

Comments and Responses 1596 Motuoane EA Amendment Application

Phumla Ngesi

Date 2024/06/28 Method Other

Comment

Dear Jolene Thank you for taking my call earlier. Considering that the commenting period closed last week Friday and the report is due for submission in August, I suggest that you give EWT an opportunity to comment. The reason for this is that we wont do much with the comments if they are not responded to. Hope you find the above in order. Kind regards

Response

EIMS noted the email as per the telephone call that was received earlier. The additional opportunity for EWT to comment was granted and communicated with EWT.

Izel van Rooy

Date 2024/05/17 Method Email

Comment

ATT: Jolene Webber EIMS Reference Number: 1596 Following the recent Teams meeting and subsequent discussions between Motuoane Energy (Pty) Ltd / D3 Energy and Corona Energy (Pty) Ltd / MaterEnergia Group please find hereby a formal request to register us as an Interested and affected party to the above-mentioned project. We kindly request that you provide us with all the relevant documentation pertaining to this project including copies of all the specialist studies undertaken for the project. Your kind cooperation in this matter would be highly appreciated. Yours faithfully

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email. We have registered Corona Energy (Pty) Ltd / MaterEnergia Group as an Interested and Affected Party for this project. Kindly find the attached notification letters. An electronic copy of the report is available on the EIMS website: <https://www.eims.co.za/public-participation/> Please do not hesitate to contact EIMS should you have any queries/comments regarding this project.

Malebo Baloi

Date 2024/05/13 Method Email

Comment

Good day, Kindly take note that all Departmental queries should be forwarded to *** to be registered and directed to the relevant unit. I am not responsible for Departmental queries nor environmental queries. Regards

Response

Good day, Thank you for the clarification. We will remove @Malebo Baloi from the list of I&APs accordingly.

Mr John Geeringh

Date 2024/05/17 Method Email

Comment

Please send me a KMZ file of the proposed changes if the footprint is changing. Please find attached Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes. Kind regards

Response

Good Day John, Thank you for your comments and participation in the Motuoane Part II EA Amendment Process. Kindly find the attached KMZ's as requested. Please note that originally approved Exploration Right had a footprint of approximately 150 000ha while the revised

Comments and Responses 1596 Motuoane EA Amendment Application

Mr John Geeringh

	footprint is much smaller at approximately 95 000 ha. It must be noted that the revised smaller footprint falls entirely within the broad (previously approved Exploration Right Footprint). In addition, the proposed the seismic survey and additional drilling wells are located within a defined area of the exploration right and not throughout the ~95 000ha exploration right area. The proposed seismic survey and additional drilling sites are therefore referred to as the directly affected landowners and this study primarily focuses on these areas (refer to the attached map / Appendix A of the Amendment Report). Please refer to Section 2.1 of the Amendment Report for detailed ER Footprint and project locality description. We take note of Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes and the document will be sent to the applicant and reference to it will be made in the Final EMPr.
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Mr Mpho Ratshisusu

Date	2024/05/10	Method	Email
Comment	Response		
Good day, On behalf of the Director-General, Dr Sean Phillips, this email serves to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence below which will receive the necessary attention by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). Kindest regards Central Point	EIMS noted the response as acknowledgement of receipt of the initial notification.		

Ms Natasha Higgitt

Date	2024/05/20	Method	Email	
Comment				Response
Good day, Please note that all development applications are processed via our online portal, the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) found at the following link: http://sahra.org.za/sahris/ . We do not accept emailed, posted, hardcopy, faxed, website links or DropBox links as official submissions. Please create an application on SAHRIS for each EA application and upload all documents pertaining to the Environmental Authorisation Application Process. As per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA), an assessment of heritage resources must form part of the process and the assessment must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA. If a case already exists on SAHRIS regarding the development, please upload the documents to that case using the "Make an additional submission to an existing case" in the application selector wizard https://sahris.org.za/form/application-selector . Please ensure that all documents produced as part of the EA process are submitted as part of the application.				
				EIMS notified SAHRA of the application that was made. Please see response to Sityhilelo Ngcatsha and the proof of receipt of the application was provided by Nokusho Ngobeni.

Comments and Responses 1596 Motuoane EA Amendment Application

Mr Sityhilelo Ngcatsha

Date 2024/05/10 Method Email

Comment

Good day, Please note that all development applications are processed via our online portal, the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) found at the following link: <http://sahra.org.za/sahris/>. We do not accept emailed, posted, hardcopy, faxed, website links or DropBox links as official submissions. Please create an application on SAHRIS for each EA application and upload all documents pertaining to the Environmental Authorisation Application Process. As per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA), an assessment of heritage resources must form part of the process and the assessment must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA. If a case already exists on SAHRIS regarding the development, please upload the documents to that case using the "Make an additional submission to an existing case" in the application selector wizard <https://sahris.org.za/form/application-selector>. Please ensure that all documents produced as part of the EA process are submitted as part of the application. ****PLEASE NOTE**** An application fee is now required for all section 38 applications. Please ensure that the SAHRIS application contains a proof of payment as per the notice at the following link: <https://sahris.org.za/help>. A payment of R 2 000.00 for each application is required. Please make separate payments with the specific reference numbers. Applications that do not include a proof of payment will be considered incomplete and will not be processed until proof of payment is provided. Please make use of the SAHRIS Case ID in the payment reference. e.g. 12345/38.8. Please upload the PoP using the "Make an additional submission to an existing case" in the application selector wizard <https://sahris.org.za/form/application-selector>. The case officer assigned to your case will approve the submission and begin to process the case. Kind Regards, Sityhilelo Ngcatsha Please note that I am no longer in the Development Applications Unit (DAU). For all development application related enquiries for the Free State Province, please contact Stephen Van den Heever.

Response

Good day, Kindly note that a SAHRIS application has been made and the relevant reports and proof of payment have been uploaded for this project, Case ID: 22833, title: 1596 Motuoane Part II EA Amendment.

Thami Hadebe

Date 2024/05/10 Method Email

Comment

Dear Ms Webber Your wayleave application with project reference number 1596/VM/jw dated 10 May 2024 has reference. Transnet Pipelines, a division of Transnet SOC Limited, is not affected by the proposal. Your awareness of the existence of Transnet’s pipeline servitudes and concern for their integrity is highly appreciated. This authorisation shall be valid for 48 months from the date - 10 May 2024.

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email acknowledging that Transnet Pipelines is not affected by the proposed project. These comments will be captured in the relevant reports as part of the public participation process.

Comments and Responses 1596 Motuoane EA Amendment Application

Thami Hadebe

Mr Paul Lado

Date 2024/05/14 Method Email

Comment

Good afternoon Jolene Thank you for your e-mail. Could you kindly provide us with copies of the exploration right as well as the environmental authorisation. Thanking you Paul

Response

Good Day Paul, Apologies for the late response, our Public Participation specialist is off sick. Kindly find the attached copies of the exploration right as well as the environmental authorisation. Please note that the documents may only be used for purposes of the Motuoane EA Amendment Application purposes.

Date 2024/05/16 Method Email

Comment

Good afternoon Jolene Thank you for this e-mail. May I again request the EA and exploration right? I note that it is not available on your website: <https://www.eims.co.za/2024/05/16/1596-motuoane-part-ii-ea-amendment/> Thanking you Paul

Response

Please see the response provided to the original email request.

Date 2024/05/23 Method Email

Comment

Good morning Vukosi These documents are received, with many thanks. Thanking you Paul

Response

EIMS acknowledged the email as proof of receipt of the documents that were requested by the I&AP.

Isabella Scholtemeijer

Date 2024/05/14 Method Other

Comment

EIMS received a phone call from an I&AP requesting further information regarding the project. The I&AP was provided with the response via email.

Response

Good day, Thank you for calling EIMS regarding the Motuoane Hennenman EA Amendment project. Kindly note that detailed information on the proposed amendment is provided in the Amendment Report which will be made available for public review and comment on hardcopy at the Virginia Library and Welkom Library and as well as a softcopy which will be available on our website <https://www.eims.co.za/public-participation/> from the 15th of May to the 21st of June 2024. Please also note that detailed project information will also be shared with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) during the public meeting which will be held as follows: Description of event: Public Meeting Where: Harmonie Primary School, 2 Vondeling Road, Glen Harmony

Comments and Responses 1596 Motuoane EA Amendment Application

Isabella Scholtemeijer

Virginia When: 15 May 2024, 15:00 – 17:00 During the public meeting, a summary of the proposed project (detailed information provided in the report) including the following will be shared and discussed: 1. Part II Amendment Process; 2. Proposed Amendments; 3. Project Locality (Affected Properties); 4. Potential Impacts; 5. Mitigation Measures; and 6. Recommendations. Please note that public participation for the proposed amendment is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 6 of the National Environmental Management Act Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2014, as amended) as well as in line with the principles of Integrated Environmental Management. As such, all I&APs are afforded an opportunity to review public reports (i.e. Amendment Report) and comment on the project. All comments / concerns will be responded to and captured in the Comments and Response Table which will be submitted with the final Amendment Report to the authorities to aid in making a decision on the application. This email also serves to confirm that you have been registered as an I&AP and will continue to receive communication regarding this project. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions / concerns or require any clarification relating to the project during this public participation period.

