

Our Ref : 19150-L-003

16 April 2021

Your Ref: Glubay Coal - Springfield Project

Attention : I&APs and Stakeholders

Dear I&APs and Stakeholders

**APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR PROPOSED MINING ACTIVITIES FOR MINING COAL IN TERMS OF REGULATION 16 OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) AS AMENDED (“NEMA”), THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (“EIA”) REGULATIONS, 2014 IN RESPECT OF PORTIONS 2, 16, 22, 29, 30, 34, 35, 39, 54, 55, 64, 65, 66, 83, 84, 85, 93, 97, 99, 100, 102, 105 AND 106 OF THE FARM KOOKFONTEIN 545 IQ, PORTIONS 16, 89 AND 101 OF THE FARM WALDRIFT 599 IQ AND PORTION 159 OF THE FARM VLAKFONTEIN 546 IQ; SITUATED IN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF SEDIBENG**

Zitholele Consulting’s letter to I&APs and Stakeholders dated 14 December 2020 and available on our website ([www.zitholele.co.za/environmental/](http://www.zitholele.co.za/environmental/) under project “Glubay Coal – Springfield Project”) has reference.

This letter serves to inform all I&APs and Stakeholders of the approval of an extension to submit the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and an update to the ongoing EIA process.

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

The Scoping Report, compiled by uKhozi Environmentalists (Pty) Ltd (uKhozi), was accepted by the Department of Mineal Resources and Energy (DMRE) on the 24 of February 2020. Following the delays experienced at the start of the EIA Phase during the COVID lockdown, DMRE granted a request for an extension to the EIA timeframes in a letter dated 23 October 2020. This extension required the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) to be submitted to the department on or before 30 April 2021.

During the EIA Phase, however, a number of issues were raised that needed to be investigated further before a comprehensive report could be submitted. These issues are outlined below:

Dolomitic Investigation

The proposed Springfield Coal Mine’s footprint is located in complex geological terrain. A dolomite investigation was required to assess impacts associated with the dolomitic areas. Rocksoil Consult was subsequently commissioned to undertake the specialist investigation.

The dolomite investigation was delayed significantly because the specialist was unable to obtain data or meet with the Council of Geoscience (CGS) since the lockdown started (March 2020). Before lockdown, the specialists were able to view data anytime during the week and were able to meet with CGS for project discussions every second Friday. Furthermore, CGS consultation meetings are still not allowed and the usual consultations with CGS are not possible at this stage.

However, using the available information a High-Level Dolomitic Desk Study Assessment was conducted. The report provided to uKhozi at the end of February 2021 indicated that mining activities and the associated predicted “worst-case scenario” water level drawdown will impact negatively on the surface stability on portions of the surrounding area. The specialist recommended a more detailed dolomitic investigation consisting of a two phased approach in order to:

- 1) compile hazard and risk maps for final consideration of acceptable risk;
- 2) determine if potential loss of assets is within tolerable limits; and
- 3) determine whether sustainable land-use can be maintained.

Based on the specialist's best estimate at this stage, the detailed dolomitic investigation will take approximately three (3) months to complete.

#### Agricultural Potential Assessment

During the first phase of the assessment in 2020, it became evident that the National Department of Agriculture was in the final stages of a process that will result in the declaration of Agricultural Protected Areas. These Protected Areas include both National Agricultural Protected Areas and Provincial Protected Areas. In 2020, the Department was still finalising the data and completing the public consultation component. The declaration of these areas has now been finalised and the specialist formally requested access to the data. Once the data is received, it will be incorporated into the results already gathered.

#### Public Participation

The IAPs have requested an additional 30 days to review the draft EIA/EMPr because it is expected that the document will be highly technical, come in huge volume and there are potentially illiterate and semi-illiterate community members in those potentially affected communities that will require assistance to provide meaningful participation. Therefore, we will have to make the draft EIA/EMPr available for a 60-day commenting period in order to accommodate the IAPs’ request.

After consideration of the motivation for the request for extension, the DMRE granted extension to the final EIAR until 30 November 2021 in a letter dated 29 March 2021. The letter is attached to this notification letter for perusal.

- **AMENDED SCHEDULE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASE**

The experienced delays and subsequent extension of timeframes granted by the DMRE have resulted in amendments of the EIA and Public Participation timeframes for the project. Amended timeframes and key milestones are presented in the table below.

<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>Anticipated timeframes &amp; milestones *</b>
Completion of remaining specialist studies, including Dolomite Assessment, Agricultural Assessment, and Closure Assessment	31 July 2021
Finalise draft EIA/EMPr for comment	15 September 2021
Draft EIA/EMPr available for 60-day commenting period	16 September – 15 November 2021
Anticipated round of public meetings	16 – 31 October 2021
Integrate information and submit Final EIA/EMPr to DMRE	30 November 2021

*\* Please note that the dates provided are subject to change and are based on the assumption that no further lockdowns will be imposed and there will be no major changes to the development plans*

- **ONGOING COMMUNICATION WITH I&APs AND STAKEHOLDERS**

I&APs and stakeholders will be informed of any future changes to the EIA and Public Participation processes and timelines should such changes become necessary.

The Public Participation team will further advise on the release and availability of the draft EIAR for public review, confirmed public review start and end dates, and details regarding the public meeting dates, venues and arrangements once these dates are confirmed.

- **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PRACTITIONERS CONTACT DETAILS**

Please use the following contact details moving forward:

**Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd**

Dr Mathys Vosloo and/or Miss Jessica Morwasehla

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Please note that an electronic copy of the extension letter is available on Zitholele Consulting's website: <https://www.zitholele.co.za/environmental/> under the heading "Glubay Coal – Springfield Project".

We would like to thank you for your participation in the Scoping & EIA Process and Public Participation Process thus far. Your participation has been valuable and highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully



Dr Mathys Vosloo

**ZITHOLELE CONSULTING (PTY) LTD**

Attachment: DMRE Letter of approval



## mineral resources & energy

Department:  
Mineral Resources and Energy  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION TO SUBMIT FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) (NEMA): ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REGULATIONS, 2014, FOR THE PROPOSED MINING RIGHT IN RESPECT OF PORTIONS 2, 16, 22, 29, 30, 34, 35, 39, 54, 55, 64, 65, 66, 83, 83, 84, 85, 93, 97, 99, 100, 102, 105 AND 106 OF THE FARM KOOKFONTEIN 545 IQ, PORTIONS 16, 89 AND 101 OF THE FARM WALDRIFT 599 IQ AND PORTION 159 OF THE FARM VLAKFONTEIN 546 IQ; SITUATED IN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF SEDIBENG.**

Your email received on **26 March 2021** refers.

Kindly be informed that your request for an extension to submit the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which includes specialists study and proof of consultation with the interested and affected party has been granted until **30 November 2021**.

Kindly note that no further extensions will be granted from this Department. Failure to submit the above-mentioned documents will result your application deemed to have lapsed.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office should you have any queries.

Yours faithfully



PP REGIONAL MANAGER

GAUTENG REGION

DATE 29/03/2021