

**STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION OF EAST BLOCK COLLIERY OF STUART COAL'S
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT REPORT
SUBMISSION TO THE DMRE¹**

The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2014 as amended by Government Notice 326 in Government Gazette 40772 dated 07 April 2017 (commencement date 07 April 2017) require in Part 3 "Auditing and amendment of environmental authorisation, environmental management programme and closure plan" Section 34 "Auditing of compliance with environmental authorisation, environmental management programme and closure plan", - subsection (6) that :*"within 7 days of the date of submission of an environmental audit report to the competent authority, the holder of an environmental authorisation must notify all potential and registered interested and affected parties of the submission of that report, and make such report immediately available- (a) to anyone on request; and (b) on a publicly accessible website, where the holder has such a website"*.

This serves as the notification of the submission of the East Block Colliery EMP PAR² to the DMRE.

1. Background summary

Stuart Coal³ is a coal mining company based near Delmas, in the Mpumalanga Province and has mined coal in this area since 1998. Stuart Coal has three Collieries, namely Weltevreden Colliery, East Block Colliery (hereafter referred to as EBC⁴), and South Block Colliery. Coal is currently being mined mainly at the EBC, by rollover truck and shovel opencast mining methods with continuous rehabilitation. The Stuart Coal Collieries are situated within the Victor Khanye Local Municipality in the Nkangala District Municipality of the Mpumalanga Province. The Weltevreden Colliery is situated approximately 7 km, the East Block Colliery is situated approximately 10 km, and the South Block Colliery is situated approximately 15 km to the east of the town of Delmas in Mpumalanga.

EBC is currently operating under the approved EMP⁵ dated February 2016 and approved on 03 September 2020. The EBC mine boundary area is divided in two separate mining areas by a secondary provincial road between the Delmas / Ogies R555 road in the north, and the Delmas / Leandra (R50) in the south. East Block Colliery thus consist of East Block 1 (south of the provincial road) and East Block 2 (north of the provincial road).

CSEC⁶ was appointed, by Stuart Coal, as an independent external auditor to perform an EMP PAR for the period September 2020 to August 2021 on the approved EMP for the EBC.

2. Summary of compliance

Stuart Coal (Pty) Ltd's East Block Colliery, compliance percentage to the commitments as set in the approved EMP is that of **87.63%**. Out of the total of 257 commitments, 37 were not yet applicable. Out of the remaining 220 compliance rankings assigned, East Block Colliery was fully compliant with 124 of the commitments and partially compliant with 96 of the commitments to various degrees.

3. Conclusion

The EMP PA audit report included:

- An indication of the level of compliance of Stuart Coal (Pty) Ltd. with the commitments set in the approved EMP of the East Block Colliery.
- An assessment of current percentage of compliance by means of a rating system.
- Identification of the quantitative risk associated with the non-compliances to the surrounding environment and appropriate recommendations made for corrective or mitigation measures.
- A photographic report of on-site findings.
- The recommendations detailing proposed actions required to achieve or improve compliance were summarised.
- Any commitments of the approved EMP of the East Block Colliery that is not attainable or not applicable were highlighted with clarification.

It is thus considered that the objectives and purpose of the EMP PA audit was met.

¹ DMRE: Department of Mineral Resources and Energy

² EMP PAR: Environmental Management Programme Performance Assessment Report

³ Stuart Coal: Stuart Coal (Pty) Ltd.

⁴ EBC: East Block Colliery

⁵ EMP: Environmental Management Programme.

⁶ CSEC: Clean Stream Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd.