

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

File Reference Number:
NEAS Reference Number:
Date Received:

(For official use only)

12/12/20/

DEAT/EIA/

Application for authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2006

Kindly note that:

1. This application form is current as of 30 July 2009. It is the responsibility of the EAP to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the form have been published or produced by the competent authority.
2. This application form and any other reports / documents etc. submitted to this Department must include 5 hard copies ring bound and 2 electronic (CD or DVD) copies. All maps, imagery etc. must be supplied to this Department in A3 format and colour printed.
3. The application must be typed within the spaces provided in the form. The sizes of the spaces provided are not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided. It is in the form of a table that can extend itself as each space is filled with typing.
4. Where applicable **black out** the boxes that are not applicable in the form.
5. Incomplete applications may be returned to the applicant for revision.
6. The use of "not applicable" in the form must be done with circumspection as if it is used in respect of material information that is required by the competent authority for assessing the application, and may result in the rejection of the application as provided for in the regulations.
7. This application must be handed in at the offices of the relevant competent authority as determined by each authority.
8. No faxed or e-mailed applications will be accepted.
9. The application must be completed by an independent environmental practitioner.
10. Unless protected by law, all information filled in on this application will become public information on receipt by the competent authority. Any interested and affected party should be provided with the information contained in this application on request, during any stage of the application process.
11. A competent authority may require that for specified types of activities in defined situations only parts of this report need to be completed. In addition, if it is clear to the EAP that because of the particular circumstances of the case it is not sensible to complete any of the sections indicated under paragraph 3 of this report, he or she may apply for exemption from completing that part of the report in the spaces provided in the report. It must however be noted that if the application for exemption is turned down, the report may have to be resubmitted.

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

Queries must be addressed to the contact hereunder:

Departmental Details

Postal address:

Department of Environmental Affairs
Attention: Director: Environmental Impact Evaluation
Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

Physical address:

Department of Environmental Affairs
Fedsure Forum Building (corner of Pretorius and Van der Walt Streets)
2nd Floor North Tower
315 Pretorius Street
Pretoria
0002

Queries should be directed to the Directorate: Environmental Impact Evaluation at:

Tel: 012-310-3268
Fax: 012-320-7539

Please note that this form must be copied to the relevant provincial environmental department/s.

View the Department's website at <http://www.deat.gov.za/> for the latest version of the documents.

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

SITE IDENTIFICATION AND LINKAGE

Please indicate all the Surveyor-general 21 digit site (erf/farm/portion) reference numbers for all sites (including portions of sites) that are part of the application.

T	O	M	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	0
T	O	M	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	0	0	0	0

(if there are more than 6, please attach a list with the rest of the numbers)

(These numbers will be used to link various different applications, authorisations, permits etc. that may be connected to a specific site)

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Project applicant:	Limpopo Coal Company (Pty) Ltd		
Trading name (if any):	Coal of Africa Ltd.		
Contact person:	Mr. Mark Mohring		
Physical address:	CoAL House, Pinewood Office Park, 33 Riley Road, Woodmead		
Postal address:	PO Box 69517, Bryanston		
Postal code:	2021	Cell:	082 610 1147
Telephone:	(011) 785 4518	Fax:	(011) 807 6650
E-mail:	markm@badgermining.co.za		

Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP):	Dubel Integrated Environmental Services cc		
Contact person:	Gawie Nel / Lizanne Nel		
Postal address:	Postnet Suite 123, Private Bag X 9676, Polokwane		
Postal code:	0700	Cell:	072 179 4519
Telephone:	(015) 263 6274	Fax:	(088015) 263 6274
E-mail:	Nelgp@absamail.co.za		
Professional affiliation(s) (if any)	South African Institute of Ecologists and Environmental Scientists		

Provincial Authority / ies:	LEDET (Notice no: 12/1/9N-V357)		
Contact person:	Ms M.C. Rodgers		
Postal address:	PO Box 55464, Polokwane		
Postal code:	0700	Cell:	083 443 5739
Telephone:	(015) 291 4259	Fax:	(015) 295 5015
E-mail:	rodgersMC@ledet.gov.za		

Project Consultant:	Dubel Integrated Environmental Services		
Contact person:	Gawie Nel / Lizanne Nel		
Postal address:	Postnet Suite 123, Private Bag X 9676, Polokwane		
Postal code:	0700	Cell:	072 179 4519
Telephone:	(015) 263 6274	Fax:	(088015) 263 6274
E-mail:	Nelgp@absamail.co.za		

Landowner:	Harrisia Investment Holdings (Pty) Ltd		
Contact person:	Mr. Stephen Rowse		
Postal address:	PO Box 69517, Bryanston		
Postal code:	2021	Cell:	082 610 1147
Telephone:	(011) 785 4518	Fax:	(011) 807 6650
E-mail:	stephen.rowse@coalofafrica.co.za		

In instances where there is more than one landowner, please attach a list of landowners with their contact details to this application.

Local authority / ies in whose jurisdiction the proposed activity will fall:	Musina Local Municipality, Vhembe District Municipality		
Contact person:	Miss Miemie Modimana for Mr.A Luruli		
Postal address:	P/Bag X611, Musina		
Postal code:	0900	Cell:	0834572185
Telephone:	(015) 5346181	Fax:	(086) 5184297

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

E-mail:

mmsech@musina.gov.za

In instances where there is more than one local authority involved, please attach a list of local authorities with their contact details to this application.

Please note that a complete list of all organs or state and or any other applicable authority with their contact details must be appended to this application.

A list of potential I&AP's, including organs of state and other authorities is attached to the Basic Assessment Report as Appendix F 1c.

Project title:

Construction of a tarred access road for the proposed Vele Colliery

Property description:

Erfrust 123 MS; Bergen Op Zoom 124 MS

(Farm name, portion etc.) Where a large number of properties are involved (e.g. linear activities), please attach a full list to this application.

Nearest town(s) or district(s):

Musina
Vhembe District

Physical address:

NA

In instances where there is more than one town or district involved, please attach a list of towns or districts to this application.

Current land-use:

Game farming

Current zoning:

Agriculture

In instances where there is more than one current land-use zoning, please attach a list of current land use zonings that also indicate which portions each use pertains to , to this application.

Is a change of land-use or a consent use application required?

	NO
	NO

Must a building plan be submitted to the local authority?

Locality map:

A locality map **must** be attached to the back of this document (as well as in electronic format), as Appendix A (Minimum A3 size). The scale of the locality map must be at **least 1:50 000**. The scale must be indicated on the map. The map must indicate the following:

- an accurate indication of the project site position as well as the positions of the alternative sites, if any;
- road access from all major roads in the area;
- road names or numbers of all major roads as well as the roads that provide access to the site(s);
- all roads within a 1km radius of the site or alternative sites;
- a north arrow;
- a legend; and
- locality GPS co-ordinates (Indicate the position of the activity using the latitude and longitude of the centre point of the site for each alternative site. The co-ordinates should be in degrees and decimal minutes. The minutes should have at least three decimals to ensure adequate accuracy. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS84 spheroid in a national or local projection).

Locality map is attached as Appendix A

The locality in a regional context is also attached as Appendix A

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

Owners consent: In line with the requirements of the EIA regulations, letters of consent of all landowners or a detailed explanation by the applicant explaining why consent is not possible must be attached to the back of this document as Appendix B.

Harrisia Investment Holdings (Pty) Ltd is wholly owned by Coal of Africa Limited who in turn is the majority shareholder (74%) of Limpopo Coal Company (Pty) Ltd.

However, landowners consent is attached as Appendix B.

2. ACTIVITIES APPLIED FOR

An application may be made for more than one listed or specified activity that, together, make up one development proposal. All the listed activities that make up this application must be listed.

Indicate the number and date of the relevant notice:	Activity No (s) (in terms of the relevant or notice) :	Describe each listed activity:
Government Notice R386	1(m)	The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structures or infrastructure, for any purpose in the one in ten year flood line of a river or stream, or within 32 meters from the bank of a river or stream where the flood line is unknown, excluding purposes associated with existing residential use, but including i) canals; ii) channels; iii) bridges; iv) dams; and v) weirs.
Government Notice R386	12	The transformation or removal of indigenous vegetation of 3 hectares or more or of any size where the transformation or removal would occur within a critically endangered or an endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004).
Government Notice R386	15	The construction of a road that is wider than 4 meters or that has a reserve wider than 6 meters, excluding roads that fall within the ambit of another listed activity or which are access roads of less than 30 meters long.

Please note that any authorisation that may result out of this application will only cover activities applied for. Omissions may render any authorisation that is based on incomplete information to be nil and void.

3. DECLARATIONS

3.1. The Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner

I, G. P. Nel, declare under oath that I –

- act as the independent environmental practitioner in this application ;
- do not have and will not have any financial interest in the undertaking of the activity, other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2005;
- have and will not have no vested interest in the proposed activity proceeding;
- have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- undertake to disclose, to the competent authority, any material information that have or may have the potential to influence the decision of the competent authority or the objectivity of any report, plan or document required in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2005;
- will ensure that information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application is distributed or made available to interested and affected parties and the public and that participation by interested and affected parties is facilitated in such a manner that all interested and affected parties will be provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and to provide comments on documents that are produced to support the application;
- will ensure that the comments of all interested and affected parties are considered and recorded in reports that are submitted to the competent authority in respect of the application, provided that comments that are made by interested and affected parties in respect of a final report that will be submitted to the competent authority may be attached to the report without further amendment to the report;
- will keep a register of all interested and affected parties that participated in a public participation process; and
- will provide the competent authority with access to all information at my disposal regarding the application, whether such information is favourable to the applicant or not.

Signature of the environmental practitioner:

Dubel Integrated Environmental Services

Name of company:

Date:

Signature of the Commissioner of Oaths:

Date:

Designation:

Official stamp (below)

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

3.2. The Applicant

I, _____, declare under oath that I -

- am, or represent, the applicant in this application;
- appointed the environmental assessment practitioner as indicated under point 4.1 above to act as the independent environmental assessment practitioner for this application;
- will provide the environmental assessment practitioner and the competent authority with access to all information at my disposal that is relevant to the application;
- will be responsible for the costs incurred in complying with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2005, including but not limited to –
 - costs incurred in connection with the appointment of the environmental assessment practitioner or any person contracted by the environmental assessment practitioner;
 - costs incurred in respect of the undertaking of any process required in terms of the regulations;
 - costs in respect of any fee prescribed by the Minister or MEC in respect of the regulations;
 - costs in respect of specialist reviews, if the competent authority decides to recover costs; and
 - the provision of security to ensure compliance with conditions attached to an environmental authorisation, should it be required by the competent authority;
- will ensure that the environmental assessment practitioner is competent to comply with the requirements of these regulations;
- am responsible for complying with the conditions of any environmental authorisation issued by the competent authority;
- hereby indemnify, the government of the Republic, the competent authority and all its officers, agents and employees, from any liability arising out of the content of any report, any procedure or any action for which the applicant or environmental assessment practitioner is responsible in terms of these regulations; and
- will not hold the competent authority responsible for any costs that may be incurred by the applicant in proceeding with an activity prior to an appeal being decided in terms of these regulations.

Signature of the applicant:

Limpopo Coal Company (Pty) Ltd

Name of company:

Date:

Signature of the Commissioner of Oaths:

Date:

Designation:

Official stamp (below):

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

SECTION A: APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION

Please note that this option must be exercised with discretion.

The relevant parts of this section must be completed if the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) on behalf of the applicant wishes to apply for exemption from completing or complying with certain parts of this basic assessment report.

1. APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM ASSESSING ALTERNATIVES:

At least two alternatives must be assessed. If that is not possible, the applicant should apply for exemption from having to assess alternatives. Such exemption will, however, not apply to the no-go alternative that must be assessed in all cases.

Provide a detailed motivation for not considering alternatives including an explanation of the reason for the application for exemption (supporting documents, if any, should be attached to this report):

Not applicable: Two alternatives were considered and the majority of the aspects and impacts are the same for both alternatives. Assessment of a third road alternative will not have a significant effect on aspects or potential impacts.

I declare that the above motivation is accurate and, hereby apply for exemption in terms of regulation 51 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2006, from having to assess alternatives in this application as required in section 24(4)(b) in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998).

Signature of the EAP: _____ Date: _____

2. APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM COMPLYING WITH PARTS OF REGULATION 23(2) REGARDING THE CONTENT OF THIS BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT:

Application for exemption from certain parts of regulation 23(2) regarding the completion of certain parts of this basic assessment report may be made by completing the relevant sections below.

Indicate the numbers of the sections of this report for which exemption is applied for:

Section B:	6(a)	6(b)	6(c)	6(d)	7	8	9(c)	9(e) *	9(f) *	9(g) *	9(h)	9(j) *	9(k)	11
Section C:	1	2	3	4	5	6								
Section D:	1(a)	1(b)	1(c)	1(d)	1(f)	1(g)	3							

Provide a detailed motivation including an explanation of the reason for the application for exemption (supporting documents, if any, should be attached to this report):

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

- ⇒ Section B9 (e) – Both farms are currently used as game farms and the position of water supply pipelines, boreholes, street lights, sewage pipelines, storm water infrastructure and telecommunication infrastructure is either not present or not known. However, a large power supply line runs parallel on the northern side of the R572 and is indicated on figure 3, Appendix A.
- ⇒ Section B9 (f) – all trees and shrubs higher than 1.8m cannot be indicated because this is a natural area and a highly impractical exercise. No significant plant issues are of concern that cannot be mitigated. However, maps indicating threatened plant species are attached as figures 4A and 4B in Appendix A.
- ⇒ Section B9 (g) - Walls and fencing along the planned access route are not planned and cannot be indicated.
- ⇒ Section B9 (j) – this is a linear development of 9 000 meters long and the 1m contour intervals and the 500 mm contours are impractical to indicate on such large scale.

I declare that the above motivation is accurate and, hereby apply for exemption in terms of regulation 51 of the EIA Regulations, 2006, from having to complete the indicated sections of the Basic Assessment Report.

Signature of the EAP: _____ Date: _____

3. APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM COMPLYING WITH PARTS OF REGULATION 18(a) REGARDING THE INDEPENDENCE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER:

Application for exemption from complying with parts of regulation 18(a) regarding the independence of an EAP may be made by completing the relevant sections below.

Provide a detailed motivation for not utilising an independent EAP including an explanation of the reason for the application for exemption (supporting documents, if any, should be attached to this report):

NA

I declare that the above motivation is accurate and, hereby apply for exemption in terms of regulation 51 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2006, from complying with parts of regulation 18(a) regarding the independence of an environmental assessment practitioner, as required in section 24(4)(b) in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998).

Signature of the EAP: _____ Date: _____

SECTION B: ACTIVITY INFORMATION

1. ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Describe the activity, which is being applied for in detail (A1):

Travelling between the proposed mine and Musina will take place when workers living in town travel to the mine and back to town on a daily basis. Any product and service deliveries to support domestic as well as industrial activities on the proposed mine site will also require service providers to travel from town to the project site and back to town. In the short term (5 years), haul trucks will also transport the coal by road from the proposed Vele Colliery to the nearest rail siding in Musina and return via the same road. Travelling from Musina to the proposed Vele Colliery and back to town will be via the existing R572 road. No proper access road exists to travel from the R572 to the mine plant area. For these purposes, road infrastructure construction will be required and a newly build access road from the R572 to the mine plant area is needed.

