrow Pit: Locality Plan

2. Environmental Approvals Required

2.1 National Environmental Management Waste Act (NO. 59 of 2008) (NEM:WA)

In terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (No. 59 of 2008) (NEM:WA), waste management activities that are listed in regulations published under NEM:WA may not be undertaken without a Waste Management License (WML). The listed activities for which a WML is required are contained in Government Notice (GN 921). Category A activities require a WML and that a Basic Impact Assessment (BA) process must be conducted and Category B activities require a WML and full EIA and Scoping process.

Four separate WML's (as per references below) were issued by the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (DENC) with respect to Activity 9 under Category A of GNR 718 "*The disposal of inert waste to land in excess of 25 tons*" at the borrow pits after mining was ceased:

1. Permit Number: NC/JTG/SISH3/2012 - Portion 1 of the farm Fritz 540.
2. Permit Number: NC/JTG/SISH4/2012 - Portion 2 of the farm Fritz 540.
3. Permit Number: NC/JTG/SISH5/2012 - RE of the farm Nooitgedacht 469.
4. Permit Number: NC/JTG/SISH6/2012 - RE and Portion 1 of the farm Gamagara 541.

The closure of the borrow pits will trigger listed activity 14 in Category A of GNR 921: *The decommissioning of a facility for a waste management activity listed in Category A or Category B of this schedule.*

Therefore, a BA process will be followed in terms of the EIA regulations (GNR 627) for the closure of the waste management activities related to the borrow pits. The BA will be supported by a closure plan developed in terms of Appendix 5 of the EIA regulations.

2.2 Minerals & Petroleum Resources Development Act (No. 28 of 2008) (MPRDA)

SIOC was granted authorisation by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) and approved EMPr (DMRE REF: NC 30/5/1/3/2/1/2003 EM) on the 6th of May 2011 in terms of Section 39 of the MPRDA in respect of the borrow pits for the extraction/mining of aggregates and ballast.

An application for a closure certificate in terms of Section 43 of the MPRDA will be submitted to the Regional Manager which will be supported by the required information, programmes, plans, and reports prescribed in terms of the MPRDA and NEMA.

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

A Basic Impact Assessment (BA) is a study that is undertaken to determine the effect that the rehabilitation activities will have on the environment and surrounding communities.

Basic Assessment Process

The BA Process involves the identification of the project impacts taking into consideration issues raised by the Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) and specialist (where applicable). IAPs are identified during the public participation process which involve notifications and advertisements.

The findings of the impact assessment and the proposed measures identified to mitigate such impacts will be documented in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR). The findings are circulated to IAPs for review. IAPs will be notified via email and/or SMS when the draft report is available for public comment.

Rehabilitation and Closure Plan

The Rehabilitation and Closure Plan contains the actions and strategies that will be implemented during the rehabilitation of the site. The measures will be undertaken in order to achieve the closure objectives in support of the EA and Closure application.



4. Public Participation Process

A public participation process is undertaken as part of the WML application and BA process. The process is conducted in terms of the NEMA EIA regulations (GNR. 627 of 2017) as well as the Regulations regarding measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 relating to National Environmental Management Permits and Licences (GN. 650 of 2020).

Stakeholders are offered the opportunity to be informed about the application, raise comments, issues or concerns and provide input into the application and reports.

Interested & affected parties are invited to participate in the environmental process. You can provide input by:

- Registering as an interested & affected party (IAP);
- Asking questions and raising initial concerns by completing and returning the response sheet (attached);
- Reviewing and providing comment on reports.

All registered I&APs will be informed when all the documents will be available for review.

Focus group sessions will be arranged with the IAPs, if sufficient interest is shown by the relevant stakeholders. Due to restrictions posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, no physical meeting will be held. The meeting will be held either on Microsoft teams or a similar platform such as zoom. A date will be communicated to the registered IAPs. Meeting minutes will be generated and distributed to the I&APs.

Should you have questions or require more information, **please contact:**

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Yours sincerely

Trevor Hallatt

EXM Environmental Advisory (Pty) Ltd

SISHEN IRON ORE COMPANY (PTY) LTD ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL PROCESSES: CLOSURE OF HISTORIC BORROW PITS ON FARMS FRITZ 540, GAMAGARA 541, NOOITGEDACHT 469, NORTHERN CAPE	
Name:	
Address:	
Telephone/cell phone:	
Fax:	
E-mail:	
Date:	
Signature:	

If you know of others who should be informed of this application, please provide us with their contact details:

Name:	
Address:	
Telephone/cell phone:	
Fax:	
E-mail:	

ISSUES, CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS