

3 September 2018

## SISHEN IRON ORE COMPANY (Pty) Ltd

ATTENTION: INTERESTED AND/OR AFFECTED PARTY

### WESTERN DEWATERING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT, SISHEN MINE, KATHU, NORTHERN CAPE

Dear Sir/Madam

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Sishen Iron Ore Company (Pty) Ltd is expanding its mining operations at Sishen Mine towards the western side of the existing mine pit. As part of the expansion, Sishen requires the construction of 2 new pipelines to convey groundwater from dewatering boreholes to south of the mining activities to the existing export water transfer station at Sishen Mine. This forms part of the Western Dewatering Infrastructure Project.

The location of the proposed pipelines is shown in Figure 1.

An application is being sought for environmental authorisation in terms of:

- The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations GNR. 982-985 of 4 December 2014, as amended for Activity 9 of Listing Notice 1 for the development of infrastructure for the bulk transportation of water.
- Section 102 of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act for the amendment of the Sishen Mine Environmental Management Programme (as amended).

The application will be supported by a Basic Assessment Report.

**This letter serves to notify you as a landowner, lawful occupier, interested or affected party of the environmental authorisation process that is being sought.**

EXM Advisory Services (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), responsible for administrating the environmental authorisation process.

#### Purpose

This document serves to:

- Notify you of the application for environmental authorisation.
- Describe the environmental assessment process.
- Inform you as to how you can provide input into the process.

#### Your Role

As an interested and affected party, your role is to:

- Ask questions, raise issues and concerns.
- Attend public meetings.
- Review and provide comment on environmental reports.

SOLUTIONS | PROGRESS | PARTNERS

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Directors: DT van der Merwe & KC Fairley

Associate Director: RC Letter

Company Reg: 2014/189068/07

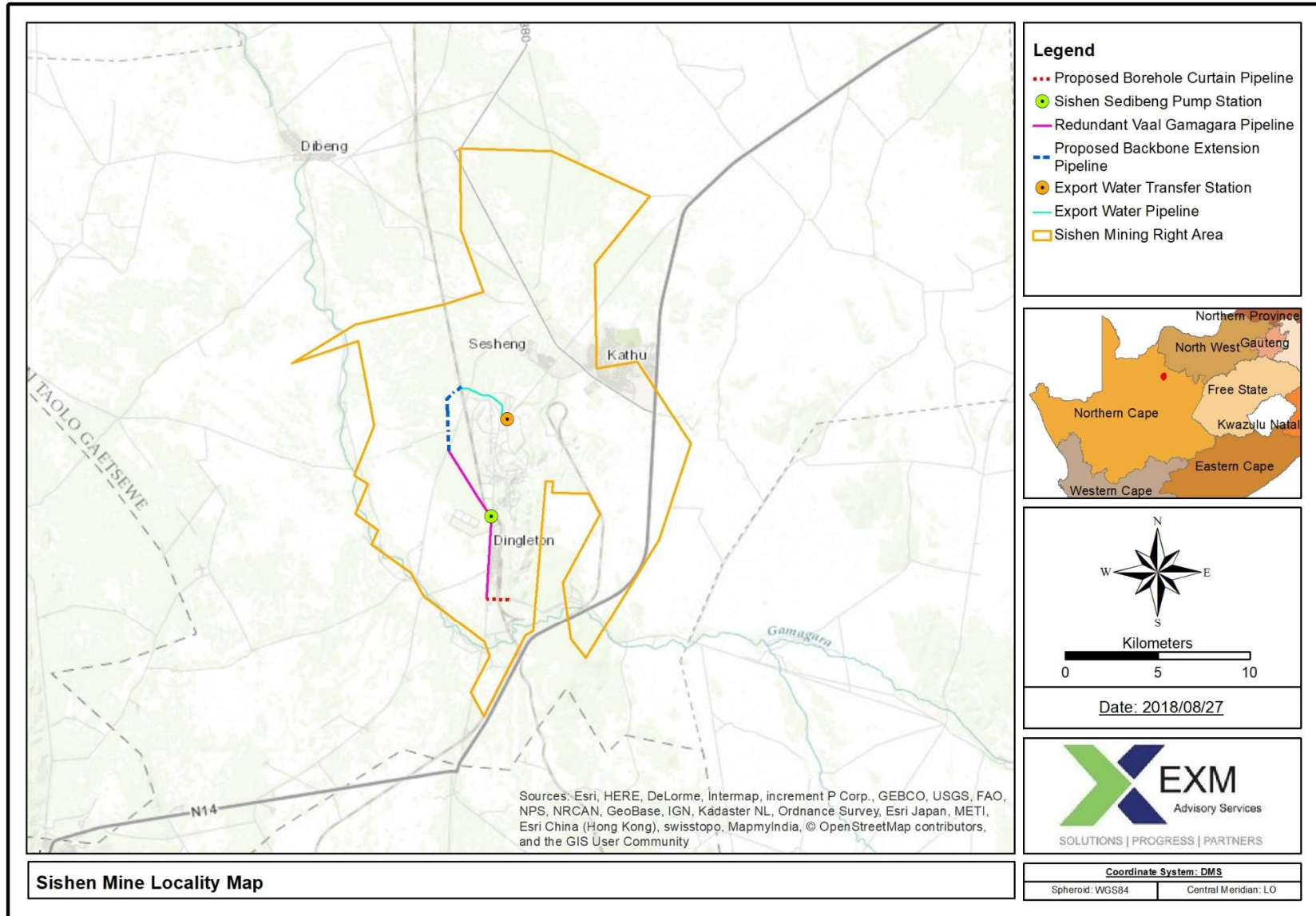


FIGURE 1: LOCATION OF WESTERN DEWATERING PIPELINE, SISHEN MINE, KATHU, NORTHERN CAPE

## **2. WESTERN DEWATERING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT PIPELINES**

Sishen Mine is in process of expanding its mining activities towards the western side of the mining pit area. This involves expansion of the pit boundaries, construction of new western waste rock dumps and relocation of services such as railway lines and groundwater dewatering infrastructure. The new dewatering boreholes and pipe infrastructure are required in line with these expansions to be able to continue with safe mining activities.

The groundwater aquifer on which Sishen Mine is located flows from south to north. To reduce the number of boreholes needed on site to dewater the pits, dewatering boreholes are being established along the southern end of the mine to dewater the aquifer upstream from the mining pits, thereby reducing the need for new boreholes inside the pits. The proposed pipelines are required to convey water from the new dewatering boreholes to the Sishen Mine Export Transfer Station.

A proposed new Borehole Curtain Pipeline (a 250 mm diameter HDPE above ground pipeline) will be constructed along the D3333 road to convey water from the boreholes to a redundant section of the Vaal-Gamagara pipeline (an existing 700 mm underground pipeline) which runs parallel to the D328 road.

The water will be pumped northwards via the existing Sishen Sedibeng pump station to a proposed Backbone Pipeline (a 350 mm above ground steel pipeline) which will join with the existing pipeline network within Sishen Mine and the Sishen Export Water Transfer Station, for export to the Vaal-Gamagara pipeline at the Kathu Reservoir located north of Sishen Mine.

The layout of the proposed pipeline is given in Figure 2.

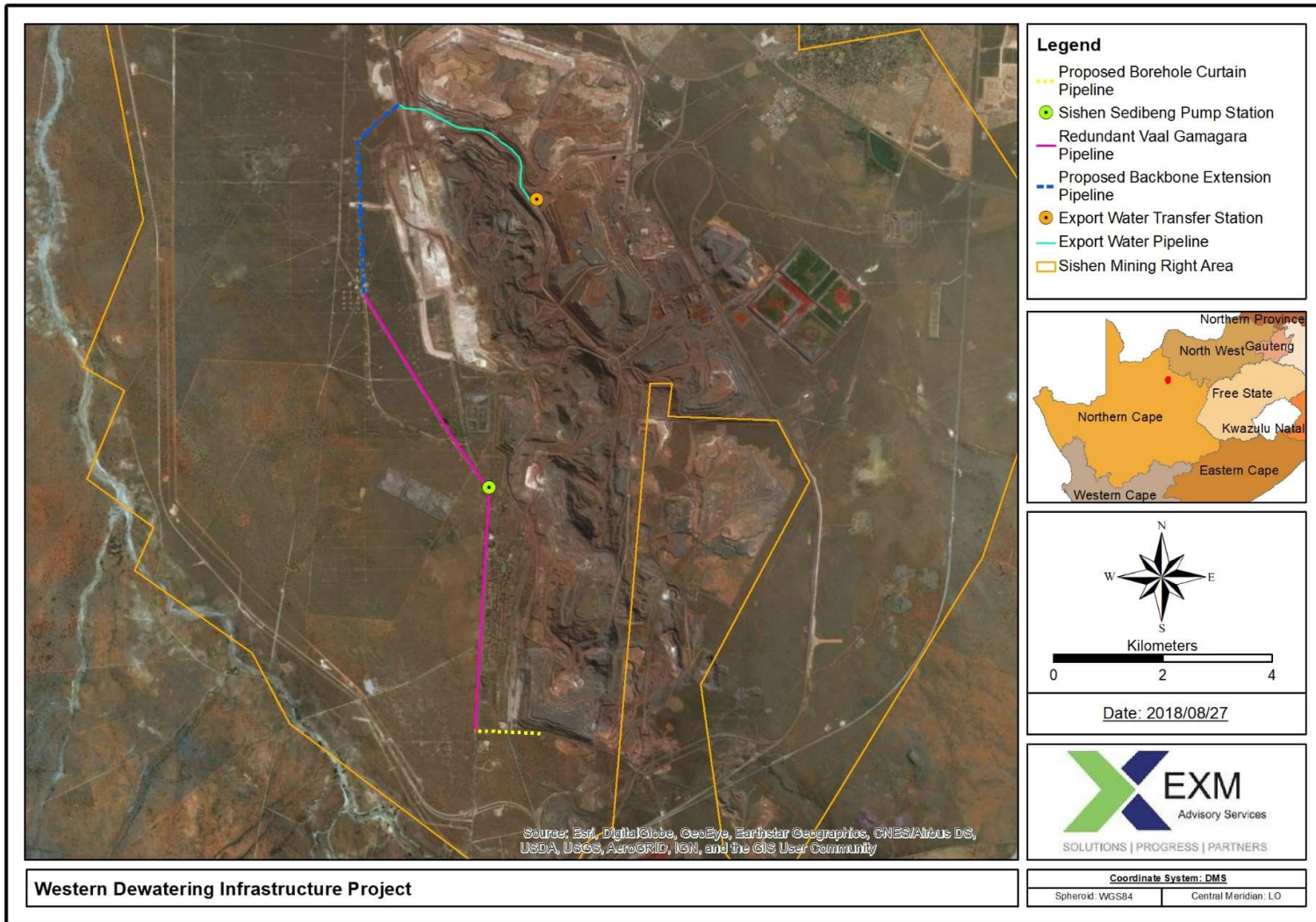


FIGURE 2: PROPOSED LAYOUT OF THE WESTERN DEWATERING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

### **3. ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS**

#### **3.1 Minerals & Petroleum Resources Development Act (No. 28 of 2008)**

The current approved Environmental Management Programme and its subsequent amendments do not provide for the Western Dewatering Infrastructure Project. Section 102 of the Minerals & Petroleum Resources Development Act indicates that an Environmental Management Programme may not be amended without authorisation.

The Environmental Management Programme compiled as part of the supporting documentation for the application for the environmental authorisation also serves as an amendment to the existing authorised management programme and the amendments thereto, in terms of Section 102 of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act.

#### **3.2 National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998)**

Authorisation is to be sought in terms of Section 24 of the National Environmental Management Act for the proposed activities that may have a detrimental impact on the environment. Activities to be authorised as per those listed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Listing Notices GNR. 983-985 of 4 December 2014 as amended.

Activities in Listing Notice 1 require a Basic Impact Assessment in support of the application for authorisation. Therefore, a Basic Assessment Report will be undertaken in support of the application for environmental authorisation.

#### **EIA LISTED ACTIVITIES**

<b>Activity No</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Listing Notice 1</b>	
9	Development of infrastructure for the bulk transportation of water

## 4. BASIC ASSESSMENT

A Basic Assessment Process comprises a mini Environmental Impact Assessment aimed at determining the effect that the planned activities will have on the environment and surrounding communities.

### Basic Assessment Report

The assessment process involves the review of available environmental information as well as the collation of additional information to identify potential environmental issues and concerns associated with the project. Public input is a key component of the identification of issues and concerns to be addressed in the study.

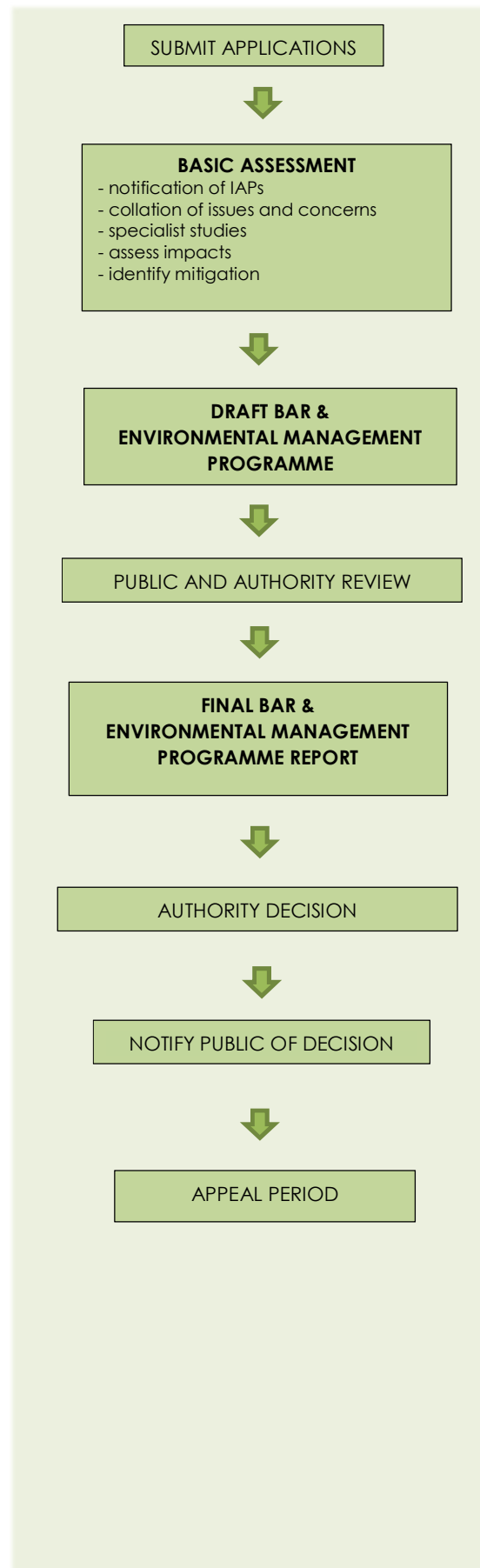
Key impacts will be related to clearance of sites for the development of the new pipelines. A specialist study will be undertaken to identify sensitive species and habitats. Impacts on such species and habitats will be avoided where practicable. Heritage artefacts within the footprint area will also need to be considered.

Interested & Affected Parties (IAPs) will be notified when the Basic Assessment Report is available for public review. IAPs are to ensure that issues raised have been adequately captured in the report.

The findings and the proposed measures identified to mitigate such impacts will be documented in a Basic Assessment Report.

### Environmental Management Programme

An Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) will be drafted aimed at addressing impacts identified and reducing risks to acceptable levels. Recommendations of the specialists are used to assist in developing the management programme. The EMPr will be made available for public review and comment.



## 5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

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

- Registering as an interested and affected party
- Asking questions and raising initial concerns (see attached response form for your convenience)
- Attending the public meeting (see invitation below)
- Reviewing and providing comment on the Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme
- Reviewing environmental authorisations

IAPs will be notified via email, sms and/or fax when the draft Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Report is available for public comment.

Should your issues and concerns not be addressed through the process, you also have the opportunity to appeal should environmental authorisation be given.

Interested & affected parties are invited to attend a **public information-sharing meeting**:

### **INVITATION TO PUBLIC MEETING**

**Date: Thursday 13 September 2018**

**Time: 17h30-18h30**

**Venue: Cherry on Top, Kalahari Country Club, Kathu**

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

**Kerry Fairley**

EXM Advisory Services

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Yours sincerely



Kerry Fairley

EXM Advisory Services (Pty) Ltd