A new access road will therefore be constructed from the tar road (R572, between Musina and Pont Drift), on the farm Erfrust 123 MS to the mine plant area of the proposed Vele Colliery on the farm Bergen Op Zoom 124 MS north of the farm Erfrust. The road will be approximately 9 kilometres long and 10.6 meters wide. The road will be tarred to a width of 10 meters.

Two alternative routes have been identified and will be evaluated.

Transportation of the coal to Musina by road via the R572 will be conducted in the short term (5 years), but once the feasibility study has been conclusive, a rail link or overland conveyor belt will be considered to transport the coal. Transportation of workers, products and service deliveries will however continue on the proposed access road in the long term. Musina is approximately 43 kilometres to the east of the mining area.

Table B 1.1 provides estimated traffic numbers of other vehicles (other than coal trucks) that will travel on the access road on a daily basis.

Table B 1.1: Estimated traffic numbers – other vehicles

Transport types	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Staff Busses	5	36	36	15	15
Staff personal transport	90	120	120	120	120
Suppliers (heavy duty)	20	20	20	5	5

Table B 1.2 provides the number of trucks transporting coal that will travel on the access road per day for 336 days/year (28 days per month) for the build-up period until full production.

Table B 1.2: Estimated traffic numbers – trucks

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Tons	61 000	65 3 184	870 912	870 912	870 912
Trucks / day 34 tons	5	57	76	76	76

2. ALTERNATIVES (SITE OR ACTIVITY OR DESIGN OR LAYOUT OR TECHNOLOGY ETC.)

Describe alternatives that are considered in this application. Alternatives should include a consideration of all possible means by which the purpose and need of the proposed activity could be accomplished in the specific instance taking account of the interest of the applicant in the activity. The no-go alternative must in all cases be included in the assessment phase as the baseline against which the impacts of the other alternatives are assessed. The determination of whether site or activity (including different processes etc.) or both is appropriate needs to be informed by the specific circumstances of the activity and its environment. After receipt of this report the competent authority may also request the applicant to assess additional alternatives that could possibly accomplish the purpose and need of the proposed activity if it is clear that realistic alternatives have not been considered to a reasonable extent.

2 (a) Alternatives:

Describe alternative 1 for the activity described above, or for any other activity alternative:

The preferred access road, alternative 1, is presented in figure 1, Appendix A. Detail GPS coordinates of the road is attached as table 1, Appendix A. Alternative 1 was based on the shortest possible route to the processing facility, not taking into consideration gradient or ease of construction.

The road starts on the R572 approximately 400m west from the Dongola Ranch reception area and filling station. The road runs in a northwestern direction for approximately 700m where alternative 2 splits off to the northwest. The road then turns north-northwest for approximately 6.5 kilometres where alternative 2 connect with alternative 1 again. The road then runs further in a northern direction for approximately 1.5 kilometres to the proposed plant area. The total length of alternative 1 is 8.9 kilometres.

From an environmental perspective this is the preferred route as it is mostly located on the watershed between smaller drainage lines and does not cross large drainage lines.

Describe alternative 2 if any, for the activity described above, or for any other activity alternative:

Road alternative 2 is presented in figure 1, Appendix A. Detail GPS coordinates of the road is attached as table 2, Appendix A. Alternative 2 was based on gradient and ease of construction, not taking into consideration distance or cost.

Alternative 2 also starts on the R572 approximately 400m west from the Dongola Ranch reception area and filling station. The road runs in a north-western direction for approximately 700m where alternative 1 splits off to the north-northwest. The road then runs northwest for approximately 3.5 kilometres, turns north-northeast for approximately 3.72 kilometres where alternative 2 connect with alternative 1 again. The road then runs further in a northern direction for approximately 1.5 kilometres to the proposed plant area. The total length of alternative 2 is 9.5 kilometres, 0.6 kilometres longer than alternative 1.

Alternative 2 cross the existing servitude road twice. This servitude road is used by the local farmers on a daily basis. From a safety point of view, this is undesirable. Alternative 2 also crosses two fairly large drainage lines twice. This is also undesirable, not only from an environmental point of view, but also from a financial point of view as large bridges would have to be built.

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

See appendix J for a report on the merits for the location of the 2 alternatives.

Describe alternative 3 if any, for the activity described above, or for any other activity alternative:

None – The existing servitude road was not regarded as an option for an access road because of potential impacts on current road users and road safety aspects.

3. ACTIVITY POSITION

Indicate the position of the activity using the latitude and longitude of the centre point of the site for each alternative site. The co-ordinates should be in degrees and decimal minutes. The minutes should have at least three decimals to ensure adequate accuracy. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS84 spheroid in a national or local projection.

Alternatives:

- Alternative 1 (preferred alternative)
- Alternative 2
- Alternative 3

Latitude (S):

Longitude (E):

In the case of linear activities:

Alternative:

Alternative 1 (preferred route alternative)

- Starting point of the alternative
- Middle point of the alternative
- End point of the alternative

Latitude (S):

Longitude (E):

22°	14.4250′	29°	40.8498′
22°	12.4684′	29°	40.5978′
22°	10.2465′	29°	39.9572′

Alternative 2

- Starting point of the alternative
- Middle point of the alternative
- End point of the alternative

22°	14.4250′	29°	40.8498′
22°	13.0216′	29°	39.0343′
22°	10.2465′	29°	39.9572′

Alternative 3 NA

- Starting point of the alternative
- Middle point of the alternative
- End point of the alternative

For route alternatives that are longer than 500m, please provide an addendum with co-ordinates taken every 250 meters along the route for each alternative alignment.

See tables 1 and 2 in Appendix A.

4. PHYSICAL SIZE OF THE ACTIVITY

Indicate the physical size of the preferred activity/technology as well as alternative activities/technologies (footprints):

Alternative:

- Alternative 1 (preferred activity alternative)
- Alternative 2
- Alternative 3

Size of the activity:

94 340 m ²
100 700 m ²
NA

or, for linear activities:

Alternative:

- Alternative 1 (preferred activity alternative)

Length of the activity:

8 900 m

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

Alternative 2	9 500 m
Alternative 3	NA

Indicate the size of the alternative sites or servitudes (within which the above footprints will occur):

Alternative:	Size of the site/servitude:
Alternative 1 (preferred activity alternative)	Farm Bergen op Zoom: 2 078.13 ha Farm Erfrust: 3 337.81 ha TOTAL: 5 415.94 ha
Alternative 2	Farm Bergen op Zoom: 2 078.13 ha Farm Erfrust: 3 337.81 ha TOTAL: 5 415.94 ha
Alternative 3	NA

5. SITE ACCESS

Does ready access to the site exist, or is access directly from an existing road?	YES	
If NO, what is the distance over which a new access road will be built	NA	

Describe the type of access road planned:

The mine access road will link directly to the existing R572.

Include the position of the access road on the site plan.

6. WASTE, EFFLUENT, EMISSION AND NOISE MANAGEMENT

6 (a) Solid waste management

Will the activity produce solid construction waste during the construction/initiation phase?	YES	
	Mainly domestic waste	
If yes, what estimated quantity will be produced per month?	2 m ³	

How will the construction solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

Domestic waste:

- Domestic waste that will be produced are cement bags, some paper/tins etc. that can be generated from workers working at the site (household waste).
- It is estimated that not more than 2 m³ of domestic solid waste will be produced per month during the construction phase.
- An approved registered waste contractor will be appointed specifically for management and safe disposal of all domestic waste.
- Waste bins will be provided at designated rest areas.
- Waste will be removed, if and when needed, to a registered waste disposal site.
- Waste must be removed from site on an on-going basis and bins will not be allowed to overflow. The waste may be temporarily stored at the contractor site in an area that is weatherproof and scavenger-proof, and that has been approved by the Site Engineer. No waste bins shall be accumulated and/or stored in a waste yard for more than 30 days without being emptied. The waste contractor will ensure that the waste bins are disposed within the required time limit of not more than 30 days.
- No on-site burying, dumping or burning of any waste materials, vegetation litter or refuse shall occur.

Where will the construction solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

Waste will be removed to a registered waste disposal site by the approved registered waste contractor.

Will the activity produce solid waste during its operational phase?		NO
---	--	----

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

If yes, what estimated quantity will be produced per month? m³

How will the solid waste be disposed of (describe)?
NA

Where will the solid waste be disposed if it does not feed into a municipal waste stream (describe)?
NA

If the solid waste (construction or operational phases) will not be disposed of in a registered landfill site or be taken up in a municipal waste stream, then the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

Can any part of the solid waste be classified as hazardous in terms of the relevant legislation? NO

If yes, inform the competent authority and request a change to an application for scoping and EIA.

Is the activity that is being applied for a solid waste handling or treatment facility? NO

If yes, then the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

Describe the measures, if any, that will be taken to ensure the optimal reuse or recycling of materials:

Has a specialist been consulted to assist with the completion of this section? NO

If YES, please complete:

Name of the specialist:			
Qualification(s) of the specialist:			
Postal address:			
Postal code:			
Telephone:		Cell:	
E-mail:		Fax:	

Are any further specialist studies recommended by the specialist? NO

If YES, specify:

If YES, is such a report(s) attached? NO

Signature of _____ Date:

6 (b) Liquid effluent

Will the activity produce effluent, other than normal sewage, that will be disposed of in a municipal sewage system? NO

If yes, what estimated quantity will be produced per month? m³

Will the activity produce any effluent that will be treated and/or disposed of on site? NO

If yes, the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

Will the activity produce effluent that will be treated and/or disposed of at another facility? NO

If yes, provide the particulars of the facility: _____

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

Facility name:			
Contact person:			
Postal address:			
Postal code:			
Telephone:		Cell:	
E-mail:		Fax:	

Describe the measures that will be taken to ensure the optimal reuse or recycling of waste water, if any:

--

Has a specialist been consulted to assist with the completion of this section?		NO
--	--	----

If YES, please complete:

Name of the specialist:			
Qualification(s) of the specialist:			
Postal address:			
Postal code:			
Telephone:		Cell:	
E-mail:		Fax:	

Are any further specialist studies recommended by the specialist?		NO
---	--	----

If YES, specify:			
------------------	--	--	--

If YES, is such a report(s) attached?		NO
---------------------------------------	--	----

Signature of specialist:		Date:	
--------------------------	--	-------	--

6 (c) Emissions into the atmosphere

Will the activity release emissions into the atmosphere?	YES	
--	-----	--

If yes, is it controlled by any legislation of any sphere of government?		NO
--	--	----

If yes, the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

If no, describe the emissions in terms of type and concentration:		
---	--	--

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

Construction

Dust:

- The following possible sources of fugitive dust have been identified during construction operations:
 - Creation and grading of roads: scraping, debris handling, debris stockpiles, and truck transport and dumping of debris.
- Dust emissions occur when soil is being crushed by a vehicle, as a result of the soil moisture level being low. Construction vehicles used on gravel roads will generate PM-10 emissions throughout the area of construction. The quantity of dust emissions from unpaved roads varies linearly with the volume of traffic.
- Dust will be managed through implementation of dust suppression techniques such as:
 - Regular watering.
 - Access road will be tarred.
 - Vehicle speed on unpaved roads / construction roads limited to prevent dust generation

Vehicle entrainment and exhaust gas emissions:

- Vehicle exhausts contain a number of pollutants including carbon dioxide (CO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), sulphur and PM₁₀. Tiny amounts of poisonous trace elements such as lead, cadmium and nickel are also present. The quantity of each pollutant emitted depends upon the type and quantity of fuel used, engine size, speed of the vehicle and abatement equipment fitted. Once emitted, the pollutants are diluted and dispersed in the ambient air.
- Emissions will be mitigated through:
 - All construction vehicles and equipment are to be kept in good repair.

Operation

- Emissions from vehicles.
- Emissions from trucks.

Has a specialist been consulted to assist with the completion of this section? NO

If YES, please complete:

Name of the specialist:

The Air Quality Impact Assessment Report for the proposed Limpopo Coal Mining operation compiled by Bohlweki-SSI Environmental (2009) for Limpopo Coal Company (PTY) LTD has been consulted.

Qualification(s) of the specialist:

Postal address:

Postal code:

Telephone:

Cell:

E-mail:

Fax:

Are any further specialist studies recommended by the specialist? YES NO

If YES, specify:

If YES, is such a report(s) attached? YES NO

Signature of _____ Date:

6 (d) Generation of noise

Will the activity generate noise?

If yes, the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

If no, describe the noise in terms of type and level:

YES	
	NO

Situation with respect to the existing noise climate

- The existing residual noise climate is typical of a rural/agricultural environment as defined in SANS 10103:2008, that is, areas where ambient noise levels generally do not exceed 45dBA during the day and generally do not exceed 35dBA during the night-time.
- This area may be so defined even though the measured residual (prevailing ambient) noise levels were higher than that prescribed by SANS 10103. The reason for this is that the source and nature (qualitative aspect) of the sounds as well as noise levels need to be considered. In this instance the windy conditions which prevailed on both of the survey days resulted in slightly higher than normal ambient noise climate for such rural sites, as the sound of the wind in foliage and trees in the near field predominated. Another example is where ambient noise conditions at night are significantly enhanced by sounds from insects and frogs particularly in areas close to riverine areas and wetland areas.
- The existing noise climate alongside Road R572 is degraded with regard to rural residential living. Residences in some areas are negatively impacted from traffic noise (particularly at night) for distances up to 1000m from this road.

Potential sources of noise from the planned access road

- Road construction equipment: scrapers, dozers, compactors, etc.
- Construction equipment and delivery vehicles.
- Vehicles & trucks traveling on the access road during operation.

General nature of noise impact

The general nature of the noise impacts:

- Source noise levels will be high.
- Noise levels will vary constantly and in many instances it will vary significantly over short periods during any day working period.
- Working on a worst-case scenario basis, it is estimated that the ambient noise level from general construction activities will negatively affect noise sensitive sites within a distance of 450 meters of the construction site.
- Nighttime construction would have a significant impact on noise sensitive sites within a radius of 1000 meters of the construction site.
- In general, the construction traffic of the entire mine area will have a relatively minor effect on the noise climate alongside the main external roads in the area. The construction traffic for the access road will therefore even have a lower effect. Because of the character of the traffic (namely heavy vehicles), there is likely to be some nuisance factor with the passing of each vehicle at noise sensitive receptors along the access routes.
- The level and character of the construction noise will be highly variable as different activities with different plant/equipment take place at different times, over different periods, in different combinations, in different sequences and on different parts of the construction site.

