Background
Umsimbithi Mining (Pty) Ltd (Umsimbithi), proposes to develop a new coal mining project on the Eastern Basin Coalfield, Mpumalanga Province, Republic of South Africa. The proposed Project is to be known as the eMakhazeni Project and will consist of open pit mines and underground sections.

Purpose of this document
The purpose of this document is to provide you with:
❖ the background to the project;
❖ information about the project and the required Environmental Authorisations (EA);
❖ the opportunity to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP); and
❖ the opportunity to comment about the project and EA’s.

Location
The proposed eMakhazeni Project is situated approximately 56 kilometres east of Middelburg in the Mpumalanga province. The colliery will consist of numerous properties either side of the N4 stretching from 5 km to 30 km west of eMkahazeni.

Umsimbithi Mining (Pty) Ltd, the applicant, holds a Prospecting Right, MP 58 PR, for portions of following farms:

❖ Bergendal 378 JT
❖ Bergendal 981 JT
❖ Driefontein 377 JT
❖ De Goede hoop 515 JT
❖ Steynsplaats 360 JT
❖ Forelwater 410 JT
❖ Majamela 973 JT
❖ Tweefontein 357 JT
❖ Weltevreden 381 JT
❖ Wemmershuis 379 JT
❖ Bospoort 399 JS
❖ Driefontein 398 JS
❖ Elandsfontein 433 JS
❖ Elandsfontein 1204 JS;
❖ Kleinfontein 432 JT
❖ Klippan 452 JS;
❖ Leeuwbank 427 JS
❖ Leeuwfontein 431 JS
❖ Paardekraal 422 JS
❖ Teuftfontein 407 JS
❖ Glen Coburn 1213 JS;
❖ Wonderfontein 428 JS
❖ Rietvalley 387 JS;
❖ Bospoort 1208 JS.
However, the application for a mining right will be confined to portions of the farms Weltevreden 381 JT, Rietvalley 387 JS, Generaaldraai 429 JS, Leeuwbank 427 JS, Leeuwfontein 431 JS, Paardekraal 422 JS, Wonderfontein 428 JS and Bospoort 1208 JS (See map).

There are several other mining operations in the area, including Umsimbithi’s Wonderfontein Colliery, as well as other Greenfields coal projects in various stages of development near the proposed eMakhazeni Project.

**Project Information**

The proposed Project will be a combination of open pit and underground operations. The open pit operations are proposed to be mined using the rollover truck and shovel method allowing for concurrent rehabilitation. There will also be underground sections accessed through the high wall of the open pits. The underground sections will be mined using the bord and pillar method. Both open pits and underground mining operations may potentially be outsourced to specialist contractors. Crushing plants and a coal washing plant will be constructed as part of the project.

It is estimated that the mine will produce approximately 74 million tonnes of coal during the Life of Mine (LoM). The coal will be supplied to Eskom and/or other domestic coal consumers. The LoM is more than 25 years. The mines will be opened in phases, one leading into the next. Trucks will take the coal from the mines to a central washing plant if beneficiation is required, else directly to Eskom or other consumers. At full production, the project is expected to employ approximately 500 people, with most of the labour coming from the eMakhazeni Local Municipality and the surrounding areas. All employment will take place in line with all the relevant legislation, codes and statutes.

The following infrastructure will be built:

- Offices, workshops, change houses, storehouses, warehouses;
- Internal roads and haul roads, fuel storage facilities;
- Open pits, underground sections, crushing circuits, a wash plant, conveyors;
- Water supply networks, storm water networks, pollution control dams, raw water dams, effluent dams, water treatment works; and
- Topsoil stockpiles, discard dumps, and Run of Mine (ROM) stockpiles.

Water will be sourced from boreholes and recycled from opencast pits and pollution control dams. Potable water will be sourced from eMakhazeni Municipality or ground water sources. The water usage strategy for the colliery is being designed to operate as a closed water system and most of the water on site is to be recycled. Electricity for the project is to be supplied by Eskom.

**Regulations and Licences**

Kongiwe Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Umsimbithi to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process to evaluate the environmental impacts required.
as part of the Mining Right Application (MRA) as well as other EAs required for the proposed colliery.

The following applications will be made to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) as competent authority for the proposed mining project:

❖ Mining Right Application (MRA) in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA);
❖ Application for EA for listed activities triggered in Listing Notices GN R983, GN R984 and GN R985, as amended in April 2017, and in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended in April 2017, promulgated in terms of National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA); and

In addition, the following applications will be made to the relevant competent authorities:

❖ Relevant permit applications will also be made in terms of sections 34, 35 and 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA). The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and or the Mpumalanga Heritage Resources Authority (MPHRA) will be the competent authorities.

The Mining Right Application was submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) on Thursday, 28 September 2017.

