



# mineral resources & energy

DMRE 11

Department:  
Mineral Resources and Energy  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

Sub-Directorate: Mine Environmental Management      Reference no: FS 30/5/1/1/3/2/1 (10696) EM  
Enquiries: Ms. N. Mhlarhi      E-Mail Address: [Nkateko.Mhlarhi@dmre.gov.za](mailto:Nkateko.Mhlarhi@dmre.gov.za)      EAPASA Reg Number: 2022/5144

BY REGISTERED MAIL

The Directors

White Rivers Exploration (Pty) Ltd

Postnet Suite 089

Private Bag X81

Halfway House

1685



For attention                   : Mr. Bernard Olivier  
Cell                               : 076 254 2506  
E-mail                           : [bernard@lexingtongold.co.uk](mailto:bernard@lexingtongold.co.uk)

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (NEMA) AS AMENDED, AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REGULATIONS, 2014 AS AMENDED TO PROSPECT FOR GOLD ORE, SULPHUR, RARE EARTHS, SILVER ORE, DIAMOND (ALLUVIAL), PGM'S, COAL, URANIUM ORE, COPPER ORE, ZINC ORE, TUNGSTEN ORE, LEAD, MANGANESE ORE, NICKEL ORE, COBALT, IRON ORE AND MOLYBDENUM IN RESPECT OF VARIOUS PROPERTIES LISTED ON ANNEXURE "A", SITUATED IN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS OF KOPPIES AND KROONSTAD: FREE STATE REGION

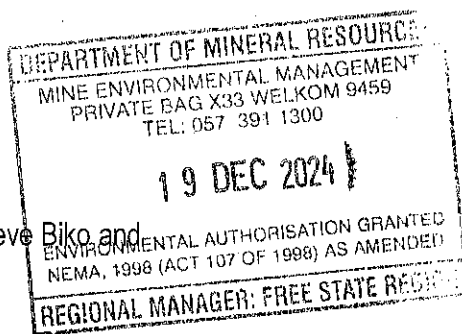
With reference to the abovementioned application, please be advised that this office has decided to **grant** an environmental authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998). The environmental authorisation and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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

**K. KEWUTI**  
**REGIONAL MANAGER: MINERAL REGULATION**

**FREE STATE REGION**

DATE 19/12/2024



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 30/5/1/1/3/2/1 (10696) EM  
**Last amended:** First Issue  
**Holder of Authorisation:** White Rivers Exploration (Pty) Ltd  
**Location of activity:** Various properties listed on Annexure "A", situated in the Magisterial District of Koppies and Kroonstad in the 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.

This office 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 this office 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 **White Rivers Exploration (Pty) Ltd** with the following contact details –

**The Directors**

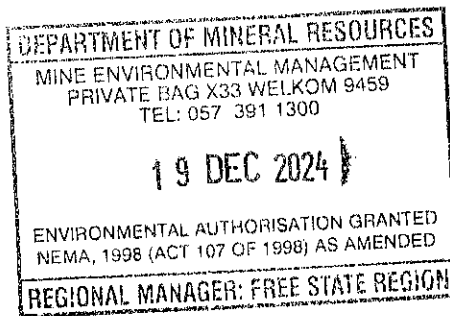
**White Rivers exploration (Pty) Ltd**

**Postnet Suite 089**

**Private Bag X81**

**Halfway House**

**1685**



**For attention** : Mr. Bernard Olivier  
**Cell** : 076 254 2506  
**E-mail** : [bernard@lexingtongold.co.uk](mailto:bernard@lexingtongold.co.uk)

to undertake the following activity listed in the EIA Regulations.

EIA LISTED ACTIVITY NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF THE REGULATION	DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY.
Activity 20 of GNR 983 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	<i>Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a prospecting right in terms of section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) as well as any other applicable activity as contained</i>	White Rivers Exploration (Pty) Ltd applied for an environmental authorisation to prospect for Gold Ore, Sulphur, Rare Earths, Silver Ore, Diamond (Alluvial), PGM's, Coal, Uranium Ore, Copper Ore, Zinc Ore, Tungsten Ore, Lead, Manganese

EIA LISTED ACTIVITY NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF THE REGULATION	DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY.
	<i>in this listing notice or listing notice 3 of 2014 required to exercise the prospecting right.</i>	Ore, Nickel Ore, Cobalt, Iron Ore and Molybdenum through drilling methods, the company intends to drill a maximum of 6 diamond core drillholes. The area applied for is approximately 18 340.4536 ha.

Detailed specifications of the activity are as follows:

Proposed prospecting activities details are as follows:

Area under application-18 340.4536 ha

**Phase 1: Non-invasive prospecting activities.**

Activity 1: data acquisition

- Data collection and literature review
- Field mapping.
- Data review report and analysis.

Activity 2: Field visits

Activity 3: Geophysical surveys

Activity 4: Re-visit historical drillhole core, and re-logging and re-sampling.



**Phase 2: Invasive prospecting activities**

Activity 5: Discovery drilling and sampling.

- Drilling, geochemical sample analysis, data verification and mineral resource estimation.
- Establishment of drill statins.
- Establishment of access roads.
- Erection of temporary offices.
- Drilling (6 boreholes) to the depth of 700m.
- The area to be affected is approximately 5400m<sup>2</sup> (0.54 ha) or more of the ground cover.

Activity 6: Logging and sampling of new drillholes.

Activity 7: Preliminary economic assessment, code compliant mineral resource estimation.

### Phase 3: Rehabilitation phase:

- Rehabilitation must be done as described on the BAR & EMPr.

### Phase 4: Monitoring and maintenance

### Phase 5: Post-closure monitoring and maintenance.

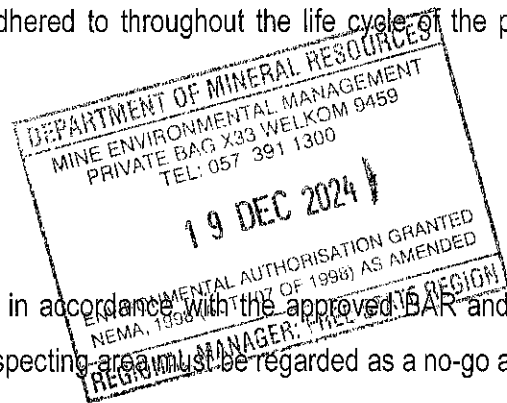
### Properties

Various properties listed on Annexure "A"

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 prospecting operation.

### EA SITE SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

- Drilling of prospecting boreholes must be conducted in accordance with the approved BAR and EMPr. All sensitive areas and critical Biodiversity within the prospecting area must be regarded as a no-go area.
- Existing roads must be used to access the drilling sites.
- Minimise vegetation removal by avoiding large trees and leave rootstock in the ground to assist with stabilisation and natural regeneration.
- Before any invasive activity commence on site, a suitably qualified ECO must inspect the site for the presence of any endangered fauna.
- At least 50cm of topsoil must be stripped from the drilling sites before prospecting works commence and stockpiled to be used during rehabilitation of the mined area.
- Topsoil must be stored within the approved prospecting area, and managed as per the approved EMPr and this EA.
- Dumping of waste within the prospecting area is strictly prohibited.
- Alien vegetation must be cleared regularly within the prospecting grid during and after prospecting.



9. No activity is to occur within wetlands and their 100m buffer zones, within rivers and their 100m buffer zones/  
1: 100-year flood line without the necessary authorization under NEMA and NWA.
10. Protected species must remain in situ until the necessary permits are obtained under NEM: BA.
11. Heritage sites and 50m buffer zones must be preserved at all times unless the necessary permits are obtained under SAHRA.
12. Maintain a minimum of 500m buffer from any infrastructure or dwelling.
13. Indigenous animals and birds that are found in the area must not be harmed and must be protected as far as it is practicable.



## ANNEXURE 1: REASONS FOR THE DECISION

### 1. Background

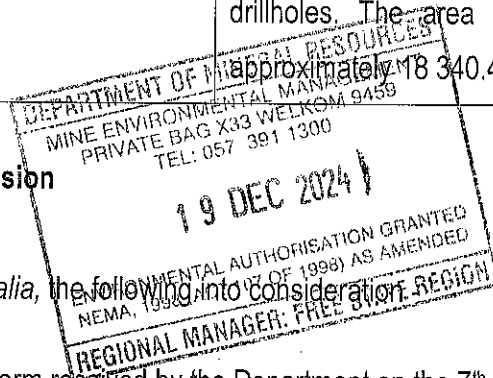
White Rivers Exploration (Pty) Ltd applied for an EA for an activity listed in the EIA Regulations as:

EIA LISTED ACTIVITY NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF THE REGULATION	DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY.
Activity 20 of GNR 983 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	<i>Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a prospecting right in terms of section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) as well as any other applicable activity as contained in this listing notice or listing notice 3 of 2014 required to exercise the prospecting right.</i>	White Rivers Exploration (Pty) Ltd applied for an environmental authorisation to prospect for Gold Ore, Sulphur, Rare Earths, Silver Ore, Diamond (Alluvial), PGM's, Coal, Uranium Ore, Copper Ore, Zinc Ore, Tungsten Ore, Lead, Manganese Ore, Nickel Ore, Cobalt, Iron Ore and Molybdenum through drilling methods, the company intends to drill a maximum of 6 diamond core drillholes. The area applied for is approximately 18 340.4536 ha.

### 2. Information considered in making the decision

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

- a) The information contained in the application form received by the Department on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2024.
- b) The information contained in the BAR & EMPr received by the Department on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2024.
- c) The objectives and requirements of the applicable and relevant legislation, policies and guidelines and the EIA Regulations.
- d) Public Participation Process (PPP) attached in the revised BAR and EMPr.
- e) Relevant information contained in the Departmental information database, including, the Department's circular on the One Environmental Management System dated 8 December 2014.



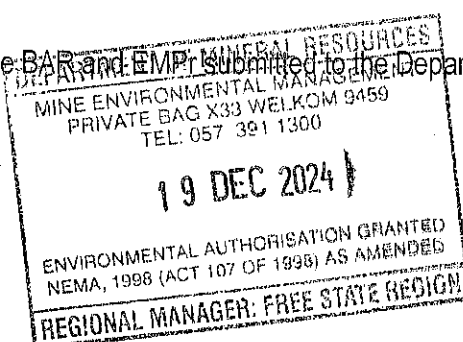


- f) The sense of balance of the negative and positive impacts and mitigation measures.
- g) The Environmental Emergency Procedure Report included in the revised BAR and EMPr.
- h) The Environmental Awareness Plan Report included in the revised BAR and EMPr.
- i) The applicant complied with Section 24P of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) read together with the Financial Provisioning Regulations, 2015 (as amended) and provided the financial provision for the management of environmental impacts associated with this project.

### 3. Key factors considered in making the decision

All the information presented to the Department was taken into account 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) 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 and EMPr compiled by Zizo Siwendu of Shango Solutions and submitted to the Department on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2024.
- c) The Environmental Awareness Plan contained in the BAR and EMPr submitted to the Department on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2024; compiled by Zizo Siwendu of Shango Solutions is sufficient.
- d) The rehabilitation and closure plan contained in the BAR and EMPr submitted to the Department on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2024 is sufficient.

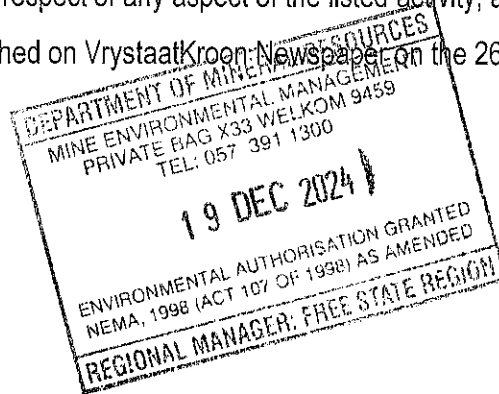


### 4. Findings

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

- a) The potential impacts on the site were clearly investigated and mitigation measures were also outlined.
- b) The PPP complied with Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations R 982. The PPP included, *inter-alia*, the following:

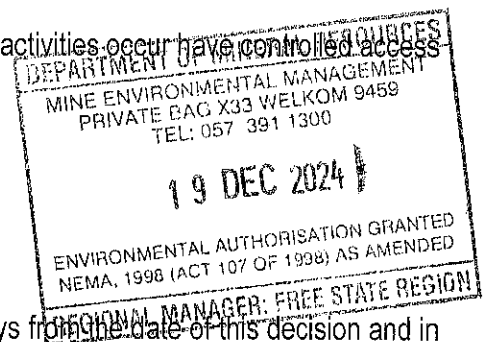
- Identification and engagement (public meeting) with I&APs.
- Fixing a notice board at the site where the listed activity is to be undertaken.
- Giving written notice to the owners and occupiers of land including the owners and occupiers of the land adjacent to the site where the listed activity is to be undertaken, the municipality, and the various Organs of State having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the listed activity; and
- The newspaper advert published on VrystaatKroon Newspaper on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2024.



## ANNEXURE 2: DEPARTMENTAL STANDARD CONDITIONS

### 1. SCOPE OF AUTHORISATION

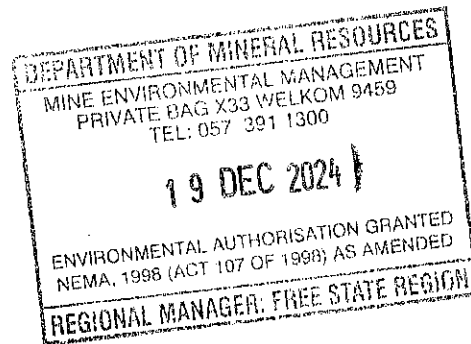
- 1.1 The holder of the EA shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in the EA. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to an agent, servant, contractor, subcontractor, employee, consultant or any person rendering a service to 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 as is deems 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 authorized 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 Regulation 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.

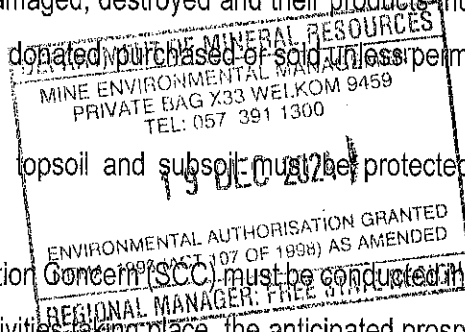
- 2.2.3 The date of issue of the decision.
- 2.2.4 The reasons for the decision as included in Annexure 1 and Departmental Standard Conditions in Annexure 2.
- 2.3 Draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the NEMA: National Appeals 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.
  - 2.5.5 E-mail address of the holder if any.



### 3. COMMENCEMENT OF THE ACTIVITY (IES)

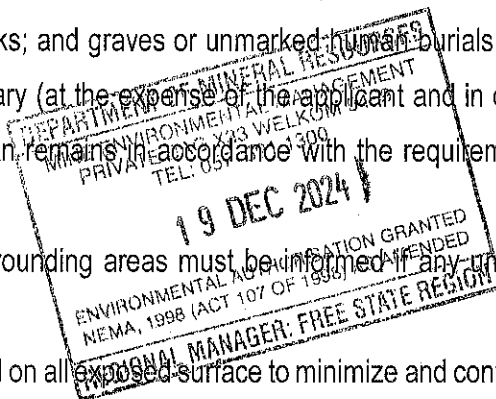
- 3.1 In order to ensure safety, all employees must be given the necessary personnel protective equipment (PPE).
- 3.2 This EA must be provided to the site operator, and the requirements thereof must be made fully known to him or her.
- 3.3 Appropriate notification signs must be erected at the prospecting site, warning the public (residents, visitors etc.) about the hazard around the prospecting area and presence of heavy vehicles and machinery.
- 3.4 Access to the prospecting grid must be strictly controlled and measures must be put in place to ensure the safety of animals/wildlife and the public.
- 3.5 Prospecting and all related activities must be limited to daytime hours from Mondays to Saturdays and no work must be undertaken on Sundays.
- 3.6 Noise abatement equipment such as mufflers on diesel engines must be maintained in good condition.
- 3.7 Prevent soil, surface water and ground water contamination.
- 3.8 Drill holes that are likely to intersect artesian aquifers must be pre-collared and have a pressure cementing casing of adequate strength and to a sufficient depth.
- 3.9 Avoid creating hard bare rock areas which cannot support vegetation growth.

- 3.10 Prospecting must include design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along the drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface water flow, and drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water runoff.
- 3.11 Access routes for prospecting vehicles and machinery must be clearly marked and appropriate signalling must be posted to that effect. Furthermore, movement of prospecting vehicles and machinery must be restricted to areas outside of the drainage line or wet areas.
- 3.12 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 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.
- 3.13 Construction of storage areas is not permitted on site; topsoil and subsoil must be protected from contamination or pollution.
- 3.14 An active search for floral and faunal Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) must be conducted in areas where prospecting activities are planned prior to such activities taking place, the anticipated prospecting footprint along with all access roads and the immediate vicinity must be investigated.
- 3.15 Any activity proposed within the water courses and associated buffer zones, including rehabilitation must be authorized by the DWS in terms of section 21 (c) & (i) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998).
- 3.16 The prospecting activity footprint must fall outside the 1:100-year flood line of the watercourse or 100m from the edge of the feature, whichever distance is the greatest.
- 3.17 Prospecting activities must not take place on sensitive areas as identified by the screening tool.
- 3.18 The construction of site camp within the prospecting area is not permitted.
- 3.19 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 satisfaction of the Department and the Department of Water and Sanitation. The opportunity for the onsite remediation and re-use of contaminated soil must be investigated prior to the disposal and this Department must be informed in this regard.
- 3.20 An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimization and must incorporate avoidance, reduction, recycling, treatment, reuse, and disposal where appropriate. Uncontaminated rubble generated on the premises can be re-used as back filling material on site. Ensure that no refuse or rubble generated on the premises is placed, dumped, or deposited on the adjacent properties or public places and open space.
- 3.21 In terms of sections 28 and 30 of NEMA, and sections 19 and 20 of the NWA, any costs incurred to remedy environmental damage must be borne by the person responsible for the damage. It is therefore

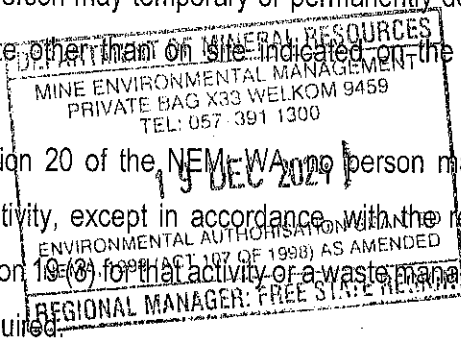


imperative that the holder of the EA reads through and understand the legislative requirements pertaining to the project. It is the holder of EA responsibility to take reasonable measures which include informing and educating contractors and employees about environmental risks of their work and training them to operate in an environmentally acceptable manner.

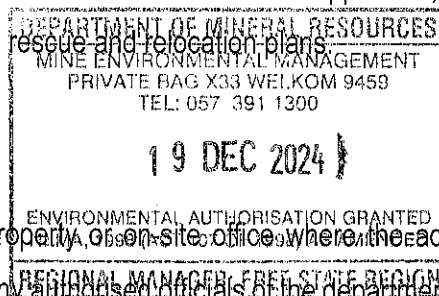
- 3.22 Should any heritage remains be exposed during operation or any actions on the site, these must immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) and (in accordance with the applicable legislation). Heritage remains uncovered or disturbed during earthworks must not be further disturbed until the necessary approval has been obtained from SAHRA. The Department must also be informed about such exposure in writing. Heritage remains include archaeological remains (including fossil bones and fossil shells); coins; middens, indigenous and/or colonial ceramics; any articles of value or antiquity; marine shell heaps; stone artifacts and bone remains; structures and other built features; rock art and rock engravings; shipwrecks; and graves or unmarked human burials. A qualified archaeologist must be contracted where necessary (at the expense of the applicant and in consultation with the relevant authority) to remove any human remains in accordance with the requirements of the relevant authority.
- 3.23 Residents (if any) on the property (ies) and surrounding areas must be informed if any unusual noisy activities are planned.
- 3.24 Dust suppression measures must be implemented on all exposed surface to minimize and control airborne dust.
- 3.25 Mixing of cement, concrete, paints, solvent, sealants, and adhesive must be done in specified areas on concrete aprons or on protected plastic linings to contain spillage or overflow onto soil to avoid contamination of underground water and environmental damage.
- 3.26 Maintenance and refuelling of machineries must be done at specified areas to minimize soil contamination.
- 3.27 Drilling muds must be contained in lined drill sumps, and the material must be removed from site and disposed in an environmentally friendly manner.
- 3.28 Spill kit must be available on each site where prospecting activities will be taking place.
- 3.29 Hydraulic fluid or chemicals required during operation must be stored in a concrete lined surface with bund walls and shall be designed in such a manner that any spillage can be contained and reclaimed without any impact on the surrounding environment. Should any spills occur, it should be cleaned immediately by removing spillage together with the polluted solids and dispose it in the authorised disposal site permitted of such waste. The regional office of the Department of Water and Sanitation must be notified within 24 hours of an incident that may pollute surface and underground water resources.