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

Noise levels

Typical noise levels generated by various types of construction equipment are: (noise levels assume that the equipment is maintained in good order)

EQUIPMENT	TYPICAL OPERATIONAL NOISE LEVEL AT GIVEN OFFSET (dBA)							
	5m	10m	25m	50m	100m	250m	500m	1000m
Compactor	92	86	78	72	66	58	52	46
Dozer	95	89	81	75	69	61	55	49
Rock drill	108	102	94	88	82	74	68	62
Roller	84	78	70	64	58	50	44	38
Trucks	87	81	73	67	64	60	57	54

- The typical noise levels of construction equipment at a distance of 15 metres lie in the range of 75 decibels (dBA) to 100 dBA. Based on data from similar “linear” construction sites, a one-hour equivalent noise level of between 75dBA and 78dBA at a point 50 metres from the construction would be typical for the earthmoving phase.
- It should be noted that higher ambient noise levels than recommended in SANS 10103 are normally accepted as being reasonable during the construction period, provided that the very noisy construction activities are limited to the daytime and that the contractor takes reasonable measures to limit noise from the work site. It has been assumed that road construction will generally take place from 06h00 to 18h00 with no activities (or at least no noisy construction activities) at night. From the details presently available, it appears that the construction noise impact is not likely to be severe except at one or two isolated sites.

Noise sensitive receptors

- Dongola Ranch (hotel, campsite, conference facilities etc.): ± 700m to the east
- Dongola Ranch reception area and filling station: ±400 to the east
- Erfrust farmhouses & farm labourer residences: ±1200m to the west
- Bergen op Zoom farmhouse: ±900m to west
- Various nature reserves and game farms:
 - Ludwigslust Game Farm: ±900 m to the east
 - Goeree farmhouse: ±1800m southwest

Has a specialist been consulted to assist with the completion of this section? NO

If YES, please complete:

Name of the specialist:

The Noise Impact Assessment Report of the planned Vele Colliery (final report) compiled by Jongens Keet Associates (May 2009) for Limpopo Coal Company (PTY) LTD has been consulted.

Qualification(s) of the specialist:

Postal address:

Postal code:

Telephone:

Cell:

E-mail:

Fax:

Are any further specialist studies recommended by the specialist? YES NO

If YES,

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

specify:
 If YES, is such a report(s) attached? YES NO

Signature of _____ Date:
 specialist: _____

7. WATER USE

Please indicate the source(s) of water that will be used for the activity by ticking the appropriate box (es):

municipal	water board	groundwater	river, stream, dam or lake	other	the activity will not use water
-----------	-------------	-------------	----------------------------	-------	---------------------------------

If water is to be extracted from groundwater, river, stream, dam, lake or any other natural feature, please indicate

the volume that will be extracted per month:

Maximum of 20 000 l/day or 20 m ³	
YES	

Does the activity require a water use permit from the Department of Water Affairs?

If yes, please submit the necessary application to the Department of Water Affairs and attach proof thereof to this application if it has been submitted.

Water usage is part of the mine licence application. The application to DWA was submitted on 10 November 2009 (see Appendix E).

8. ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Describe the design measures, if any, that have been taken to ensure that the activity is energy efficient:

Energy will only be needed during the construction phase. Construction vehicles will be powered by diesel engines and other energy needs will be supplied from mobile generators.

Describe how alternative energy sources have been taken into account or been built into the design of the activity, if any:

Construction equipment, machinery, vehicles (most), heavy vehicles etc. that are needed for the construction and operation of the mine and infrastructure, and that are available in the market, are powered by diesel engines. Diesel as energy source for such equipment, machinery and heavy vehicles is thus a requirement

9. SITE OR ROUTE PLAN

A **detailed site or route plan(s) must** be prepared for each alternative. It **must** be attached as Appendix A to this document. The site or route plans must indicate the following:

- 9 (a) the scale of the plan which must be **at least a scale of 1:500**;
Attached as figure 2, Appendix A
- 9 (b) the property boundaries and numbers of all the properties within 50m of the site;
Attached as figure 2, Appendix A
- 9 (c) the current land use as well as the land use zoning of each of the properties adjoining the site or sites;
Attached as figure 3, Appendix A

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

- 9 (d) the exact position of each element of the application as well as any other structures on the site;
Detail GPS coordinates of alternative 1 and alternative 2 are attached as tables 1 and 2 in Appendix A.
- 9 (e) the position of services, including electricity supply cables (indicate above or underground), water supply pipelines, boreholes, street lights, sewage pipelines, storm water infrastructure and telecommunication infrastructure;
See section A2
- 9 (f) all trees and shrubs taller than 1.8m;
See section A2
- 9 (g) walls and fencing including details of the height and construction material;
See section A2
- 9 (h) servitudes indicating the purpose of the servitude;
Attached as figure 3, Appendix A
- 9 (i) sensitive environmental elements within 100m of the site or sites including (but not limited thereto):
- rivers;
 - the 1:100 year flood line (where available or where it is required by DWAF);
 - ridges;
 - cultural and historical features;
 - areas with indigenous vegetation (even if it is degraded or invested with alien species);
- Attached as figure 4A and 4B, Appendix A
- 9 (j) for gentle slopes the 1m contour intervals must be indicated on the plan and whenever the slope of the site exceeds 1:10, the 500mm contours must be indicated on the plan;
and
See section A2
- 9 (k) the positions from where photographs of the site were taken.
See section 10 and Appendix C

10. SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Colour photographs from the centre of the site must be taken in at least the eight major compass directions with a description of each photograph. Photographs must be attached under Appendix C to this form. It should be supplemented with additional photographs of relevant features on the site, if applicable.

Attached as Appendix C.

11. FACILITY ILLUSTRATION

A detailed illustration of the activity must be provided at a scale of 1:200 as Appendix D for activities that include structures. The illustrations must be to scale and must represent a realistic image of the planned activity. The illustration must give a representative view of the activity.

Facility illustrations are provided in Appendix D.

Access road alternative 1 drainage primary design parameters is also provided in table 1 in Appendix D.

12. ACTIVITY MOTIVATION

12 (a) Socio-economic value of the activity

What is the expected capital value of the activity on completion?	R 23 million	
What is the expected yearly income that will be generated by or as a result of the activity?	R 0	
Will the activity contribute to service infrastructure?	YES	
Is the activity a public amenity?		NO
How many new employment opportunities will be created in the development phase of the activity?	25	
What is the expected value of the employment opportunities during the development phase?	R 1.225 million	
What percentage of this will accrue to previously disadvantaged individuals?	75 %	
How many permanent new employment opportunities will be created during the operational phase of the activity?	5	
What is the expected current value of the employment opportunities during the first 10 years?	R 3 million	
What percentage of this will accrue to previously disadvantaged individuals?	100%	

12 (b) Need and desirability of the activity

Motivate and explain the need and desirability of the activity (including demand for the activity):

Limpopo Coal Company embarked on the process to apply for a mining right during 2008 and the necessary documentation (EMP) was submitted by Limpopo Coal Company to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) in 2009. In this process, the Department of Mineral Resources are the lead agent and determine the process, contents of reports etc. This process is not part of the official Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, which for instance this Basic Assessment (BA) needs to adhere to.

Although the farm Bergen op Zoom 124 falls within the area for which a mining right application has been submitted, the farm Erfrust 123 does not fall within such area and is therefore not part of the mining right application. It is therefore necessary to follow the BA process to obtain authorisation for the construction of the planned access road on the farm Erfrust. However, Limpopo Coal Company (Pty) Ltd decided to include the entire road in the BA process.

Coal is vital for economic development. It is important for electricity generation and a vital input into steel production. Over the past 30 years coal has been the indispensable driver of economic and social development. Today around 40% of the world's electricity is produced using coal and coal will have a major role in meeting the future energy needs. Demand for coal and its vital role in the world's energy system is set to continue. Over the next 30 years it is estimated that global energy demand will increase by almost 60%. Two thirds of the increase will come from third world countries, and by 2030 they would account for almost half of the total energy demand. Many countries rely on coal for their energy needs. Therefore coal has an important role to play in maintaining the security of the global energy mix. Unless other forms of energy are developed, demand for coal will increase, exacerbated by the need for steel in the construction industry, car production and household appliances.

The economically viable coal reserve to be mined by the planned Vele Colliery is estimated at more than 441 million tonnes. The ROM coal produced by the colliery will be beneficiated on site and transported off-site to be sold on both the local and export markets. Of the 5 mtpa

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

primary product approximately 2.5 mtpa is planned for Arcelor Mittal's domestic use and the balance will be exported. Vele Colliery has a planned life of 29 years, with a potential for future expansion.

No proper access road exists to travel from the R572 to the proposed mining area (plant area). For the proposed mine to be fully operational, an access road is needed between the R572, between Musina and Pont Drift, on the farm Erfrust 123 MS, to the proposed plant area of the proposed Vele Colliery on the farm Bergen Op Zoom 124 MS north of the farm Erfrust.

Indicate any benefits that the activity will have for society in general:

This access road will play a major role in the sustained viable operation of Vele Colliery. The access road will form part of the construction phase (2009 – 2012) of the mine and, although not all people will be part of the access road construction workforce, it is envisaged that 50-150 permanent people and 2000 – 2500 temporary people will be employed during the construction phase.

Indicate any benefits that the activity will have for the local communities where the activity will be located:

The aim of the proposed access road is to provide safe access for mine related traffic from the R572 to the proposed Vele Colliery. The proposed access road will primarily be utilised by Vele Colliery employees, product and service providers and the haul trucks transporting coal to Musina. This will however ensure that local communities and mine traffic do not utilise the servitude road north from the R572, next to the farmhouse on Erfrust, and will improve traffic safety for both local communities and mine related traffic.

13. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND / OR GUIDELINES

List all legislation, policies and/or guidelines of any sphere of government that are applicable to the application as contemplated in the EIA regulations, if applicable:

Title of legislation, policy or guideline:	Administering authority:	Date:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulations in terms of chapter 5 of the National Environmental management Act, 1998 (Act no. 107 of 1998). • Guideline 3: General Guide to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2006, Integrated Environmental Management Guideline Series, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT), Pretoria. • Guideline 4: Public Participation, in support of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2006, Integrated Environmental Management Guideline Series, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT), Pretoria. • Guideline 5: Assessment of Alternatives and Impacts in support of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2006, Integrated Environmental Management Guideline Series, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT), Pretoria. • National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998). • National Roads Act, 1998 (Act No. 7 of 1998). • National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998). • National Heritage Resources (Act 25 of 1999). • Development Facilitation Act (Act 67 of 1995). • Conservation of Agricultural Resources (Act 43 of 1983) • Agricultural Land Act (Act 70 of 1970). • Restitution of Land Rights (Act 22 of 1994). • National Forests Act (Act 84 of 1998). • Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act 28 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEA • DEA • DEA • DEA • DEA • DEA • Roads Agency Limpopo • Dept: Water Affairs & Forestry • SA Heritage Resources Agency • Limpopo Tribunal • Department of Agriculture • Department of Agriculture • Land Claims commission • Department of Agriculture • Dept. Minerals and Energy Affairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2006 • 2006 • 2006 • 2006 • 1998 • 1998 • 1998 • 1999 • 1995 • 1983 • 1970 • 1994 • 1998 • 2002

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

<p>of 2002.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEMA: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004). • The South African National Standard “Methods for Environmental Noise Assessment (SANS 10103:2008). • The South African National Standard “Measurement and Assessment of Environmental Noise with Respect to Land Use, Health, Annoyance and Speech Communication (SANS 10103:2008.) • South African National Standard “Methods for Environmental Noise Assessment” (SABS 10328:2000). • NEMA: Air Quality Act (Act 39 of 2004). • Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act (Act 45 of 1965). • NEMA: Protected Areas Act (Act 57 of 2003) • National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999). • World Heritage Convention Act (Act 49 of 1999). • South African National Standards, Ambient air quality – Limits for common pollutants (SANS 1929 of 2005). • Mine Health and Safety Act (Act 181 Of 1993). • GN No 32368 of 3 July 2009: National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act No. 59 of 2008): List of waste management activities that have, or are likely to have a detrimental effect on the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEA • SABS • SABS • SABS • DEA • DEA • DEA • SAHRA • DEA • DEA • DMR • DEA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2004 • 2008 • 2008 • 2000 • 2004 • 1965 • 2003 • 1999 • 1999 • 2005 • 1993 • 2008
--	---	--

SECTION C: SITE/AREA DESCRIPTION

Important note: For linear activities (pipelines etc) as well as activities that cover very large sites, it may be necessary to complete Section C for each part of the site that has a significantly different environment. In such cases please complete copies of Section C and indicate the area, which is covered by each copy No. on the Site Plan.

Section C Copy No.
 (e.g. A):
 (Complete only when appropriate)

1. GRADIENT OF THE SITE

Indicate the general gradient of the sites.

Alternative 1:

Flat	1:50 – 1:20 *	1:20 – 1:15	1:15 – 1:10	1:10 – 1:7,5	1:7,5 – 1:5	Steeper than 1:5
------	---------------------	----------------	-------------	-----------------	-------------	---------------------

Alternative 2:

Flat	1:50 – 1:20 *	1:20 – 1:15	1:15 – 1:10	1:10 – 1:7,5	1:7,5 – 1:5	Steeper than 1:5
------	---------------------	----------------	-------------	-----------------	-------------	---------------------

Alternative 3: NA

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

2. LOCATION IN LANDSCAPE

Indicate the landform(s) that best describes the site.

Alternative 1:

Ridgeline	Plateau	Side slope of hill/mountain	Closed valley	Open valley	Plain *	Undulating plain/low hills *	Dune	Sea-front
-----------	---------	-----------------------------	---------------	-------------	---------	------------------------------	------	-----------

Alternative 2:

Ridgeline	Plateau	Side slope of hill/mountain	Closed valley	Open valley	Plain *	Undulating plain/low hills *	Dune	Sea-front
-----------	---------	-----------------------------	---------------	-------------	---------	------------------------------	------	-----------

Alternative 3: NA

3. GROUNDWATER, SOIL AND GEOLOGICAL STABILITY OF THE SITE

Is the site(s) located on any of the following (tick the appropriate boxes)?

	Alternative 1:		Alternative 2:		Alternative 3:	
Shallow water table (less than 1.5m deep)	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Dolomite, sinkhole or doline areas	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Seasonally wet soils (often close to water bodies)	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Unstable rocky slopes or steep slopes with loose soil	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Dispersive soils (soils that dissolve in water)	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Soils with high clay content (clay fraction more than 40%)	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Any other unstable soil or geological feature	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
An area sensitive to erosion	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO

If you are unsure about any of the above or if you are concerned that any of the above aspects may be an issue of concern in the application, an appropriate specialist should be appointed to assist in the completion of this section. (Information in respect of the above will often be available as part of the project information or at the planning sections of local authorities. Where it exists, the 1:50 000 scale Regional Geotechnical Maps prepared by the Council for Geo Science may also be consulted).

Has a specialist been consulted to assist with the completion of this section?