These applications require a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment as per regulation 21 and regulation 24 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2017, of the NEMA. Various specialist studies will be undertaken to assess the potential impacts of the project, these may include:

❖ Soils, Land Use & Land Capability
❖ Closure & Rehabilitation
❖ Wetlands
❖ Aquatic Ecology
❖ Climate Impacts & Sustainability
❖ Noise
❖ Air Quality & Dust
❖ Heritage & Archaeology
❖ Fauna and Flora
❖ Hydrology
❖ Hydrogeology
❖ Socio-economic & Tourism
❖ Visual Impacts
❖ Traffic & Safety
❖ Blasting & Vibration
❖ Community Health

Possible mitigation measures to lessen the possible negative impacts identified will be developed and enhancements for positive impacts will be proposed. An Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) will also be developed to manage identified impacts. The EMPr Report will be available for public review together with the EIA Report.
Authorisation Process

In accordance with the provisions of the EIA 2014 Regulations, the EIA process to be followed is carried out in phases, namely, Scoping, Environmental Impact Assessment / Environmental Management Programme and Authority Decision making process. A schematic representation of the process is presented in the adjacent figure. Once the MRA and EA applications are submitted to the DMR, the Scoping phase begins. Within 44 days of submitting the applications, a Scoping Report must be submitted for authority review. During that 44-day period, the public will be entitled to a 30-day Scoping Report review and comment period. This period will also include a public meeting and consultations.

Once the Scoping Report has been submitted to the DMR, it must either accept or reject the Scoping Report within 43 days. Once such correspondence has been received from the DMR, the EIA phase commences and will run for a period of 106 days, in which time I&AP’s will be afforded a 30-day period in which to review and comment on the EIA/EMPr documentation. Prior to expiry of the 106 days, an EIA/EMPr document must be submitted to the DMR for review, after which it will have 107 days to reach decision on the project (Record of Decision (RoD)) which may be appealed by the I&APs or the Applicant.

Public Participation Process

The public participation process (PPP) will be undertaken in compliance with the South African legislative requirements for PPP.

As stakeholders, you have certain rights and responsibilities, these include:
- registering as an I&AP;
- submitting comments within the required timeframes; and
- informing others of the project and environmental authorisations.

As the Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAP’s) Kongiwe is responsible for:
❖ providing sufficient and understandable project information so that I&APs can make informed comments and decisions regarding the project;
❖ recording, assessing and responding to any issues raised by registered I&APs, and
❖ independently and responsibly providing all information gathered to the authorities to inform their decision-making process.

The proposed estimated time frames are as follows:
❖ Registration of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs): August 2017 onwards
❖ Specialist studies: September 2017 onwards
❖ Public review of scoping document: Tuesday, 3 October 2017 – Wednesday, 1 November 2017
❖ Public meeting: Wednesday 11 October 2017

Registered I&APs will be reminded of all document comment periods, as well as the dates and venues of public meetings.

**Registration as an I&AP**

Any person affected by or who may be interested in the proposed project is asked to please register as an I&AP. Please fill in the attached registration and comment form and submit to stakeholders@kongiwe.co.za, or you can call or SMS Stephen Horak at 082 3314 993. He will take your comments and register you as an I&AP. Further information regarding the project will be found on the Kongiwe Environmental website [http://www.kongiwe.co.za/publications-view/public-documents/](http://www.kongiwe.co.za/publications-view/public-documents/)

You will be informed about the availability of all reports and stakeholder meetings, provided the correct contact information has been submitted. Your comments will be provided to the authorities to help them make the correct decisions. Your comments will also help the project team by informing the Scoping and EIA processes.
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR
THE eMAKHAZENI PROJECT
IN MPUMLANGA PROVINCE.

STAKEHOLDER REGISTRATION AND REPLY FORM

Return completed reply form to: Stephen Horak of Kongiwe Environmental (Pty) Ltd
Phone: 010 140 6508 or Fax: +27 (86) 476 6438
E-mail: stakeholders@kongiwe.co.za
Postal Address: PostNet Suite no 163, Private Bag X21, Bryanston, 2021

Please provide your complete contact details:
If you are a landowner or you are occupying land, please indicate farms and who owns the farm.

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I intend attending the Public Meeting
Wednesday 11 October 2017, 14:00, Belfast Hervormde Church Hall (41 Steven Masango Street, eMakhazeni / Belfast).

Yes ☐ No ☐

To assist us with the specialist studies please answer the questions below. Should you require any assistance with filling in the questions please contact Stephen Horak 082 331 4993.

How do you think the project might affect / impact you?

How do you think the project might affect / impact your farm, business, household, village etc.?
How do you think these affects/impacts can be managed, avoided and / or fixed should they happen?

What is the land currently being used for?

Where are these land uses taking place?

Are there any natural environmental/ ecological aspects which we need to be aware of? (water, heritage sites, grave sites, special plants or animals)

Where are these aspects found?

Do you think the project could affect / impact any structures you might have? (e.g. houses, buildings, roads, dams)

If so how can these affects/ impacts be managed, avoided or fixed should they happen?
Any other comments

Please include more pages should the space provided not be enough.

**Please provide contact details of any other stakeholders we should consult.**

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