

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**Basic Assessment for the
Upgrading of Stormwater Control at Waterval West Mine
Department: Economic Development, Environment,
Conservation and Tourism, North West Province reference:
NWP/EIA/38/2011****1. Introduction**

XSTRATA SA (PTY) LTD is planning to upgrade the existing stormwater control system to allow zero effluent from the stormwater control dams on its Waterval West Mine in Rustenburg. BEAL Environmental Consulting was appointed as independent environmental consultants to conduct the Basic Assessment (BA) process for the proposed development.

The proposed stormwater system is located on the Farm Waterval 306 JQ, portions 27 and 28 approximately 2.9 km southeast of Rustenburg, in the North West Province and falls within the jurisdiction of the Bojanala Platinum District Municipality (*See Figure 1*).



Figure 1: Locality Map of the proposed Stormwater System

In order for the mine to prevent discharge storm water / grey water to run off through neighbouring properties, the mine needs to upgrade their existing infrastructure. The stormwater system will promote various environmental benefits for the mine itself and also prevent the unnecessary discharge of water onto the neighbouring properties.

2. **Purpose of this Background Information Document**

This document aims to provide you, as an interested and/or affected party (I&AP), with background information regarding the stormwater system proposed by XSTRATA SA (PTY) LTD, as well as provides information regarding the Basic Assessment (BA) to be undertaken. It further indicates how you can receive information, or raise issues, which may concern and/or interest you. The sharing of information forms the basis of the public participation process and offers you the opportunity to become actively involved in the project from the outset. Public participation plays an important role in the undertaking of a BA, as input from I&APs ensures all potential issues are considered during the study.

3. **Project Justification**

The upgrading and augmentation of the existing stormwater infrastructure on the mine area is required to keep the effluent (grey water) on the site and not to spill or to run through the neighboring properties, also to alleviate flooding which is experienced during severe storm events. Currently the stormwater runs through the neighboring properties that cause damage to the affected areas as well as posing a risk to human health and safety. The run off of stromwater also causes recurring environmental degradation on the mining and surrounding areas.

Consequently, in order to reduce the social and economic impacts on the surrounding residents, the need for a formalized storm water management system arose, which the surrounding environment will also benefit from.

4. **General overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process**

The BA process refers to the complete coordination of all studies, investigations and processes to identify predict and assess all the potential impacts –positive or negative – for any proposed activity or development which requires authorisation by law and which may significantly affect the environment.

Basic Assessment Report:

During the Assessment, the existing status of the area is investigated. This includes aspects such as the biophysical, social and economic environment and provides a

report which informs and guides specialist investigations if needed. This includes the identification of the pre-developing environment, identification of potential impacts and appropriate mitigation measures for each impact in order to minimise or avoid negative impacts, measures for enhancing the positive aspects of the proposal, and environmental management and monitoring measures.

The objective of the BA Report is to provide decision makers with sufficient, relevant and objective environmental information to assist them in determining whether to accept or reject the application for the proposed activity.

5. Importance of the Public Participation Process

Public Participation forms an important part of the BA and takes place throughout the duration of the BA.

The principles of the National Environmental Management Act govern many aspects of environmental impact assessments, including public participation. These include provision of sufficient and transparent information on an ongoing basis to stakeholders to allow them to comment.

Effective public involvement is an essential component of many decision-making structures, and effective community involvement is the only way in which the power given to communities can be used efficiently. The public participation process is designed to provide sufficient and accessible information to Interested and Affected parties (I&AP's) in an objective manner to assist them to:

- Raise issues of concern and suggestions for enhanced benefits.
- Verify that their issues have been captured.
- Verify that their issues have been considered by the technical investigations.
- Comment on the findings of the BA.

6. Who are Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs)?

Any person, company or authority that will be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed activity can register as an Interested or Affected Party (I&AP). This includes, but is not limited to landowners, tenants, municipal and provincial authorities, interest groups and conservation groups. The stakeholder database is compiled through networking and advertising.

Please note that **only registered I&APs** will receive follow-up information as the application process continues. Any person can at any time throughout the application process identify and register him/herself as an Interested & Affected

Party, keeping in mind that some processes would already be completed at that time.

All I&APs are invited to also identify other parties they feel should be notified regarding this proposed activity or to share this information document with them. Please notify BEAL Environmental Consulting of any other party you feel should be included in the contact database, we need to contact them directly.

I&APs are invited to participate in the consultation process by sharing their input, concerns, comments and/or suggestions throughout the process. Please note that the process is structured according to timeframes and we kindly request that you keep to the timeframes which will be communicated to registered I&APs throughout the process. Input received will be included in an Issues & Response Register as part of the BA Report and the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to be submitted to the DEDECT, North West Province.

7. Timeframe to be followed:

The following table indicates the broad timeframe for the BA process. Please note that **only registered I&APs** will receive updates and notification of all events and important information.

Action	Time frame
Basic Assessment Report	June 2011 – October 2011
During this time, various studies if necessary will be undertaken and more information regarding this proposed upgrade will be communicated to registered I&APs – stakeholders will have access to the draft BA/EMP Report for their review and comment. Feedback will be provided regarding the findings of the specialist studies and proposed mitigation measures in terms of the potential impacts identified.	
Public Participation process	July 2011 – September 2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Newspaper advertisement will be placed in the local newspaper of Rustenburg – The Herald. ▪ Site Notices will also be erected on prominent points. ▪ The BA Report will be available for Public Review and input over a 30 day period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hard copies will be available at Rustenburg Library - An electronic copy is available via e-mail and/or the website. Please request such a copy by contacting BEAL Environmental Consulting. <p>I&AP's will be notified as soon as a decision is made from the DACERD.</p>	
Submission of Final Basic Assessment Report to DEDECT	September 2011

8. Important:

1. Please register yourself or your company/organisation as an Interested & Affected Party before 31 August 2011 by contacting BEAL Environmental Consulting or filling in the form attached hereto. Only registered I&APs will receive further information and notification regarding this proposed activity.
2. Please send us your comments and/or concerns, preferably in writing. You are also welcome to call BEAL Environmental Consulting.
3. You are welcome to use the attached Registration & Comment sheet, or to write a letter, e-mail or send a fax.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information or have any queries.

Contact persons at BEAL Environmental Consulting

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Proposed Stormwater Control at Waterval West Mine (NWP/EIA/38/2011)

Please complete this Comment Form in full before Wednesday 31 August 2011

Registration and Comment Sheet

I want to be registered as an Interested & Affected Party :

Yes

No

What comments / concerns would you like to raise regarding this proposed project? (Please use additional pages, if required)

Comments/ Concerns/ Questions

Personal Details

Name & Surname:

Affiliation (e.g. Company/ Farm/ Community):

Telephone nr:

Fax:

E-mail:

Postal Address:

Signature

Date

RETURN THE FORM TO THE CONSULTANTS WHO'S CONTACT DETAILS ARE PROVIDED ABOVE.

THANK YOU