



mineral resources & energy

Department:
Mineral Resources and Energy
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DMRE 11

Private Bag X33, Welkom, 9460, Tel: 057 391 1342, Fax: 057 357 6003
The Strip Building, 314 Stateway Street, Welkom, 9459

Enquiries: Ms. N. Mhlarhi Ref: FS 30/5/1/3/3/2/1 (10323) EM
E-Mail Address: Nkateko.Mhlarhi@dmre.gov.za
Sub-Directorate: Mine Environmental Management

BY REGISTERED MAIL

The Directors

Confibrite (Pty) Ltd
P.O. Box 13546
Noordstad
9302



Attention : Mr. S. Martens
E-mail : solomonmartens@gmail.com

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (NEMA) AS AMENDED, AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REGULATIONS, 2014 AS AMENDED FOR SALT MINING AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES IN RESPECT OF THE FARM FLORISBAD SUTWERKE 1241, SITUATED IN THE MAGISTERIAL DSITRICT OF BRANDFORT: FREE STATE REGION.

With reference to the abovementioned application, please be advised that this office has decided to **grant** an environmental authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998). The environmental authorisation and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

In terms of section 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2014 as amended you are instructed to notify all registered Interested and Affected Parties, in writing within 14 (fourteen) calendar days, from the date of the office's decision in respect of your application and the relevant provisions regarding the lodgement of an appeal must be provided for in terms of the National Appeal Regulations of 2014.

Should you wish to appeal any aspect of the decision, you must submit the appeal to the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment a copy of such appeal to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (Free State Regional Office), within 20 days from the date of notification, and such appeal must be lodged as prescribed in by chapter 2 of the National Appeal Regulations of 2014 as amended by means of the methods as per prescribed below:

Appeal must be submitted in writing to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment.

Attention : Directorate Appeals and legal Review
Email : appeals@environment.gov.za
Tel : (012) 399 9356
By post : Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001
By hand : Environment House, (473 Steve Biko) Corner Steve Biko and
Soutpansberg Street, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0083

Copy of the lodged appeal to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy.

Attention : Regional Manager: Free State Region
By facsimile : 057 357 6003
E-mail : mamokete.mpatane@dmre.gov.za
By post : Private Bag X33, Welkom, 9460
By hand : The Strip Building, 314 Stateway Street, Welkom, 9459

Should you decide to appeal, you must comply with the National Appeal Regulation of 2014 in relation to notification of all registered Interested and Affected Parties, and a copy of the official appeal form can be obtained from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment.

Yours Sincerely



N.C. FHEDZISANI

ACTING REGIONAL MANAGER: MINERAL REGULATION

FREE STATE REGION

DATE 10/03/2022



Private Bag X33, Welkom, 9460, Tel: 057 391 1356, Fax: 057 357 6003

The Strip Building, 314 Stateway Street, Welkom, 9459

GRANTED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

Reference number: FS 30/5/1/3/3/2/1 (10323) EM
Last amended: First Issue
Holder of Authorisation: Confibrite (Pty) Ltd
Location of activity: A portion of the Farm Florisbad Soutwerke 1241 in the
Magisterial District of Brandfort, Free State Region.

DECISION

ACRONYMS

NEMA: The National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998), as amended
DEPARTMENT: Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
EA: Environmental Authorisation
EMPr: Environmental Management Programme
BAR: Basic Assessment Report
I&AP: Interested and Affected Parties
ECO: Environmental Control Officer
SAHRA: South African Heritage Resources Agency
EIA REGULATIONS: EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended)
MPRDA: Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002), as amended
NEM: WA: National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008), as amended
NWA: National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) as amended
EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment.

FINANCIAL PROVISIONING REGULATIONS: The National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998), Regulations pertaining to the Financial Provision for |Prospecting, Exploration, Mining or Production operations.



The Department is satisfied, based on information available to it and subject to compliance with the conditions of this environmental authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake **NEMA EIA** listed activity specified below. Details regarding the basis on which the Department reached this granting decision are set out in **Annexure “1”** and **“2”** of this environmental authorisation.

ACTIVITY APPLIED FOR

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by NEMA, the Department hereby grants an EA to Confibrite (Pty) Ltd with the following contact details –

The Directors

Confibrite (Pty) Ltd
P.O. Box 13546
Noordstad
9302

For attention : Mr. Solomon Martens
E-mail : solomonmartens@gmail.com



to undertake the following activity listed in the EIA Regulations.

