



Prime Resources (Pty) Ltd
The Workshop 70–7th Avenue Parktown North 2193
PO Box 2316 Parklands 2121
T +27 11 447 4888 F +27 86 604 2219 E prime@resources.co.za
www.resources.co.za



SCOPING PHASE INFORMATION BOOKLET

Ventersburg Natural Gas Bulk Sampling Project

Gold One Africa Limited

**APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION TO
CONDUCT BULK SAMPLING IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (NEMA, NO. 107
OF 1998)**

GOLD ONE
AFRICA LIMITED

This document summarises the currently available information. Registered Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) will be notified of the availability of the EIA Phase Information Booklet.

The Scoping Report is currently available for public review and comment and **can be requested via email (prime@resources.co.za) or can be downloaded from the Prime Resources website (www.resources.co.za).**

You are invited to review the Scoping Report and/or this Information Booklet.

Please submit comments by 26 June 2022.

All comments submitted will be included into the final documentation to be sent to the Petroleum Agency of South Africa (PASA) for consideration, and to make a recommendation to the Minister of Mineral Resources for the decision-making process.

In accordance with the POPI Act, No. 4 of 2013, information provided by IAPs will be processed by Prime Resources insofar as is necessary to fulfill the abovementioned legal obligations. For further information, please contact the EAP.

Background

Gold One Africa Limited (Gold One Africa) has applied in terms of Section 20 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Developments Act, 2002 (MPRDA, Act No. 28 of 2002) to undertake bulk sampling of natural gas near Hennenman and Ventersburg, in the Free State Province. Gold One Africa is the holder of an Exploration Right (12/3/214 ER) which covers various farms situated in the Magisterial Districts of Hennenman, Virginia and Ventersburg in the Free State.

In order to proceed with bulk sampling, Gold One Africa is applying for an Environmental Authorisation for activities listed in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (GNR982 of 2014). All components of bulk sampling are within the boundaries of an existing mining right held by Gold One Africa.

The application area is situated 4.6 km southwest of Phomolong, 6.5 km south of Hennenman and 11.2 km northwest of Ventersburg (refer to map on last page). The objective of the proposed bulk sampling is to identify whether there is any economically exploitable and commercially quantifiable natural gas. If viable, this energy source can be utilized to generate electricity for Gold One Africa's approved mining activities.

The proposed Ventersburg Natural Gas Bulk Sampling Project will take place at an existing borehole (AFO-024), which was drilled during previous prospecting activities. Bulk sampling of natural gas will be conducted over a 2-year period by means of using a blower / portable compression unit. No fracking will be involved.

It is proposed that a high-efficiency flare equipped with a flow meter will be installed at the existing well. The flare will combust methane flowing from the well for approximately 2 weeks. Thereafter, a sample will be collected from venting holes via low-pressure pipes from the venting well leading to a portable compressor. Gas samples will be compressed into individual high-pressure cylinders for storage and transported to the Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa (NECSA) for analyses.

The extent of the proposed sampling will require a 70 m x 50 m test rig surface area which will be securely fenced off. Access to the test site will be gained via the existing farm road and a new dirt road of approximately 300 m. Other than the establishment of the fence, no construction activities will be required for the proposed bulk gas sampling project. Equipment such as the generators and compression unit will be placed upon pre-cast concrete plinths. Upon completion of the bulk sampling, equipment and plinths will be removed, and the test rig area and the dirt road will be rehabilitated to its pre-exploration state.

Locality

The proposed bulk sampling is situated on Portion 1 of the Farm Vogels Rand 720, within the Lejweleputswa District Municipality and Matjhabeng Local Municipality.

The general surrounding area is highly developed and land uses almost exclusively comprise of agricultural fields.

Please refer to the map on the final page.

Regulatory requirements

South Africa's main environmental law is the National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA). NEMA contains Regulations, which include lists of activities (listed activities), which have been identified as activities that are potentially harmful to the environment. Before undertaking any of these activities, a company is required to apply for Environmental Authorisation (EA) for these activities. Depending on the nature of these activities, a *Basic Assessment* (BA) or *Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment* (EIA) process will be required to support the application for EA.

Environmental Authorisation (EA)

An EA in terms of NEMA is required for the following activities as listed in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations (GNR982 of 2014) and listing notices GNR983, GNR984 and GNR985 of 2014, as amended.

- Listing Notice 2 (GNR 984 of 2014, as amended), Activity 5

The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the processing of a petroleum resource, including the beneficiation or refining of gas, oil or petroleum products with an installed capacity of 50 cubic metres or more per day...

