

APPLICATION FOR A PROSPECTING RIGHT – WITKOP FLUORSPAR MINE (PTY) LTD

VERDOORST KOLK No.342 KENHARDT RD, NORTHERN CAPE

1. INTRODUCTION

Witkop Fluorspar Mine (Pty) Ltd has submitted an application for a Prospecting Right in terms of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, Act 28 of 2002 (MPRDA) over Portions 1, 2 and the Remaining Extent of the farm Verdoorst Kolk No. 342.

The proposed Prospecting Right Area comprises 8,223.3736 hectares and is located between the towns of Kenhardt and Brandvlei, within the Hantam Municipality of the Northern Cape Province (Figures 1 and 2).

This application for a Prospecting Right is subject to an application for an Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Act 107 of 1998. In addition to this, the project will also require a waste management license in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (NEM:WA), Act 59 of 2008 and possibly a water use license in terms of the National Water Act, Act No. 36 of 1998 (NWA).

Cabanga has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to complete the necessary environmental applications.

2. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document (the Background Information Document or "BID") has been compiled to provide you, the Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), with information on the proposed project and the associated environmental authorisation process.

You are hereby invited to participate freely and submit any questions or information you feel may contribute to the process. All comments received will be recorded and addressed as part of the environmental impact assessment process.

Please complete the attached questionnaire and return to us on Fax: 011 794 6946 or michelle@cabangaenvironmental.co.za to register as an I&AP. Alternatively call us on Tel: 011 794 7534.

3. PROJECT OVERVIEW

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Mineral: | Gypsum |
| Prospecting Method: | TLB Mounted Auger Drilling (see example in Plate 1) |
| Depth of drilling: | Maximum 5 m |
| Life of Project: | 2 years |



**Plate 1: Example of a TLB mounted auger drill
(Source: <http://augerorqueusa.com>)**

Prospecting activities will consist of both non-invasive and invasive techniques. Non-invasive techniques will include desktop investigations of available data, reconnaissance mapping and site visits.

Invasive activities will include specific surface sampling as well as widespread TLB mounted auger drilling to allow access to both the powdery surface gypsum as well as the secondary and older layer of crystalline gypsum, if any. The initial, primary drilling program will involve drilling 50 holes across the prospecting area to a maximum depth of 5m (Figure 3).

Based on the results of the primary drilling, a secondary drilling program will be undertaken on a 300m x 300m grid (approx. 200 additional holes).

Associated activities include:

- Clearance of vegetation in areas where drilling is proposed
- Relocation of species of conservation concern in areas to be disturbed (assumed at this stage).
- Establishment of a site camp, laydown area and storage site. Including fuel storage and portable chemical toilets.
- Rehabilitation: The auger holes will be concurrently rehabilitated, by backfilling with material (drilling mud, soils and topsoils where applicable).
- No formal roads will be constructed; farm tracks will be used as far as possible.

The results of the Prospecting investigations will be used to quantify the gypsum reserve and the economic feasibility of mining these in future. Please note that this application relates to Prospecting activities only and NOT Mining. Should the results of the Prospecting be favourable, a full Mining Right Application and applicable environmental authorisation will be required.

Service Requirements:

- Waste will be collected in bins for disposal at a licensed Municipal facility.
- Water for potable use will be brought onto site, no abstraction from groundwater or surface water resources will be required during Prospecting.
- Portable toilets will be provided for use by personnel, and will be emptied by a reputable contractor for disposal at a licensed Municipal facility.
- No accommodation will be provided on site, all personnel will make use of accommodation in town (Brandvlei or Kenhardt).

4. ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS

An application for an integrated environmental authorisation has been submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR), as required in terms of NEMA and NEM:WA.

As the application relates to Prospecting, a Basic Assessment process will be followed. The steps in this process are briefly outlined below:

- **Public Participation**
 - Identify I&APs
 - Circulate BIDs, place site notices and advertisements
- **Basic Assessment and Environmental Management Plan:**
 - Desktop investigations of the baseline environment
 - Groundtruthing by means of site investigations
 - Identify potential impacts for further consideration
 - Impacts are rated and mitigation measures proposed where possible
 - Monitoring programmes proposed to ensure mitigation measures are efficient;
 - Report is compiled and put out for public review for a period of 30 days. Comments from the public review and comment period are incorporated into the final report for submission to DMR

90 Days

- **Decision**
 - DMR makes a decision on the application and issues a record of decision
 - All I&APs are notified of the outcome of application, and their right to appeal.

The report will be compiled in the format prescribed by the DMR, in accordance with NEMA and NEM:WA (integrated application).

The overall timeframe for the environmental authorisation process is approximately 197 days as regulated by NEMA.

5. LISTED ACTIVITIES

The following table summarises the preliminary list of activities identified in terms of NEMA and NEM:WA as included in the application for environmental authorisation:

| APPLICABLE LISTING NOTICE | ACTIVITY NO.: |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Listing Notice: 1 of NEMA | 19, 20, 22, 27,30 |
| Listing Notice 3 of NEMA | 12 |
| GNR 921 of NEM:WA | Category A: Activity 13, 14 & 15 |

6. WATER USES

The lead authority for the authorisation of water uses in terms of the NWA is the Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation (DWS). In terms of Section 21 of the NWA, all water uses that are not deemed to be Schedule 1 uses must be licensed with DWS.

Water requirements for the project are expected to be minimal, and restricted to that of potable use (drinking water). This water will be trucked to site and no abstraction of ground or surface water will be undertaken on site.

A large salt pan has however been identified within the project area. As such, authorisation

will required from the DWS for any activities within the regulated area of the pan in terms of Section 21 (c) and (i) of the NWA.

6. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The following potential impacts and management measures have been identified at this stage of the project, and will be investigated further during the compilation of the Basic Assessment and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) report: -

Impacts:

- Potential for pollution to the biophysical environment through hydrocarbon spills and/or leaks
- Potential damage to graves, archaeological or cultural sites
- Potential damage to wetlands and other water bodies, like perennial or non-perennial pans
- Irresponsible use of water
- Loss of biodiversity – vegetation clearance and habitat destruction
- Potential for alien invasive establishment
- Noise and dust from drilling activities
- Loss of soil characteristics - erosion and compaction
- Safety and security risks to land owners and users.
- Potential for pollution to the biophysical environment through illegal dumping and littering
- Potential for pollution to the biophysical environment through sewage spills and/or leaks

Mitigation:

- Diesel storage area to be appropriately lined and bunded, with 110% capacity
- Drip trays to be placed under vehicles.
- Spill kits to be provided. Spills to be reported and treated immediately
- Staff to be provided with environmental awareness training

- Routes are to be planned and walked prior to overland movement to ensure all sensitive areas, cultural and heritage sites are avoided
- Drilling to be limited to demarcated areas.
- Should any archaeological or cultural artefacts be unearthed, activities will be stopped immediately and the relevant authorities notified
- No hunting or poaching will be permitted
- Activities will be limited to daylight hours
- Wet dust suppression will be undertaken during times of high dust occurrences
- Compacted areas will be ripped
- Disturbed areas will be seeded with indigenous species, where applicable
- Alien invasive encroachment to be monitored and managed
- Access will be negotiated with the applicable land owner. The proposed routes must be approved by the land owner prior to overland movement of machinery and vehicles
- Farm fences must not be damaged, and gates are to be closed after gaining access
- Auger holes to be backfilled and rehabilitated
- Provide safety equipment to personnel on site
- Bins to be provided on site, for each waste type separately
- No littering or dumping to be permitted on site.
- All general and hazardous waste to be removed from site and disposed of at a suitably licensed facility.
- Portable toilets to be inspected for leaks. These are to be emptied regularly by a reputable contractor for disposal at a suitably licensed treatment works.

Should you be aware of any additional impacts or should you wish to propose an alternative mitigation measure, please do so by completing the attached questionnaire.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public involvement is an essential component of the environmental process. It addresses the right of I&APs to be informed of the proposed activities and to be involved in decisions that affect them. It also affords the environmental assessment practitioner the opportunity to assess and address the issues and concerns raised by I&APs thus allowing us to assess all the potential impacts of the proposed project.

Invitation to comment: The Basic Assessment and Environmental Management Program (EMP) report will be available for public review and comment for a minimum period of thirty (30) days. Please note that as the period of the 15th December – 5th January is excluded from the NEMA timeframes the public review and comment period has been extended accordingly.

The Basic Assessment and EMP Report will be available from the 1st December 2017 – 23 January 2018 at the following locations:

- www.cabangaenvironmental.co.za (under the Public Participation tab)
- Brandvlei Public Library located behind the municipality on Hoof Street

Please ensure your comments reach us on or before the 23rd January 2018.