YES	
-----	--

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

If YES, please complete:

Name of the specialist:	Carel Haupt		
Qualification(s) of the specialist:	BSc(Hons)		
Postal address:	Postnet Suite # 8, Private Bag X9676, Polokwane		
Postal code:	0700		
Telephone:	015 296 2560	Cell:	083 641 9741
E-mail:	chaupt@wsmlshika.co.za	Fax:	015 296 4158
Are any further specialist studies recommended by the specialist?			NO
If YES, specify:			
If YES, is such a report(s) attached?			NO

Signature of _____ Date: 3 November 2009

4. GROUND COVER

Tick the types of groundcover present on the site.

Alternative 1:

Natural veld - good condition ^E	Natural veld with scattered aliens ^E	Natural veld with heavy alien infestation ^E	Veld dominated by alien species ^E	Gardens
Sport field	Cultivated land	Paved surface	Building or other structure	Bare soil

If any of the boxes marked with an "E" is ticked, please consult an appropriate specialist to assist in the completion of this section if the environmental assessment practitioner doesn't have the necessary expertise.

Has a specialist been consulted? YES

If YES, please complete the following:

Name of the specialist:	Mr. Gawie Nel		
Qualification(s) of the specialist:	B.Sc. Honns (Wildlife Management)		
Postal address:	Postnet Suite 123, Private Bag X9676, Polokwane		
Postal code:	0700		
Telephone:	015 263 6274	Cell:	072 179 4519
E-mail:	nelgp@absamail.co.za	Fax:	088015 236 6274
Are there any rare or endangered flora or fauna species (including red data species) present on any of the alternative sites?			YES

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

If YES, specify and explain:

See figures 4A and 4B in Appendix A for the location of flora species protected by legislation.

The following numbers of aforementioned species have been counted during the site visits:

Table 1: Protected species and amount of plants identified during surveys on 18 - 19 August 2009

	<i>H. corrorii</i> Gaap	<i>B. dinteri</i> Leather leaf Barleria	<i>A. digitata</i> Baobab	<i>A. littoralis</i> Mopane aloe	<i>B. albitrunca</i> Shepherd's tree	<i>C. imberbe</i> Leadwood	<i>S. birrea</i> Marula	TOTAL
Joint routes			1		65		3	69
Alternative 1			3	7	82		15	107
Alternative 2	4	14	2		164	7	10	201
TOTAL	4	14	6	7	311	7	28	377

The legal status of aforementioned species is as followings:

Table 2: Legal status and require permit for destruction / movement.

Limpopo Environmental Management Act, 2003.	Schedule 12. Protected plants	<i>A. digitata</i> Baobab	<i>H. corrorii</i> Gaap	<i>A. littoralis</i> Mopane aloe	
National Forest Act, 1998 (Act No. 84)	Government Gazette No. 29062, Notice 897	<i>A. digitata</i> Baobab	<i>B. albitrunca</i> Shepherd's tree	<i>C. imberbe</i> Leadwood	<i>S. birrea</i> Marula
	Possible protected species: status not determined yet	<i>B. dinteri</i> Leather leaf <i>Barleria</i>			

Are there any special or sensitive habitats or other natural features present on any of the alternative sites? YES

If YES, specify and explain:

Drainage lines:
Alternative 1 crosses non-perennial drainage lines (small to medium sized) four times. The vegetation of these drainage lines does however not differ significantly from the surrounding area's vegetation.

Are any further specialist studies recommended by the specialist? NO

If YES, specify:

If YES, is such a report(s) attached? NO

Signature of specialist:

Date:

The location of all identified rare or endangered species or other elements should be accurately indicated on the site plan(s).

See figures 4A and 4B in Appendix A and site photographs in Appendix C.

Alternative 2:

Natural veld - good condition ^E	Natural veld with scattered aliens ^E	Natural veld with heavy alien infestation ^E	Veld dominated by alien species ^E	Gardens
--	---	--	--	---------

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

Sport field	Cultivated land	Paved surface	Building or other structure	Bare soil
-------------	-----------------	---------------	-----------------------------	-----------

If any of the boxes marked with an "E" is ticked, please consult an appropriate specialist to assist in the completion of this section if the environmental assessment practitioner doesn't have the necessary expertise.

Has a specialist been consulted? YES

If YES, please complete the following:

Name of the specialist:	Mr. Gawie Nel		
Qualification(s) of the specialist:	B.Sc. Honns (Wildlife Management)		
Postal address:	Postnet Suite 123, Private Bag X9676, Polokwane		
Postal code:	0700		
Telephone:	015 263 6274	Cell:	072 179 4519
E-mail:	nelgp@absamail.co.za	Fax:	088015 236 6274

Are there any rare or endangered flora or fauna species (including red data species) present on any of the alternative sites? YES

If YES, specify and explain:

Please see detail in alternative 1 and figures 4A and 4B in Appendix A.

Exotic plants encountered during surveys are:

Table 1: Exotic plants.

	Exotic plants
Joint routes	
Alternative 1	
Alternative 2	1
TOTAL	1

Opuntia aurantiaca (Jointed cactus)

Are there any special or sensitive habitats or other natural features present on any of the alternative sites? YES

If YES, specify and explain:

Drainage lines:
Alternative 2 crosses non-perennial drainage lines (small to large sized) several times. The vegetation of most these drainage lines does however not differ significantly from the surrounding area's vegetation.

There are however three (3) drainage lines that are large and the vegetation of these areas different in structure (height) and species composition from the surrounding areas (see site photographs in Appendix C).

Are any further specialist studies recommended by the specialist? NO

If YES, specify:

If YES, is such a report(s) attached? NO

Signature of _____ Date:

The location of all identified rare or endangered species or other elements should be accurately indicated on the site plan(s).

See figures 4A and 4B in Appendix A and site photographs in Appendix C.

Alternative 3: NA

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

5. LAND USE CHARACTER OF SURROUNDING AREA

Black out land uses and / or prominent features that do not currently occur within a 500m radius of the site.

Alternative 1:

Natural area	Low density residential	Medium density residential	High density residential	Informal residential ^A
Retail	Commercial & warehousing	Light industrial	Medium industrial ^{AN}	Heavy industrial ^{AN}
Power station ^A	Office/consulting room	Military or police base/station/compound	Casino/entertainment complex	Hospitality facility
Open cast mine	Underground mine	Spoil heap or slimes dam ^A	Quarry, sand or borrow pit	Dam or reservoir
Hospital/medical centre	School	Tertiary education facility	Church	Old age home
Sewage treatment plant ^A	Train station or shunting yard ^N	Railway line ^N	Major road (4 lanes or more) ^N	Airport ^N
Harbour	Sport facilities	Golf course	Polo fields	Filling station ^H
Landfill or waste treatment site ^A	Plantation	Agriculture	River, stream or wetland	Nature conservation area
Mountain, koppie or ridge	Museum	Historical building	Graveyard	Archaeological site
Other land uses (describe):	Game farming On topographical maps (appendix A) it is indicated that the farm Erfrust is Kimberger Nature Reserve. Mr J Kruger, Manager Protected Area Regulation with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Limpopo Province, was contacted on 10.11.09 and indicated that according to their records such Nature Reserve has not been officially registered. (Mr J. Kruger: Mobile No.: 082 806 3159)			

If any of the boxes marked with an "N" are ticked, please consult an appropriate noise specialist to assist in the completion of this section.

Has a specialist been consulted?

NO

If YES, please complete the following:

Name of the specialist:

The Noise Impact Assessment Report of the planned Vele Colliery (final report) compiled by Jongens Keet Associates (May 2009) for Limpopo Coal Company (PTY) LTD has been consulted.
--

Qualification(s) of the specialist:

--

Postal address:

--

Postal code:

--

Telephone:

	Cell:	
	Fax:	

E-mail:

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

Will the ambient noise level have a negative impact on the proposed activity? NO

If YES, specify and explain:

Is any further specialist or studies recommended by the specialist? NO

If YES, specify:

If YES, is such a report(s) attached? NO

Signature of _____ Date:
specialist: _____

If any of the boxes marked with an "An" are ticked, please consult an appropriate air quality specialist to assist in the completion of this section.

Has a specialist been consulted? NO

If YES, please complete the following:

Name of the specialist: The Air Quality Impact Assessment Report for the proposed Limpopo Coal Mining operation compiled by Bohlweki-SSI Environmental (2009) for Limpopo Coal Company (PTY) LTD has been consulted.

Qualification(s) of the specialist:

Postal address:

Postal code:

Telephone: Cell:

E-mail: Fax:

Will the ambient air pollution level have a negative impact on the proposed activity? NO

If YES, specify and explain:

Are any further specialist studies recommended by the specialist? NO

If YES, specify:

If YES, is such a report(s) attached? NO

Signature of _____ Date:
specialist: _____

If any of the boxes marked with an "H" are ticked, please consult an appropriate health assessment specialist to assist in the completion of this section.

Has a specialist been consulted? YES NO

If YES, please complete the following:

Name of the specialist:

Qualification(s) of the specialist:

Postal address:

Postal code:

Telephone: Cell:

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

E-mail: Fax:

Will the surrounding land use pose any unacceptable health risk on the proposed activity?

YES	NO
-----	----

If YES, specify and explain:

Are any further specialist studies recommended by the specialist?

YES	NO
-----	----

If YES, specify:

If YES, is such a report(s) attached?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

Signature of _____ Date:
specialist: _____

Alternative 2:

Natural area	Low density residential	Medium density residential	High density residential	Informal residential ^A
Retail	Commercial & warehousing	Light industrial	Medium industrial ^{AN}	Heavy industrial ^{AN}
Power station ^A	Office/consulting room	Military or police base/station/compound	Casino/entertainment complex	Hospitality facility
Open cast mine	Underground mine	Spoil heap or slimes dam ^A	Quarry, sand or borrow pit	Dam or reservoir
Hospital/medical centre	School	Tertiary education facility	Church	Old age home
Sewage treatment plant ^A	Train station or shunting yard ^N	Railway line ^N	Major road (4 lanes or more) ^N	Airport ^N
Harbour	Sport facilities	Golf course	Polo fields	Filling station ^H
Landfill or waste treatment site ^A	Plantation	Agriculture	River, stream or wetland	Nature conservation area
Mountain, koppie or ridge	Museum	Historical building	Graveyard	Archaeological site
Other land uses (describe):	<p>Game farming</p> <p>On topographical maps (appendix A) it is indicated that the farm Erfrust is Kimberger Nature Reserve. Mr J Kruger, Manager Protected Area Regulation with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Limpopo Province, was contacted on 10.11.09 and indicated that according to their records such Nature Reserve has not been officially registered.</p> <p>(Mr J. Kruger: Mobile No.: 082 806 3159)</p>			

If any of the boxes marked with an "N" are ticked, please consult an appropriate noise specialist to assist in the completion of this section.

Has a specialist been consulted?

<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
--------------------------	----

If YES, please complete the following:

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

Name of the specialist:	The Noise Impact Assessment Report of the planned Vele Colliery (final report) compiled by Jongens Keet Associates (May 2009) for Limpopo Coal Company (PTY) LTD has been consulted.		
Qualification(s) of the specialist:			
Postal address:			
Postal code:			
Telephone:		Cell:	
E-mail:		Fax:	
Will the ambient noise level have a negative impact on the proposed activity?			NO
If YES, specify and explain:			
Are any further specialist studies recommended by the specialist?			NO
If YES, specify:			
If YES, is such a report(s) attached?			NO
Signature of specialist:		Date:	

If any of the boxes marked with an "A" are ticked, please consult an appropriate air quality specialist to assist in the completion of this section.

Has a specialist been consulted?	NO
----------------------------------	----

If YES, please complete the following:

Name of the specialist:	The Air Quality Impact Assessment Report for the proposed Limpopo Coal Mining operation compiled by Bohlweki-SSI Environmental (2009) for Limpopo Coal Company (PTY) LTD has been consulted.		
Qualification(s) of the specialist:			
Postal address:			
Postal code:			
Telephone:		Cell:	
E-mail:		Fax:	
Will the ambient air pollution level have a negative impact on the proposed activity?			NO
If YES, specify and explain:			
Are any further specialist studies recommended by the specialist?		YES	NO
If YES, specify:			
If YES, is such a report(s) attached?			NO
Signature of specialist:		Date:	

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

If any of the boxes marked with an "H" are ticked, please consult an appropriate health assessment specialist to assist in the completion of this section.

Has a specialist been consulted?

	NO
--	----

If YES, please complete the following:

Name of the specialist:			
Qualification(s) of the specialist:			
Postal address:			
Postal code:			
Telephone:		Cell:	
E-mail:		Fax:	

Will the surrounding land use pose any unacceptable health risk on the proposed activity?

	NO
--	----

If YES, specify and explain:

--

Are any further specialist studies recommended by the specialist?

YES	NO
-----	----

If YES, specify:

--

If YES, is such a report(s) attached?

	NO
--	----

Signature of _____ Date:

--

Alternative 3: NA

6. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL FEATURES

Alternative 1:

Are there any signs of culturally or historically significant elements, as defined in section 2 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999, (Act No. 25 of 1999), including Archaeological or palaeontological sites, on or close (within 20m) to the site?

YES	

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

If YES, explain: See attached heritage impact assessment report conducted by RR Cultural Resource Consultant (November 2009).

Stone Age Remains
 The study area fall within a region where evidence suggests that Early Stone Age, Middle Stone Age, and Late Stone Age occupations occurred in the area, with Middle Stone Age being most visible. No specific concentrations were recorded to date, but isolated and scattered Middle Stone Age material was found over most of the study area. No rock art sites were found.

Iron Age Remains
 No new Iron Age remains were observed along the proposed routes, except for previously recorded sites for the Vele Colliery survey. The numbers were retained for the purpose of this report. The area where Alternative routes 1 & 2 join contains two recorded sites:

- **Site 16.** *S22° 10' 49.1" E29° 39' 51.2"*. This is a sheet eroded open ashy area with scattered pottery fragments and a grain bin stand. Probably K2. Significance: Low.
- **Site 17.** *S22° 10' 51.9" E29° 39' 47.9"*. This site is similar to site 16 above. Significance: Low.

Recent Historical Remains

- **Site 7.** *S22° 12' 04.3" E29° 40' 27.4"*. This area contains old mineshafts from the historical period. Road alternative 1 passes to the east of the shafts and there should be no impact. Significance: Low.

Graves
 No grave were observed, but the probability that the two Iron Age archaeological sites may contain unmarked burials is >80%.

If uncertain, conduct a specialist investigation by a recognised specialist in the field to establish whether there is such a feature(s) present on or close to the site.

Briefly explain the findings of the specialist: See attached heritage impact assessment report conducted by RR Cultural Resource Consultant (November 2009) and summary of potential impacts below.

Potential impacts:
 Subterranean gravel deposits containing Stone Age material may be impacted on by the earthworks. It is recommended that a Stone Age specialist be allowed the opportunity to study this deposit when the topsoil is being removed to assess the significance of the material and if necessary, mitigate the further assessment required.

Two archaeological sites may be impacted on by the proposed road. Both are degraded by natural forces and have not been assigned a high significance rating and therefore their destruction may be mitigated by means of a permit application under Section 35 of the National Heritage Resources Act.

The EAP evaluated GIS information and determined that the two Iron Age sites are located 600 m (site 17) and 500 m (site 16) to the west of the preferred alternative. The recent historical remains (old mine) are 100 m to the west of alternative 1.

