

Your Ref : Glubay Coal – Springfield Project

Our Ref : 19150-Let-001-Process Notification-Rev0

14 December 2020

Dear I&APs and Stakeholders,

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED MINING ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH MINING COAL FOR THE PROPOSED SPRINGFIELD MINING PROJECT LOCATED ON THE FARM KOOKFONTEIN 545 IQ - PORTIONS 2, 16, 22, 27, 29, 30, 34, 35, 39, 54, 55, 64, 65, 66, 82, 93, 95, 97, 98, 99, 100, 102, 105, 106, 108 AND 109; DAMFONTEIN 541 IQ – PORTIONS 2, 8, 36 AND 37; SMALDEEL 542 IQ - PORTIONS 1 AND 4 ; WALDRIFT 599 IQ - PORTIONS 16, 89 AND 101; AND VLAKFONTEIN 546 IQ - PORTION 159 WHICH FALL WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, GAUTENG PROVINCE (GP 30/5/1/2/2 (10084) MR)

This letter is in reference to the Mining Right, Environmental Authorisation and Water Use Licence Applications lodged by Glubay Coal (Pty) Ltd (“Glubay”), under the above reference number with regards to the Springfield Project. The letter serves as an update to the ongoing EIA process.

- **EXTENSION OF TIME PERIOD FOR SUBMISSION OF FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

uKhozi Environmentalists is still in the process of conducting various specialist studies which will inform the draft EIA. Unfortunately, the project has been delayed by the Covid-19 Pandemic and subsequent lockdown we requested for an extension on the EIA Deadline. The extension was approved by Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) on the 27th October 2020 and the new deadline for the EIA is the 30th April 2021.

- **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

The Environmental Impact Assessment Process is carried out in accordance with the EIA Regulations. The report content will align with Appendices 3 (information requirements for Environmental Impact Reports) and Appendix 4 (information requirements for Environmental Management Programmes) of the EIA Regulations.

Figure 1 provides a process flow diagram indicating the key tasks to be carried out for the Environmental Impact Assessment Process.

