

# NOTICE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

In terms of the:

Part 1 AND Part 2 of Regulation 29 (GN982, 2014, as amended);

National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (NEMWA)

National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and associated  
2017 EIA regulations and listed activities;

National Water Act, Act 36 and 36 of 1998 (NWA) and associated listed activities.

**DMR Ref No: NW30/5/1/2/2/398MR (Extension with partial inclusion of 397MR)**

**NW30/5/1/2/2/397MR (Partial Abandonment)**

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## PROPOSED WONDERSTONE – DRIEKUIL MINING RIGHT CONSOLIDATION PROJECT, NEAR OTTOSDAL, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

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**PROJECT NAME:** Wonderstone – Driekuil Mining Right Consolidation Project

**APPLICANT:** Wonderstone Limited.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Wonderstone Ltd. (“WST” or “the mine”) is applying for the extension of their approved Converted Mining Right (398MR) (CMR) area by adding portions of the approved New Order Mining Right (397MR) (NOMR) to the CMR area, with the additional inclusion of a section of Portion 8 of the farm Gestoptefontein 349 IO. At the same time, certain portions of approved areas of the NOMR will be abandoned.

Project 1: The mine will also be applying for new mining activities as an expansion to the existing WST. The mine will continue mining from the existing Wonderstone Opencast Pit and proposes to include an additional five (5) mining blocks -. The mineral to be mined is Pyrophyllite, an aluminium silicate of the phyllosilicate family. The Pyrophyllite is mined by means of opencast mining, with a hydraulic hammer mounted on an excavator that separates the stone natural partings.

Project 2: WST would like to combine its existing mining rights into a single, consolidated right, in an attempt to ease the administrative duties and compliance requirements associated with multiple mining authorisations per site. The mining rights combined (i.e. CMR and NOMR) cover an area of approximately 4 750ha of which just under 30ha has been disturbed by mining activities to date. A large portion of the northern section of the WST mining area on the farm Gestoptefontein 349IO has been rehabilitated.

Project 3: The Application will also include the consolidation and update of the current EMPr’s in terms of Regulation 34, read with Regulation 37, of the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014.

**LOCATION AND SIZE:** Wonderstone Mine is located outside Ottosdal, approximately 300km west of Johannesburg in the Northwest Province and is located in the Tswaing Local Municipality under jurisdiction of the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality. The mining operation takes place on Portion 44 of the farm Gestoptefontein 349 IO and falls within the quaternary catchment C31C in the Lower Vaal Water Management Area (WMA). The proposed project will involve an area of approximately 2 000ha of which approximately 20ha will be new activities only. The proposed Wonderstone – Driekuil Mining Right Consolidation Project will take place on the following farm portions:

Portions 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, remainder of Portion 15 (a portion of Portion 1), 20, 24 (a portion of Portion 5) and 40 (a portion of Portion 41 now known as Portion 44) of the Farm Gestoptefontein 349IO; Remainder of portion 1, 2, 4, 7 (a portion of portion A), and the Remainder of the Farm Driekuil 280IP.

**APPLICATION BASED ON NEMA:** Project 2: A Section 102 of the MPRDA Amendment Application will be submitted to apply for the extension of the Converted Mining Right area by adding Portions of the approved NOMR, and one additional portion of land (portion 8 of the farm Gestoptefontein) areas to the Converted Mining Right area. At the same time the additional proposed areas of the NOMR, portions of the approved portions will be abandoned to allow for future mining. The abovementioned amendment of the Mining Rights, which requires a Section 102 of the MPRDA process, triggers a specific Listed Activities in terms of NEMA and accordingly forms part of this Consolidated environmental Authorisation Process. Project 3: The updating of the EMPr will be followed in terms of Regulation 34, read with Regulation 37, of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014. Project 1: In terms of 24D of the NEMA, as read with the EIA Regulations Process in terms of the NEMA Regulations 326 of 2017 (Regulation 324, Regulation 325 and Regulation 327) an Environmental Scoping Report (ESR) and Environmental Impact Assessment Process is required to be undertaken for the proposed NEW activities. The following listed activities are triggered by the proposed development: NEMA: Government Notice 327, Listing Notice 1: Activity 12, 13, 19, 24, and 21D. NEMA Government Notice 325, Listing Notice 2: Activity 6 and 15. NEMA Government Notice 324, Listing Notice 3: Activity, 4, 10, 12, and 14. NEMWA: Regulation 921, as amended by Regulation 633 dated 24 July 2015: Waste Management Activity, Category B, Activity 11. Regulatory Authority: Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), North West Region (Klerksdorp office). Application will also be undertaken in terms of the NWA, for

various water uses which include Section 21(c&i); and Section 21(g), including the required exemptions in terms of GN704.identified an applied for. The intention of this process is to ensure full compliance to the latest promulgated NWA and associated regulations.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS:** In terms of: The NEMA amendments of 2017 (Regulation 326, 324 and Regulation 327), and the NWA and associated listed activities;

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF ADVERTISEMENT:** 20 April 2022 (note that the DSR will be available for review from 29 April – 01 June 2022). This report is available electronically from the Stakeholder Consultation Specialists (Batho Earth).

**INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT:** EnviroGistics (Pty) Ltd.

Parties wishing to register as Interested and Affected Parties (“I&APs”), who wish to participate by contributing comments, or require additional information, should please register or submit their comments in writing. All relevant comments will be incorporated into the final EMPr. To register as an I&AP or obtain more information about the project, please contact:

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