Will any building or structure older than 60 years be affected in any way?	NO
Is it necessary to apply for a permit in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999)?	NO

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

If yes, please submit or, make sure that the applicant or a specialist submits the necessary application to SAHRA or the relevant provincial heritage agency and attach proof thereof to this application if such application has been made.

Alternative 2:

Are there any signs of culturally or historically significant elements, as defined in section 2 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999, (Act No. 25 of 1999), including Archaeological or palaeontological sites, on or close (within 20m) to the site?	NO
If YES, explain:	
If uncertain, conduct a specialist investigation by a recognised specialist in the field to establish whether there is such a feature(s) present on or close to the site.	
Briefly explain the findings of the specialist:	See attached heritage impact assessment report conducted by RR Cultural Resource Consultant (November 2009) and summary of potential impacts below.
Will any building or structure older than 60 years be affected in any way?	NO
Is it necessary to apply for a permit in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999)?	NO
If yes, please submit or, make sure that the applicant or a specialist submits the necessary application to SAHRA or the relevant provincial heritage agency and attach proof thereof to this application if such application has been made.	

Alternative 3: NA

SECTION D: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It must be noted that all proof of public participation measures and procedures followed in terms of the EIA regulations, 2006, as well as the additional requested measures and procedures prescribed hereunder must be attached to this document as Appendix F.

1. ADVERTISEMENT

The environmental assessment practitioner must follow any relevant guidelines adopted by the competent authority in respect of public participation and must at least –

- 1 (a) Fix a notice in a conspicuous place, on the property where it is intended to undertake the activity which states that an application will be submitted to the competent authority in terms of these regulations and which provides information on the proposed nature and location of the activity, where further information on the proposed activity can be obtained and the manner in which representations on the application may be made;
Completed: see Appendix F
- 1 (b) inform landowners and occupiers of adjacent land of the applicant's intention to submit an application to the competent authority;
Completed: see Appendix F
- 1 (c) inform landowners and occupiers of land within 100 metres of the boundary of the property where it is proposed to undertake the activity and whom may be directly affected

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

by the proposed activity of the applicant's intention to submit an application to the competent authority;

Completed: see Appendix F

- 1 (d) inform the ward councillor and any organisation that represents the community in the area of the applicant's intention to submit an application to the competent authority;

Completed: see Appendix F

- 1 (e) inform the municipality which has jurisdiction over the area in which the proposed activity will be undertaken of the applicant's intention to submit an application to the competent authority;

Completed: see Appendix F

- 1 (f) inform any organ of state that may have jurisdiction over any aspect of the activity of the applicant's intention to submit an application to the competent authority; and

- 1 (g) place a notice in one local newspaper and any *Gazette* that is published specifically for the purpose of providing notice to the public of applications made in terms of these regulations.

Completed: see Appendix F

2. CONTENT OF ADVERTISEMENTS AND NOTICES

Advertisements and notices must indicate that an application will be submitted to the competent authority in terms of the EIA regulations, the nature and location of the activity, where further information on the proposed activity can be obtained and the manner in which representations in respect of the application can be made.

Completed: see Appendix F

3. PLACEMENT OF ADVERTISEMENTS AND NOTICES

Where the proposed activity may have impacts that extend beyond the municipal area where it is located, a notice must be placed in at least one provincial newspaper or national newspaper, indicating that an application will be submitted to the competent authority in terms of these regulations, the nature and location of the activity, where further information on the proposed activity can be obtained and the manner in which representations in respect of the application can be made, unless a notice has been placed in any *Gazette* that is published specifically for the purpose of providing notice to the public of applications made in terms of the EIA regulations.

Advertisements and notices must make provision for site alternatives where appropriate.

Completed: see Appendix F

4. DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE MEASURES

The practitioner must ensure that the public participation is adequate and must determine whether a public meeting or any other additional measure is appropriate or not based on the particular nature of each case. Special attention should be given to the involvement of local community structures such as Ward Committees, ratepayers associations and traditional authorities where appropriate. Please note that public concerns that emerge at a later stage that should have been addressed may cause the competent authority to withdraw any authorisation it may have issued if it becomes apparent that the public participation process was inadequate.

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

A site visit with authorities and registered I&AP's have been arranged and conducted on 14 January 2010 at 11h00.

5. COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT

The practitioner must record all comments and respond to each comment of the public before the application is submitted. The comments and responses must be captured in a comments and response report as prescribed in the EIA regulations and be attached to this application. The comments and response report must be attached under Appendix G.

6. AUTHORITY PARTICIPATION

Local and provincial authorities are key interested and affected parties in each application and no decision on any application will be made before the relevant authorities are provided with an opportunity to give input. The planning and the environmental sections of the local and provincial authorities must be informed of the application at least 30 (thirty) calendar days before the submission of the application.

Has any comment been received from the local authority / ies?

	NO
--	----

If "YES", briefly describe the feedback below (also attach any correspondence to and from the authority to this application):

See appendix G

Has any comment been received from the provincial authority / ies?

YES	
-----	--

If "YES", briefly describe the feedback below (also attach any correspondence to and from the authority to this application):

A Notice of Intent to submit an application was initially submitted to LEDET on 30 July 2009. A response was received from the Department on 12 August 2009, indicating that the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) is the lead agent for developments in this area. A Notice of Intent to submit an application was subsequently submitted to DEA on 01.09.09 and a copy was submitted to LEDET on 03.09.09. LEDET acknowledge receipt of the copy of the Notice of Intent to submit an application on 18.09.09

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform indicated by e-mail that they do not have jurisdiction over the property.

See comments and response report attached as Appendix G

7. CONSULTATION WITH OTHER ORGANS OF STATE

Any organ of state or similar that has a direct interest or jurisdiction over the site or property, must be informed of the application at least 30 (thirty) calendar days before the submission of the application and be provided with the opportunity to comment.

Has any comment been received from stakeholders?

YES	
-----	--

If "YES", briefly describe the feedback below (also attach copies of any correspondence to and from the stakeholders to this application):

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

The majority of comments were aimed at objections against the Vele Colliery mine and associated activities, the split EIA process and developments prior to the issuing of a mining license. Reference in comments is also made to objections and comments submitted during the EIA/EMP process that refers specifically to the mining license application process and not this Basic Assessment as such. Comments were also mainly aimed at the archaeological and cultural aspects, the Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape, Transfrontier Conservation aspects and changes in land use.

Comments on the draft BAR for the construction of the access road were also combined with comments on the draft BAR for the proposed above ground fuel storage facilities.

See comments and response report attached as Appendix G

8. CONSULTATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Any stakeholder that has a direct interest in the site or property, such as servitude holders and service providers, should be informed of the application at least 30 (thirty) calendar days before the submission of the application and be provided with the opportunity to comment.

Has any comment been received from stakeholders?

YES

If "YES", briefly describe the feedback below (also attach copies of any correspondence to and from the stakeholders to this application):

See point 7 above and comments and response report attached as Appendix G

9. SPECIFIED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

No other information was supplied by DEA in this report format that was received from Ms Fatima Rawjee on 27.08.09 (see correspondence below). It seems thus that inputs from DEA officials were not provided in the compilation of this version of the report format and information cannot be provided by the EAP. Information in this Basic Assessment report should be sufficient.

From: Fatima Rawjee [FRawjee@deat.gov.za] Sent: Thu 2009/08/27 12:15
To: Gawie Nel
Cc:
Subject: RE: Basic Assessment Forms

-----Original Message-----
From: Fatima Rawjee [mailto:FRawjee@deat.gov.za]
Sent: 27 August 2009 10:35
To: nelgp@absamail.co.za
Subject: Basic Assessment Forms
Importance: High

**** High Priority ****

Mr Nel,

As discussed, herewith the necessary forms applicable to the Basic Assessment process.

Kind Regards

Ms Fatima Rawjee

ASD: Sensitive Environments
Directorate: Environmental Impact Evaluation
Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)
012-310-3002 (Tel)
072-667-8408 (Cell)
012-320-7539 (Fax)
FRawjee@deat.gov.za

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

You forwarded this message on 2009/08/27 12:16. [Click here to find all related messages.](#)
This message was sent with High importance.

From: Fatima Rawjee [FRawjee@deat.gov.za]
To: Gawie Nel
Cc:
Subject: RE: Basic Assessment Forms

Sent: Thu 2009/08/27 12:15

**** High Priority ****

Dear Gawie,

The application form is included as part of the basic assessment report. The consultant referred to in the notice of intent form is the 'environmental assessment practitioner' appointed to conduct the EIA process.

Kind Regards
Fatima

>>> "Gawie Nel" <nelgp@absamail.co.za> 2009/08/27 10:59 AM >>>
Dear Ms Rawjee

Thank you for the documents.

The notice of intent is the same as the one that Danie Smit send me. Could you please also send the application form?

Under section 1. Background information, reference is made to the Project Consultant. Could you please provide clarification on the information that is needed?

Kind regards
Gawie Nel

SECTION E: IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The assessment of impacts must adhere to the minimum requirements in the EIA Regulations, 2006, and should take applicable official guidelines into account. The issues raised by interested and affected parties should also be addressed in the assessment of impacts.

1. ISSUES RAISED BY INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

List the issues raised by interested and affected parties.

- Object to Vele Colliery mine and associated activities and split EIA process.
- Want to know if Archaeological impact assessment has been done.
- Questions about process: approval for associated developments in relation to EIA for mine.
- Need information
- Request registration as I&AP
- Object to any development prior to Vele Colliery receiving mining license.
- Require comments on the EIA/EMP or the process for the planned Vele Colliery.
- Attached comments submitted by Mr Hilterman & EWT/ SAIEA for mine license application for information to the EAP.
- The change in land use.
- Impact on archaeological and cultural aspects, the Mapungubwe Cultural landscape and Transfrontier Conservation aspects.
- The regional context and mining in general.

Response from the practitioner to the issues raised by the interested and affected parties (A full response must be given in the Comments and Response Report that must be attached to this report):

- Inform party that registered as IAP.
- Inform that documentation will be supplied.
- Construction of the access road and fuel storage facilities can only commence after environmental authorization has been given by DEAT for the specific applications.
- The sequence of approvals (EIA & mining license) is determined by DEAT and other government Departments.
- Cannot comment on the EIA/EMP or the process for the planned Vele Colliery.

- Detail will be provided in BAR and include possible pollution measures.
- Discuss project telephonically and refer comments on mining license to the client.
- Necessary heritage studies will be conducted and SAHRA comments will be obtained.
- Aspects and mitigation measures were included in the draft BAR that was made available for comments.

2. IMPACTS THAT MAY RESULT FROM THE PLANNING AND DESIGN PHASE

List the potential alternative related impacts (as appropriate) that are likely to occur as a result of the planning and design phase, including impacts relating to the choice of alternative.

Alternative 1:

Direct impacts:

None

Mitigation measures (Direct Impacts):

None

Indirect impacts:

Social and Socio- Economic

- Additional financial expenditure for the client.
- Poor alignment or integrated development planning with regard to related developments.
- Poor alignment with regional and international development frameworks.
- Poor consultation with interested and affected parties.
- Oversight of potentially important risks and impacts.
- Lack of local beneficiation.

Culture and Heritage

- Cultural resources and heritage value may be damaged / reduced

Traffic Flows and Access

- Lack of measures to mitigate the impact on local traffic flows
- Poor accessibility from the R572

Safety

→ Increased road safety risk on the planned access road and the R572.

Air quality and noise

→ Increased noise and particle impact risk resulting from mine traffic on the access road.

Design and planning of road

- Poor planning and road design may impact negatively on the environment due to run-off causing erosion or damage to sensitive habitats and species.
- Poor road surface design may result in particle pollution and increased noise pollution.

Water resources

→ Limited water resources may be available for the development.

Change in flow and drainage

- Stream flow and drainage patterns may be impacted on as a result of poor road design or siltation.
- Negative impacts on the integrity of the environment through increased siltation and the accumulation of debris.

Habitat Loss and Degradation

- Habitat degradation as a result of the road traversing through sensitive area / species and potential siltation of rivers.
- Poor design may increase the risk for habitat destruction.
- Lack of planning for solid waste may pose a risk for water resources, soils and health

Species conservation

→ Rare and threatened species can be injured or disturbed.

Ecosystem functioning

→ Degradation/ modification of critical ecosystem functioning components.

Mitigation Measures(Indirect impacts):

Social and Socio- Economic

- Conduct planning phase parallel to the BA process and implement mitigation measures into planning and design.
- Public participation and consultation with interested and affected parties and relevant authorities that were involved in related development of Vele Colliery.

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

- Consider the most suitable road for construction as the option with the least potentially negative impacts on surrounding local communities and the environment while having cost savings.
- Consideration of relevant regional planning instruments such as the Integrated Development Plan of the relevant municipalities, Transfrontier Conservation Plan and the Vhembe Biosphere Report, especially for decommissioning of the road.
- Collaboration between the EAP, other specialist and mine managers / planners to align planning and designs with existing environmental features and specialist inputs. Consideration of relevant specialist reports and EMP (May 2009) for the proposed Vele Colliery.
- Align all linear infrastructure developments as applicable and possible (such as power supply, water supply, and communication infrastructure) from the outside of the proposed mine development area to the planned mine, along the access road in a parallel servitude.
- Construction workers will be housed offsite thereby addressing social and basic needs, security risks and alleviate environmental pressure.
- Environmental awareness programmes should be conducted and be incorporated and aligned with the overall environmental awareness programmes of the planned Vele Colliery to make construction workers aware of the importance of environmental friendly practices and prohibited activities such as collection of wood etc.
- Use of qualified professional in the required disciplines for planning and design.
- Where possible, either temporary or permanent workers should be sourced from the immediate neighbouring communities that are legal residents in South Africa, through all phases of the development.
- Where expertise and capacity is not available, empowerment models where local capacity is developed through partnerships should be considered. This principle should also apply where possible, to sourcing of supplies through all phases of development.

Culture and Heritage

- Conducted a heritage impact assessment to identify heritage resources and to limit possible negative impacts.

Traffic Flows and Access

- Design and construct an alternative access road to that being used by local landowners.
- The access point to the R572 must be a full access point.
- Provision should be made for safe egress and turnoff from and onto the R572 road.
- No access of any adjacent landowner to their property or to the R572 will be blocked at any stage during the development.

Safety

- An environmental emergency procedure should be developed to ensure that environmental incidents, such as for instance oils spills or fires resulting from traffic utilising these roads are addressed immediately and effectively.
- Reflectors and road signs should be placed at strategic positions (e.g. before drainage line crossings) according to prescriptions from the relevant authority before any construction activity starts to alert road users and pedestrians of potentially dangerous situations.
- Implement speed limits of 60 km/h on the access road and 80 km/h on the R572.
- Traffic on the access road should not be allowed to stop thereby decreasing noise impact, emissions, fuel consumption etc.
- Loads should be covered to avoid loss of material in transport, especially if material is transported offsite.

Air quality and noise

- The access road surface must be tarred.

