BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)
ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS FOR THE
SASOL MINING (PTY) LTD. IMPUMELELO MINE EXTENSION
PROJECT
(DMR reference number: MP30/5/1/2/3/2/1(138) EM)
**PROJECT BACKGROUND**

Sasol Mining is an existing coal mining company situated in close proximity to Secunda, located approximately 16 km south-east of Kinross and 26 km south-west of Bethal in the Mpumalanga Province. Sasol Mining has been mining coal in the Secunda area for more than 30 years. The main purpose of Sasol Mining's Secunda operations is to supply coal to Sasol Synfuels, which utilises various processes and beneficiates the coal into a number of products such as petrol, diesel, plastics and various chemicals.

In order to continue to satisfy existing market requirements of Synfuels, Sasol Mining has recently developed the Impumelelo Mine (also previously known as Block 2). The Impumelelo Mine is located to the south-west of Secunda, east of Greylingstad and north-west of Standerton in the Mpumalanga Highveld. The Impumelelo Mine will replace the Brandspruit Mine operation.

The existing Impumelelo Mine consists of an area of approximately 21 000 ha in size. Coal is mined from the site utilising a combination of underground mining methods (bord and pillar, and high extraction / stooping). A conveyor from the Impumelelo Mine to the existing Sasol Coal Supply (SCS) blending plant located close to Brandspruit Colliery has been constructed. The servitude for the conveyor belt includes a service road, water pipelines, power and communication lines.

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

Sasol Mining is also the Holder of the Prospecting Rights of several additional areas surrounding and within the approved Impumelelo Mine Area. Sasol Mining is proposing to mine this coal, using underground bord-and-pillar and stooping methods. Coal will be accessed via the existing Impumelelo Mine, and the mined coal will be transported via the existing conveyor to the Brandspruit Mine where it will be processed at the existing plant.

The areas that Sasol Mining would like to include are portions of the Farms:
1. Boschmansfontein.
2. Hartbeesfontein.
3. Hartbeestkuil.
5. Grootvley.
6. Paardefontein.
7. Raskop.
8. Wolvenfontein.

These areas will hereafter be collectively referred to as the Impumelelo Mine Extension, and are shown in green in the Plan attached in Appendix A. The Impumelelo Mine Extension Project entails the application for a Mining Right in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Act (MPRDA), 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002), as amended in 2014, Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) (Act 107 of 1998), and a Water Use Licence in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (NWA) (Act 36 of 1998) for the above mentioned areas. No additional surface infrastructure will be constructed.

**Legislative Requirements**
Sasol Mining requires environmental authorisation for the Impumelelo Mine Extension Project and needs to submit the following documentation:

2. A Scoping Report for the additional areas in terms of the requirements of the Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations R.982 (2014) and submission thereof to the DMR.
3. An amended Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMP) for the additional areas, as well as the existing Impumelelo Mine in terms of the requirements of Appendices 3 and 4 of the EIA Regulations R. 982 (2014), and submission thereof to the DMR.
Sasol Mining (Pty) Ltd. is also required to comply with the requirements of the following environmental related Acts for the Impumelelo Mine Extension Project, namely:


It is the purpose of this BID to form part of the environmental application processes undertaken in terms of the requirements of the:


Sasol Mining (Pty) Ltd. has appointed Clean Stream Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd. (CSEC), as required by Regulation 12(1) of the NEMA (1998), as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), for the purpose of applying for environmental authorisation and a Water Use Licence for the Impumelelo Mine Extension Project.

**Specialist studies and assessment of impacts**

As part of the above-mentioned Environmental Authorisation Process, a number of investigations will be undertaken and updated by suitably qualified specialists in order to gather baseline information pertaining to the current state of the environment as well as to identify the environmental impacts that may be
associated with the proposed Impumelelo Mine Extension Project. The specialist studies to be undertaken include the following:
1. Ecological (plants and animals) survey.
2. Groundwater study.
3. Heritage impact assessment.
4. Soil, land use and land capability studies.
5. Surface water specialist study.

The Environmental Impact Assessment process will be used to determine the best practical environmental option for the proposed project, and will assist the mine in identifying appropriate mitigation measures. The main objective of the mitigation measures will be to reduce the operational and long-term effects of the proposed project on the environment.

**Possible Environmental Impacts**
The NEMA (1998) requires that the anticipated environmental, social, and cultural impacts be identified and described.

The impacts identified during the Scoping Phase (as well as any others identified during the EIA Phase) will be further assessed as part of the EMP and EIAr process. A full impact assessment will be compiled as part of the EMP and EIAr. The following are some of the potential impacts that may be associated with the proposed project:
1. The underlying geology of the area may be disrupted.
2. The groundwater quantity may be negatively affected due to the practising of high extraction mining.
3. Subsidence may occur due to underground mining.
4. Catchment yield may be affected.

**Benefits of the proposed project**
The following benefits of the project have been identified:
1. Inclusion of the farms into the current Mining Rights area will extend the Life of Mine of the Impumelelo Mine.
2. Sasol Mining (Pty) Ltd. will continue supplying jobs to its current employees and may possibly create new jobs.
3. The surrounding communities will continue to benefit through direct and indirect income; as well as the mine’s use of local contractors and suppliers.

**Purpose of the Background Information Document**

This Background Information Document (BID) is intended to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with a concise overview of the proposed project and an indication of the manner in which I&APs can voice any issues or concerns, which they may have about the proposed Impumelelo Mine Extension Project. The compilation and distribution of this BID, forms part of the Public Participation Process for the project.

