

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

GOLD ONE AFRICA LIMITED VENTERSBURG PROJECT

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS



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1. INTRODUCTION

Gold One Africa Limited (“Gold One”) holds five contiguous prospecting rights (DMR Reference: FS 10140 PR, FS 10228 PR, FS 10229 PR, FS 10087 PR and FS 10080 PR,) (Prospecting Rights) over various farm portions (between the towns of Hennenman and Ventersburg in the Free State) and proposes to develop an underground mining operation - the proposed Ventersburg Project.

Gold One is pursuing an application for a Mining Right in terms of Section 22 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, No. 28 of 2002 (MPRDA) for the areas associated with the Prospecting Rights for submission to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) as well as an application for 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) in support of the Mining Right application.

2. LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Environmental authorisation in terms of the NEMA is required for the the following activities listed in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations (GNR982 of 2014) and 2014 listing notices (GNR983, GNR984 and GNR985):

Notice No.	Activity No.	Applies to:
GNR983	13	Facilities for the storage of water
	24	Roads wider than 8 m
	25	Facilities for the treatment of effluent
	28	Transformation of agricultural land to industrial land use
	30	Triggering a listed activity in terms of GNR985
GNR984	4	Storage of dangerous goods
	6	Activities resulting in the generation of emissions and effluent requiring a licence
	21	
	28	
	9	Infrastructure for the transportation of water
	10	Infrastructure for the transportation of effluent
15	Clearing more than 20 ha of indigenous vegetation	
17	Activities and associated infrastructure requiring a Mining Right	
GNR985	12	Clearing more than 300 m ² of indigenous vegetation within an endangered ecosystem

The listed activities require that a Scoping and EIA process be undertaken. An application for Environmental Authorisation has been submitted to the DMR. The Scoping and EIA process will be conducted as per Regulations 21 and 23 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014.

Water uses associated with the proposed Ventersburg Project require licensing in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act, No. 36 of 1998 and as such a Water Use Licence Application will be submitted to the Department of Water and Sanitation. The following water uses apply to the Ventersburg project:

- Section 21(a): Abstraction of water from boreholes;
- Section 21 (a) and (j): Dewatering of the underground workings;

- Section 21 (c) and (i): Activities and facilities with pollution potential located within 500 m of a wetland;
- Section 21 (f): Discharging of treated water into the environment; and
- Section 21 (g): Activities and facilities with pollution potential.

A Waste Management Licence application in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, No. 59 of 2008 was submitted to the DMR for the following activity:

- Category B, activity no. 11 - The establishment of a residue stockpile or residue deposit resulting from activities which require a Mining Right in terms of the MPRDA.

An Atmospheric Emission Licence application in terms of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, No. 39 of 2004 will be submitted via the online South African Atmospheric Emission Licensing and Inventory Portal for the following listed activities:

- Subcategory 4.17: Precious and Base Metal Production and Refining; and
- Subcategory 4.2: Combustion Installations.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Ventersburg Project will comprise of an access shaft and ventilation shaft, processing plant, waste rock dump, tailings storage facility and associated infrastructure such as power lines, substation, access roads and water management infrastructure. The extent of the proposed surface infrastructure is approximately 250 ha. The life of mine is expected to be 17 years including 4 years for construction. Planned commencement of construction is estimated to be in 2021. After operations cease, decommissioning will commence. A period of 1 year has been assumed for decommissioning and rehabilitation.

4. POTENTIAL IMPACTS IDENTIFIED

The potential impacts which may occur due to the Ventersburg Project going ahead are listed below. These impacts will be further assessed during the EIA process:

- The noise generated from the continuous processing activities at the plant and the ventilation shaft fans may be a nuisance to surrounding residents at night.
- Dust from the tailings storage facility and gaseous emissions from the processing plant and ventilation shaft may result in a decrease in the ambient air quality.
- The tailings storage facility, waste rock dump, ventilation shaft and processing plant are potential sources of radiation which may result in increased exposure to surrounding residents.
- Loss of agricultural land where the proposed surface infrastructure will be constructed.
- Destruction of vegetation which may contain species of conservation concern in the area where the tailings storage facility is to be located.
- Contaminated stormwater runoff from the mining area may pollute wetlands, soil and/or groundwater.
- Underground mining may negatively impact the groundwater quality.
- Stormwater runoff diverted around the mining area may cause erosion.
- Lighting and tall structures such as the headgear and the tailings storage facility will change the landscape character and may cause visual intrusion.
- Increased traffic on the R70 may result in nuisance to road users.
- Possible influx of job seekers into the area.
- The project will result in employment opportunities.

5. LOCATION

Surface infrastructure is planned to be located on the RE of Vogels Rand 720; RE and Portions 1, 2 and 3 of Klippan 77; La Rochelle 760; Ptn 1 of Uitsig 723; and RE and Ptn 1 of Whites 747 between the towns of Hennenman and Ventersburg in the Free State Province. Refer to the map on the following page.

6. OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

As potentially affected individuals, we would like to hereby notify you of the availability of the Scoping Report for review and comment. The Scoping Report can be viewed from 7 February 2017 on the Prime Resources website (www.resources.co.za), at the Phomolong Public Library, at the Hennenman Public Library, or a copy can be provided via email upon request (contact details below).

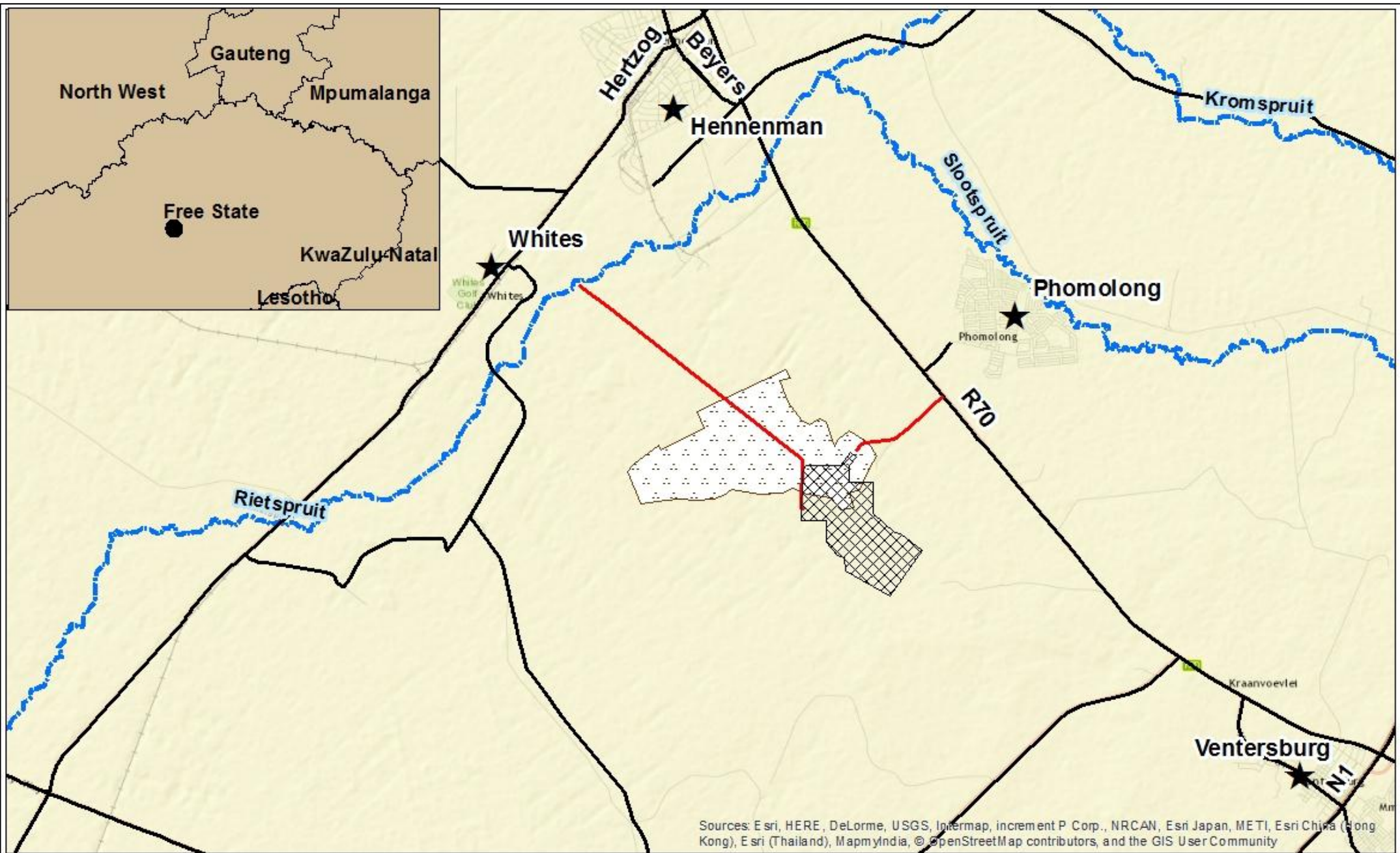
You are invited to attend a public meeting, where more information about the project will be provided. Public meetings will be held on Wednesday 22 February 2017 at the Kheleng Secondary School in Phomolong at 15h30 and at the Hennenman Community Hall at 19h00. You are also welcome to contact Prime Resources directly (contact details below) should you have questions or wish to comment.

Please note that the deadline for providing comments is **9 March 2017**. For more information or to provide comments please contact Ms Amanda Mooney from Prime Resources, at:

Tel: 011 447 4888

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-  Ventersburg Project Area
-  Underground mining area
-  Towns
-  Roads
-  Rivers