- 3.30 Chemical sanitation facilities or system such as toilets that do not rely on the seepage of liquids must be provided with a ratio of 1 for every 15 workers. These must be placed such that they prevent spills or leaks to the environment and must be maintained according to the operating instructions and the content thereof must be disposed of at an authorised wastewater treatment works.
- 3.31 The holder of EA must ensure that any water uses listed in terms of section 21 of National Water Act get authorization from Department of Water and Sanitation prior to the commencement of such activity (ies).
- 3.32 This EA does not purport to absolve the holder of EA from its common law obligations towards the owner of the surface land affected.
- 3.33 This EA may be amended or withdrawn at any stage for non-compliance and provides no relief from the provisions of any other relevant statutory or contractual obligations.
- 3.34 The holder of EA must note that in terms section 43A of NEM: WA, residue stockpiles and residue deposit must be deposited and managed in a prescribed manner on any site demarcated for that purpose in the Environmental Management Plan or EMPr. No person may temporary or permanently deposits residue stockpile or residue deposit on any area or site, other than on site indicated on the Environmental Management Plan or EMPr.
- 3.35 The holder of EA must note that in terms section 20 of the NEM: WA, no person may commence, undertake, or conduct a waste management activity, except in accordance with the requirements of norms and standards determined in terms of Section 19(3) for that activity or a waste management license is issued in respect of that activity if license is required.
- 3.36 An appeal under Section 43 (7) of NEMA suspend an EA or exemption or any provisions of conditions attached hereto, or any directive unless the Minister directs otherwise.
- 3.37 Should you be notified by the Minister of a suspension of the authorisation pending appeal procedure, you may not commence with the activity (ies) until such time that the Minister allows you to commence with such activity (ies) in writing.
- 3.38 The Department reserves the right to audit and/or inspect the activity (ies) without prior notification at any reasonable time and at such frequency as may be determined by the Regional Manager.
- 3.39 The storage of hydrocarbons must have bund walls with adequate capacity to contain the maximum volume that is stored in the area. Uncontaminated storm water must be prevented from coming into contact with the waste and must be diverted away from the storage site.
- 3.40 Subject to the commencement and duration requirements of the MPRDA and NEMA for the listed Prospecting activity, this EA is valid for the period for which the aforesaid Right is granted.
- 3.41 This EA will only be effective on the event that a corresponding Permits or rights is issued in terms of MPRDA as amended and the activity listed in this EA may not commence without the prospecting right.



- 3.42 The listed activity (ies), including site preparation, must not commence within 20 (twenty) calendar days of the date of the notification of the decision being sent to the registered I&APs. In the event that an appeal is lodged with the appeal administrator, the effect of this environmental authorisation is suspended until such time as the appeal is decided.
- 3.43 Should there be any conflicting conditions between this EA and other approval granted by other authorities, it is the EA holder's responsibility to bring it to the attention of the Department for resolution.
- 3.44 Should any Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) or other protected floral and faunal species be encountered within the study area, the following must be done
- ❖ If any threatened species will be disturbed, ensure effective relocation of individuals to suitable offset areas.
  - ❖ Permit applications must be obtained from the relevant authorities where applicable; and
  - ❖ A suitable qualified specialist must oversee all rescue and relocation plans.

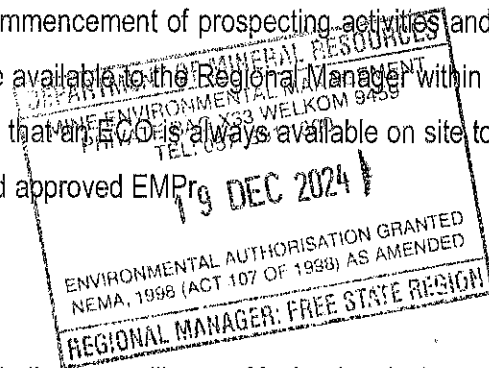


#### 4. MANAGEMENT OF ACTIVITY (IES)

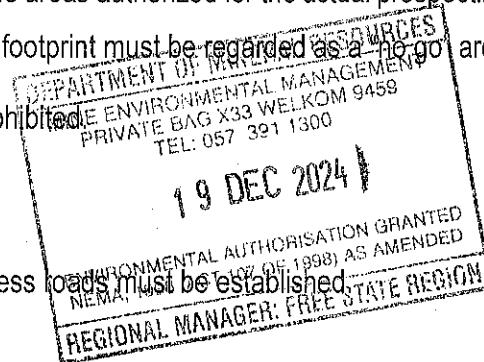
- 4.1 A copy of the EA and EMPr must be kept at the property, or on-site office where the activities will be undertaken. The EA and EMPr must be produced to any authorised officials of the department who request to see it and must be made available for inspection by any employee or agent of the holder of the EA who works or undertakes work at the property (ies).
- 4.2 The contents of the EMPr and its objectives must be made known to all contractors, subcontractors, agent and any other people working on the site, and any updates or amendments to the EMPr must be submitted to the department for approval.
- 4.3 Any complaint received from the I&AP during all phases of the operation must be attended to as soon as possible and addressed to the satisfaction of all concerned interested and affected parties.
- 4.4 The holder of the EA must prevent nuisance conditions or health hazards, or the potential creation of nuisance conditions or health hazards.
- 4.5 The holder of the EA must ensure that all non-recyclable waste is disposed of at waste management facilities licensed to handle such wastes and all recyclable waste is collected by licensed waste management facilities for recycling, reuse or treatment.