**Role of Interested and Affected Parties**

A Public Participation Process (PPP) is being conducted as part of the Environmental Authorisation process. The involvement of the public in the applicable Environmental Authorisation process is required by the NEMA (1998) and the Regulations thereunder. The PPP will provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with a platform to voice any matters or issues relating to the proposed project. An I&AP is any person, group of persons or organisation interested in or affected by the proposed project or any organ of state that may have jurisdiction over any aspect of the operation or activity.

**Register as an I&AP**

To register as an I&AP of this project, which will enable you to obtain more information and / or submit comments, please complete the Registration Form (Appendix B) and return it to Clean Stream Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd. (contact details on back page). Alternatively, you can register at [www.cleanstream.co.za](http://www.cleanstream.co.za).

During the course of the Environmental Authorisation Process for the Scoping Phase of the project, I&APs will be afforded the following opportunities to be involved in the proposed project:

1. Complete and submit the I&AP registration form.
2. Review the draft Scoping Report.
3. Attend the Public Meeting.
4. Directly contact the Environmental Assessment Practioner (Clean Stream Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd. (CSEC)).

Your input to the project is important to the process, and may help to identify aspects that need to be considered during the assessment of impacts and alternative project options. Your involvement in the public participation process would, therefore, be valued and appreciated.

**Details of the Public Meeting**

A public meeting will be held to provide I&APs with more information regarding the above mentioned proposed Sasol Mining (Pty) Ltd. Impumelelo Mine Extension Project, and to create an opportunity for stakeholders to provide their input and views, and to ask questions and/or raise concerns. You are cordially invited to attend the public meeting as stipulated below:

- **Date of Meeting:** 27 January 2016
- **Time:** 14:00 p.m. to 16:00 p.m.
- **Venue:** Sasol Mining Centre, on R546 near Brandspruit main shaft complex
- **Date of advertisement:** 15 January 2016
Availability of Scoping Report for public comment:
The Draft Scoping Report will be made available to the public for review for a period of thirty (30) days from 19 January 2016 to 19 February 2016.

Hard copies of the document have been made available at the Sasol Mining (Pty) Ltd. Impumelelo Mine security office and the Greylingstad Post Office. An electronic copy of the document will be available at www.cleanstream.co.za. A register and comment sheet will accompany the documents at the public viewing stations. Please complete the register subsequent to reviewing the document. Alternatively e-mail or fax your comments to Clean Stream Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd. (details provided below).
Appendix A
Sasol Impumelelo Mine
Appendix B

Interested and Affected Parties

REGISTRATION FORM

Sasol Mining (Pty) Ltd. Impumelelo Mine Extension

I&AP Details:

Full name and surname: ____________________________________________

Contact details: ____________________________________________

Postal address: ____________________________________________

Preferred method of communication: □ fax □ e-mail □ post

Preferred telephone number: □ cell □ home □ work

Organisation/Representative: ____________________________________________

Farm name, number and subdivision or Street Address (if applicable): ___________________________________________________________________

Questions

1) Where did you get information about the proposed project?
□ Newspaper advertisement □ notice board □ radio □ other (please specify)

2) Do you represent a company/organisation or is your interest on behalf of yourself?

3) Are you aware of any person that can be affected or will be interested by the planned activities or is not aware of the proposed project? (Please provide details).

Water sources (Please supply all water sources, even if currently not used):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Source (e.g. municipality, dam, borehole, river, other (please provide)).</th>
<th>In the case of a dam</th>
<th>In case of a borehole</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of dams</td>
<td>Capacity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please indicate water uses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Use</th>
<th>Water Source (as per above)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washing</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooking</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanitation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation (e.g. Swimming)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stock watering</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Irrigation – gardens (irrigation system)</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
**Water Use**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Use</th>
<th>Water Source (as per above)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation – crops (irrigation system)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Specify)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Specify)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Categorised Issues of Concern:**
(Tick boxes of any issues which concern you regarding the proposed project: This information will be included in the public consultation report).

- Soil
- Ecology
- Employment
- Borehole yields
- Noise
- Economy
- Groundwater
- Borehole quality
- Visual
- Wetlands
- Quality of life
- Farm dam Quality
- Streams
- Air quality
- Surface water
- Waste management
- Security
- Archaeology
- Property value
- Land use & planning
- Nuisance
- Other (Specify)

Do you have any concerns or comments regarding the proposed activities of the Impumelelo Mine Extension project.

[ ] YES  [ ] NO

If yes, please indicate what the comments are?

The purpose of this questionnaire is to obtain any issues of concern or information that may assist us in generating a more accurate assessment of impacts relating to the proposed project, and will be included in subsequent reports for submission to the authorities.

- [ ] I understand the purpose of this questionnaire.
- [ ] I do not understand the purpose of this questionnaire.

The personal information (contact details) provided in this questionnaire will not be provided to any third party (aside from Sasol Mining (Pty) Ltd. and / or regulating authorities) unless legally required to do so. By completing, signing and submitting this registration form you give CSEC and Sasol Mining (Pty) Ltd. consent as an adult over 18 to make use of the information provided and to contact you in future regarding any further development on this project.

_________________________  ______________________
Signature                        Date

**NOTE:**
Forward completed forms to Clean Stream Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd. by no later than 19 February 2016.
Consultant: Clean Stream Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd.

Contact person: Sonja van de Giessen / Natalie Lubbe

Tel: 012 993 5988
Fax: 012 993 1361

E-mail: sonja@cleanstream.co.za/ natalie@cleanstream.co.za

Postal Address: P. O. Box 32201, Glenstantia 0010