



Shango Solutions
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Northcliff
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Tel: 011 678 6504
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11th September 2020

Dear Interested and Affected Party/Landowner /Land Occupier,

NOTIFICATION REGARDING AN APPLICATION FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN SUPPORT OF AN EXPLORATION RIGHT APPLICATION, IN RESPECT OF VARIOUS FARMS IN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS OF KROONSTAD AND LINDLEY, FREE STATE PROVINCE OF SOUTH AFRICA (12/3/363 ER)

Western Allen Ridge Gold Mines (Pty) Ltd (Western Allen Ridge) (a subsidiary of White Rivers Exploration (Pty) Ltd) holds a Technical Co-operation Permit (TCP) (PASA Reference No. 12-2-167). Desktop studies and preliminary geological models that were performed under the TCP provided positive indications that the area is prospective. As such, Western Allen Ridge lodged an Exploration Right application to the Petroleum Agency South Africa (PASA) in June 2020, over the TCP, in order to ascertain if viable hydrocarbons (oil, gas and condensate) deposits exist. The Exploration Right application has been allocated the reference number: 12/3/363 ER.

The application, submitted in terms of Section 79 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA, Act No. 28 of 2002) was accepted by PASA on the 16th July 2020. As per Section 10 of the MPRDA, PASA has published notice of the application in their foyer and in the provincial gazette.

In order to undertake exploration activities, Western Allen Ridge requires a granted Exploration Right in terms of the MPRDA, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002). In accordance with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA, Act 107 of 1998) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, the following environmental permitting and licensing processes are required:

1. Undertaking the Public Participation Process
2. Completion of an Environmental Authorisation Application Form
3. Compilation of Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment reports
4. Development of an Environmental Management Programme Report

Western Allen Ridge has appointed Shango Solutions as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to manage the required environmental process.

The area of interest occupies a total of approximately 33 065.2929 hectares (ha) and it is located approximately 15 kilometres (km) east of the town of Kroonstad, in the Free State Province of South Africa. One hundred and thirty-nine (139) farm portions extend over the application area. The proposed exploration area is located in the Magisterial Districts of Kroonstad and Lindley, and falls within the Moqhaka and Ngwathe Local Municipalities, under the Fezile Dabi District Municipality.

The application area excludes all properties where a granting is prohibited by Section 48 of the MPRDA. These include:

1. Nature Reserves, National Park, Protected Areas or Protected Environments, (including World Heritage Sites, and Protected Forest Areas)
2. Residential areas
3. Public roads, railways and cemeteries
4. Servitudes
5. Areas identified by the Minister by notice in the Gazette in terms of Section 49 of the MPRDA

Invasive and non-invasive exploration activities will be undertaken as part of the proposed Exploration Work Programme (EWP) over a period of three (3) years. The exploration programme will consider diamond drilling of 4 wells. No hydraulic fracturing will be performed as part of the exploration programme. The closure objective is to return the disturbed exploration target areas to their original state.

Kindly refer to the accompanying Background Information Document (BID) for more information about this project. Afrikaans and Sesotho versions of the BID are obtainable from our website (<http://www.shango.co.za/public-documents/>).

It is anticipated that the following NEMA listed activity under Listing Notices 1, 2 and 3 of the NEMA 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (as amended April 2017) will be triggered by this application:

Applicable Listing Notice	Description
GNR 327 (of 7 April 2017), Activity 27	Clearance of vegetation for exploration activities (area of between 1 to 20 hectares)
GNR 325 (of 7 April 2017), Activity 18	Exploration for oil, gas and condensate, including associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks
GNR 324 (of 7 April 2017), Activity 12	Clearance of vegetation for exploration activities (area of 300 square metres or more)

The application for an Exploration Right and an Environmental Authorisation process will be carried out as stipulated in Section 79 of the MPRDA and Chapter 4 of the 2014 EIA Regulations (as amended) (GNR 326) promulgated under the NEMA. A public notification and involvement is being carried out as part of the Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting process.

This notice is in accordance with clause 79 of the MPRDA and Chapter 6 of GNR 326 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, which requests Western Allen Ridge notify in writing and consult with the land owner or lawful occupier and any other affected party. The results of the consultation will be included in the Scoping and Environmental Impact Report submission in order for PASA to adjudicate on the application.

The Scoping Report will be made available for public review, for a period of 30 days, from the 15th September 2020 to the 16th October 2020 at the following location:

Venue	Address
Gaggle-Inn Country Estate	82 Vrischgewaagd Kroonstad 9500

Furthermore, an electronic copy will be made available on the Shango Solutions website (www.shango.co.za/public-documents/) from the 15th September 2020. I&APs are invited to participate by providing comments and raising issues of concern regarding the proposed project.

A stakeholder Open Day will be held to discuss the contents of the Scoping Report. Details of the date, time and venue are provided below.

Date	Time	Venue
30 September 2020	10H00 to 15H30	Gaggle-Inn Country Estate 82 Vrischgewaagd Kroonstad 9500

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are provided a period of at least 30 days to register and comment on the proposed activity and application. Should you wish to register as an I&AP for this project and submit any comments, concerns or objections you may have regarding the project, please submit your name, contact details, reason for your interest and issues/concerns, in writing or telephonically, to Shango Solutions, **by no later than 16th October 2020**. Please include the project reference name (Kroonstad ER and EA Application) in all correspondence. Please note that only registered I&APs will be notified of further opportunities for involvement in this process.

Any queries, comments, or concerns with regards to this application can be directed to Shango Solutions:

- Tel: 011 678 6504
- Fax: 011 678 9731
- E-mail: zizo@shango.co.za
- Project name: Kroonstad ER and EA Application
- Contact person: Ms Zizo Siwendu (Environmental Assessment Practitioner/EAP)
- Postal address: P.O. Box 2591, Cresta, 2118, South Africa

Any comments or concerns regarding this application can also be directed to PASA (and a copy sent to Shango Solutions):

- Tel: 021 938 3500
- Fax: 021 938 3520
- Contact person: AM Thovhakale
- E-mail: plu@petroleumagencyrsa.com
- PASA reference number: 12/3/363 ER
- Postal address: P.O. Box 5111, Tygervalley, 7536

Please feel free to contact the undersigned if you have any queries or concerns.

**Best Regards,
Zizo Siwendu**



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