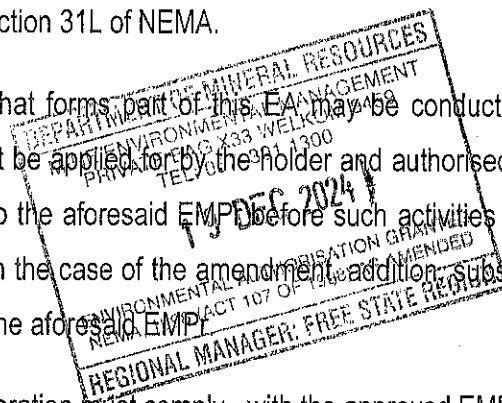
- 4.6 In order to prevent nuisance conditions, the holder of the EA must ensure that all storage skips and bins are not overfilled. The holder of the EA must also make sure that littering of waste within the prospecting area is prohibited.
- 4.7 The visible remains of concrete, either solid, or from washings, shall be physically removed immediately and disposed of as waste.
- 4.8 Non-compliance with any condition of this EA or the approved EMPr is an offence in terms of section 49A(1)(c) of NEMA and may result in criminal proceedings and issuing of a directive in terms of Section 28 and or a compliance notice in terms of section 31L of NEMA.
- 4.9 Only listed activity(ies) that are expressly specified in this EA must be undertaken, and additional or new activities not specified herein must be applied for by the holder and authorised by the competent authority in the form of an amendment of the EA before such activities may be commenced with. This condition is also applicable in the case of the amendment, addition, substitution, correction, and removal or updating of any detail in the aforesaid EA.
- 4.10 Rehabilitation of the disturbed surface caused by operation must comply with the approved EMPr.
- 4.11 The Holder of EA must appoint the ECO before commencement of prospecting activities and ensure that the name and contact details of the ECO are made available to the Regional Manager within 30 days of commencement. The holder of EA must also ensure that an ECO is always available on site to ensure that activities at all times comply with the issued EA and approved EMPr.
- 4.12 The ECO must:
- 4.12.1 Keep and maintain a detailed incidents register (including any spillages of fuels, chemicals or any other material).
- 4.12.2 Keep a complaint register on site indicating the complaint and how the issues were addressed, what measures were taken and what the preventative measures were implemented to avoid re-occurrence of complaints.
- 4.12.3 Keep records relating to monitoring and auditing on site and avail them for inspection to any relevant authorised officials.
- 4.12.4 Keep copies of all environmental reports submitted to the department.
- 4.12.5 Keep the records of all permits, licences and authorisations required by the operation.



- 4.12.6 Compile a monthly monitoring report and make it available to the department if requested.
- 4.12.7 The duties and responsibility of the ECO must not be seen as exempting the holder of the EA from the legal obligations in terms of the NEMA.
- 4.13 The footprint of the activities must be limited on the areas authorized for the actual prospecting works and operational activities and all areas outside of the footprint must be regarded as a "no go" areas.
- 4.14 Collection of plant material for any purpose is prohibited.
- 4.15 Hunting or trapping of fauna is not allowed.
- 4.16 Existing farm roads must be utilised, no new access roads must be established.
- 4.17 All vehicles must be regularly inspected for leaks.
- 4.18 Refuelling of vehicles and machineries must take place on a sealed surface area to prevent soil contamination.
- 4.19 The footprint of the activity (ies) must be limited on the areas authorised for the actual construction works and operational activities and all areas outside of the footprint must be regarded as a "no go" areas.
- 4.20 Erosion and soil loss must be prevented by minimizing the construction site exposed to surface water runoff. Where necessary erosion stabilizing action such as gabions or re-vegetation must be implemented to prevent further habitat deterioration.
- 4.21 The holder of the EA must ensure that all personnel who work with hazardous waste are trained to deal with these potential hazardous situations to minimize the risk involved. Records of training and verification of competence must be kept by the holder EA.
- 4.22 To prevent nuisance conditions, the holder of the EA must ensure that all storage skips and bins are not overfilled.
- 4.23 In the event of vehicle breakdown, maintenance must be done with care. Drip trays must be used to control oil spillages.
- 4.24 All oil spillages must be immediately cleaned up and treated accordingly.
- 4.25 Sheet runoff from access roads must be slowed down by the strategic placement of berms.



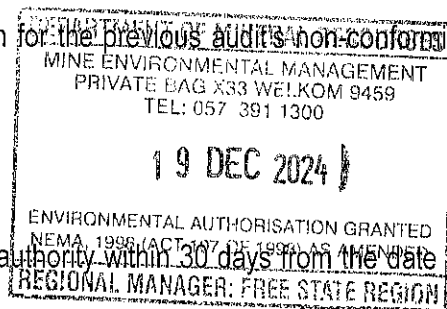
- 4.26 The holder of the EA must ensure that all liquid wastes, whose emissions to water or land could cause pollution are diverted to sewer, after testing water quality and receiving written approval from the relevant local authority.
- 4.27 All alien vegetation in the vicinity of the study area should be removed regularly and reseeded with indigenous grasses and sedges throughout the life cycle of the of the prospecting activities.
- 4.28 Non-compliance with any condition of this EA or EMPr may result in the issuing of a directive in terms of section 28 and or a compliance notice in terms of section 31L of NEMA.
- 4.29 Only listed activity specified in the BAR & EMPr that forms part of this EA may be conducted, and additional or new activities not specified herein must be applied for by the holder and authorised by the competent authority in the form of an amendment to the aforesaid EMPr before such activities may be commenced with. This condition is also applicable in the case of the amendment, addition, substitution, correction, and removal or updating of any detail in the aforesaid EMPr.
- 4.30 Rehabilitation of the disturbed surface caused by operation must comply with the approved EMPr.
- 4.31 The Holder of EA must ensure that the name and contact details of the ECO is made available to the Regional Manager within 30 days of commencement. The holder of EA must also ensure that an ECO is available on site to ensure that activity (ies) always comply with the issued EA and approved EMPr.
- 4.32 The ECO must:
- 4.32.1 Keep and maintain a detailed incidents register including any spillages of fuels, chemicals, or any other material.
  - 4.32.2 Keep a complaint register on site indicating the complaint and how the issues were addressed, what measures were taken and what the preventative measures were implemented to avoid re-occurrence of complaints.
  - 4.32.3 Keep records relating to monitoring and auditing on site and avail them for inspection to any relevant authorised officials.
  - 4.32.4 Keep copies of all environmental reports submitted to the Department.
  - 4.32.5 Keep the records of all permits, licences and authorisations required by the operation.
  - 4.32.6 Compile a monthly monitoring report and make it available to the Department if requested.
- 4.33 The duties and responsibility of the ECO should not be seen as exempting the holder of the EA from the legal obligations in terms of NEMA.



## 5 REPORTING TO THE DEPARTMENT

5.1 The holder of EA must:

- 5.1.1 Submit and Environmental Audit Report to this Department annually and such report must be done by qualified Environmental Assessment Practitioner and must the audit report must specify whether conditions of this environmental authorisation and EMPr are adhered to.
- 5.1.2 Identify and assess any new impacts and risks as a result of undertaking the activity/ies, if applicable.
- 5.1.3 Identify shortcomings in the EMPr, if applicable.
- 5.1.4 Identify the need, if any, for any changes to the management, avoidance and mitigation measures provided for in the EMPr/closure plan.
- 5.1.5 If applicable, specify that the corrective action/s taken for the previous audit's non-conformities, was adequate.
- 5.1.5.1 Specify the name of the auditor and
- 5.1.5.2 Be submitted by the holder to the competent authority within 30 days from the date on which the auditor finalised the audit.
- 5.1.5.3 Should any shortcomings in terms of regulation 34(4) of the EIA Regulations be identified, the holder must submit recommendation to amend the EMPr to rectify any shortcomings identified with the aforementioned audit report.
- 5.2 Any complaint received from the I&AP during all phases of the operation must be attended to as soon as possible and addressed to the satisfaction of all concerned interested and affected parties.
- 5.3 The holder of the EA must annually assess the environmental liabilities of the operation as contemplated in the Financial Provisioning Regulations, 2015 read together with section 24PA of NEMA and address the financial provision shortfall should there be any..
- 5.4 The holder of the EA must, within 24 hours of incidents occurring, notify the Competent Authority of the occurrence or detection of any incident on the site, or incidental to the operation of the site, which has the potential to cause, or has caused pollution of the environment, health risks, nuisance conditions or water pollution.
- 5.5 The holder of the EA must, within 14 days, or a shorter period, if specified by the Competent Authority from the occurrence or detection of any incident referred to in condition 5.4, submit an action plan, which

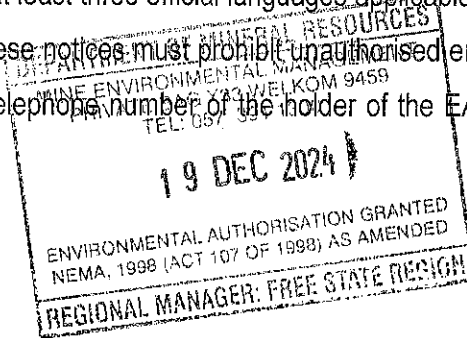


must include a detailed time schedule, and resource allocation signed off by top management, to the satisfaction of the Competent Authority of measures taken to –

- 5.5.1 Correct the impact resulting from the incident;
- 5.5.2 Prevent the incident from causing any further impact; and
- 5.5.3 Prevent a recurrence of a similar incident.
- 5.5.4 In an event where measures have not been implemented within 21 days of the incident referred to in condition 5.5, or measures which have been implemented are inadequate, the Competent Authority may implement the necessary measures at the cost of the holder of the EA.

## 6 SITE SECURITY AND ACCESS CONTROL

- 6.1 The holder of the EA must ensure effective access control on the site to reasonably prevent unauthorised entry. Signs indicating the risks involved in unauthorised entry must be displayed at each entrance.
- 6.2 Weatherproof, durable and legible notices in at least three official languages applicable in the area must be displayed at each entrance to the Site. These notices must prohibit unauthorised entry and state the hours of operation, the name, address and telephone number of the holder of the EA and the person responsible for the operation of the site.

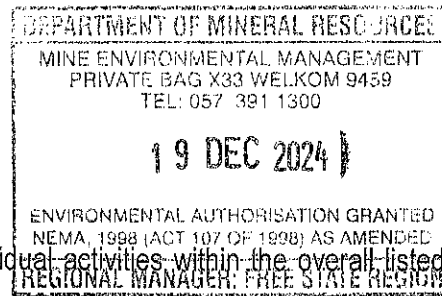


## 7 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

- 7.1 The holder of the EA must maintain and implement an emergency preparedness plan and review it biennially when conducting audit and after each emergency and or major accident. The plan must, amongst others, include:
  - 7.1.1 Site Fire
  - 7.1.2 Spillage
  - 7.1.3 Natural disasters such as floods
  - 7.1.4 Industrial action
  - 7.1.5 Contact details of police, ambulances and any emergency centre closer to the site.
- 7.2 The holder of EA must ensure that an up-to-date emergency register is kept during all phases of the operation. This register must be made available upon request by the department.

## 8 INVESTIGATION

- 8.1 If, in the opinion of the Competent Authority, nuisances or health risks may be or is occurring on the site, the holder of the EA must initiate an investigation into the cause of the problem or suspected problem.
- 8.2 If, in the opinion of the Competent Authority, pollution may be or is occurring, the holder of the EA must initiate an investigation into the cause of the problem or suspected problem. Such investigation must include the monitoring of the water quality variables, at those monitoring points and such frequency as may be specified by the Competent Authority.
- 8.3 Investigations carried out in terms of conditions 8.1 and 8.2 above must include the monitoring of the relevant environmental pollution, nuisance and health risk variables, at those monitoring points and such frequency to be determined in consultation with the Competent Authority.
- 8.4 Should the investigation carried out as per conditions 8.1 and 8.2 above reveal any unacceptable levels of pollution, the holder of the EA must submit mitigation measures to the satisfaction of the Competent Authority.



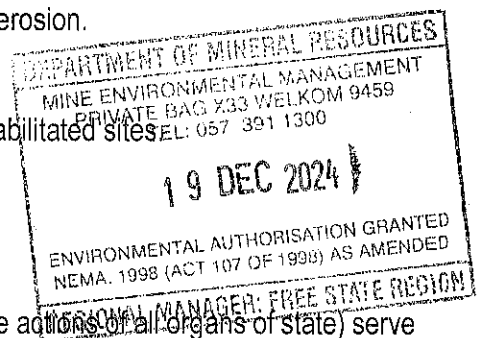
## 9 COMMISSIONING AND DECOMMISSIONING

- 9.1 The commissioning and decommissioning of individual activities within the overall listed prospecting activity must take place within the phases and timeframes as set out in the EMP.

## 10 SITE CLOSURE

- 10.1 The holder of EA must apply for a closure certificate in terms of section 43 of the MPRDA within 180 days of occurrence of lapsing, abandonment, cancellation, cessation, relinquishment and completion of development.
- 10.2 The application for closure indicated above must be submitted together with all relevant documents as indicated in section 43 of the MPRDA.
- 10.3 The holder of EA must ensure that rehabilitation of the disturbed areas caused by operation always comply with the approved EMP.
- 10.4 Shape, level and de-compact the final landscape after removing all the project infrastructure, dress with indigenous seeds

- 10.5 Vegetation growth must be retained around the proposed prospecting areas to protect the soil.
- 10.6 No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes only indigenous plant can be utilized for rehabilitation purposes.
- 10.7 The holder of EA remains responsible for any environmental liability, pollution or ecological degradation, the pumping and treatment of extraneous water, compliance with the conditions of EA and the management and sustainable closure thereof until the Minister has issued a closure certificate in terms of Section 43 of the MPRDA. Where necessary the Minister may retain certain portion of financial provision for residual, health or environmental impacts that might be known in future.
- 10.8 The following must also be implemented as per the BAR and EMPr:
- 10.8.1 Removal of infrastructures (drill rig, mobile diesel tank, mobile water tank and chemical toilet
  - 10.8.2 Capping boreholes as per legal requirements
  - 10.8.3 Ensure that no foreign matter is left behind on the drill site
  - 10.8.4 Refilling the sump required for the drilling activities, the plastic lining will be removed and disposed of in a registered landfill site and the soil returned for rehabilitation purposes.
  - 10.8.5 The drill sites will be inspected for any signs of hydrocarbon pollution.
  - 10.8.6 Any identified soil polluted will be removed and disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner
  - 10.8.7 Any area compacted as a result of the drilling will be ripped and any ruts created by accessing or leaving the site for the drilling activity will be filled in to prevent erosion.
  - 10.8.8 Re-vegetation in the affected areas, and
  - 10.8.9 The applicable landowners will be requested to inspect the rehabilitated sites



## 11 NEMA PRINCIPLES

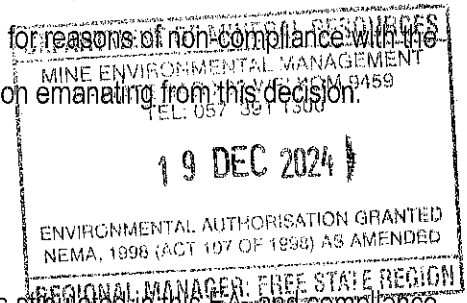
The NEMA Principles (set out in Section 2 of NEMA, which apply to the actions of all organs of state) serve as guidelines by reference to which any organs of state must exercise any function when taking any decision, and which must guide the interpretation, administration and implementation of any other law concerned with the protection or management of the environment), *inter alia*, provides for:

- ❖ the effects of decisions on all aspects of the environment to be taken into account.

- ❖ the consideration, assessment and evaluation of the social, economic and environmental impacts of activities (disadvantages and benefits), and for decisions to be appropriate in the light of such consideration and assessment.
- ❖ the co-ordination and harmonisation of policies, legislation and actions relating to the environment.
- ❖ the resolving of actual or potential conflicts of interest between organs of state through conflict resolution procedures; and
- ❖ the selection of the best practicable environmental option.

## 12. DISCLAIMER

The Department, in terms of the conditions of this environmental authorisation shall not be responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder, developer or his/her successor in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction is temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance with the conditions as set out herein or any other subsequent document or legal action emanating from this decision.



## 13. RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the above, the NEMA principles, compliance with the conditions stipulated in this EA, and compliance with the EMPr, the competent authority is satisfied that the proposed listed activity/ies will not conflict with the general objectives of Integrated Environmental Management stipulated in chapter 5 of NEMA, and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the listed activity/ies can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The authorisation is accordingly **granted**.

Your interest in the future of our environment is appreciated.

Yours Sincerely

K. KEWUTI

REGIONAL MANAGER: MINERAL REGULATION

FREE STATE REGION

DATE...19.12.2024.....



**LIST OF PROPERTIES SITUATED IN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF FEZILE DABI IN THE TOWNS OF KOPPIES AND KROONSTAD IN RESPECT OF AN ACCEPTED PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION OF WHITE RIVERS EXPLORATION (PTY) LTD**

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- 44. The farm Vlakpan 1914
- 45. The Remainder of the farm Brakspruit 2071
- 46. The Remainder of the farm Serpine 2141
- 47. Portion 1 and The Remainder of the farm Sterkwater 2334

  
K KEWUTI

**REGIONAL MANAGER: MINERAL REGULATION**

**FREE STATE REGION**

**DATE:** 28/03/2024