Mr Tshele Joseph Monyobo

Date 2024/05/31 Method Email

Comment

Dear Sir My name is Mr Tshele Joseph Monyobo.I am a recident at Meloding Virginia. In the morning I visited a site between Meloding and N1 the road is R73.So I found the your contact at the gate.. My concern is that I have been looking at that place of GAS for a longtime..Later I found that there is a company that is drilling on that site..There are few companies that have been drilling there and leave there without gaining something.. I am asking you because I have a company and I saw that GAS moving out of the soil ..spreading out of the air.In that area is the correct/right spot when I was looking at that GAS. I don't know about your finding about that area.IF you're interested to work with me,you can contact me. My address is [***] Thanks Mr TJ Monyobo ***

Response

Good Day Mr Monyobo, We would like to follow up on the email below. Your number is still taking us straight to voicemail, might be network issues on your side, may you kindly respond to the email below or contact us when you have network?

Date 2024/05/31 Method Email

Comment

Dear Sir My name is Mr Tshele Joseph Monyobo.I am a recident at Meloding Virginia. In the morning I visited a site between Meloding and N1 the road is R73.So I found the your contact at the gate.. My concern is that I have been looking at that place of GAS for a longtime..Later I found that there is a company that is drilling on that site..There are few companies that have

Response

Good Day Mr Monyobo, Thank you for your comment and interest on the project. We have tried to understand your comment and/or nature of interest on the project without success. We have also tried calling you over several days without success. Would you please elaborate on the following so we can be able to respond accordingly: 1. Which site (property) exactly are you

Comments and Responses 1596 Motuoane EA Amendment Application

Mr Tshele Joseph Monyobo

been drilling there and leave there without gaining something.. I am asking you because I have a company and I saw that GAS moving out of the soil ..spreading out of the air.In that area is the correct/right spot when I was looking at that GAS. I don't know about your finding about that area.IF you're interested to work with me,you can contact me. My address is [***] Thanks Mr TJ Monyobo ***

referring to as we placed several site notices along R73. 2. What do you mean by you saying you “saw gas moving out of the soil”? 3. How exactly did you see the gas? Remember that gas is colourless, do you perhaps have an equipment that can detect the gas, or you could smell it? 4. You mention that you have a company, your company’s interest on the project would that be for potential drilling opportunities, or do you perhaps have a gas exploration / production right in the area? Please note that any exploration activities being undertaken on site were authorised by the competent authority through an Environmental Authorisation (ref: 12/3/315). The current project is an amendment application to allow Motuoane to undertake additional exploration activities which will only be undertaken upon approval of the current amendment application. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or require any clarification.

Millicent Ramaisa

Date 2024/05/14 Method Email

Comment

Good day, I, Millicent Ramaisa, Environmental Health Practitioner based in Matjhabeng would like to attend your public participation meeting. Contact details: Cell: ***

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email. Kindly find the attached notification with details regarding the Public Meeting to be held tomorrow (15 May 2024). This email serves to inform you that you will be registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for further communication regarding this project. Please feel free to contact EIMS should you have any comments/queries regarding this project.

Pule Joseph Lenong

Date 2024/05/13 Method Email

Comment

Good morning my Leaders, ***, for your assistance. &&& Dear Jonele, on behalf of the Provincial Head of the Department of Water and Sanitation: Free State, I hereby would like to acknowledge receipt your mail with appreciation. The matter will be addressed in due course. For future reference, kindly send such mails directly to me.

Response

EIMS noted the response as acknowledgement of receipt of the initial notification by the Provincial Head of the Department of Water and Sanitation: Free State.

Date 2024/05/17 Method Email

Comment

Good morning my Leaders, ***, for your information and attention. &&& Dear Jolene, on behalf of the Provincial Head of the Department of Water and Sanitation: Free State, I hereby would like to acknowledge receipt of your email and its contents with appreciation. The matter

Response

Good day Pule, Thank you for acknowledging receipt of our notification regarding the report availability. As requested, we have deregistered @Central Point from the list of Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs) for this project, and they will no longer receive communications

Comments and Responses 1596 Motuoane EA Amendment Application

Pule Joseph Lenong

will be attended to. For future reference, please refrain from sending such requests to Head Office, rather send them to me and I will deal with them.

regarding this project. We trust that this addresses your request for us to refrain from communications with Head Office. This email serves as a reminder that the Public Review period for the amendment report ends tomorrow (21st of June 2024). We kindly request that any comments be provided by no later than the 21st of June 2024 for inclusion in the final report to be submitted to the competent authority. Please feel free to contact EIMS should you have any comments/queries regarding this project.

Elise Tempelhoff

Date2024/06/18MethodEmail

Comment

Dear Sir, I am a South African journalist. .I received your email address from ***, company secretary. You are apparently the environmental consultant for this project. Below is part of an email I sent to D3 energy: “It came to my attention that your company is already busy with a project in the province of the Free State in South Africa looking for helium and probably natural gas.” Could you please send me a copy of your environmental authorisation and the agenda of public meetings you had. South Africans are unsure where in the environmental process your project is. Will you please be so kind as to send me all relevant documentation re this project. I hope to hear from you asap. Thank you and kind regards Elise Tempelhoff ***

Response

Good Day Elise, Thank you for your interest in the Motuoane EA Amendment Project. Kindly find the attached Environmental Authorisation and the Public Meeting Presentation which incorporates the Agenda of the Public Meeting. Please note that detailed project information is available in the Draft Part II EA Amendment Report which is currently out for public review and comment (see attached notification). All comments are to be submitted to EIMS (see method of submission on the attachment) by no later than the 21st of June 2024. Kindly note that you have been added to the Interested and Affected Parties Database and you will receive future correspondence regarding this EA Amendment application.

Date2024/06/20MethodEmail

Comment

Dear Vukosi, Thank you! Please put my name on your email address list Kind regards

Response

Good Day Elise, As previously indicated, you have been added to the Interested and Affected Parties Database and you will receive future correspondence regarding this EA Amendment application.

Pamela Madondo

Date2024/05/28MethodEmail

Comment

Good day, Kindly find attached comments from the South African Civil Aviation Authority for the Environmental Authorisation Amendment process for the Motuoane Hennenman Exploration Right, in the Lejweleputswa and Fezile Dabi District Municipalities, Free State Province, South Africa. Kind regards, [Attachment]: Dear Sir/ Madam RE: COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED EXPLORATION OF HYDROCARBONS AND ASSOCIATED GAS ON VARIOUS FARMS

Response

Good day Ms. Madondo, Thank you for your email. Your comments will be included in the final report for submission to the competent authority as part of the Public Participation Process to ensure that a well-informed decision is made. As indicated in section 3.16 of the Amendment Report, the Relative Civil Aviation Theme Sensitivity was assessed to be Low-Sensitive by both the National Web-Based Environmental Screening Tool and Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Comments and Responses 1596 Motuoane EA Amendment Application

Pamela Madondo

NEAR THE TOWN OF HENNENMAN, WITHIN FEZILE DABI DISTRICT AND LEJWELEPUTSWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES, FREE STATE PROVINCE We acknowledge receipt of the email dated 10 May 2024. The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) is an agency of the Department of Transport (DoT). The Civil Aviation Act 13 of 2009 provides for the establishment of the CAA as a stand-alone authority mandated with controlling, promoting, regulating, supporting, developing, enforcing and continuously improving levels of safety and security throughout the civil aviation industry. The CAA exercises this mandate through the Civil Aviation Regulations (CARs). Please see our comments below: The screening tool report indicates that the proposed development has low sensitivity to civil aviation. Meaning No significant impacts on the civil aviation installation are expected in low sensitivity areas. It is unlikely for further assessment and mitigation measures to be required. However, it is imperative to note that, all the temporary or permanent structure or machinery of height that will be utilized for proposed project must undergo a formal obstacle assessment to an approval. The client is required to follow the application procedure and process. Kindly note that the SACAA has transferred all obstacle assessments and applications responsibilities to Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) as published on the SACAA website: www.caa.co.za/industryinformation/obstacles/ . A formal application must be lodged with Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) for a formal obstacles assessment to be conducted. together with the following: •A kmz/kml (Google Earth) file reflecting the footprint to the proposed development site (i.e., Monitoring Mast, Tower etc). •Provide coordinates (deg, min, sec), Height and Elevation. For development, they provide at least four corners and a center point. • Indicate the height to the highest structure of the project (to the top). The list and contact details of the approved obstacles assessment services providers can be obtained from the CAA website: www.caa.co.za.