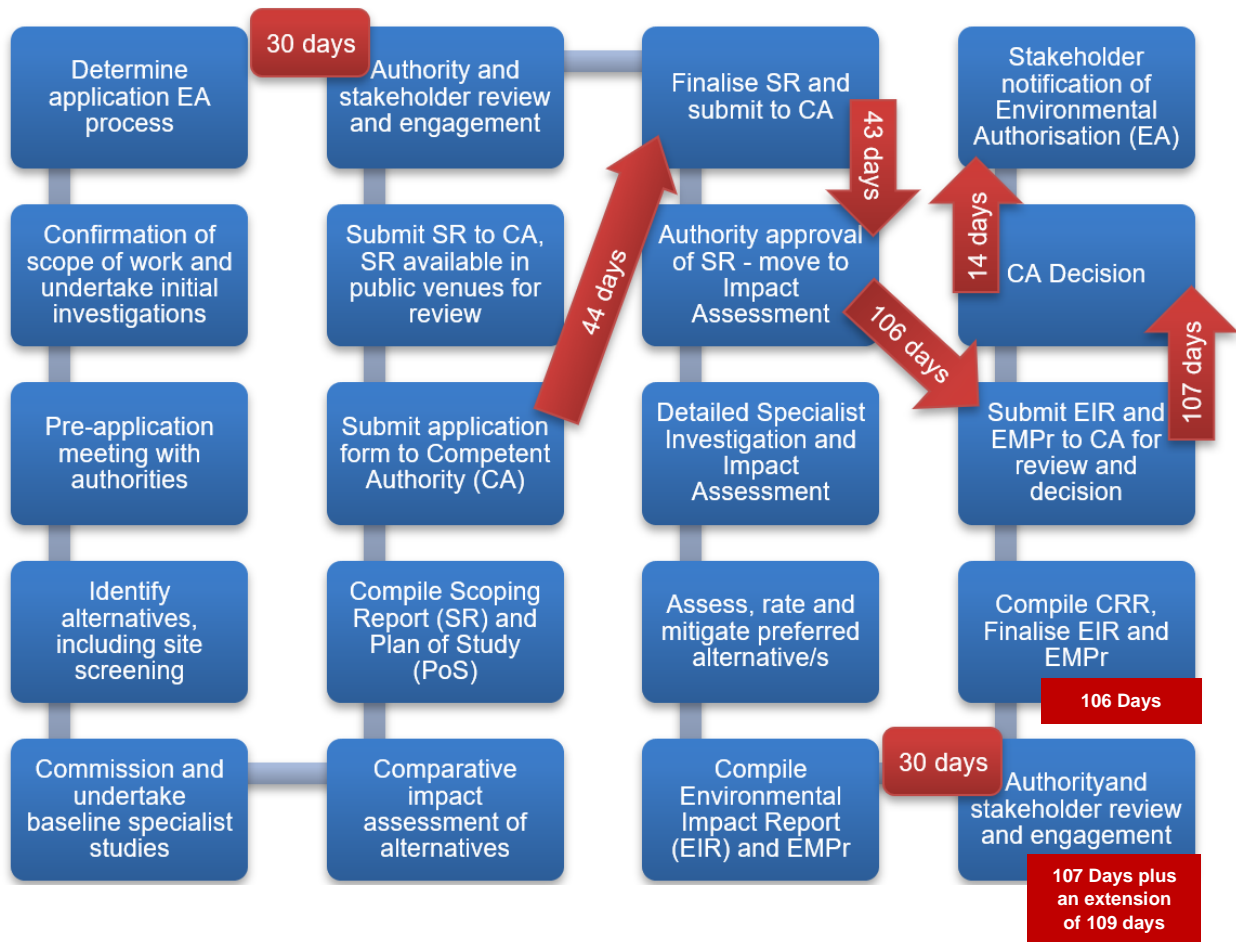


Figure 1: Process Flow Diagram for the steps required in a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Process

According to the regulated timeframes as shown in Figure 1, the applicant has 106 calendar days from the date of acceptance of the Scoping Report (Step 7) to submit the Final Environmental Impact Report (“EIR”) and Environmental Management Programme (“EMPr”), which also includes the 30 days public review period (Steps 8 – 12). The Competent Authority thereafter has 107 calendar days to assess the information provided and make a decision on the application.

The applicant applied for extension on the 12 October 2020 (due to the delayed by the Covid-19 Pandemic and subsequent lockdown) for the abovementioned regulated timeframes (107 days to submit the Final EIR to the Department for decision making). The Scoping Report, compiled by uKhozi Environmentalists (Pty) Ltd, was accepted by the Department on the 24th of February 2020. The final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) had to be submitted on or before the 14th of October 2020 after the DMR granted uKhozi’s extension request on a letter dated 2nd March 2020. However, due to the current Covid-19 situation in South Africa and the Nation-wide lockdown which started on the 27th of March 2020, the necessary specialist investigations, outlined in the Plan of Study, could not be completed. uKhozi subsequently submitted another

extension request on the 12th of October 2020. As mentioned above the DMR granted an extension to the timeframe to submit the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report until 30 April 2021. The applicant has in total 372 days (counting from the date of acceptance of the Scoping Report) to submit the final EIR to the Department for decision making.

• **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASE**

Zitholele Consulting (Zitholele) has reviewed the project and the Public Participation process followed during the Scoping phase. Based on the outcome of the Scoping phase, Zitholele has determined the level of public participation that will be required for the project. The public participation will be carried out in accordance with Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations.

In terms of the COVID-19 pandemic, new directions have been issued by the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) to provide guidance on EIA and PPP in terms of the COVID restrictions. In terms of Government Notice (GN) No. 650 (Directions regarding measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of Covid-19 relating to National Environmental Management Permits and Licences), dated 29 April 2020 a Public Participation Plan (PP Plan) was compiled and submitted to the DMRE on the 09 October, for approval prior to commencing with the PPP. We are currently awaiting approval of the PP Plan from DMRE.

