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To whom it may concern
(Electronically distributed)

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS AS PART OF THE PROPOSED CONSOLIDATION OF THE IMPUMELELO ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS (DMR reference number: MP 30/5/1/2/3/2/1(138) EM)

The above-mentioned project refers.

Sasol Mining (Pty) Ltd wishes to consolidate their existing (approved) authorisations in terms of the MPRDA¹ (2002), the NEMA² (1998) and the NWA³ (1998). Sasol Mining (Pty) Ltd. has, therefore, updated their existing EIAR⁴ and EMPR⁵ to include all relevant information from the existing approvals in terms of the MPRDA (2002) and the NEMA (1998) into a single working document. They are further in the process of consolidating their IWWMP⁶ in order to incorporate all of their approved WUL⁷s and GA⁸s.

In terms of the requirements of the MPRDA (2002), the NEMA (1998), and the NWA (1998), as well as the regulations and guidelines under these acts, all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and all landowners within and adjacent to the mine boundary, who may be impacted on by the activities associated with the project, as well as all stakeholders and organs of state need to be notified of the project. You have, therefore, been identified as a key stakeholder, and are hereby notified of the proposed consolidation project.

Project background:

Sasol Mining (Pty) Ltd. is an existing coal mining company situated in close proximity to Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province and has been mining coal in this area for more than 30 years. In 2009, CSEC⁹ was appointed by Sasol Mining (Pty) Ltd. to compile and to obtain the relevant authorisation required to commence mining at the then proposed Impumelelo Mine. The document entitled "Sasol Mining Impumelelo Mine: Environmental Management Programme (including Environmental Impact

¹ MPRDA: Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002), as amended in 2014.

² NEMA: National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act no 107 of 1998)

³ NWA: National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 Of 1998)

⁴ EIAR: Environmental Impact Assessment Report

⁵ EMPR: Environmental Management Programme Report

⁶ IWWMP: Integrated Water and Waste management Plan

⁷ WUL: Water Use Licence

⁸ GA: General Authorisation

⁹ CSEC: Clean Stream Environmental Consultants



Assessment) under the MPRDA (2002) and the NEMA (1998)", dated September 2009 with reference number: SM/B2N/02/2009, was submitted to both the DEA¹⁰ and the DMR¹¹ on the 22nd of September 2009. Environmental authorisation was granted on the 13th of September 2010, and EMP approval was granted on the 6th of July 2010. Sasol Mining (Pty) Ltd. also applied for a Water Use Licence in May 2011 and submitted an additional Water Use Licence Application in September 2011, which was subsequently approved in June of 2013.

Impumelelo Mine is situated 45km to the south-west of Secunda; 20km east of Greylingstad and 60km north-west of Standerton in the Mpumalanga Highveld. Impumelelo Mine, therefore, also falls within the jurisdiction of the Gert Sibande District Municipality and the Dipaleseng, Lekwa and Govan Mbeki Local Municipalities respectively.

In 2018, Sasol Mining (Pty) Ltd. compiled the relevant application to add various additional farms to the mine boundary area. The submitted application was updated in line with the DMRs requirements in 2020 and also approved in 2020. This approved extension project entailed only the additional of farm portions to the mine boundary area and the associated mining thereof and no additional surface infrastructure.

Legislative Requirements:

Since the consolidation project entails the consolidation of already existing approvals in order to bring the EMPR in line with the approved Mining Right and to allow the mine to operate under a single document with a single approval, there is not a specific legislated process in terms of the MPRDA (2002) and / or the NEMA (1998) that must be followed. The DMR was therefore consulted and advised that the EMPR (and EIR) can be consolidated without following a Scoping and EIR process. Public consultation must still be undertaken to ensure that any comments from the public are considered during the process.

The NWA (1998) requires that the full Water Use Licence Application process be undertaken for the consolidation of the WULs and GAs, and therefore the IWWMP will be updated and all relevant associated information provided to the DWS as part of the process. This public consultation process is run in parallel for the consolidation of both the EMPR (and EIR) and the WULs.

Availability of the draft EIAR and EMPR for public comment

The draft EIAR and EMPR will be made available for public review for a period of thirty (30) days from 01 April 2021 until 30 April 2021. As an identified (or previously registered) I&AP, you are encouraged to send your comments or concerns regarding this project to CSEC on or before the 30th of April 2021. Hard copies of the document will also be made available at the Sasol Mining (Pty) Ltd. Impumelelo Mine security office, and the Val Hotel. An electronic copy will be made available on the Clean Stream Environmental Consultants' website (www.cleanstream.co.za).

In the interests of social distancing in line with the current COVID-19 regulations a public consultation meeting will not be held, however, the staff at CSEC will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have about the project, please feel free to contact one of us (contact details below).

Conclusion:

As a key stakeholder, your valuable input to the project is important to the process, and may help to identify aspects that need to be considered with regards to the project.

¹⁰ DEA: Department of Environmental Affairs.

¹¹ DMR: Department of Mineral Resources.

To find out more about the project, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Natalie Lubbe at CSEC, contact details below:

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Yours sincerely,

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