(EAP). The proposed project entails the surveying of hydrocarbons from beneath the surface with no proposed high-rise structures which may affect civil aviation. The closest airfield to the site is the Harmony Airport FAHA which is approximately 18km northwest of the south-central section. The proposed activities do not interfere with surface and air transmission and therefore, no anticipated impacts on civil aviation emanating from the project. The proposed development does not entail the establishment of high-rise structures, use of aboveground high frequency electromagnetic radiation nor reflecting infrastructure. Therefore, a formal obstacle assessment is not required for the project. For access to the electronic copy of the report, kindly see the EIMS public participation website: <https://www.eims.co.za/public-participation/>

TP Theron

Date 2024/05/13 Method Email

Comment

Dear Sir/Madam, Subject: Inquiry Regarding Part II of the Environmental Authorisation Amendment Process for Motouane Energy's Exploration Right in Hennenman District I am writing to you on behalf of the Hennenman Farmers Union concerning an important matter that has recently been brought to our attention. It pertains to Part II of the Environmental Authorisation Amendment Process for Motouane Energy's exploration right in the Hennenman District. As representatives of the farming community in this district, we understand the significance of sustainable development and responsible environmental stewardship. Therefore, when matters concerning land use and resource exploration arise, it is imperative for us to engage in the process and seek clarity to ensure that the interests of our community are

Response

Good Day Theron, Thank you for your comments. Kindly note that detailed information on the proposed amendment is provided in the Amendment Report which will be made available for public review and comment on hardcopy at the Virginia Library and Welkom Library and as well as a softcopy which will be available on our website <https://www.eims.co.za/public-participation/> from the 15th of May to the 21st of June 2024. Please also note that detailed project information will also be shared with I&APs during the public meeting which will be held as follows: Description of event: Public Meeting Where: Harmonie Primary School, 2 Vondeling Road, Glen Harmony Virginia When: 15 May 2024, 15:00 – 17:00 During the public meeting, a summary of the proposed project (detailed information provided in the report) including the following will be

Comments and Responses 1596 Motuoane EA Amendment Application

TP Theron

safeguarded. We have been approached by several concerned farmers who have raised questions and expressed apprehensions regarding the aforementioned environmental authorisation process. In light of this, we are writing to request more information regarding the project and the procedural aspects of the amendment process. Specifically, we would appreciate details regarding the scope and objectives of Motuoane Energy's exploration activities in our district. Additionally, we seek clarification on the environmental impact assessment procedures undertaken, including any potential risks or concerns identified, as well as the mitigation measures proposed to address them. Furthermore, we would like to understand the timeline and stages of the Part II amendment process, along with the opportunities for public participation and consultation. As stakeholders directly affected by the project, it is crucial for us to be adequately informed and involved in this process. Our aim is to engage constructively with all relevant stakeholders, including the Environmental Impact Management Services, to ensure that the interests of the farming community and the broader environment are appropriately considered and protected. We kindly request a prompt response to our inquiries and look forward to the opportunity for dialogue and collaboration on this matter. Your cooperation and transparency in providing the necessary information will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Yours sincerely,

shared and discussed: 1. Part II Amendment Process; 2. Proposed Amendments; 3. Project Locality (Affected Properties); 4. Potential Impacts; 5. Mitigation Measures; and 6. Recommendations. Please note that public participation for the proposed amendment is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 6 of the National Environmental Management Act Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2014, as amended) as well as in line with the principles of Integrated Environmental Management. As such, all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are afforded an opportunity to review public reports (i.e. Amendment Report) and comment on the project. All comments / concerns will be responded to and captured in the Comments and Response Table which will be submitted with the final Amendment Report to the authorities to aid in making a decision on the application. Would you perhaps prefer that we set up a focus group meeting (virtual) with the Hennenman Farmers Union/Hennenman Boerevereniging as an important I&AP on the project? If so, we are only available on Thursday and Friday this week and open next week, you can indicate two slots and we will make the necessary arrangements. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions / concerns or require any clarification relating to the project during this public participation period.

Canny Mosebjadi Mothapo

Date 2024/05/10 Method Email

Comment

Good morning, May you kindly send your environmental impact analysis reports, meeting requests and request for comments to ***, going forward please. Regards

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email. Kindly note that we have added *** to our list of Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs) for further communication regarding the project. This email serves to inform you that @Canny Mosebjadi Mothapo has been removed from the list of I&APs for this project and will no longer receive communication regarding this project. @Aviation Environmental Compliance, kindly find the attached notification letter regarding the opportunity to participate in the Part II Environmental Authorisation Amendment process for the Motuoane Hennenman Exploration Right, in the Lejweleputswa and Fezile Dabi District Municipalities, Free State Province, South Africa.

Date 2024/05/17 Method Email

Comment

Good day, May you kindly delist all other SACAA email addresses and please save and send your environmental impact analysis reports, meeting requests and request for comments to environment@caa.co.za, going forward please. Regards

Response

Good day Canny, Thank you for your email. We have deregistered you as well as *** from the list of registered Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs). These contacts will no longer receive communications regarding this project. @Aviation Environmental Compliance has been registered

Comments and Responses 1596 Motuoane EA Amendment Application

Canny Mosebjadi Mothapo

as an I&AP and will continue to receive communications regarding this project.

Khopolo Molibeli

Date 2024/05/16 Method Email

Comment Response

Well received. Regards EIMS noted the response as acknowledgement of receipt of the report availability notification.

Fhatuwani Sarah Magwaba

Date 2024/05/10 Method Email

Comment Response

Good day I acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter dated 10 May 2024, addressed to the Director General regarding the subject matter. Please note that you enquiry was referred to the relevant Branch for further assistance. For follow-up, kindly send email to ***. Email address ****.

Good day, Thank you for your email. Kindly note that we have included @*** in our list of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) for this project as part of the public participation process and for further communication regarding this project.

Nokusho Ngobeni

Date 2024/06/13 Method Email

Comment Response

Good day, Thank you for notifying us. The case will be processed accordingly. Kind regards, Nokusho

EIMS noted the response as acknowledgement that SAHRA received the notification that a Case had been created (in response to the email from Sityhilelo, dated 2024/05/10).

Tebego Kgaphola

Date 2024/05/17 Method Email

Comment Response

Dear Sir/Madam DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the project mentioned on the subject line. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Mrs *** and Ms *** (Copied on this email). In addition, kindly share the shapefiles of the development footprints/application site with the Case Officers. Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate:

Good day, Thank you for your email. We have registered Mr ***, Mrs *** and Ms *** as Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs) for this project for further communication regarding this project. Please find the attached KMZ files of the Exploration Right Area and the proposed seismic survey and drilling sites. The proposed the seismic survey and additional drilling wells are located within a defined area of the exploration right and not throughout the exploration right area. An electronic copy of the report and the associated appendices and Public Participation

Comments and Responses 1596 Motuoane EA Amendment Application

Tebego Kgaphola

Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@dfre.gov.za for attention of Mr ***

documentation is available on the EIMS website: <https://www.eims.co.za/public-participation/>
Kindly note that comments on the report are to be submitted until the 21st of June 2024. Please feel free to contact EIMS should you have any queries/comments regarding this project.

Date 2024/06/10 Method Email

Comment

Good morning Kindly find the attached comments for the aforementioned project. [Attachment]: Dear Sir/Madam COMMENTS ON THE PART 2 ENVIRONMENTAL AMENDMENT FOR THE PROPOSED EXPLORATION OF HYDROCARBONS AND ASSOCIATED GAS ON VARIOUS FARMS NEAR THE TOWN OF HENNENMAN, WITHIN FEZILE DABI DISTRICT AND LEJWELEPUTSWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES, FREE STATE PROVINCE The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation reviewed and evaluated the draft reports. Based on the information provided in the reports, the Directorate does not have any objections to the proposed amendment provided that all recommendations and proposed mitigation measures are recorded in the draft report and specialist studies are implemented and adhered to. In conclusion, all Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries should be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email; *** for the attention of Mr. ****

Response

EIMS noted the response from the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation that they have no objection to the proposed project as per the draft Amendment Report.

Natasha Thomas

Date 2024/07/01 Method Email

Comment

Dear Vukosi Trust you are keeping well. Attached, kindly find a letter and comments.

Response

Dear Natasha, Thank you for your email and the letter and comments provided by PASA. Kindly find the attached table of comments and responses pertaining to PASA's comments on the Motuoane Part II EA Amendment Project. PASA's comments have been addressed and incorporated into the Amendment Report.

Date 2024/07/01 Method Email

Comment

[Attached Letter]: Dear Mr Mabunda PART II DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AMENDMENT REPORT FOR MOTUOANE ENERGY (PTY) LTD The draft environmental authorisation amendment report receive by this office for comments refers. The submitted document was reviewed and commented thereto. Please receive our comments attached (Annexure A). We understand that the period to submit comments ended on 21 June 2024, and

Response

1. Executive Summary, Background, page 12. The sentenced has been amended accordingly. 2. Executive Summary, Background, page 12. The application form was submitted to PASA on the 30th of June 2016, but the final EIR and EMPr was submitted on the 30th of January 2017. The sentence was referring to the final submission. However, the sentence has been amended to indicate the initial submission of the application form as suggested. 3. Executive Summary,

Comments and Responses 1596 Motuoane EA Amendment Application

Natasha Thomas

final report submitted to the Agency on 28 June 2024. We request that you consider our comments and effect them on the final report to ensure completeness of the report before it is considered by the competent authority. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. [Annexure A]: 1. Executive Summary, Background, page 12. The Executive Summary indicates the following: “Motuoane Energy (Pty) Ltd (Motuoane) is the holder of the Exploration Right (ER) for hydrocarbons, issued in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act 28 of 2002 – MPRDA, as amended) to the Petroleum Agency South Africa (PASA) in 2016” The exploration right (ER) was granted to the applicant not the Petroleum Agency SA. Once granted, the applicant then becomes the holder of the exploration right. The exploration right was granted in 2018. The ER application was accepted on 10 February 2016. It is recommended that the sentence be amended to the following: “Motuoane Energy (Pty) Ltd (Motuoane) is the holder of an Exploration Right (ER) for hydrocarbons, granted in terms section 80 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act 28 of 2002 – MPRDA, as amended) on 18 October 2018” 2. Executive Summary, Background, page 12. The Executive Summary indicates the following: “In accordance with the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) an application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) through a Scoping and EIA was submitted to PASA in 2017 in support of the application for the exploration right.” The environmental authorisation (EA) application was lodged on 30 June 2016 not during 2017. The EA was granted on 21 September 2017. It is recommended that the sentence be amended to the following: “In accordance with the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) an application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) through a Scoping and EIA was submitted to the PASA in 2016 in support of the application for the exploration right.” 3. Executive Summary, Background, page 12 & Project Background section 1.1, page 1. The Executive Summary and the Project Background indicates the following: “The EA was issued in July 2017 (ref: 12/3/315).” It is recommended that the sentence be amended to the following: “The EA was granted on 21 September 2017 (ref:12/3/315).” 4. Pre-Application Process, section 1.4.1, page 4. The sections indicates the following: “Pre-Application with the Petroleum Agency South Africa.....therefore the correct application process will be an EA Part II Amendment Process and not a new Environmental Authorisation process” It is recommended that the paragraph be amended and focus on the fact that all the requirements for a Part II amendment process were met, referring to relevant regulations of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 as amended. This is recommended to avoid creating unnecessary confusion for stakeholders. 5. Supporting Infrastructure, section 2.5, page 18. The section indicates the following: “Mineral residues produced during drilling practices will be managed in terms of the MPRDA and appropriate regulations, most notably Regulation 704 (4 June 1999) under the NWA and Regulation 632 on the Planning and Management of Residue Stockpiles and Residue Deposits (July 2015) under the National Environmental Management Waste Act (Act 59 of 2008) (NEMWA).” GNR 704 relates to

Background, page 12 & Project Background section 1.1, page 1. Review of background information indicates that there were two EA’s issued, one in July and another in September. It is assumed that the original EA had minor misalignment which needed to be corrected. Subsequently, the correct and final version was issued in September 2017. The sentence has been updated to indicate the final and correct version of September 2017. 4. Pre-Application Process, section 1.4.1, page 4. The paragraph has been amended as suggested. 5. Supporting Infrastructure, section 2.5, page 18. The sentence has been amended as suggested. 6. Decommissioning and Closure, section 2.6, page 19. The paragraph has been amended as suggested. 7. The National Web-Based Environmental Screening Tool, 2019, section 3.16, Table 11, page 40. Impacts on Surface water section 5.3.15 and Impacts on groundwater section 5.3.16 It must be noted that during the impact assessment report in 2016 and 2017, there was only known site and the approximate exploration location areas for the other drilling sites were not known at that time. Subsequently, the geohydrological assessment was undertaken to understand the overall geohydrological conditions and to provide mitigation measures for the overall activity within the extended exploration right footprint. The geohydrological study undertaken did not focus on the 3 specific locations but rather only on one known site but concluded with management and mitigation measures that could be applied to any new locations within the ER area. The geohydrological study was used to inform the current amendment application and study by the aquatic ecologist. The conditions in the geohydrological study were also reviewed by the EAP and aquatic ecologist for relevance and amendment based on site specific conditions for the preliminary location for the additional exploration activities. The Aquatic Biodiversity and Wetland Baseline Risk Assessment was conducted based on these approximate sites and attached as Appendix D2 of the Amendment Report. The study’s hydrological findings, impacts and mitigation measures within the 1km buffer zones around each approximate drilling site are presented in detail in Appendix D2 and summarized in Sections 4.6, 5.3.15, and 5.3.16 of the Amendment Report. The study found seven hydrogeomorphic (HGM) units within the study area. These comprise of a channelled valley bottom (HGM 1), multiple depression wetlands (HGM 2 and 6), a floodplain wetland (HGM 3) as well as multiple unchannelled valley bottoms (HGM 4, 5 and 7). Due to the location of the wetlands, it was deemed that only HGM 1, 2 and 3 were at risk by the proposed activities and was thus the focus of the study. These systems scored an overall PES scores ranging between D- “Largely Modified” and E – “Seriously Modified”, due to the modifications arising from anthropogenic influences and surrounding agricultural activities. It is evident that the proposed activities may encroach into the delineated wetland areas but will not have a large impact on the systems. Considering the mentioned information, it is important that the mitigations measures outlined in the specialist report, the Amendment Report (Sections 4.6, 5.3.15, 5.3.16, and 8.3) and EMPr are adhered to when conducting the exploration activities. No significant wetland loss is foreseen. It is, therefore, the opinion of the specialist that the project may be favourably considered, on condition all prescribed mitigation measures and supporting recommendations are implemented. The current

Comments and Responses 1596 Motuoane EA Amendment Application

Natasha Thomas

mining activities with respect to mining and not petroleum. The section that provides for the management of residue stockpiles and residue deposits was repealed from the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA). It is recommended that the sentence be amended to the following: “Mineral residues produced during drilling practices will be managed in terms of the GNR 632 on the Planning and Management of Residue Stockpiles and Residue Deposits (July 2015) under the National Environmental Management Waste Act (Act 59 of 2008) (NEMWA).” 6. Decommissioning and Closure, section 2.6, page 19. The section indicates the following: “All areas disturbed by exploration activities will be rehabilitated once exploration has been completed. This will be undertaken per the rehabilitation and closure plan. It is noted that an application for 1596 Motuoane Hennenman Part II Amendment Project 19 environmental authorisation must be submitted in accordance with Activity 22 of GN R 983, Listing Notice 1, List of activities and competent authorities identified in terms of Sections 24(2) and 24D, R.983, dated 4 December 2014 - The decommissioning of any activity requiring – i. a closure certificate in terms of Section 43 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002); or ii. A prospecting right, mining permit, production right or exploration right, where the throughput of the activity has reduced by 90% or more over a period of 5 years excluding where the competent authority has in writing agreed that such reduction in throughput does not constitute closure.” Activity 22 of Listing Notice 1 was repealed on 11 June 2021. Section 43 of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 still applies for closure certificate applications. It is recommended that the sentence be amended to the following: “All areas disturbed by exploration activities will be rehabilitated once exploration has been completed. This will be undertaken in accordance with the rehabilitation and closure plan as required by the Regulations Pertaining to the Financial Provision for Prospecting, Exploration, Mining or Production Operations, GNR 1147, gazetted in November 2015. This includes the determination of the financial provision as well. A closure certification application will be applied for in accordance with section 43 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002.” 7. The National Web-Based Environmental Screening Tool, 2019, section 3.16, Table 11, page 40. Impacts on Surface water section 15.3.15 and Impacts on groundwater section 5.3.16 The section indicates the following: “A hydrological study is usually undertaken for projects with potential contamination to groundwater such as mining and surface deposition (Tailings Storage Facilities). The proposed activity will entail the drilling and sampling at depth, but on cased steel pipes. There are no foreseen detrimental impacts on groundwater. However, a Wetland Baseline Risk Assessment (Appendix D) has been recommended to understand the hydrological conditions. In addition, the seismic surveys will also be used to better understand the hydrogeological conditions.” It is noted that a hydrology study, Wetland Baseline Risk Assessment will be conducted. It appears that the author is indicating that a geohydrology study, the study of groundwater, is not required because the impact of oil and gas drilling is not detrimental to groundwater vs mineral mining activities and therefore the motivation for not including a geohydrology study is

study makes more precise and relevant mitigation measures (refer to Sections 4.6.3, 5.3.15, 5.3.16 and 8.3) including: • No-Go Areas: No seismic activities nor drilling activities are to be permitted within on wetlands or watercourses (32 m premitigation and a 15 m post-mitigation buffer); • Ensure that detailed baseline water quality and quantity samples are obtained and analysed for reference purposes; • The correct type of fluids should be used during the construction phase and the boreholes should be correctly constructed so that no gas leakage occurs during the construction or operational phases; and • Areas rated as High sensitivity (i.e. Rocky Grassland habitat, heritage features and watercourses) outside of the direct exploration areas should be declared as ‘no-go’ areas during the life of the project, and all efforts must be made to prevent development access to these areas from construction workers and machinery; It is also stated in Section 3.5 that the applicant must ensure that the final seismic transect and/or drilling locations either do not trigger the NWA or an authorisation is obtained prior to undertaking the activities. Lastly, a monitoring programme is proposed in the EMPr for the continued monitoring of surface and groundwater quantity and quality which has been noted and well acknowledged by DWS in the email from Makhura Maite dated 24/06/2024. The approach used in the original EMPr pertaining to future drill anywhere in the ER being subject to the applicant undertaking the EMPr mitigation actions has been adopted for the revised EMPr. The EAP motivation in Section 3.16, Table 11, page 40 has been amended accordingly. 8. The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002, section 3.2, page 21. Amended as suggested. 9. The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002, section 3.2, page 21 Paragraph removed as suggested. 10. Description of the Existing Environment, Section 4 Surface water resources in the project area (amendment activities locations) including the presence of the near threatened Merriespruit river as indicated in the Wetlands Assessment Report, section 2.5 page 10 are presented in Section 4.6 (Page 60) of the Amendment Report and the hydrological setting is presented on the updated hydrological map (Figure 21). Additional information on the general surface water conditions within the overall exploration right area are presented in Section 4.6. 11. Buffer Requirements, section 4.6.3, page 63 The aquatic specialist was asked to provide input relating to the buffer requirements. The team is not aware of legislated buffer zones but are aware of legislated regulatory (not buffer) zones for Water Use License Application in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998). These are presented in the report (Section 3.1 of the Specialist Report and Section 3.5 of the Amendment Report) and distinguish between riparian zones, floodlines and 100m from the edge of watercourses. These regulatory zones have been presented and are separate to the recommended buffer zones. Therefore, the ‘pre-mitigation buffer of 32 m and a post-mitigation wetland and watercourse buffer of 15 m’ recommended for the delineated systems are the identified no-go areas. In addition, as indicated in Section 4.6.3 (last paragraph on Page 65), the report states that, ‘the suggested buffer in the report does not qualify as a relaxation to any other legislated buffers managed by the respective authorities (e.g., DFFE and DWS). Therefore, the relevant authorisations where applicable (i.e. Water Use Authorisation due to activities within legislated regulatory zones for Water Use License

Comments and Responses 1596 Motuoane EA Amendment Application

Natasha Thomas

unacceptable. The initial environmental impact assessment report dated 2017 was supported by a geohydrological assessment. This assessment was done for the proposed three (3) exploration wells. The current amendments propose an additional ten (10) exploration wells. Taking the outcome of the previous specialist study into account, the said motivation is unacceptable because of the increased scope and the magnitude of the potential impacts. The said geohydrological assessment submitted in 2017 recommended a 500 m buffer zone from the wetlands, springs, and protected areas and further recommended that a hydrocensus should be undertaken for 3 km around each potential exploration well site. None of these recommendations are included in the mitigation measures. It is noted that water monitoring will occur for the wetlands, contained water facilities on site, streams or natural drainage lines with flowing water and boreholes are recommended as per the EMPr. Lastly, it is also incorrect to imply that the casing is the main mitigation measure/control to prevent aquifer, groundwater and wetland contamination. It is recommended that the discussion regarding the impact on groundwater, surface water and wetlands be described within the context of the scope of this project i.e. oil and gas exploration and not mining. Remove the sentence which implies that the casing is the only control/mitigation measure to minimise and manage water resource contamination. A substantive motivation for excluding a geohydrology study within the identified project areas of interest must be provided as the brief motivation provided is unacceptable. 8. The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002, section 3.2, page 21. The section indicates the following: “One of the most recent amendments requires all mining related activities to follow the full NEMA process as per the 2014 EIA Regulations, which came into effect on 4 December 2014.” The EIA Regulations came into effect on 8 December 2014. It is recommended that the sentence be amended to the following: “One of the most recent amendments requires all mining related activities to follow the full NEMA process as per the 2014 EIA Regulations, which came into effect on 8 December 2014.” 9. The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002, section 3.2, page 21 The section indicates the following: “It must also be noted that on the 3rd of June 2015, GNR 466 was published. The notice details amendments made to petroleum exploration and production relating, in particular, to the EIA process required, well design and construction, management and operations, water, waste, pollution incidents and air quality, and well suspension and decommissioning which is applicable to the proposed activities.” Regulations for petroleum exploration and production – GN R 466 were set aside by the Supreme Court of Appeal in 2019. They are non-existence and therefore must not be referred to. The technical design of the wells will be detailed in the Basis of Design Report submitted by the applicant to the Petroleum Agency SA for approval. Environmental matters are regulated by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998; SEMAs and associated regulations. It is recommended that the statement be deleted. 10. Description of the Existing Environment, Section 4 Section 4 does not describe surface water resources in the project area considering the presence of the near threatened Merriespruit river as indicated in the Wetlands Assessment Report, section 2.5 page

Application in terms of the National Water Act) are still required prior to project commencement. 12. Interference with Existing Land/Activities, Section 5.3.1 page 78 There are currently no known existing underground mining activities within the exploration area which have come forward. However, the area is known for high mining activities and with experience gained from other projects, mining companies may at a later stage come forward with information or concerns regarding potential drilling into their underground activities. The EAP identifies such an impact as unlikely, but possible and therefore has low confidence on the likelihood of the impact occurring and an impact rating of Low Negative significance. The reference has been amended accordingly. [Impact on Existing Services/Infrastructure Section 5.3.2, page 80.] The mitigation measure has been revised accordingly. 13. Impacts on Soil Erosion and Sedimentation, Section 5.3.7 and other sections of the amended report. The mitigation measure has been revised accordingly. The mitigation measure was elaborated in Section 8.3 of the Report. At this stage the mitigation does indicate that any disturbed area must be re-habilitated to its pre-disturbed state. Any disturbed area must be re-habilitated to its pre-disturbed state. Any disturbed area must be re-habilitated to its pre-disturbed state as defined in the pre-drill survey. Disturbed areas must be rehabilitated to support its post-closure land use, and this must be undertaken within six (6) months post drilling activities Section 12.3 of the EMPr (Appendix E) presents the Post-Closure Monitoring and Maintenance Requirements including that prior to decommissioning and rehabilitation activities, a monitoring programme shall be developed and submitted to the relevant Ministry for approval, as a part of the Final Rehabilitation Plan. 14. Impacts on Indigenous Vegetation Section 5.3.8, page 85 The mitigation measure has been revised accordingly. 15. Impacts on Surface water, Section 5.3.15 page, The mitigation measure has been revised accordingly to indicate that drilling should ideally be not undertaken during rainy days. If drilling is to be undertaken during rainy days, then additional precautionary measures in consultation with the ECO must be implemented. The mitigation measure in the EMPr has been revised to match the one in the report. 16. Assessment and Evaluation of potential project impacts, section 5.3, page 78. The impact description sub-sections have been amended accordingly to indicate impact from drilling and seismic activities. 17. Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), Table 6, section 6.9 page 39 EMPr condition has been revised as suggested. 18. References, section 9. The Reference section has been updated to include all in text references. 19. Footnotes, page 12 and 38 The footnotes have been updated accordingly

Natasha Thomas

10. In addition, the impact on surface water is discussed in section 5.3.15, page 93. It is recommended that the water resources besides the wetlands be included in section 4. 11. Buffer Requirements, section 4.6.3, page 63 The section indicates the following: “It is worth noting that the scientific buffer calculation (Macfarlane et al., 2014) was used to determine the size of the buffer zones relevant to the proposed project. A pre-mitigation buffer of 32 m and a post-mitigation wetland and watercourse buffer of 15 m is recommended for the delineated systems.” “The suggested buffer in this report does not qualify as a relaxation to any other legislated buffers managed by the respective authorities (e.g., DEA and DWS). Therefore, the relevant authorisations are still a requirement prior to project commencement.” The used guideline for the determination of buffer zones is noted. The reasons for the departure is as follows per the Draft Amended Report: “This is attributed to preexisting modifications of the catchments around the wetlands and the nature of the project, which has the potential of minimally impacting on the wetland systems.” It is not clear if the referenced buffer zones will be implemented or the legislated buffer zones because the report indicates that the mentioned buffer zones are not a relaxation of legislated buffers and authorisations. The following is recommended: The buffer zones for watercourses legislated in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 be used. 12. Interference with Existing Land/Activities, Section 5.3.1 page 78 Details regarding the impact that oil and gas exploration drilling activities could have on the mining industry is detailed, however section 4 does not discuss mining activities present within the exploration. However, the impact of oil and gas on mining is discussed in section 5.3.1. This section references an item 7.2 in Table 7 of Appendix E. Upon cross referencing no such reference was found. It is recommended that if there are existing mining activities within the exploration area as indicated in the impact assessment section then it should be discussed in section 4. If none then the impact discussion on page 78 should be removed and impacts of the proposed project activities on the existing environment should only be discussed. Correct the reference to item number 7.2. Impact on Existing Services/Infrastructure Section 5.3.2, page 80. The mitigation measure related to the notice of service interruption is unacceptable without a management plan. It is recommended that the mitigation measure should ensure that there is no service interruption. A plan should be developed in order to minimise and manage such potential interruptions should they occur due to an incident. 13. Impacts on Soil Erosion and Sedimentation, Section 5.3.7 and other sections of the amended report. The mitigation measure stating that “Rehabilitation of the disturbed areas must be made a priority” is not acceptable, because it is vague. It is recommended that an appropriate timeframe for rehabilitation commencement and completion should be determined and included in the recommended mitigation measure. It should also indicated the method of rehabilitation. In addition to this progress rehabilitation must be recommended especially on wells and well sites where no future work is envisaged. 14. Impacts on Indigenous Vegetation Section 5.3.8, page 85 The mitigation measure stating that “minimise vegetation clearance” is vague. It is recommended that the mitigation measures should include a vegetation clearance

Natasha Thomas

management plan which at minimum should state how the minimisation will be managed based on the affected environmental aspect or phase of the exploration. 15. Impacts on Surface water, Section 5.3.15 page, The section indicates the following: Construction/drilling should preferably take place during the dry season; The mitigation objective to minimise and manage surface water contamination can be achieved by preferably not conducting construction /drilling during rainy days instead of restricting the activities to a particular season during which rain may occur as well. In addition, it is noted the wetland assessment was also conducted during both seasons i.e. wet and dry season. It is noted that water monitoring will occur for the wetlands, contained water facilities on site, streams or natural drainage lines with flowing water and boreholes are recommended as per the EMPr. It is noted there is an inconsistency in whether the proposed project is restricted to the dry season (as per section 5.3.15 page 94) because the recommended mitigation measure is struck out in the EMPr (table 6 page 40). It is recommended that the mitigation measure be reconsidered in terms of the mitigation objective and the fact that the wetland assessment was conducted during both the dry and wet season. 16. Assessment and Evaluation of potential project impacts, section 5.3, page 78. The section is drafted in a manner which makes it difficult to review the impact assessment concerning the drilling activities and the acquisition of seismic surveys. In some cases the wording “exploration activities” are just referenced in the impact table presented. It is recommended that there be a section which discusses the impact that drilling activities would pose on the environment and a separate section which discusses the similar for seismic survey activities. 17. Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), Table 6, section 6.9 page 39 The EMPr indicates the following: “Excavations should be open for as short period as practically possible and drilling circulation fluid sumps be cleaned out and rehabilitated. Drilling sumps should preferably not be dug in the ground, but steel or plastic tank sumps be used to eliminate possible soil and shallow aquifer contamination;” It is recommended that the mitigation measure exclude the option of allowing the use of dug out drilling sumps and that only above ground steel or plastic sumps are used which should include a secondary containment barrier. The options regarding dug out drilling sumps are considered inadequate as there is no provision for secondary containment should the primary containment barrier fail. This is motivated by the mitigation hierarchy. 18. References, section 9. It is noted that some in-text references such as Macfarlane et al., 2014 are not included in this section. It is recommended that the author ensures that all publications referenced are acknowledged in the reference section of the report. 19. Footnotes, page 12 and 38 The footnotes indicate the following: “Zibulo North Shaft Overhead 132kV Powerline Project” The footnote description is unrelated to the current project. It is recommended that the sentence be amended to the following: “Motuoane Hennenman Part II Amendment Project”

Date	2024/07/17	Method	Email
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Comments and Responses 1596 Motuoane EA Amendment Application

Natasha Thomas

Comment	Response
Dear Ms Webber We acknowledge receipt, thank you.	EIMS noted the acknowledgement of receipt of the response provided to PASA.

Bradley Gibbons

Date	2024/06/25	Method	Email
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Comment	Response
We would like to participate in the Part II Environmental Authorisation Amendment process for the Motuoane Hennenman Exploration Right and therefore want to be an interested and affected party. The email addresses to use are: *** and ***	Good day, We have registered you as an Interested & Affected Party (I&AP) for this project as per your request. However, please note that the public review and comment period for the Draft Amendment Report was between the 16th of May 2024 and the 21st of June 2024 as per the attached notification letter. An electronic copy of the report can be accessed on the EIMS public participation website: https://www.eims.co.za/public-participation/ Kindly note that any comments on the Draft Report and EMPr must be sent directly to PASA. EWT can send comments (if any) to the PASA officials copied on this email: 1. *** (***) 2. *** (***) Should EWT have any comments, we kindly request that you copy EIMS on the email for record keeping. As registered I&APs, you will be notified of the decision and provided with a copy of the appeals regulations as soon as a decision is made by the authorities.

Date	2024/06/28	Method	Email
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Comment	Response
EIMS followed up with the I&AP via a phone call. The I&AP said that the EWT would provide comments (if any) the following week.	Good Day Bradley, As per our telecommunication last week, we were expecting EWT Comments on the Draft Amendment Report (if any) earlier this week. May you please urgently provide us with your comments or alternatively indicate if EWT will not be commenting on the report. We would appreciate your swift response.

Date	2024/07/08	Method	Email
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Comment	Response
Dear Vukosi Thanks for the email. I had to deal with an emergency last week that was out of my control. I will send my comments before close of business today. Regards	EIMS noted the response and awaited to receive the comments.

Date	2024/07/08	Method	Email
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Comment	Response
Good day Attached, please find the comments from the Endangered Wildlife Trust on the 1596	Good Day Bradley, We confirm receipt of your comments which correspond with the specialist

Comments and Responses 1596 Motuoane EA Amendment Application

Bradley Gibbons

Motuoane Part II Amendment for the Proposed Exploration Right. Regards

report as well as the recommendations. We will provide a formal response shortly.

Date2024/07/08

Method

Email

Comment

Dear Phumla, Michelle and Jolene RE: COMMENTS BY THE ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST ON THE 1596 MOTUOANE PART II AMENDMENT FOR THE PROPOSED EXPLORATION RIGHT The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) would like to make use of this opportunity to submit comments regarding the abovementioned proposed exploration right application that can be captured as part of the public participation process. The EWT is a non-governmental, non-profit, conservation organisation, founded in 1973 and operating throughout southern Africa. The EWT conserves threatened species and ecosystems in southern Africa by implementing research and conservation action towards mitigating threats facing species diversity and supporting sustainable natural resource management. The EWT furthermore communicates the principles of sustainable living through awareness programmes to the broadest possible constituency for the benefit of the region. The EWT is driven by a team of passionate and dedicated conservationists working through 13 specialised programmes across southern and East Africa, each falling under one of our three key strategic pillars: Saving species, conserving habitats, and benefitting people. The National Web-based Environmental Screening Tool is a geographically based web-enabled application that allows a proponent intending to submit an application for environmental authorisation in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014, as amended, to screen their proposed site for any environmental sensitivity. Based on the proposed footprint of this project, several species have been highlighted as potentially occurring in the proposed development area. The focus areas fall within the distribution of Sungazer lizards (Smaug giganteus) and we would like to recommend that a full survey is undertaken to locate the occurrence of Sungazers. This will only be necessary in the natural untransformed landscapes because Sungazer lizards are only found in this type of habitat. If the presence of Sungazers is documented, we would then like to recommend that a buffer of 50m is placed around a burrow to protect the Sungazers from the impacts of the seismic activity. In addition, according to the Screening Report, the area has an endangered habitat type (Vaal-Vet Sandy Grassland) and in addition is found in a CBA 1 (Critical Biodiversity Area) and CBA 2 area. Therefore, it will be best to avoid sensitive areas and rather focus on areas that are heavily degraded or have another ecosystem that is not threatened. Regards ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST

Response

Good day Bradley, Thank you for your participation in the 1596 Motuoane Part II Amendment project. Kindly find the attached table of comments and responses as per the letter provided by EWT. EWT’s comments have been addressed and captured in the Amendment Report as part of the Public Participation Process. [Attached comments and responses table] RESPONSE: 1. As per the email dated 09 July 2024 to EWT’s Bradley Gibbons, the comments have been received, captured and will be responded to formally as well as will form part of the final submission to PASA. 2. EWT is a key I&AP on the project and the comments are important for this application. 3. On the 5th of July 2019, The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) issued a Notice of the requirement to submit a report generated by the National Web-based Environmental Screening Tool in terms of section 24(5)(h) of the NEMA, 1998 (Act No 107 of 1998) and Regulation 16(1)(b)(v) of the EIA regulations, 2014, as amended. The submission of this report is compulsory when applying for environmental authorisation in terms of Regulation 19 and Regulation 21 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 effective from the 4th of October 2019. The DFFE Screening Tool Report was generated on the 4th of April 2024. The Screening report is provided in Error! Reference source not found. of the Amendment Report. The main findings from the screening report are discussed in detail in Section 3.16 of the Amendment Report. The National Web-based Environmental Screening Tool (Appendix B) and Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment Report undertaken by the Biodiversity Company (Appendix D1 and Section 4.5 of the Amendment Report) indicate that Sensitive species 15 was recorded in the northern sections (Wildskamp 5 and Nooitgedacht M2) and is threatened. Nineteen (19) mammal species were recorded during this survey of the project area based on either direct observation, the presence of visual tracks and signs as well as personal communication with farm owners/managers. Ten (10) of the mammals are listed provincially. The larger mammal species, such as Blue Wildebeest, were kept as game on one of the properties (Wildskamp 5), which include SSCs. Subsequently, the EAP has recommended in Section 8.3 of the Amendment Report as well as in the EMPr that the custodian for Sensitive Species 15 (EWT) must be informed of the presence of the species. A walkdown by a suitable specialist (EWT) should be done in the area surrounding the drilling two northern wells (Wildskamp 5 and Nooitgedacht M2) prior to any activities, mainly to confirm that SCCs are not present or will be harmed. The custodian must then provide mitigation measure strictly to be followed. 4. Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment Report undertaken by the Biodiversity Company (Appendix D1) and the vegetation / floral species are discussed in Section 4.5.3.3 of the Amendment Report. The project area overlaps with the Central Free State Grassland (Vulnerable), Highveld Alluvial Vegetation (Least Threatened) and

Comments and Responses 1596 Motuoane EA Amendment Application

Bradley Gibbons

Vaal-Vet Sandy Grassland (Endangered). In addition, based on the Free State Biodiversity Sector Plan, the proposed study area is located within CBA1 & 2 and ESA 1&2 as well as other Natural Areas and Degraded Areas (Section 4.5.2 of the Amendment Report). It must be noted that of these 463 plant species of indigenous plants are expected to occur within the project area, no species are listed as being Species of Conservation Concern (SCC). No sensitive species were highlighted by the assessment. The EAP and specialist have made several recommendations to avoid sensitive areas as indicated in Section 8.3 of the Amendment Report including: • Areas of indigenous vegetation, even secondary communities outside of the direct project footprint, should under no circumstances be fragmented or disturbed further; • Areas rated as High sensitivity (i.e. Rocky Grassland habitat, heritage features and watercourses) outside of the direct exploration areas should be declared as ‘no-go’ areas during the life of the project, and all efforts must be made to prevent development access to these areas from construction workers and machinery; and • Rehabilitation of the disturbed areas must be made a priority. Any disturbed area must be re-habilitated to its pre-disturbed stated. Agricultural fields i.e. maize field must be regrown, or farmer compensated to regrow crops, and grasslands revegetated with plant and grass species which are endemic to this vegetation type.

Yegeshni Moodley

Date 2024/05/14 Method Email

Comment

Hi, I would like to register for this process. Thank you.

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email. Kindly note that we have registered you (@Yegeshni Moodley) as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP). As a registered I&AP you will continue to receive communication regarding the project. All comments provided by I&APs are included and addressed in the environmental reports as part of the Public Participation Process to assist the competent authority in the decision-making process. Please feel free to contact EIMS should you have any comments/queries regarding this project.

Makhura Maite

Date 2024/07/03 Method Email

Comment

Good day, Attached please find comments for Motuoana Energy application. Hope you will find all in order.

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email and participation in the Motuoane EA Amendment project. We have incorporated and addressed the comments provided by the Department of Water and Sanitation in the Amendment Report. Kindly find the attached comments and responses table pertaining to the comments provided by the DWS.

Comments and Responses 1596 Motuoane EA Amendment Application

Makhura Maite

Date 2024/07/03 Method Email

Comment

[Attached Letter]: CONSULTATION WITH REGARDS TO AMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (EMPR) FOR THE PROPOSED EXPLORATION OF HYDROCARBONS AND ASSOCIATED GAS ON VARIOUS FARMS NEAR THE TOWN OF HENNINGMAN, WITHIN FEZILE DABI DISTRICT AND LEJWELEPUTSWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES, FREE STATE PROVINCE APPLICANT: Motuoane Energy (Pty) Ltd (Motuoane) The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has assessed the submitted amended Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the proposed exploration of hydrocarbons and associated gas on various farms near the town of Henningman, within Fezile Dabi District and Lejweleputswa District Municipalities, Free State Province. 1. It was highlighted in the document assessed that the project will involve the drilling of ten (10) wells within the assessed 1km buffer drilling sites to a depth of approximately 700m, commencing with a 203mm hole cased with 152mm casing for the loose top material, followed by 122.6mm hole cased with 114mm casing to isolate ground water and finally 96mm cased with 89mm casing for the target formation. 2. The activity mentioned above triggers section 21 (a) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) and an application for a Water Use Licence will be required for abstraction of ground water from the 10 wells. 3. It is noted and well acknowledged that water quality and quantity monitoring of water containment facilities on site, and quality and quantity monitoring of boreholes, streams and natural drainage lines with flowing water within the catchment of the site; and Bi-annual monitoring of perennial streams near to the exploration drill-sites will be conducted. 4. Storm water must be managed and channelled effectively. Moreover, the details of the storm water management plan must be forwarded to this Department for approval. 5. The site maps give a clear indication of the watercourses in the proposed development site. In this regard, it is important to note that no activity should take place within a 500 m radius from the boundary of a wetland. 6. Notwithstanding the above, the responsibility rests with the applicant to identify any sources or potential sources of pollution and take appropriate measures to prevent any pollution of the environment. Failure to comply with the requirements of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) could lead to legal action being instituted against the applicant. 7. In case of leakages or spillages of hydrocarbons this department must be informed within 24 hours and immediate clean-up procedure must be conducted as stipulated in section 19 of the National Water Act; (Act 36 of 1998). Any clean-up of the contaminants must be disposed of in a permitted hazardous landfill site and remediation report for the clean-up measures must be sent to the Department for comments before implementation. 8. The applicant must ensure that all hazardous and domestic waste generated is disposed of at licensed landfill site. A signed copy of service agreement shall be submitted to this Department to demonstrate that indeed provision will be made to render such services. In conclusion it is recommended that the

Response

As per the telecommunication with DWS's Environmental officer / contact person (Makhura Maite) on the 5th of July 2024, the comments have been received, captured and will be responded to formally as well as form part of the final submission to PASA. 1. As indicated in Section 2.4.3, using the data gathered during the preceding background review and seismic surveying, ten (10) exploration boreholes will be sited. The proposed drilling process entails the construction of exploration well using a two-string telescopic casing design is outlined below: • The Spud casing will be set and cemented in to case off the unconsolidated material to approximately 6m True Vertical Depth (TVD). • Drilling will be continued past the unconsolidated material to approximately 80mTVD, conductor casing will be cemented from shoe to surface; • The hole is then percussion drilled ahead and into the Ventersdorp Lavas below the base of the Karoo at approximately 450 m TVD; Intermediate casing will be run and cemented to surface; • Integrity of this section will be tested by running a Cement Bond Log (CBL) and the pressure tested prior to drilling out the casing shoe. A further Formation Integrity Test (FIT) is then performed on drilling out the casing shoe. • The next section (open hole section) will be percussion drilled through the primary target, the Ventersdorp Supergroup, to a depth ± 650 m TVD. This section TVD maybe called earlier if significant gas flows are encountered. The project will involve the drilling of ten (10) exploration wells within the assessed 1 km buffer drilling sites to a depth of approximately 700m, commencing with a 203mm hole cased with 152mm casing for the loose top material (conductor casing), followed by 122.6mm hole cased with 114mm casing to isolate ground water (surface/intermediate casing) and finally 96mm cased with 89mm casing for the target formation (production casing). The actual casing sizes and configurations will vary depending on the specific geological characteristics and functional requirements. Each borehole will be steel cased and have cement barriers to prevent leaks as well as plugged at the end of exploration to prevent groundwater seepage. Drilling activities are estimated to be one to two weeks per hole during which time there will be a drill rig, a service truck and an LDV on site. Intermittent use of a TLB will be used during site establishment and demobilisation. In order to establish the gas contents a mobile desorption laboratory will be established. 2. As per the telecommunication with DWS's Environmental officer / contact person (Makhura Maite) on the 5th of July 2024, the project does not trigger Section 21 (a) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) as the wells to be undertaken are exploration wells for gas and not wells for water, there will be no taking water from a water resource which (Section 21 a). Refer to the item above and Section 2.4.3 of the Amendment Report for the detailed drilling process. The Section 21 activities which may potentially be triggered are Section 21 (c) and (i) which will depend on the final seismic survey transect and exploration drilling locations within the 1km buffer zones and if triggered, will require a Water Use Authorisation in consultation with DWS (refer to Section 3.5 of

Comments and Responses 1596 Motuoane EA Amendment Application

Makhura Maite

applicant should, at all times, take note of the pollution control provisions of the Section 19 (1) of the National Water Act 1998, which states that: 19 (1) An owner of land, a person in control of land or a person who occupies or uses the land on which — (a) any activity or process is or performed or undertaken; or (b) any other situation exists which causes, has caused or is likely to cause pollution of a water resource, must take all reasonable measures to prevent any such pollution of a water resource, from occurring, continuing, or recurring.