- Listing Notice 2 (GNR 984 of 2014, as amended), Activity 18

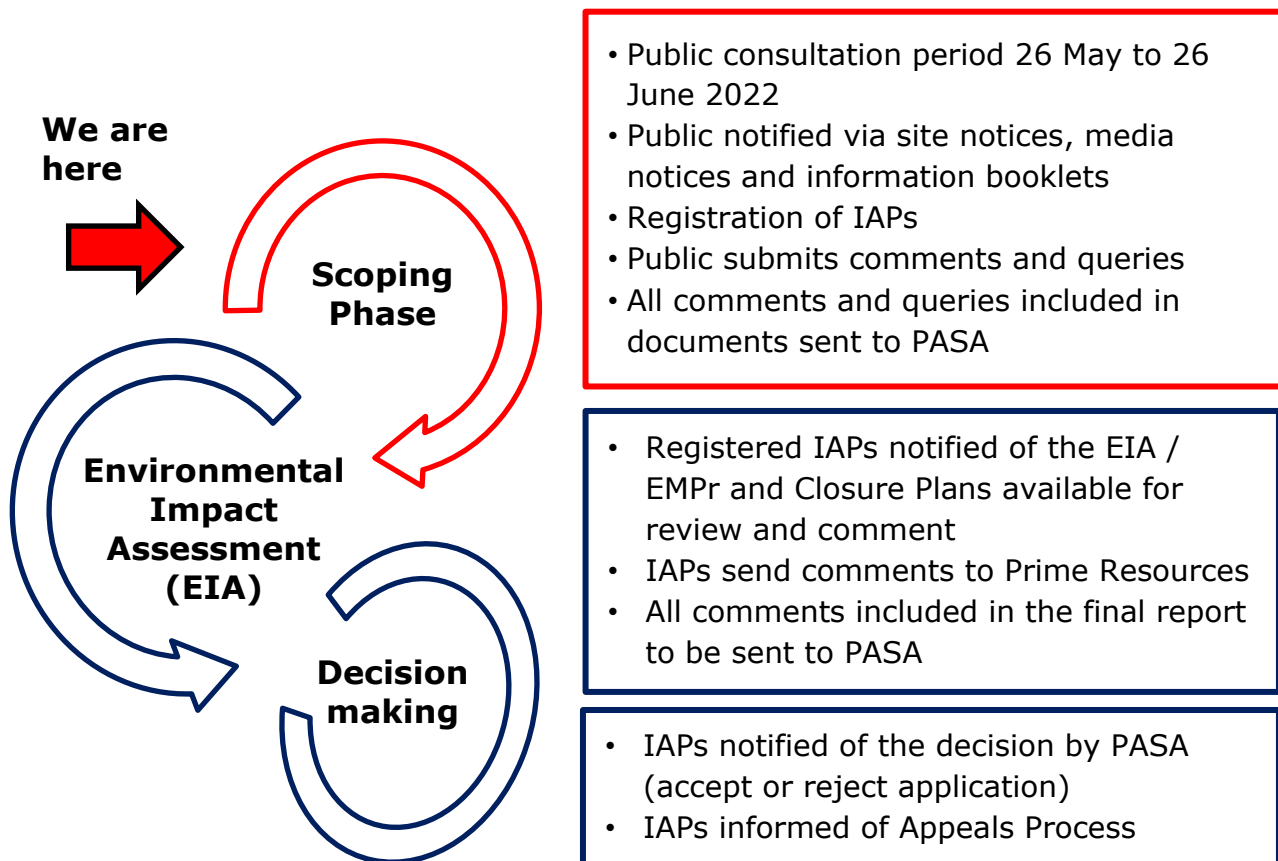
Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires an exploration right in terms of section 79 of the MPRDA, as well as any other applicable activity ... required to exercise the exploration right...

The listed activities triggered require that a full Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process be followed. The two phases, Scoping and EIA, each have a 30-day public participation period, allowing review of documents and raising of comments / questions / concerns – which need to be included in the final documentation submitted to the authorities.

Water Use License

A Water Use License in terms of the National Water Act, No. 36 of 1998 may be required for the proposed project. A pre-application enquiry has been submitted to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).

Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process



The Petroleum Agency SA (PASA) is the Competent Authority for this project, will decide whether to grant Environmental Authorisation for the activities.

Prime Resources has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to conduct the regulated environmental processes for the project. Independent specialists have been appointed to undertake studies for the project. Neither Prime Resources nor these specialists have any vested interest in the project proceeding.

Potential impacts on the environment and the community

The key potential issues, which will be investigated further, were identified with the aid of the National Screening Tool. Potential issues include:

- Impacts on agricultural potential
- Impacts on terrestrial biodiversity
- Palaeontological sensitivity
- Civil aviation theme.

Register as an Interested and Affected Party (IAP)

If you would like to register as an IAP, please submit your contact details to Prime Resources via SMS (to 076 403 3386) or email (prime@resources.co.za). Please include the subject line “**VB Gas**” and indicate your interest.

Opportunity to comment

The Scoping Report can be downloaded from www.resources.co.za during the 30-day public commenting period, from 26 May to 26 June 2022. The Scoping Report can be provided via email upon request, and is available for review at the following locations:

- Phomolong Public Library, Phomolong, Hennenman
- Hennenman Public Library, Hennenman

All comments regarding the proposed project are welcome. In particular we would like to invite comments or suggestions on:

- How the project might affect you and your community
- Information on any environmental or social features that may have been overlooked
- Suggestions to lessen any anticipated environmental or social impacts
- Suggestions as to the standard you feel the site should be rehabilitated to

Please ensure that you submit your comments or concerns to Prime Resources by 26 June 2022.

- Telephone: 011 447 4888
- SMS / WhatsApp: 076 403 3386
- Email: prime@resources.co.za

