

STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION OF SOUTH BLOCK COLLIERY OF STUART COAL'S WATER USE LICENCE AUDIT REPORT SUBMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION

This serves as the notification of the submission of the South Block Colliery Water Use Licence audit report of 2022 to the Department of Water and Sanitation.

1. Background summary

Stuart Coal¹ 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, and South Block Colliery. Coal is currently being mined mainly at the East Block Colliery, by roll-over 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.

The Water Use Licence for the South Block Colliery was issued on 13 November 2017 (Licence No: 06/B20A/IBJCG/6424) and a Water Use Licence amendment was issued on the 03rd of July 2018.

CSEC² was appointed, by Stuart Coal, as an independent external auditor to perform a Water Use Licence compliance audit for the period March 2021 to February 2022 for the South Block Colliery.

2. Summary of compliance

Stuart Coal (Pty) Ltd's South Block Colliery, compliance percentage to the conditions of the approved Water Use Licence is **97.6%**. Out of the total of 189 conditions, 47 are not yet applicable. Out of the remaining 142 conditions, the following compliance rankings were assigned; South Block Colliery was fully compliant with 122 of the conditions and partially compliant with 20 of the remaining conditions to various degrees.

No Department of Water and Sanitation reportable water pollution incidents occurred during the audit period.

3. Conclusion

The Water Use Licence audit report included:

- An indication of the level of compliance of Stuart Coal (Pty) Ltd at South Block Colliery with the conditions of the approved WUL.
- 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 applicable water resources and appropriate recommendations made for corrective or mitigation measures.
- A photographic report of on-site findings.
- A report on the compliance of South Block Colliery with Regulations GN704, dated 1999.
- The recommendations detailing proposed actions required to achieve or improve compliance or maintain compliance were summarised.
- Any conditions of the WUL that are not attainable or not applicable were highlighted with clarification in this report.

It is thus considered that the objectives and purpose of the Water Use Licence compliance audit was met.

1 Stuart Coal: Stuart Coal (Pty) Ltd.

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