Design and planning of road

- Implement the environmental management recommendations provided in this EMP through procedures and the EMS as stipulated in the EMP (May 2009) and described in section E6 of the BAR.
- The road should comply with the minimum safety and construction requirements for the anticipated traffic loads.
- Road design is to match the functional requirements in order to be practical whilst minimising construction costs.

Water resources and drainage patterns

- An application must be lodged with the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) for the drainage line crossings.
- Civil engineers must design the road and drainage line crossings to allow for sufficient stream flow and limit erosion potential, to satisfy requirements of DWA.
- Debris accumulation should be monitored and cleared when needed.
- A qualified civil engineer must design the road and storm water.

Biodiversity

- An ecologist has conducted an assessment of potential impacts, including rare and threatened plant and animal species and the route with the least environmental impact was recommended and mitigation measures were identified to implement during all phases of the project.
 - Realign road to bypass the large *A. digitata* (baobab) on a safe distance of 50m on alternative 1 on the farm Erfrust.
 - More threatened flora species and habitats occur on alternative 2 and are not regarded as the preferred alternative from a biodiversity point of view.
- The contractor/s and crew should be sensitised about the threatened plant species as well as sensitive areas along the planned road and a suitable qualified person should point them out to them before construction commence.
- The road surface will be tarred to prevent air pollution through dust.
- Planning of relocation and relocation of threatened species, such as *A. digitata*, should be conducted before construction commences.

Cumulative impacts:

Social and Socio- Economic

- The planned access road will increase the overall footprint of Vele Colliery and the related impacts mentioned within this EMP along the linear line of the access road.
- Road users may develop negative perceptions towards the client if their concerns are not entertained throughout the projects life.

Traffic Flows and Access

- The increase in mine traffic on the access road will lead to increased traffic flows on the R572

Safety

- Increased traffic on the R572 may increase the safety risk of all road users on the R572.
- The R572 was initially not build to carry the expected increase in heavy traffic loads and the condition of this road might deteriorate over time causing an increased safety risk and social

impacts as prolonged travelling time.

Mitigation Measures (Cumulative impacts):

Social and Socio- Economic

- Public participation and consultation with interested and affected parties and relevant authorities that were involved in related development of Vele Colliery.
- Collaboration between the EAP, other specialist and mine managers / planners to align planning and designs with existing environmental features, specialist reviews as reflected in specialist reports and the EMP for the proposed Vele Colliery.
- A complaints register must be kept on site where the public can register all complaints.
- Complaints must be addressed within 72 hours and steps taken indicated in the complaints register.
- Management of complaints will be incorporated into the Environmental Management System (EMS) as well as through communication procedures as stipulated in the Vele Colliery EMP (May 2009) and outlined in section E6 of the BAR

Traffic Flows and Access

- No work must commence that affects public roads until all agreed traffic safety measures as required by relevant authorities, including Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) has been implemented.
- Strict safety measures, such as speed limits for heavy trucks, should be developed and agreed with RAL to reduce the safety risk of the increased traffic on the R572.
- Alternative options for transport of coal on the R572 should be investigated and considered for implementation within 5 years.

Safety

- An agreement between Roads Agency Limpopo and the applicant must be reached and recorded in writing with regard to the maintenance of the road surface and drainage structures on the R572 before development commence.

Alternative 2:

Direct impacts:

- Impacts for alternative 2 is the same as for alternative 1 and only additional impacts are provided.
- More protected flora species and specimens that can negatively be impacted upon, occur on road alternative 2.
- This route is longer than alternative 1 and therefore has higher financial costs in terms of planning, construction, operation and decommissioning.
- Because the road is longer, use of this road option will result in higher emission levels from construction and other vehicles.
- Habitat degradation in relation to sensitive habitats or species will be higher than for alternative 1 because protected flora species and numbers, as well as larger drainage lines occur along this route.

Mitigation Measures (Direct impacts):

- Alternative 2 was early in the planning phase identified as the least feasible option with the highest potential environmental impact. Less detail to planning and designing therefore took place. The best mitigation measure is to use option 1 as preferred road.

→ Other mitigation measures are similar as for options 1 with additional planning requirements by specialist to remove threatened plants and to construct environmentally friendly low level bridges over drainage lines.

Indirect impacts:

- Impacts for alternative 2 is the same as for alternative 1 and only additional impacts is provided.
- Degradation / modification of critical ecosystem functioning components such as the large drainage lines.

Mitigation Measures (Indirect impacts):

- Alternative 2 was identified as the least feasible option and is also not the preferred alternative.

Cumulative impacts:

- Impacts for alternative 2 is the same as for alternative 1 and only additional impacts is provided.
- Construction will take longer than for alternative 1 and extent the timeframes for mine construction and production.

Mitigation Measures (Cumulative impacts):

- Alternative 2 was identified as the least feasible option and is also not the preferred alternative.

Alternative 3: NA

No-go alternative (compulsory):

Direct impacts:

- Financial implications for the applicant because of time and finances spend on planning and design of the access road.
- No direct environmental related impacts foreseen.
- No proper access will be available for the construction of the planned Vele Colliery.
- Timeframes for construction and operation of the planned Vele Colliery will be delayed.

Mitigation Measures (Direct impacts):

- Implement a proper planning and design phase for the proposed access road.

Indirect impacts:

- Large-scale environmental degradation (erosion, siltation, destruction of protected species, increased air pollution etc.) could occur if a well planned access road is not available, and

- alternative farm roads that are not designed for the specific purpose of mine traffic has to be used.
- The safety risk for mine traffic will increase, as well as for other road users on farm roads and the R572 due to poor access design.
- The impact on vehicles and trucks utilising substandard roads for access (in terms of the requirements of an access road for operational activities of the proposed mine), will result in increased maintenance of all vehicles using that road and increased financial expenditure.
- Increased risk of environmental incidents and accidents - increased pollution risks.
- Conflict with landowners and users of farm roads.
- Increased emissions as farm roads are not tarred, and noise pollution closer to noise sensitive receptors.

Mitigation Measures (Indirect impacts):

- Implement a proper planning and design phase for a custom designed and environmentally friendly access road.

Cumulative impacts:

- Use of a substandard farm road will probably influence (increase) the amount and / or weight of haul trucks needed for transportation of the coal to the rail siding in Musina.
- Traffic volumes might increase on the R572 road to Musina, which will accelerate deterioration and increase maintenance efforts and financial expenditure.
- The increase in traffic on the R572 might increase the safety risk of this road.
- The feasibility of the operational phase might be influenced.
- Farms roads of which the condition may deteriorate due to the use of heavy mine traffic, may impact on operations of other landowners and road users in the area as it may limit access by certain vehicles or increase travelling time.
- Use of sub-standard farm roads may increase the footprint of the mine operation in the mining area.
- The impact on safety of road users in the vicinity and the R572 would be huge if the mine license is granted and the access road is not custom designed and build and sub-standards farms roads have to be used.
- Growing tension between the applicant and adjacent landowners and road users that may manifest in undesirable incidents.

Mitigation Measures (Cumulative impacts):

- Implement a proper planning and design phase for the proposed access road.
- Decrease the footprint of the access road to a size that is still practical, feasible and safe for traffic.
- Decrease the cumulative effects by decreasing several individual potential impacts such as traffic volumes, footprint size, potential air pollution (dust) etc.
- With the high volumes of product that needs to be conveyed during the operational phase of the proposed mine, other alternatives have to be considered for the longer term operation of the proposed mine.

3. IMPACTS THAT MAY RESULT FROM THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE

List the potential alternative related impacts (as appropriate) that are likely to occur as a result of the construction phase.

Alternative 1:

Direct impacts:

Social and Socio- Economic

- New job opportunities will be created

Sense of Place

- The access road may negatively impact on the aesthetics of the area and its ambience.
- The continued activity of mine traffic may result in visual intrusion.
- Signage for and on the access road may cause visual intrusion for road users on the R572.

Culture and Heritage

- Cultural resources and heritage of people may be damaged.

Health and Safety

- Construction activities and structures may pose safety risks for people.
- Diversions and construction activities at the access point to the R572, may result in disruption of traffic flows and increased safety risks.
- Construction activities may lead to an increased risk of accidents and environmental incidents.

Traffic Flows and Access

- Diversions and construction activities at the access point to the R572, may result in disruption of traffic flows of road users.

Water resources

- Limited water resources will be used for construction activities.
- Pollution may occur as a result of lack of ablution facilities for the construction crew.

Change in flow and drainage

- Poor rain and storm water management may result in loss of property, erosion and pollution of water resources

Solid Waste

- Poorly managed and accumulating waste can cause water and soil pollution.

Air quality and noise

- Increased risk of noise and air pollution as a result of construction vehicles and activities.

Biodiversity Degradation

- Construction activities in environmentally sensitive areas such as drainage lines and threatened habitats, as well as through areas where threatened species occur, may result in significant negative impacts on biodiversity.
- Disturbance of large areas of natural vegetation and poor storm water management from the road may result in erosion and cause sediments to be eroded and washed into aquatic systems, causing the loss of aquatic habitat downstream.
- Protected species can be destroyed and injured
- Ecosystem functioning may be impaired

Mitigation Measures (Direct impacts):

Social and Socio- Economic

- Where new jobs are created either temporary or permanent, legal residents from the immediate neighbouring communities should be the first choice when sourcing takes place through all phases of the development.
- Where expertise and capacity is not available, empowerment models where local capacity is developed through partnerships should be considered. This principle should also apply where possible, to sourcing of supplies through all phases of development.

Sense of Place

- Although the access road falls entirely within the property of the applicant with some visibility from adjacent landowners, all efforts should be made to limit the impact on the aesthetics of the area.
- No vegetation should be removed outside a 2 meter road reserve on either side of the road.
- Within the 2 metre road reserve, shrubs and trees may be removed if necessary for safety purposes, but to prevent erosion, grasses should not be removed.
- All signage on the R572 must comply with the guidelines as per the South African Manual for Outdoor Advertising Control and approval must be obtained from the relevant roads authority according to the South African Road Traffic Signs Manual before any signboards are erected.
- Internal signs should be placed at localities and in a manner and colour scheme that will not cause visual intrusion for adjacent landowners.

Culture and Heritage

- If previously undetected subterranean heritage remains are discovered during the construction phase, it must be reported to the Limpopo Heritage Authority and/or the archaeologist, and may require further mitigation measures.

Health and Safety

- The necessary training and environmental awareness must be arranged for all employees and subcontractors relating to environmental health, safety and security.
- All construction vehicles must be parked, when not operational, at areas demarcated for them in the construction camp at the plant area.
- Signs must be put up to warn people about construction hazards.

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

- All signs must be fixed safely and securely, must be visible and comprehensible by all and maintained.
- Open trenches must be clearly marked.
- Adherence to all aspects of the Mine Health and Safety Act (Act 181 Of 1993).
- Regulated traffic safety procedures must be implemented to ensure safety of people on site.
- Strict precautions must be taken to prevent possibilities of fires along the construction area and no open fires must be allowed.
- The environmental procedures to reduce the risk and impact for environmental incidents should be put up on site during construction.

Traffic Flows and Access

- No work must commence that effects public roads until all agreed traffic safety measures essential for the works are accepted and agreed with relevant authorities, including Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL).
- Existing access to properties of adjacent landowners shall be maintained at all times.
- If road closures are required, it must be planned and communicated to the authorities and affected communities in advance and it must be properly sign-posted.
- No temporary roads may be constructed additional to the existing road surface.
- All damage to existing roads must be addressed within 72 hours.
- Temporary diversions should be clearly sign posted, limited and rehabilitated.

Construction

- Demarcated sites at the mine construction site must be used for parking and maintenance of construction vehicles. None close to sensitive areas or along the access road.
- Run-off water from vehicle wash bays, workshops and diesel/fuel tank areas must be contained in a dirty water facility and not allowed to be discharged into the environment.
- Used oils must be collected on a regular basis by the appointed registered waste contractor for safe disposal,
- All construction vehicles must be serviced and in good working condition to ensure that all vehicles are safe, and to reduce risks of environmental incidents.
- Any discharge of water containing polluted matter or visible suspended materials into the rivers and drainage lines should be prohibited.
- All relevant aspects of the Mine Health and Safety Act must be complied with.
- Speed limits for construction vehicles must be 60 km/h and must be enforced.
- The access to the R572 must be cleaned from any mud or debris deposited by construction vehicles on the R572 that may impact on traffic.
- All construction vehicles carrying potentially dusty or loose material likely to deposit this material on public roads during transit must have full sheeting covering.
- The necessary road signage must be erected according to the relevant roads authority standards to inform all road users of construction activities and potential dangers during construction.
- Clear signs, flagmen and signals must be set-up where necessary. Where temporary signs are required, the details and location of the signs must be discussed with the relevant authorities.
- No work must commence that effects public roads until all agreed traffic safety measures are agreed with the relevant authorities, including Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL).
- Regulated traffic safety procedures must be implemented to ensure safety of people on site.
- All signs must be fixed safely and securely, must be visible and comprehensible by all and maintained.
- Embankments must be protected against erosion both during and after construction.
- All damage to existing roads must be repaired within 72 hours and the R572 must be maintained in the same or better condition than on the date that authorisation for development has been granted.

Water resources

- The workforce must be sensitised on aspects of water conservation.
- There must be supervision over the workforce ensuring water is not wasted.
- Temporary environmentally friendly ablution facilities (chemical toilets) must be available at the construction site and serviced according to manufacturer specifications.

Change in flow and drainage

- Measures must be taken to ensure that no undue rain, or storm water damage and soil erosion, result from the construction activities.
- An engineer must ensure that appropriate erosion protection measures are put in place to prohibit surface run-off water to concentrate and flow down cut or fill slopes or along spillway routes during construction / operation.
- All topsoil stripped from physical development areas must be reinstated afterwards on areas requiring rehabilitation.

Solid Waste

- Solid waste must be kept in bins to ensure that no solid waste comes into contact with the soil or drainage lines during rain.
- No littering must take place and sufficient temporary waste bins must be provided along the construction area.
- All waste bins must be cleaned weekly or when full (whichever comes first).
- The waste may be temporarily stored at the contractor site of the mine area, in an area that is weatherproof and scavenger-proof, and which the Site Engineer has approved.
- No waste bins shall be accumulated and/or stored in a waste yard for more than 30 days without being emptied. The waste contractor will ensure that the waste bins are disposed within the required time limit of not more than 30 days.
- An approved registered waste contractor will be appointed specifically for management and safe disposal of all waste, including domestic waste.
- No burying, dumping or burning of any waste materials, vegetation litter or refuse may occur on-site.

Air quality and noise

- Speed limits for construction vehicles must not be more than 60 km/h.
- All construction vehicles must be serviced and in good working condition to limit noise and emission levels.
- Construction activities may not take place between 18:00 and 6:00 on weekdays. No construction should occur on Sundays and Saturday afternoons after 14h00.