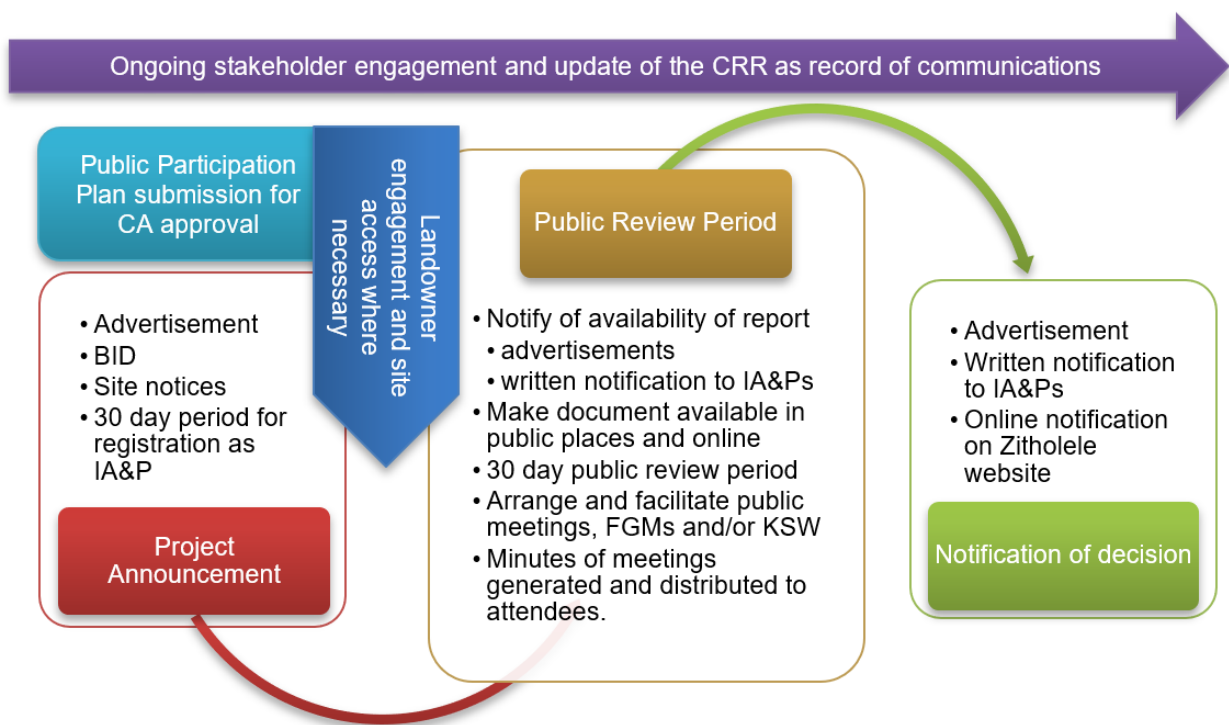


Figure 2: Public Participation during the Environmental Authorisation Process.

NB: All I&APs will be notified of the dates of the public meetings that will be held during the 30 day Public Review Phase.

It is anticipated that the draft EIA report and its supporting documentation will be released for public review from the 16 March 2021 to the 15 April 2021. Public participation meetings as well as an Open House session will be held during the review process. . We will however notify you once the public meeting and open house dates have been confirmed.

- **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PRACTITIONERS CONTACT DETAILS**

Please use the following contact details moving forward:

Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd

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Should you require electronic copies of the acceptance letter or the extension letter issued by the Department , please feel free to contact us on the details provided above.

We would like to thank you for your participation in the Scoping & EIA Process and Public Participation Process thus far. Please also note that this notification serves as confirmation that you have been registered as an I&AP.

Your participation has been valuable and highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully



Ms Tebogo Mapinga

Senior Environmental Assessment Practitioner
ZITHOLELE CONSULTING (PTY) LTD