

STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION OF SOUTH 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 Section 34, subsection (6) that the holder of an environmental authorisation must notify all potential and registered interested and affected parties of the submission of that report.

This serves as the notification of the submission of the South 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. 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.

South Block Colliery is currently operating under the approved EMP⁵ dated March 2010 and approved on 19 September 2012. The South Block Colliery is currently still in the Construction Phase of its life cycle with the construction of various infrastructure while opencast mining itself is scheduled to commence soon. The larger area is still dominated by agricultural activities, namely maize farming and cattle grazing and these activities will remain for some time on portions of the mine area – with only active mining areas fenced off and used for mining related activities at any stage.

CSEC⁶ was appointed, by Stuart Coal, as an independent external auditor to perform an EMP PAR for the period October 2020 – September 2021 on the approved EMP for the South Block Colliery.

2. Summary of compliance

Stuart Coal (Pty) Ltd.'s South Block Colliery, compliance percentage to the commitments as set in the approved EMP is that of **97.7 %**. Out of the total of 140 commitments, 38 were not yet applicable or could not be measured. Therefore, out of the remaining 102 compliance rankings assigned, South Block Colliery was fully compliant with 91 commitments, mostly compliant with 10 commitments and non-compliant with 1 commitment.

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 South 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 addendum of the South 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.