Biodiversity Degradation

- The Contractor and crew should be sensitised about the threatened plant species as well as sensitive areas along the planned road and a suitable qualified person should point them out to the contractor and crew before construction commences.
- Removal of vegetation will only be for purposes of clearing the 10.6 meters where the road surface will be constructed, except within the 2 metre road reserve on each side of the proposed access road, shrubs and trees may be removed if necessary for safety purposes, but grasses should not be removed.
- No degradation to the vegetation may take place outside the 2 metre road reserve.
- Relocation and removal of protected species must take place before construction is started and must be coordinated by a suitably qualified person.
- No removal of vegetation for firewood may take place outside of the footprint area of the proposed access road.
- No removal or catching of any animals may take place inside or outside of the footprint area of the proposed access road, except for relocation purposes and by suitable qualified person.
- All sensitive areas (e.g. drainage line) adjacent to the development should be adequately protected against degradation and erosion, and rehabilitated when damaged incidentally.

- Rehabilitation should be monitored and if not successful, redone.
- A penalty clause for any contraventions should be included in the contractor's service agreement.
- All declared exotic plants must be removed from the entire development area.
- Contaminated topsoil e.g. with oil, must not be used in reclamation work.
- Interference with natural drainage must be minimized and the requirements of the National Water Act must be met.
- Pipes underneath drainage line crossings must be set at such a height, to ensure that there is no step on the downstream side.
- After completion of the crossing, drainage line beds and stream-banks must be rehabilitated.

Indirect impacts:

Social and Socio- Economic

- The workforce may not adhere to safety, health and environmental regulations, requirements and measures.
- None or poor performance on environmental authorization requirements resulting in negative environmental impacts.
- Poor management may lead to environmental and safety incidents.

Health and Safety

- Unknown people frequenting the development site may pose an increased security risk (albeit a perceived risk) to adjacent communities and landowners.
- Poor management may lead to environmental and safety incidents.
- Potential for increase in snaring, illegal activities, accidental fires and trespassing on properties of adjacent landowners.
- Construction workers may visit adjacent communities on neighbouring properties, which can be perceived as a security risk and having undesirable social impacts.
- No or poor provision for public transport services may lead to accessibility problems and safety risks.

Mitigation Measures (Indirect impacts):

Social and Socio- Economic

- Information signs could be placed at strategic positions on the road to make the general public aware of the importance of the area, environmental practises and prohibited activities such as collection of wood.
- The necessary training and environmental awareness must be arranged for all employees and subcontractors relating to environmental health, safety and security.
- The workforce must be sensitised on aspects of energy and water conservation.
- Safety, health and environmental responsibilities should be clearly allocated with accountability measures in place.
- All construction workers should be sensitised about the conservation importance of the area.
- An environmental officer with the necessary capacity must be appointed during construction to ensure that all environmental management measures are implemented as required by the environmental authorization, and mine EMP.

Health and Safety

- The necessary training and environmental awareness must be arranged for all employees and subcontractors relating to environmental health, safety and security.
- Adherence to all aspects of the Mine Health and Safety Act.

- Construction labour will not be allowed to reside on site and only a few people, mainly for security purposes, will reside in the designated construction camp at the plant area.
- Accommodation possibility should be investigated and could include Dongola Ranch and / or Musina.
- Implement security measures (fencing, guards etc.) to safeguard the construction camp, equipment and workers.
- Strict precautions must be taken to prevent possibilities of fires along the construction area and no open fires must be allowed.
- Code of practise with safety regulations must be put up with emergency numbers for incidents.

Cumulative impacts:

Visual intrusion

- Increased visual intrusions as a result of other infrastructure developments such as power lines, Telkom lines, etc. are erected to service Vele Colliery.

Air quality and Noise

- Heavy construction vehicles and equipment might significantly increase noise and air pollution during the construction period, albeit temporarily.
- Sensitive receptors, such as Dongola Ranch, Palm filling station and the farmhouse area on Erfrust, might experience temporary increases in noise and air pollution.
- The farmhouse area on Erfrust is further away from alternative 1 and less noise and air pollution impacts can be expected. Alternative 1 is located closer to Dongola Ranch and Palm filling station and more noise and air pollution impacts can be expected. This will however be temporary as construction activities move further away from Dongola Ranch and Palm filling station.

Severance

- The road and other infrastructure such as power lines, telecom lines, etc. will result in severance of animal paths or cause injury or death.

Mitigation Measures (Cumulative impacts):

Visual intrusion

- Align infrastructure along the access road and where possible putting the infrastructure underground, within the road reserve.

Air quality and Noise

- Speed limits for construction vehicles must not be more than 60 km/h.
- All construction vehicles must be serviced and in good working condition to limit noise and emission levels, to ensure that all vehicles are safe, and reduce risks of environmental incidents.
- No construction should occur at night time and construction hours should be limited to daylight hours.
- No construction should occur on Sundays and Saturday afternoons after 14h00.

Severance

- Removal and relocation of small animals to safe areas.
- Erecting electrical pylons according to Escom guidelines to minimize impact on raptors and larger birds, or placing infrastructure underground.
- Sensitizing road users of the risk of animals crossing the road.

- Speed limits for construction vehicles must not be more than 60 km/h.
- Keep the grass along the road short to increase visibility of animals.
- Align infrastructure where possible long the proposed access road.

Alternative 2:

Direct impacts:

- Impacts for alternative 2 is the same as for alternative 1 and only additional impacts is provided.
- More protected flora species, and numbers, that can negatively be impacted upon occur on road alternative 2.
- This route is longer than alternative 1 and has therefore higher financial costs in terms of construction, operation and decommissioning.

Mitigation Measures (Direct impacts):

- Alternative 2 was early in the planning phase identified as the least feasible option and is also not the preferred alternative.
- Construction of alternative 2 should not occur.

Indirect impacts:

- Impacts for alternative 2 is the same as for alternative 1 and only additional impacts is provided.
- Habitat degradation in relation to sensitive habitats or species will be higher than for alternative 1 because protected flora species and numbers, as well as larger drainage lines occur along this route.
- Degradation / modification of critical ecosystem functioning components such as the large drainage lines.

Mitigation Measures (Indirect impacts):

- Alternative 2 was identified as the least feasible option and is also not the preferred alternative.
- Construction of alternative 2 should not occur.

Cumulative impacts:

- Impacts for alternative 2 is the same as for alternative 1 and only additional impacts is provided.
- Construction will take longer than for alternative 1 and extent the timeframes for mine construction and production.
- Especially noise and air pollution might increase temporarily during the construction period because of heavy construction vehicles and equipment.
- Sensitive receptors, such as Dongola Ranch and Palm filling, station is further away from alternative 2 and less noise and air pollution impacts can be expected.
- Alternative 2 is located closer to the farmhouse area on Erfrust and more noise and air pollution impacts can be expected. This will however be temporary as construction activities move further away from the farmhouse area.

Mitigation Measures (Cumulative impacts):

- Alternative 2 was identified as the least feasible option and is also not the preferred alternative.

→ Construction of alternative 2 should not occur.

Alternative 3: NA

No-go alternative (compulsory):

Direct impacts:

- Financial implications for the applicant because of time and finances spend on planning and design of the access road.
- No environmental related impacts foreseen.
- No proper access will be available for the construction of the planned Vele Colliery and thus to the mine.
- Timeframes for construction and operation of the planned Vele Colliery will be delayed.
- Alternative access will be needed to the mining area.
- The current servitude on Erfrust might be used as an access route but will need to be upgraded and tarred. Utilization of aforementioned route will increase road safety for farmers to the north of the mining area because they utilise this road for farming activities and to transport products to markets. Aforementioned servitude stops at the farm Bergen op Zoom and an access route to the plant area further north on the farm Bergen op Zoom is needed. Both the servitude road and an access route to the plant area further north on the farm Bergen op Zoom need to cross large drainage lines. Increased costs will be endured and even a bridge might have to be build on the farm Bergen op Zoom.

Mitigation Measures (Direct impacts):

- None

Indirect impacts:

- If construction of the planned access road does not occur, an alternative access road to the proposed mine need to be planned and constructed.
- Timeframes for construction and operation of the mine are delayed.

Mitigation Measures (Indirect impacts):

- None

Cumulative impacts:

- Cumulative impacts for the construction phase are the same as for the planning and design phase.

Mitigation Measures (Cumulative impacts):

- Mitigation measures for the construction phase are the same as for the planning and design phase.

4. IMPACTS THAT MAY RESULT FROM THE OPERATIONAL PHASE

List the potential alternative related impacts (as appropriate) that are likely to occur as a result of the operational phase.

Alternative 1:

Direct impacts:

Social

→ Negative perceptions by local communities as a result of job opportunities being allocated to people from other areas or products are sourced from other areas.

Health and Safety

→ Poor maintenance and management may lead to environmental incidents, accidents and poor compliance

Roads, Traffic Flows and Access

→ High levels of mine traffic impacting on traffic flows, and access to the R572.

→ No or poor provision for public transport services may lead to accessibility problems and safety risks.

Storm water and flood line

→ Poor rain and storm water management may result in loss of property, erosion and pollution of water resources.

Air quality and noise

→ Increased noise levels as a result of increased vehicle activities on the proposed road.

Waste management

→ Waste can accumulate along the access road and impact on water resources, soils etc.

Biodiversity degradation

→ Habitat degradation when people do off-road driving or collect/catch illegal plants, firewood and animals along the road.

→ Protected species can be destroyed and injured.

→ Ecosystem functioning may be impaired.

Mitigation Measures (Direct impacts):

Social

→ Where possible, either temporary or permanent workers should be sourced from the immediate neighbouring communities that are legal residents in South Africa, through all phases of the

development.

- Where expertise and capacity is not available, empowerment models where local capacity is developed through partnerships should be considered. This principle should also apply where possible, to sourcing of supplies through all phases of development.

Health and Safety

- Management should be responsible for environmental protection and performance for which all staff should be held accountable.
- Management must ensure that:
 - An integrated environmental management system is developed within 5 year of environmental authorisation with proper checks and balances to ensure sustained sound environmental management and continuous improvement.
 - Ongoing environmental awareness and training of employees with regard to safety, health and environmental aspects.
 - All staff and customers comply with rules and procedures.
 - All required maintenance are done and recorded.
 - Adequate information, instruction and training to staff are provided.
 - Any accidents and incidents are recorded and addressed.
 - All complaints from the public are recorded and addressed.
 - Adherence to Mine Health and Safety Act.

Roads, Traffic Flows and Access

- The R572 should be maintained as agreed with RAL together with the access road.
- Clear traffic management signage that was authorized by the relevant authorities should be placed and maintained at strategic locations on the proposed road.
- All signs should be fixed safely and securely, must be visible and comprehensible by all and maintained.
- If road closures are required for maintenance, it must be planned and communicated to the authorities and affected communities in advance and must be properly sign-posted.
- The traffic flow should be monitored and recorded.

Storm water

- Any debris accumulating on the upstream side of the drainage line crossing structures must be removed regularly.
- Maintenance of measures to mitigate the negative impact of rain and storm water from the access road.

Air quality and noise

- All vehicles must be serviced and in good working condition to limit noise and emission levels, to ensure that all vehicles are safe, and to reduce risks of environmental incidents.

Waste management

- The areas along the access road must be kept clean from litter.
- Waste management for the area along the access road should be incorporated into the waste management system of Vele Colliery

Biodiversity degradation

- All sensitive areas (e.g. drainage line) adjacent to the proposed access road should be adequately protected and rehabilitated when damaged incidentally.
- All declared exotic plants and weeds must be removed in an environmentally friendly manner from the entire area.
- A speed limit of no more than 60 km/h should be set for the access road to reduce the risk of accidents and injury to animals.
- No off-road driving should be allowed.
- Code of good practise with safety regulations and penalties/incentives for all employees and contractors must be put up with emergency numbers for incidents and whistle blowers.

Indirect impacts:

- None

Mitigation Measures (Indirect impacts):

- None

Cumulative impacts:

Road Traffic

- Increased levels of mine traffic impacting on traffic flows, and access to the R572 if alternative transport measures for the coal are not implemented.

Air quality and noise

- Due to the large number of trucks and other vehicles that are required for the daily transport of coal, the impacts on the carbon dioxide budget would be greatly increased and so increasing climate change impacts.
- Noise levels would also increase due to the large number of trucks and other vehicles that are required for the daily transport of coal.

Mitigation Measures (Cumulative impacts):

Road Traffic

- Alternative options for transport of coal on the R572 should be investigated and considered for implementation.

Air quality and noise

- Alternative options for transport of coal on the R572 should be investigated and considered for implementation.

Alternative 2:

Direct impacts:

- Impacts for alternative 2 is the same as for alternative 1 and only additional impacts is provided.

→ This route is longer than alternative 1 and has therefore higher financial costs in terms of maintenance.

Mitigation Measures (Direct impacts):

→ Mitigation for operation would be the same as for alternative 1.

Indirect impacts:

→ Impacts for alternative 2 are the same as for alternative 1.

Mitigation Measures (Indirect impacts):

→ Mitigation for operation would be the same as for alternative 1.

Cumulative impacts:

→ Impacts for alternative 2 is the same as for alternative 1 and only additional impacts is provided.

→ Travel time on alternative 2 would be longer than on alternative 1.

→ Due to the extra distance traveled on alternative 2, the impacts on the carbon dioxide budget would be slightly higher than on alternative 1 and so also increasing climate change impacts.

→ Due to the extra distance traveled on alternative 2, especially noise and air impacts might be slightly higher during the operation of alternative 2.

Mitigation Measures (Cumulative impacts):

→ Consideration and investigations of possible uses of alternatives for the transportation of coal from the mine site. This could be by train or conveyor as a replacement to trucks.

Alternative 3: NA

No-go alternative (compulsory):

Direct impacts:

→ No environmental related impacts foreseen.

→ No proper access will be available for the operation of the planned Vele Colliery and thus to the mine.

→ Alternative access will be needed to the mining area.

Mitigation Measures (Direct impacts):

→ Conduct investigations for alternative access to the mine.

Indirect impacts:

→ Environmental degradation as a result of no or poorly operated access road.

Mitigation Measures (Indirect impacts):

→ Easy access is needed to operate, manage and maintain the mine and to respond on emergencies etc.

Cumulative impacts:

→ No access or poor access could hamper environmental (and other) management actions of the mine and have a cumulative negative effect on the environment.

Mitigation Measures (Cumulative impacts):

→ Consideration and investigations of other means to access the mine area, which is very limited and might be very expensive and impractical.

5. IMPACTS THAT MAY RESULT FROM THE DECOMMISSIONING AND CLOSURE PHASE

List the potential alternative related impacts (as appropriate) that are likely to occur as a result of the decommissioning or closure phase.

Alternative 1:

Direct impacts:

Social and Socio- Economic

→ Job opportunities will be lost.

Solid Waste

→ A large amount of road rubble will have to be removed.

→ Rubble and waste may wash into the drainage lines resulting in reduced water quality and degradation of habitat for aquatic species.

Air quality and Noise

→ Increased risk of noise and air impact as a result of destruction activities and vehicles removing waste.

Water impact

→ Pollution may occur as a result of lack of ablution facilities for the decommissioning crew.

Biodiversity Degradation

→ Poorly maintained decommissioning in environmentally sensitive areas such as drainage lines and threatened habitats, as well as through areas where threatened species occurred may

results in significant negative impacts on biodiversity.

Mitigation Measures (Direct impacts):

Social and Socio- Economic

- Empowerment and skills development programs should be implemented on an ongoing basis to ensure that people are sufficiently skilled to be absorbed in other areas with similar skills and experiential requirements.
- A redeployment strategy should be developed with relevant labour unions to absorb labour where possible.
- Financial provision should be made during the operational phase for future decommissioning.

Solid Waste

- An approved registered waste contractor will be appointed specifically for management and safe disposal of all waste.
- The waste may be temporarily stored at the contractor site of the mine area, in an area that is weatherproof and scavenger-proof, and which the Site Engineer has approved.
- No burying, dumping or burning of any waste materials, vegetation litter or refuse may occur on-site
- Water laden with waste e.g. cement or pollutants must be collected and must in no circumstances be allowed into drainage lines.
- The area must be actively rehabilitated.

Air quality and Noise

- Speed limits for construction vehicles must be no more than 60 km/h.
- All construction vehicles must be serviced and in good working condition to limit noise and emission levels.
- Noisy decommissioning (destruction) activities may not take place between 18:00 and 6:00 on weekdays. No construction should occur on Sundays and Saturday afternoons after 14h00.

Water impact

- Temporary environmentally friendly ablution facilities (chemical toilets) must be available at decommissioning site and serviced according to manufacturer specifications.

Biodiversity Degradation

- Decommissioning in environmentally sensitive areas such as drainage lines and threatened habitats, as well as through areas where threatened species occurred should be rehabilitated under the guidance of a suitable qualified person.
- No degradation to the vegetation may take place outside the 2 metre road reserve.
- All sensitive areas (e.g. drainage line) adjacent to the development should be adequately protected against degradation and erosion, and rehabilitated when damaged incidentally.
- Rehabilitation should be monitored and if not successful, redone.
- Drainage line crossings must be removed and restored and actively rehabilitated.

Indirect impacts:

- None

Mitigation Measures (Indirect impacts):

→ None

Cumulative impacts:

Social and Socio- Economic

→ The existing road might be need after decommissioning to conduct monitoring.

Mitigation Measures (Cumulative impacts):

Social and Socio-Economic

→ Investigate alternative usages of the access road.

→ Incorporate rehabilitation into the overall rehabilitation plan of the mine.

Alternative 2:

Direct impacts:

→ Impacts would be the same as for alternative 1.

→ Because of the length of the road, slightly more waste need to be managed and disposed of.

Mitigation Measures (Direct impacts):

→ Mitigation measures would be the same as for alternative 1.

Indirect impacts:

→ Impacts would be the same as for alternative 1.

Mitigation Measures (Indirect impacts):

→ Mitigation measures would be the same as for alternative 1.

Cumulative impacts:

→ Impacts would be the same as for alternative 1.

Mitigation Measures (Cumulative impacts):

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

→ Mitigation measures would be the same as for alternative 1.

Alternative 3: NA

No-go alternative (compulsory):

Direct impacts:

→ None

Mitigation Measures (Direct impacts):

→ None

Indirect impacts:

→ Another type of access route needs to be rehabilitated.

Mitigation Measures (Indirect impacts):

- Incorporate waste management into the overall waste management system of the mine.
- Rehabilitation of surface disturbances.
- Ongoing monitoring of rehabilitation.
- Environmental audits and reporting.
- Transfer of skills.

Cumulative impacts:

→ Access to the mine area would be needed after decommissioning to conduct for instance monitoring.

Mitigation Measures (Cumulative impacts):

- Investigate alternative usages of the access road.
- Incorporate rehabilitation into the overall rehabilitation plan of the mine.

6. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

Indicate how identified impacts and mitigation will be monitored and / or audited.

Alternative 1:

Direct impacts:

- Environmental awareness communication and reporting forms an integral part of an EMP. For this reason, a procedure was developed EMP (May 2009) for the application of a mining license that describe the means by which the mine will communicate with its employees and with IAPs on environmental issues. The mine acknowledges the importance of effective internal communication of the Environmental Management System (EMS), as well as external communication of the EMS, and as such will maintain communication channels, both within the company and with the IAPs of the mine.
- In general, the objective of this procedure are to:
 - Ensure that employees understand the Environmental Policy and objectives.
 - Ensure that information regarding the environment is communicated effectively and is readily accessible to the relevant parties.
 - Improve feedback of operational and environmental performance to management.
 - Provide for the establishment of forums to discuss environmental issues, allocate resources and ensure that adequate measures are being taken to address the environmental problems.
 - Provide guidelines for communication with outside organisations and IAPs.
 - Ensure effective and constructive response with IAPs, and
 - Ensure that records of environmental communication and interaction are documented and filed in an easily accessible storage system.
- A comprehensive monitoring system was developed for Vele Colliery as part of the compilation of an EMP (May 2009) for the application of a mining license, which includes a detailed environmental monitoring system and an implementation, auditing and reporting protocol.
- The objective of the environmental monitoring system is to:
 - Prevent and/or minimize the environmental impact associated with the proposed mining operation.
 - Ensure that the environmental management system at Vele perform according to specifications.
 - Ensure conformance with the environmental objectives.
 - Ensure timeous implementation of the environmental strategies and implementation programme.
 - Act as a pollution early warning system.
 - Obtain the necessary data required to address knowledge gaps.
 - Check compliance with license requirements.
 - Ensure consistent auditing and reporting protocols.
- A proper data management system will be set up to facilitate trend analyses and preparation of reports. All the monitoring data will be collated and analysed on an annual basis and included in management reports.
- The monitoring programme is a dynamic system changing over the different life cycle phases of the mine. The programme will be reviewed on an annual basis and revised if necessary.
- In addition, EMP performance assessments, as required in terms of the MPRDA will be performed on a biennial basis and submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) for distribution to other relevant authorities.
- Allowance has been made in the said EMP for the following environmental personnel (permanent employees) at the mine:
 - HSEC Coordinator

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION FORM AND REPORT

- Environmental Officer
- Rehabilitation Officer
- Indigenous nursery manager
- In addition, the following specialists will be appointed to assist with the development of the plans & programmes, and to perform the necessary monitoring:
 - Qualified archaeologist
 - Qualified palaeontologist
 - Qualified soil scientist
 - Qualified biodiversity specialist
 - Qualified groundwater specialist
 - Specialists required to assist with off-set programmes
- Internal communication will be conducted on a monthly basis at the Mine as follows:
 - Environmental induction – The mine will include environmental awareness in its induction programme for employees and contractors. Included in this will be the environmental requirements stipulated by the said EMP. Special attention will be given to heritage and palaeontological aspects. Where required, specialists will be drawn in to assist with the training programme (e.g. archaeologist).
 - EMS working group – The mine will identify appropriate employees, which will include members of the management team, to form an EMS working group which will discuss all relevant environmental issues on a monthly basis. Action plans will be drafted at each meeting, and followed up during each subsequent meeting.
 - Management meetings – The mine will conduct monthly meetings where relevant Health, Safety, Environmental, Community (hereafter referred to as the HSEC) issues are discussed with the General Manager of the mine.
 - Review meetings – The mine management team will provide feedback to the Operations Director on a monthly basis and all HSEC issues will be included in these meetings.
- External communication will be conducted as follow:
 - Stakeholder Register – The Mine has a comprehensive Stakeholder Register as a result of the initial EMP process. The register contains a list of all stakeholders and includes the name of the stakeholder organisation, contact details of the IAPs, such as the address (both physical and postal), e-mail address, telephone number, cell phone number and fax number. This register will be maintained by the Mine's Environmental Department and updated on an annual basis.
 - Stakeholder Reports – HSEC reports will be prepared annually and distributed to all the major stakeholders. To encourage feedback and facilitate stakeholder participation, each report will contain a feedback sheet, which will allow the stakeholders to change their contact details, if necessary, and to comment on or enquire as to HSEC matters. Any feedback sheets received will be managed according to fixed operating procedures and any actions taken will be recorded for reference purposes.
 - Public Forums – Annual public meetings will be held with major stakeholders to present and discuss HSEC issues. A register of attendees will be completed and minutes taken during the proceedings, which will be distributed to all the major stakeholders for information purposes, whether they attended the meeting or not. To encourage feedback and facilitate stakeholder participation, feedback sheets will be handed to each stakeholder upon registration and collected after the forum. This will allow the stakeholders to change their contact details, if necessary, and to comment on or enquire as to HSEC matters. Any feedback sheets received will be managed according to fixed operating procedures and any actions taken will be recorded for reference purposes.
 - External Complaints Register – An HSEC external complaints register will be stationed at the office of the Mine's Environmental Manager. If a complaint and/or concern are raised, a formal Incident Investigation will be opened, managed and investigated in accordance with the appropriate EMS operating procedure. A central complaints register will be kept by the Environmental Department and updated and monitored on a monthly basis. Records will be kept of the external complaints, as well as the follow-up investigation and actions taken. Regular contact will be kept with the complainant until the complaint has been suitably addressed.
- The environmental management recommendations provided here has to be included into the EMS.

Mitigation Measures (Direct impacts):

→ Mitigation measures will be monitored and / or audited according to the same procedures as described for the impacts.

Indirect impacts:

→ Impacts will be monitored and / or audited according to the same procedures as described for direct impacts.

Mitigation Measures (Indirect impacts):

→ Mitigation measures will be monitored and / or audited according to the same procedures as described for direct impacts.

Cumulative impacts:

→ Impacts will be monitored and / or audited according to the same procedures as described for direct impacts.

Mitigation Measures (Cumulative impacts):

→ Mitigation measures will be monitored and / or audited according to the same procedures as described for direct impacts.

Alternative 2:

Direct impacts:

→ Impacts will be monitored and / or audited according to the same procedures as described for direct impacts of alternative 1.

Mitigation Measures (Direct impacts):

→ Mitigation measures will be monitored and / or audited according to the same procedures as described for direct impacts of alternative 1.

Indirect impacts:

→ Impacts will be monitored and / or audited according to the same procedures as described for direct impacts of alternative 1.

Mitigation Measures (Indirect impacts):

→ Mitigation measures will be monitored and / or audited according to the same procedures as described for direct impacts of alternative 1.

Cumulative impacts:

→ Impacts will be monitored and / or audited according to the same procedures as described for direct impacts of alternative 1.

Mitigation Measures (Cumulative impacts):

→ Mitigation measures will be monitored and / or audited according to the same procedures as described for direct impacts of alternative 1.

Alternative 3: NA

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Taking the assessment of potential impacts into account, please provide an environmental impact statement that sums up the impact that the proposed activity and its alternatives may have on the environment after the management and mitigation of impacts have been taken into account with specific reference to types of impact, duration of impacts, likelihood of potential impacts actually occurring and the significance of impacts.

Alternative 1:

- This proposed development is the construction of a new access road. The evaluation of other alternatives indicated that alternative 1 is the shortest route and is the most suitable, economically and environmentally.
- The most significant impacts of the construction phase is of short term and is an increase in the ambient noise levels, an increase in air pollutants through the generation of dust and an increase in carbon dioxide emissions, and visual effect of construction activities.
- The most significant impacts of the operational phase are also an increase in the ambient noise levels, air pollution through an increase in carbon dioxide emissions, and the impact on the sense of place (visual) effect of large amounts of traffic in the area.
- Especially an increase in noise levels and the visual impact could alter the character of the area and surrounding areas.
- Crossing of drainage lines will not result in diverting of any storm water from its original flood path and major culverts are located where the road crosses seasonal streams. Stream crossings are thus not regarded in the long term as a significant impact of the access route.
- Sensitive flora species can be relocated and the road can be aligned to bypass the one large *A. digitata* (baobab) tree.
- Fauna species will most probably escape and relocated elsewhere nearby.
- The increase in traffic on the R572, mainly as a result of the haul trucks, will have a significant impact on the noise levels and character of the area and can mainly be attributed to the method of transporting of coal in the short term.
- In light of the above, and the other comments on the impact of the proposed development on the environment, it can be concluded that the proposed development, relative to the larger mine development project, will not have a significant negative impact on the environment.

Alternative 2:

- Alternative 2 is slightly longer than alternative 1.
- More sensitive flora species and sensitive habitats (large drainage lines) occur on this route.
- Alternative 2 crosses the existing road servitude twice and is not regarded preferred from a road safety point of view.
- Construction impacts, including financial aspects, are therefore more severe but basically the same issues exist as for alternative 1.
- Although alternative 2 has the same operational impacts and cumulative impacts as alternative 1, impacts are slightly more severe because of the increased length of the route and the number of large stream crossings involved.
- Alternative 2 is not the most feasible or preferred alternative.

Alternative 3:

NA

No-go alternative (compulsory):

- The no-go alternative will have financial implications for the applicant because of time

and finances spend on planning and design of the planned access road and the delay in timeframes for construction and operation of the planned Vele Colliery.

- No environmental related impacts are foreseen if no road is constructed.
- However, no proper access will be available to the mine area and existing small farm roads will probably be utilised. Large-scale environmental degradation (erosion, siltation, and destruction of protected species) could occur if such roads are utilised without any or proper planning, design, construction and maintenance. Impacts on vehicles and trucks utilising such roads will increase as so will the probability of pollution. Maintenance of vehicles would have to increase with increased financial expenditure.
- A poorly planned, designed and constructed access road will probably influence (increase) the amount and / or weight of haul trucks needed for transportation of the coal to the rail siding in Musina because of additional travelling time and maintenance of trucks on such road. Traffic volumes might increase on the R572 road to Musina, which will accelerate deterioration and increase maintenance efforts and financial expenditure on the road. An increase in traffic on the R572 might increase the safety risk of this road.
- The feasibility of the operational phase of the mine might be influenced.

8. RECOMMENDATION OF PRACTITIONER

Is the information contained in this report and the documentation attached hereto sufficient to make a decision in respect of the activity applied for (in the view of the environmental assessment practitioner)?

YES	
-----	--

If YES an EMP **must** be attached.

Is an EMP attached as Appendix H?

YES	
-----	--

If "NO", indicate the aspects that should be assessed further as part of a Scoping and EIA process before a decision can be made (list the aspects that require further assessment):

NA

If "YES", please list any recommended conditions, including mitigation measures that should be considered for inclusion in any authorisation that may be granted by the competent authority in respect of the application:

- Construction should not commence before the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) has issued a mining licence.
- The EMP must be implemented and implementation monitored by an environmental officer.
- All relevant legislation from other governmental Departments should be complied with.

SECTION F: APPENDIXES

The following Appendixes must be attached as appropriate:

Appendix A: Site plan(s)

Appendix B: Landowner consent

Appendix C: Photographs

Appendix D: Facility illustration(s)

Appendix E: Specialist reports

Appendix F: Proof of all measures and procedures followed during the Public Participation Process

Appendix G: Comments and responses report

Appendix H: Environmental Management Plan (EMP)

Appendix I: Information in support of applications for exemption (this option must be used with discretion)

Appendix J: Other information