NEMA: LISTED ACTIVITIES: Listed in the EIA Regulations R. 327 of 2017 as follows:

Listed Activities	Activity and/or project description
<p>Activity 21 of Government notice No. R 983 as amended <i>Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a mining permit in terms of section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002), including</i></p> <p>(a) <i>associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks, directly related to the extraction of a mineral resource; or</i></p> <p>(b) <i>the primary processing of a mineral resource including winning, extraction, classifying, concentrating, crushing, screening or washing;</i></p>	<p>The proposed activities involve the salt mining activities in an area of 4.9 hectares. Approximately 3 hectares of land will be excavated in line with the proposed activities. an area of 80m² will be used for salt stockpiling and an access road of 30m will be constructed.</p>

but excluding the secondary processing of a mineral resource, including the smelting, beneficiation, reduction, refining, calcining or gasification of the mineral resource in which case activity 6 in listing notice 2 applies.

Detailed specifications of the activity are as follows:

- Clearing vegetation for mining operation especially on areas where the temporary office, ablution facilities, security/ workers' hut, access road and construction of storage facility will be situated.
- Erection of temporary office and the installation of ablution facilities within the mining area.
- Erection of security/ workers' hut and construction of storage facility.
- Pumping salt water from the existing borehole into evaporation ponds.
- The removal of crystalized salt from the evaporation ponds to the stockpiling area.
- The removal of stockpiled salt in 50kg packaging bags or loaded in trucks to potential customers.
- Demolition and removal of mobile camp site infrastructure, equipment, and vehicles during rehabilitation of the mining area.
- Rehabilitation and restoration of disturbed areas.
- Mining equipment's to be used during mining activities include excavator, pump and trucks.

Site description and location:

The mining activities will be conducted on a portion of the farm Florisbad Soutwerke 1241 in the Magisterial District of Brandfort. The SG code for the farm portion is: F0060000000124100000.



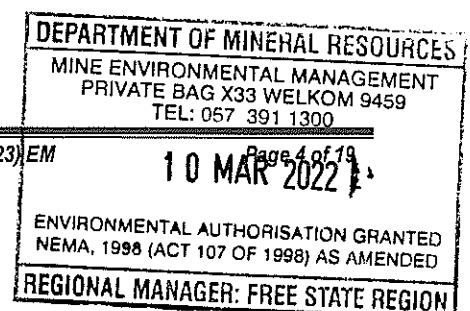
The granting of this EA is subject to the conditions set out below (site specific) and in **Annexure 2** (Departmental standard conditions). The EMPr attached as part of reports for the above development submitted as part of the application for an EA is hereby approved and must be adhered to throughout the life cycle of the mining operation.

EA SITE SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

1. Mining activities must be conducted in accordance with the approved Environmental Management Programme and this EA.
2. All the mitigation measure to prevent negative environmental impacts must be implemented as stipulated on the BAR and EMPr.
3. The mining area must be fenced off and lockable gates must be installed to restrict unauthorised access to the site before any mining activities commences.
4. Visible semi-permanent markers must be placed on the mining permit boundary before mining activities commences and must be kept for the duration of mining. Mining activities inclusive of mineral processing and stockpiling must strictly be conducted within the demarcated area.
5. At least 50cm of topsoil must be stripped especially from areas were the temporary office, ablution facilities, security/ workers' hut, access road and construction of storage facility will be situated before mining commences and stockpiled to be used during rehabilitation of the mined area.
6. Topsoil must be stored within the approved mining area. The management of topsoil must be done as per the approved EMPr and this EA.
7. The stockpiled topsoil must be protected from and/ or against losses by water and wind erosion. Driving over topsoil stockpile is prohibited.
8. Access to the mine must be strictly controlled and measures must be put in place to ensure the safety of animals/wildlife and the public.
9. Dumping of waste within the mining area is strictly prohibited.
10. Indigenous animals and birds found in the area must not be harmed and must be protected as far as it is practicable.

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11. The topography of the site should be re-instated as far as possible, spoil and tailings resulting from the mining operations should be returned to excavations to re-instate the topography of the site.
12. Any additional soil material not utilised during operation must be stockpiled in the stockpile area.
13. Alien vegetation must be cleared on an ongoing basis during mining activities and after rehabilitation of the mined area. Alien plants mitigation management must be undertaken until a closure certificate is issued by the Department.
14. Dust suppression measures must be implemented during mining activities, and this may include spraying the mining area and access road with water and/or an environmentally friendly dust-allaying agent.



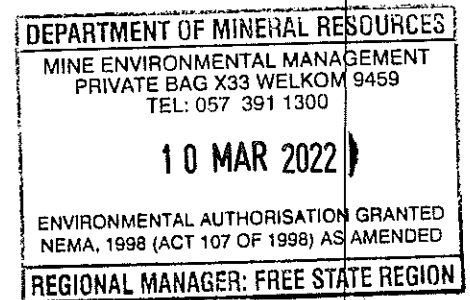
ANNEXURE 1: REASONS FOR THE DECISION

1. Background

Confibrite (Pty) Ltd applied for an EA for an activity listed in the EIA Regulations as:

Listed in the EIA Regulations R. 327 of 2017 as follows:

Listed Activities	Activity and/or project description
<p>Activity 21 of Government notice No. R 983 as amended <i>Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a mining permit in terms of section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002), including</i></p> <p>15. <i>associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks, directly related to the extraction of a mineral resource; or</i></p> <p>16. <i>the primary processing of a mineral resource including winning, extraction, classifying, concentrating, crushing, screening or washing;</i></p> <p><i>but excluding the secondary processing of a mineral resource, including the smelting, beneficiation, reduction, refining, calcining or gasification of the mineral resource in which case activity 6 in listing notice 2 applies.</i></p>	<p>The proposed activities involve the salt mining activities in an area of 4.9 hectares. Approximately 3 hectares of land will be excavated in line with the proposed activities. an area of 80m² will be used for salt stockpiling and an access road of 30m will be constructed.</p>



The company appointed Mr. Tshimangadzo Mulaudzi of Engedi Minerals and Energy (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Basic Assessment process as required by Regulation 19 of the EIA Regulations.

2. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration -

- The information contained in the application form received by the Department on 21 October 2020.
- The objectives and requirements of the applicable and relevant legislation, policies and guidelines and the EIA Regulations.
- Public Participation Process (PPP) attached in the BAR and EMPr.

- d) The consultation letter dated 12 November 2020 and the acceptance letter of an application received from the Mineral Law Administration section of the Free State Free State regional office of the Department.
- e) Relevant information contained in the Departmental information database, including, the Department's circular on the One Environmental Management System dated 8 December 2014.
- f) The environmental impact/ risk assessment and management report included in the BAR & EMPr.
- g) The sense of balance of the negative and positive impacts and mitigation measures.
- h) The Environmental Emergency Procedure Report included in the BAR and EMPr.
- i) The Environmental Awareness Plan Report included to the BAR and EMPr.
- j) The applicant complied with Section 24P of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) and provided the financial provision for the management of environmental impacts which may emanate from mining activities.

3. Key factors considered in making the decision

All the information presented to the Department was considered upon the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance are set out below.

- a) A sufficient PPP was undertaken, and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations for public involvement.
- b) The environmental impacts associated with the activity will be addressed by the implementation of mitigation measures outlined in the BAR & EMPr compiled by Mr Tshimangadzo Mulaudzi of Engedi Minerals and Energy (Pty) Ltd and submitted to the Department on 3 May 2021.
- c) The Environmental Awareness Plan contained in the BAR and EMPr submitted to the Department on 3 May 2021; compiled by Mr. Tshimangadzo Mulaudzi of Engedi Minerals and Energy (Pty) Ltd.
- d) The findings of the pre-approval inspection conducted by the officials of the DMRE on 5 August 2021.

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<p>REGIONAL MANAGER: FREE STATE REGION</p>

4. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings –

- a) According to the BAR & EMPr submitted to the Department on the 3rd of May 2021 the northern tip of the proposed site is an existing salt pan. The site is located approximately 49 kilometres North-West of Bloemfontein.
- b) The potential impacts on the site were clearly investigated and mitigation measures were also outlined.
- c) According to the information provided in the BAR & EMPr the proposed site has sandy soil and is devoid of large trees, but there are scattered shrubs.
- d) The pre-approval inspection conducted on 5 August 2021 confirmed the information provided on the submitted BAR & EMPr, it was revealed that the salt will be pumped from existing borehole within the proposed mining area.
- e) According to the Fauna and Flora study report of the Free State Province Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF), the proposed area is not a listed protected area.
- f) The PPP complied with Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations R 982. The PPP included, *inter-alia*, the following:
 - Identification of and engagement (public meeting) with I&APs;
 - Fixing a notice board at the site and any alternative site where the listed activity is to be undertaken.
 - Giving written notice to the landowners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site and any alternative site where the listed activity is to be undertaken, the municipality, and the various Organs of State having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the listed activity.
 - The newspaper advert published on the 9th of April 2021 on the Citizen Newspaper.



ANNEXURE 2: DEPARTMENTAL STANDARD CONDITIONS

1. SCOPE OF AUTHORISATION

- 1.1 The holder of the EA shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in the EA. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to an agent, servant, contractor, subcontractor, employee, consultant, or any person rendering a service to the holder of EA.
- 1.2 Any changes to, or deviation from the project description set out in this EA must be approved in writing by the Department before such changes or deviation may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information deemed necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviation and it may be necessary for the holder of the EA to apply for further authorisation in terms of the EIA Regulations.
- 1.3 The activity (ies), which is/are authorised, may only be carried out at the property (ies) indicated in the EA and or on the approved EMPr.
- 1.4 Where any of the holder of the EA contact details change including name of the responsible person, physical or postal address/ or telephonic details, the holder of the EA must notify the Department as soon as the new details become known to the holder of the EA.
- 1.5 The EA does not negate the responsibility of the holder to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of such activity (ies).
- 1.6 The holder of EA must ensure that all areas where the authorised activities occur have controlled access to ensure safety of people and animals.

2 APPEAL OF AUTHORISATION

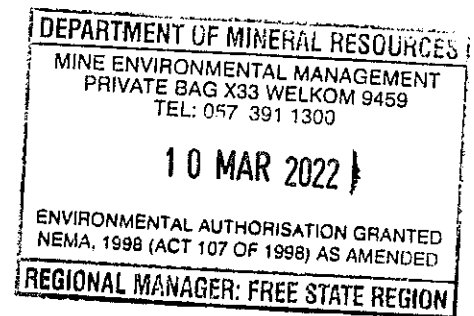
- 2.1 The holder of EA must in writing, within 14 (fourteen) calendar days from the date of this decision and in accordance with regulation 4(2) of the EIA Regulations do the following:
- 2.2 Notify all registered I&APs of –
 - 2.2.1 The outcome of the application.
 - 2.2.2. The date of the decision.
 - 2.2.3. The date of issue of the decision.
 - 2.2.4 The reasons for the decision as included in Annexure 1 and Departmental Standard Conditions in Annexure 2.

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- 2.3 Draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the NEMA: National Appeals Regulations,
- 2.4 Draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the manner in which they may access the decision.
- 2.5 Provide the registered I&APs with:
 - 2.5.1 Name of the holder (entity) of this EA
 - 2.5.2 Name of the responsible person for this EA
 - 2.5.3 Postal address of the holder.
 - 2.5.4 Telephonic and fax details of the holder and
 - 2.5.5 E-mail address of the holder if any.



3 COMMENCEMENT OF THE ACTIVITY (IES)

- 16.1 In order to ensure safety, all employees must be given the necessary personnel protective equipment (PPE).
- 16.2 This EA must be provided to the site operator and the requirements thereof must be made fully known to him or her.
- 16.3 Hauling routes for all vehicles and machinery must be clearly marked and appropriate signalling must be posted to that effect. Furthermore, movement of vehicles and machinery must be restricted to areas outside of the drainage line or wet areas.
- 16.4 Appropriate notification sign must be erected at the mining area, warning the public (residents, visitors etc.) about the hazard around the mining area and presence of heavy vehicles and machinery.
- 16.5 Vegetation clearance must be limited on areas where the individual activities will occur, and mitigation measures must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and alien species invasion.
- 16.6 The holder of the EA must note that in terms of the National Forest Act, 1998 (Act No.84 of 1998) protected plant species, also listed in the said Act must not be cut, disturbed, damaged, destroyed and their products must not be possessed, collected, removed, transported, exported, donated, purchased or sold unless permission is granted by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.
- 16.7 Topsoil and subsoil must be protected from contamination or pollution, stockpiling must not take place in drainage lines or areas where it will impede surface water runoff.
- 16.8 If any soil contamination is noted at any phase of the proposed activity (ies), the contaminated soil must be removed to a licensed waste disposal facility and the site must be rehabilitated to the