Amendment Report). In addition, there have been two exploration drilling activities to date undertaken as part of the original Exploration Right and EA which one required a General Authorisation and was obtained from DWS. Similar process will be followed for the 10 additional drilling sites. Furthermore, as indicated in the EMPr, there will be groundwater quality and quantity monitoring. 3. Indeed, there will be water quality and quantity monitoring of water containment facilities on site, and quality and quantity monitoring of boreholes, streams and natural drainage lines with flowing water within the catchment of the site as well as Bi-annual monitoring of perennial streams near to the exploration drill-sites will be conducted. 4. It is not foreseen that there will be a significant impact on stormwater from the project and a stormwater management plan considered not applicable as the seismic surveys will not change the current environmental setting nor result in compaction of topsoil while the drilling activities are isolated, have a small footprint (50x50m), will be short duration (one / two weeks per drilling activity) and disturbed areas will be rehabilitated to their pre-disturbed stated. Agricultural fields i.e. maize field will either be regrown, or farmer compensated to regrow crops, and grasslands revegetated with plant and grass species which are endemic to the vegetation type. In addition, during and after rehabilitation, the applicant is required to ensure that all water ways or areas where storm water naturally flowed are open and free of any impediment. 5. The Section 21 activities which may potentially be triggered are Section 21 (c) and (i) which will depend on the final seismic survey transect and exploration drilling locations and if triggered, will require a Water Use Authorisation in consultation with DWS (refer to Section 3.5 of Amendment Report). 6. The comment is noted. The responsibility does rest with the applicant to identify any sources or potential sources of pollution and take appropriate measures to prevent any pollution of the environment. The applicant has been made aware that failure to comply with the requirements of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) could lead to legal action being instituted against the applicant 7. Section 8 of the EMPr makes provision that the applicant must ideally ensure that leakages or spillages of hydrocarbons does not occur, and should it occur, hydrocarbon spillages must be reported immediately, and the affected soil should be removed, and rehabilitated or if this is not possible, disposed of at a suitably licenced waste disposal facility. 8. Section 8 of the EMPr makes provision that any general waste, excess or waste material or chemicals, including drilling muds etc. must be removed from the site and must preferably be recycled (e.g. oil and other hydrocarbon waste products). Any waste materials or chemicals that cannot be recycled must be disposed of at a suitably licensed waste facility. A signed copy of service agreement shall be submitted to DWS to demonstrate that indeed provision will be made to render such services. The applicant has been made aware of the pollution control provisions of the Section 19 (1) of the National Water Act 1998.

Mr Ernst Jordaan Burger

Date	2024/05/21	Method	Email
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Comments and Responses 1596 Motuoane EA Amendment Application

Mr Ernst Jordaan Burger

Comment

Dear Mr Ernst Jordaan Burger, We have been recently notified of the approved VIRGINIA 2 SOLAR PARK Project (Authorised in April 2022 and Amended in August 2023) within the approved Motuoane Exploration Right Area. Please note that Motuoane is the holder of an exploration right for hydrocarbons, issued in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act 28 of 2002 – MPRDA, as amended). The approved exploration right is located over an area of approximately 149 377 hectares (ha), covering various farms including the approved PV Facility Area (Farm Blomskraal 216). An Environmental Authorisation in terms of the NEMA was issued to Motuoane for the exploration activities in July 2017 (ref: 12/3/315). Kindly see the attached notification regarding the availability of the Part II Environmental Authorisation Amendment Report for the Motuoane Exploration Right, in the Lejweleputswa and Fezile Dabi District Municipalities, Free State Province, South Africa. We have reviewed the VIRGINIA 2 SOLAR PARK Project maps and the proposed Motuoane EA Amendment Activities to which we found that they are relatively close, but do not intersect each other. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions / comments on the project.

Response

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Pulane Lipholo

Date 2024/06/14 Method Email

Comment

Currently, we're is the processing plant for the gas, and how is it transported out?Are there awarenesses conducted on the effects of this mining activity, how can we jump the wagon, and raise awareness at our level or platforms to the community at large? Is this region the only one experiencing this type of frackling or mining? How was the community participation conducted in those areas? Are there training sessions similar to how the mining industry handles cyanite, different departments to respond to the disaster, set procedures for our hospitals to respond to patients being exposed?

Response

Hi Pulane, Thank you for your interest in the Motuoane Part II Environmental Authorisation Amendment Project. Kindly see responses (in blue) to your questions below: 1. Currently, we're is the processing plant for the gas, and how is it transported out? a. We assume you are inquiring about the location of the project and service provider. b. The approved exploration area is located over an area of approximately 95 483 hectares (ha), covering various farms near Welkom, within the Free State Province, extending north from approximately Theunissen, northeast towards Kroonstad, and east of Virginia and Hennenman. The Motuoane exploration right is situated within Matjhabeng and Masilonyana Local Municipalities which are part of the Lejweleputswa District Municipality, and Moqhaka which is part of the Fezile Dabi District Municipality. The amendment study area can be subdivided into three sections namely, the far south, the south-central section and far north section all within the Exploration Right Footprint. Refer to Section 2.1 and/or Appendix A of the Amendment Report for more details. c. Please note that the application is for an Exploration Project and not Production. The project entails the use of exploration surveys to better understand the subsurface discontinuities, layering, and probable rocks/structures. Analysis of the seismic surveys and additional drilling wells will provide more precise information to determine the viability of the exploration project into the production phase. However, at this phase, there is no gas being processed nor distributed to anyone. Only

once and if Motuoane has successfully complete the exploration and determined that there is economical viable gas reserves in the area can there be an application for a Production Right. That is entirely a different process on its own and Interested and Affected Parties will be engaged accordingly by the environmental consultants which will be appointed for that process. Refer to Section 2 of the Amendment Report for more details. 2. Are there awarenesses conducted on the effects of this mining activity, how can we jump the wagon, and raise awareness at our level or platforms to the community at large? Is this region the only one experiencing this type of frackling or mining? a. The application is for an Amendment to an Existing Environmental Authorisation. The application process is guided by the National Environmental Management Act No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulation 2014 as amended. Public Participation undertaken for the project includes placement of site notices, newspaper adverts, public meeting and circulation of the Draft Amendment Report for public Review and Comment. The Public Participation is undertaken as per the NEMA EIA Guidelines. Refer to Section 7 and Appendix C of the Amendment Report for more details. b. The potential impacts associated with the project were identified and thoroughly investigated to determine the significance and mitigation measures of each impact. Refer to Section 5 of the Amendment Report for more details. You can go through the impacts and mitigation measures in the report to understand them better and raise awareness at our level or platforms to the community at large. c. Please note that the project does not involve Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, only seismic surveys and exploration drilling (mainly percussion drilling). Free State is not the only region experiencing an increase in the oil and gas industry, other provinces inland such as Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal are also experiencing a booming in the oil and gas industry. Refer to The Petroleum Agency South Africa (PASA) Exploration Activities Map <https://www.petroleumagencyrsa.com/index.php/maps>. 3. How was the community participation conducted in those areas? Are there training sessions similar to how the mining industry handles cyanite, different departments to respond to the disaster, set procedures for our hospitals to respond to patients being exposed? a. The application is for an Amendment to an Existing Environmental Authorisation. The application process is guided by NEMA EIA Regulation 2014 as amended. Public Participation undertaken for the project was undertaken in line with Chapter 6 of NEMA EIA Regulations 2014 as amended and also in line with the principles of Integrated Environmental Management (IEM). IEM implies an open and transparent participatory process, whereby stakeholders and other Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are afforded an opportunity to comment on the project. The Public Participation undertaken for the Motuoane Part II EA Amendment includes the circulation of call to register, placement of site notices, newspaper adverts, public meeting and circulation of the Draft Amendment Report for public Review and Comment. Refer to Section 7 and Appendix C of the Amendment Report for more details. b. The Public Participation guidelines under Chapter 6 of NEMA EIA Regulations 2014 as amended and the principles of IEM does not involve training sessions. Please also keep in mind that the application is for an exploration activity for hydrocarbons (gas) which does not involve

Pulane Lipholo

	any mining, processing or production of solid material (i.e. ore) which are known to have harmful by-products. We hope the above answers / clarification have been adequately responded to. However, please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further questions or require further clarification.
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