



# Jones & Wagener

Engineering & Environmental Consultants  
59 Bevan Road PO Box 1434 Rivonia 2128 South Africa  
tel: 00 27 11 519 0200 www.jaws.co.za email: post@jaws.co.za



**Department of Mineral Resources  
Mineralia Building  
Cnr De Korte & De Beer Street  
Bramfontein**

31 March, 2017

Our Ref: **F925**  
Your Ref:

F925\_CA\_DMR\_Let\_rD\_sb\_al\_MvZ\_20170323

**Attention: Mr Jimmy Sekgale  
CC: Mr Musa Mangobe**

Dear Sirs

## **INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED CESSATION OF PUMPING AND ASSOCIATED CLOSURE OF THE UNDERGROUND WORKINGS OF THE EZULWINI OPERATIONS OF SIBANYE GOLD, GAUTENG**

### **Reports available for public and authority review and comment from 3 April to 7 May 2017:**

- *Consultation Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and specialist reports;*
- *Draft Environmental Management Programme (EMPr);*
- *Draft Closure Plan;*
- *Draft Water Use Licence Amendment Application.*

Sibanye Gold Limited (Sibanye Gold) proposes the closure of the underground workings of the Ezulwini Operations located close to Westonaria in Gauteng. In support of the proposed closure of the underground workings, Sibanye Gold will be applying for the following authorisations:

- An Environmental Authorisation to proceed with the proposed cessation of pumping and associated closure of the underground workings of Sibanye Gold's Ezulwini Operations. A Basic Assessment (BA) process in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998, as amended (NEMA) is being followed for this application. This process includes the submission of a Basic Assessment Report, Closure Plan and an EMPr in terms of the NEMA and the 2014 EIA Regulations.
- An amendment to the existing Water Use Licence (WUL) in terms of section 50 of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998, as amended (NWA).

The following activities will be included in the application for authorisation from the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) in terms of Listing Notice 1 of the 2014 EIA regulations:

Activity No	Description
<b>Activity 22 of GN 983</b>	The decommissioning of any activity requiring - i. a closure certificate in terms of section 43 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002); or

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**DIRECTORS:** GR Wardle (Chairman) PrEng MSc(Eng) FSAICE JP van der Berg (CEO) PrEng PhD MEng FSAICE JE Glendinning PrSciNat MSc(Env Geochem) MSAIEG M Rust PrEng PhD MSAICE  
**TM Ramabulana** BA(Social Sciences) A Oosthuizen (Alternate) PrEng BEng(Hons) MSAICE  
**TECHNICAL DIRECTORS:** D Brink PrEng BEng(Hons) FSAICE PG Gage PrEng CEng BSc(Eng) GDE MSAICE AStructE JR Shamrock PrEng MSc(Eng) MSAICE MIWMSA NJ Vermeulen PrEng PhD MEng MSAICE  
**HR Aschenborn** PrEng BEng(Hons) MSAICE M van Zyl PrSciNat BSc(Hons) MIWMSA MW Palmer PrEng MSc(Eng) MSAICE TG le Roux PrEng MEng MSAICE AJ Bain PrEng BEng MSAICE  
**GB Simpson** PrEng MEng MSAIE MSAICE JS Msiza PrEng BEng(Hons) MSAICE MIWMSA G Hartli PrEng MEng MSAICE JS Hex PrSciNat MSc(Env Man) EAPASA PJJ Smit PrEng BEng(Hons) MSAICE  
**ASSOCIATES:** M van Biljon PrSciNat MSc(Hydrogeology) RA Nortjé PrEng MSc(Eng) MSAICE MIWMSA C Cilliers PrEng BEng(Hons) MSAICE NW Nxumalo PrEng MSc(Eng) MSAICE  
**J Breyll** PrEng BEng(Hons) MSAICE F Hoertkorn PrEng Dr.-Ing MSAICE  
**CONSULTANTS:** PW Day PrEng DEng HonFSAICE JA Kempe PrEng BSc(Eng) GDE MSAICE AStructE BR Antrobus PrSciNat BSc(Hons) MSAIEG  
**FINANCIAL MANAGER:** HC Neveling BCom MBL CIMA Adv Dip MA



Activity No	Description
	ii. a prospecting right, mining right, mining permit, production right or exploration right, where the throughput of the activity has reduced by 90% or more over a period of 5 years excluding where the competent authority has in writing agreed that such reduction in throughput does not constitute closure.
<b>Activity 34 of GN983</b>	The expansion or changes to existing facilities for any process or activity where such expansion or changes will result in the need for a permit or licence or an amended permit or licence in terms of national or provincial legislation governing the release of emissions or pollution, excluding - i. where the facility, process or activity is included in the list of waste management activities published in terms of Section 19 of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008) in which case the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 applies; or ii. the expansion of or changes to existing facilities for the treatment of effluent, wastewater or sewage where the capacity will be increased by less than 15 000 cubic metres per day.

The Consultation BAR and EMPr, Closure Plan, and Water Use Licence Amendment Application for the proposed project have been finalised and will be made available for public review and comment from **3 April to 7 May 2017**. Seven hard copies of these reports and documentation, including the application form, is attached hereto for the DMR's perusal.

As per Regulation 7 (2) of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, "the competent authority or Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) must consult with every organ of state that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment relevant to that application for an environmental authorisation when such competent authority considers the application and, unless agreement to the contrary has been reached, the EAP will be responsible for such consultation".

In terms of the aforementioned, Jones & Wagener Engineering and Environmental Consultants (J&W) has distributed the Consultation BAR, draft Environmental Management Programme (EMPr); draft Closure Plan and draft Water Use Licence Amendment Application and specialist reports for the proposed project to the relevant departments and organisations for review and comment. The relevant departments and organisations that received a copy of the above mentioned reports are as follows:

- Department of Mineral Resources (Gauteng Regional office);
- Department of Water and Sanitation (Gauteng Regional office);
- Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development;
- Westrand District Municipality;
- Rand West City Local Municipality;
- City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality;
- Council for Geoscience;
- National Nuclear Regulator.

Appended is a list with the details of each person to whom the draft reports were delivered to. You are more than welcome to use the information in your follow-ups to these organisations. On request, we will gladly provide you with proof of the delivery of the documentation sent to the commenting authorities.

Jones & Wagener and Sibanye Gold would like to meet with you to discuss the findings of the specialist assessments, which were conducted as part of the integrated application process for the proposed closure of the Ezulwini Operations of Sibanye Gold.

A meeting with the DMR has been scheduled for Monday, **10 April 2017 at 10:30** at the DMR, Gauteng Office (Mineralia Building).

Items listed below will form part of the discussions for the proposed meeting:

- Background and context of the proposed project;
- Findings of the specialist studies undertaken. These include the following studies:
  - Geohydrological and Dolomitic Stability Assessment
  - Plug and Pillar Review Report (Ezulwini and South Deep), including seismic activity assessment;
  - Plug siting and plug design reports (Ezulwini and Cooke 3);
  - Surface Water Impact Assessment;
  - Socio-economic Impact Assessment;
  - Wetland Assessment report.
- Water Use Licence Application Amendment

Should you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact us

Yours faithfully



Anelle Lötter  
for Jones & Wagener



Marius van Zyl

Document source: C:\Alljobs\F925\_Ezulwini\_operations\DBAR\Public-review\Authority\_letters\CA\_DMR\F925\_CA\_DMR\_Let\_rD\_sb\_al\_MvZ\_20170323.docx  
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