Contact Us:

Michelle Venter
 Cabanga Environmental
 Tel: 011 794 7534 / Fax: 011 794 6946
michelle@cabangaenvironmental.co.za

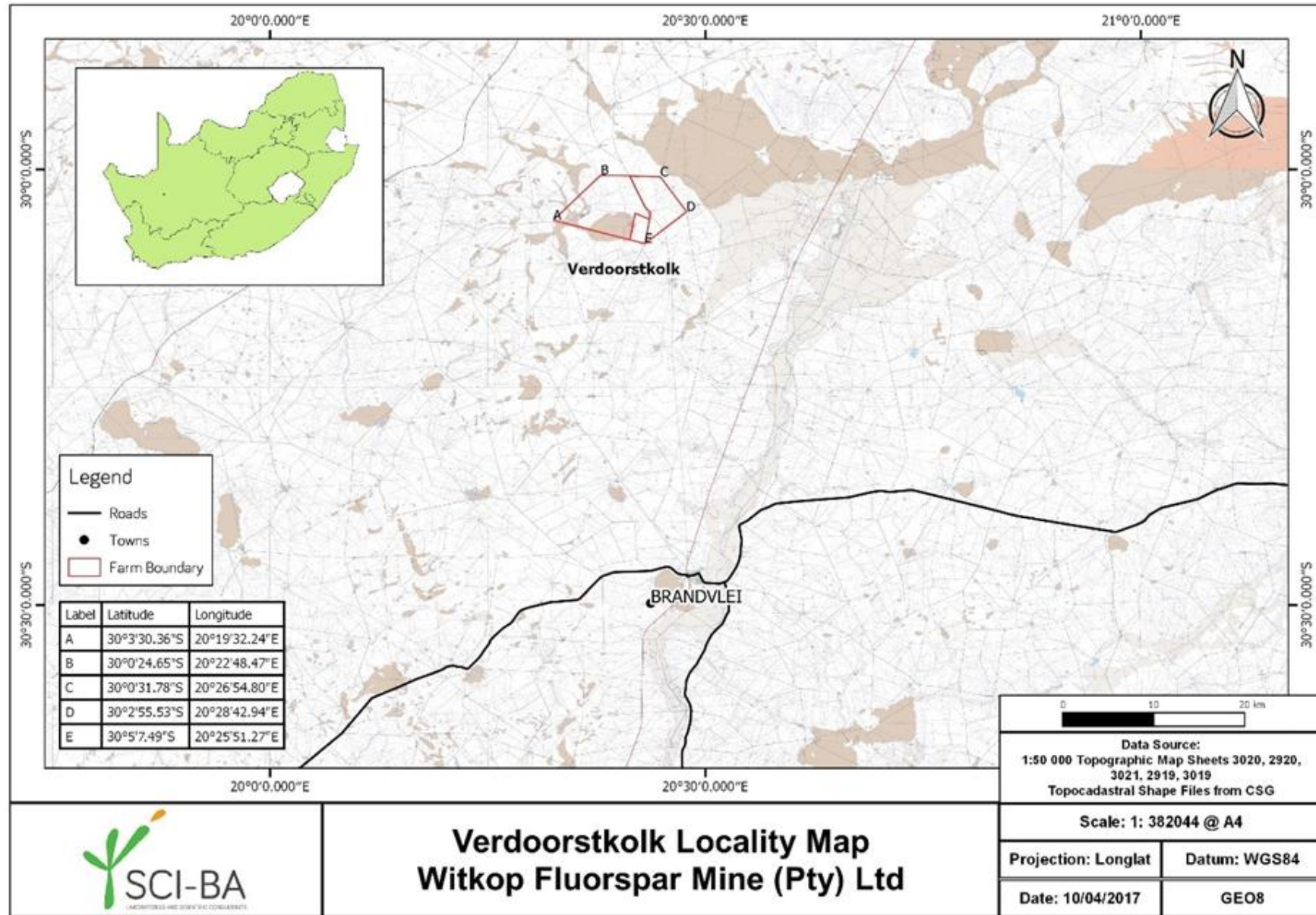


Figure 1: Regional Plan

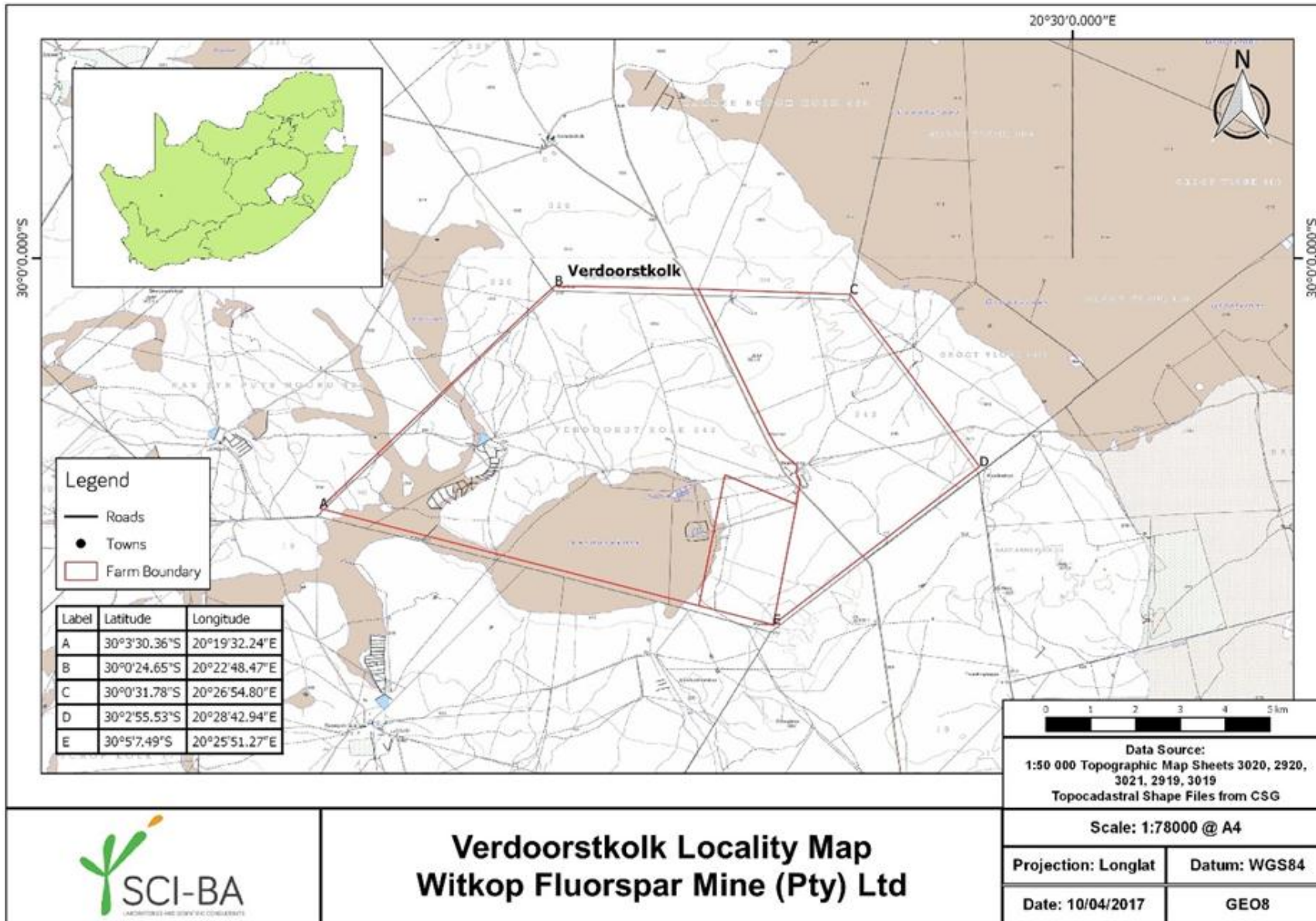


Figure 2: Locality Plan

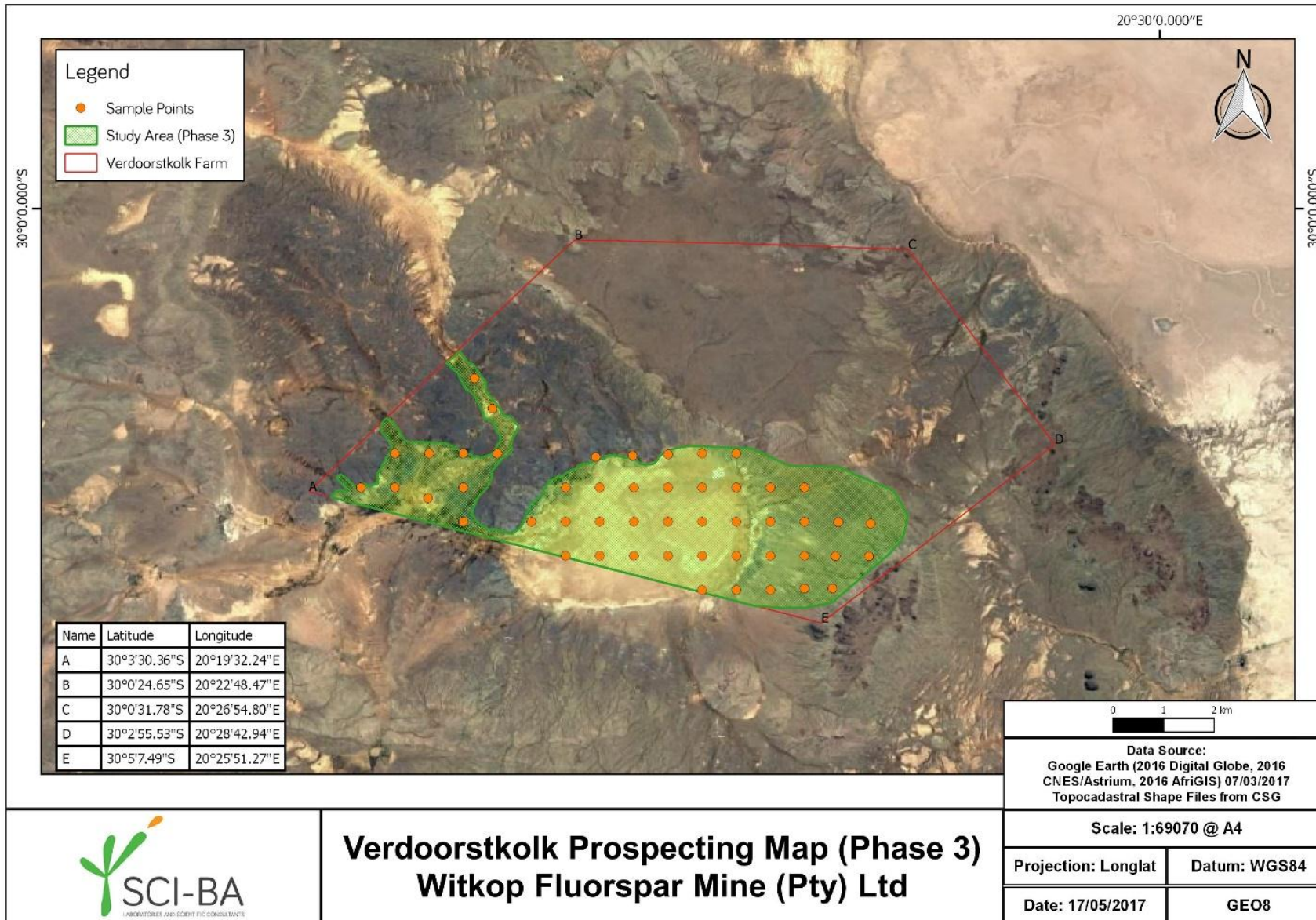


Figure 3: Primary Drilling Program Layout

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION QUESTIONNAIRE: VERDOORST KOLK

To register as an I&AP, please complete and return to Cabanga via e-mail:, fax or post:



michelle@cabangaenvironmental.co.za; Fax: (011) 794 6946

Postnet Suite 470, P/Bag X3, Northriding, 2162

Alternatively please register on www.cabangaenvironmental.co.za click on "Public Participation"

| | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|--|
| Name: | | Surname: | |
| Telephone No.: | | Fax No.: | |
| Post: | | | |
| E-mail: | | | |
| How would you prefer to be contacted: | <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Fax <input type="checkbox"/> Post <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone <input type="checkbox"/> SMS | | |
| Are you an immediately affected or adjacent land owner or user? If no, what is your interest in the project? If yes, please indicate your farm / property name as well as details on the current land use. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | | |
| Do you have any vested interest in the approval or refusal of this project? If yes, please elaborate. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | | |
| Do you feel that the proposed activities will impact on you and / or your socio-economic conditions? How? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | | |
| Are you aware of any additional impacts not yet identified? | | | |
| Are you aware of any sensitive areas that should be avoided (i.e. graves, cultural sites, endangered species, special environmental features or areas etc.) | | | |
| Do you have any alternative mitigation measures to propose? | | | |
| Do you know of any other persons, organisations or parties that should be notified? Please provide contact details. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | | |
| Do you have any additional comments, concerns or queries? | | | |