

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (EA) APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF DIESEL STORAGE TANKS AT SOUTH DEEP JV, WITHIN THE RAND WEST CITY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WEST RAND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, GAUTENG PROVINCE

INVITATION TO REGISTER AS AN INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY (I&AP), AND/ OR COMMENT ON THE PROJECT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID): NOVEMBER 2024

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide you as a potential interested and/or affected party (I&AP) with an overview of the project.

The public participation process (PPP) forms an integral part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, and the distribution of this document is a crucial step in advising I&APs on how they can be involved in the process. The document also introduces and explains the Environmental Authorisation (EA) application and PPP to be followed for the project.

All stakeholders are invited to comment on any aspect related to the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended (NEMA) EA Process. The document also notifies all stakeholders that the I&AP registration period is from **Friday, 29 November 2024 to Monday, 20 January 2024**.

To register and for more information on the project, please contact the following person (s):

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The aim of this document is therefore to provide I&APs with the proposed project brief; description; legal requirements for the PPP process and the proposed application.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Gold Fields Operations Limited (GFO) and GFI Joint Venture Holdings (Pty) Limited (GFI Holdings) acting jointly in their capacities as participants in an unincorporated joint venture (JV) known as South Deep JV (the applicant) have appointed Manyabe Consultancy (Pty) Ltd, as a suitable Professional Service Provider (PSP) - Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake an EA Application – Basic Assessment (BA) process for diesel storage tanks with a combined storage capacity of 335 000L (335m³) i.e. 5 x 67 000L within the existing mine situated on Portion 7 of the Farm Doornpoort 347 IQ, in Westonaria, Rand West City Local Municipality, within the West Rand District Municipality. The co-ordinates of the centre point of the site are 26°25'3.98" South, and 27°39'19.61" East. The area to be developed is owned by GFO and GFI Holdings, and it falls within the Mining Right Area (Figure 1 below).

South Deep JV is the holder of the Mining Right which was granted by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) in 2010. The Mining Right affords South Deep the right to mine gold, silver, nickel, uranium, copper and pyrite. The Mining Right was converted in terms of Item 7 of Schedule II of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA) in respect of a mining area measuring 4,268 hectares, still to be registered in the Mineral and Petroleum Titles Registration Office and is valid for the period ending 12 July 2040.

The structure of the proposed diesel storage tanks will be horizontal with a rectangle-like transverse section, vertical sides, a cambered top, a ridged bottom, and round corners. The proposed diesel storage tanks will be fitted in a container frame with a rear pump room and will have a bund wall, dispensing suction line, pump, filling, and delivery line. All materials to be used to construct the storage tanks will be able to withstand temperatures within the range of -40°C to +70°C without any effect on the strength of the basic structure.

The competent authority for the proposed diesel tanks installation project is the DMRE for the issuance of an EA.

LOCALITY

South Deep JV is located on Portion 7 of the Farm Doornpoort 347IQ, within the West Rand District Municipality, Gauteng Province.

Access to the site is via a Moroka Bypass/ N12 road which is joined by Randfontein Road/ R28, thereafter by Lombard Street.

PROPOSED PROJECT MOTIVATION

The installation of the storage tanks will ensure that the mine has sufficient diesel which is required in the normal operation of the mine. Diesel storage is required to facilitate the provision of diesel to machinery and vehicles as and when required to assist in meeting the operational requirements of the mine. Should no diesel be available for the operation, mining activities would be negatively affected mainly because the current existing tanks cannot provide the mine with sufficient diesel supply.

The proposed diesel tanks are designed to enhance safety, security, convenience, and long-term cost savings while improving operational efficiency. These storage tanks are built to ensure clean, contaminant-free diesel, which is essential for optimal machinery performance and longevity. Furthermore, improved diesel quality and efficiency lead to lower maintenance costs. Cleaner diesel reduces the risk of clogged filters and fuel injectors, ensuring that equipment performs at its best for longer periods.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The proposed applications trigger the following legislation:

Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application

The proposed project entails the undertaking of a BA in terms of Section 41 of Government Notice Regulation (GNR.) No. 982 in Government Gazette No. 38202 (04 December 2014), as amended, of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, promulgated in terms of Section 24(5) and 44 of the NEMA. This activity is identified as action that may not commence without an EA from the relevant competent authorities.

In terms of GNR 327 (Listing Notice No.1: Activity 14), a BA process is required in order to obtain an EA from DMRE, for "Listing Notice No.1: Activity 14": the development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 cubic metres or more but not exceeding 500 cubic metres.

Public Participation Process

Legal Requirements of the PPP as required by Section 41 of the NEMA:

41 (1) This regulation only applies in instances where adherence to the provisions of this regulation is specifically required. (2) The person conducting a public participation process must take into account any relevant guidelines applicable to public participation as contemplated in section 24J of the Act and must give notice to all potential I&APs of an application or the proposed application which is subjected to public participation by:

(a) fixing a notice board at a place conspicuous to and accessible by the public at the boundary, on the fence or along the corridor of (i) the site where the activity to which the application or proposed application relates is or is to be undertaken; and (ii) any alternative site;

(b) giving written notice, in any of the manners provided for in section 47D of the Act, to (i) the occupiers of the site and, if the proponent or applicant is not the owner or person in control of the site on which the activity is to be undertaken, the owner or person in control of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken and to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken; (ii) owners, persons in control of, and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken and to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken; (iii) the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site and alternative site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represent the community in the area; (iv) the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area; (v) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and (vi) any other party as required by the competent authority;

(c) placing an advertisement in (i) one local newspaper; or (ii) any official that is published specifically for the purpose of providing public notice of applications or other submissions made in terms of these Regulations;

(d) placing an advertisement in at least one provincial newspaper or national newspaper, if the activity has or may have an impact that extends beyond the boundaries of the metropolitan or district municipality in which it is or will be undertaken: Provided that this paragraph need not be complied with if an advertisement has been placed in an official referred to in paragraph (c)(ii); and

(e) using reasonable alternative methods, as agreed to by the competent authority, in those instances where a person is desirous of but unable to participate in the process due to (i) illiteracy; (ii) disability; or (iii) any other disadvantage.(3) A notice, notice board or advertisement referred to in sub regulation (2) must (a) give details of the application or proposed application which is subjected to public participation; and (b) state (i) whether a BA or Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) procedures are being applied to the application;

(ii) the nature and location of the activity to which the application relates; (iii) where further information on the application or proposed application can be obtained; and (iv) the manner in which and the person to whom representations in respect of the application or proposed application may be made.

(4) A notice board referred to in sub regulation (2) must (a) be of a size of at least 60cm by 42cm; and (b) display the required information in lettering and in a format as may be determined by the competent authority.

MC on behalf of South Deep JV took into account all relevant guidelines applicable to public participation as contemplated in section 24J of the Act. Notices were given to all potential I&APs to participate in the project.

EA APPLICATION PROCESS

The following process will be undertaken, in order for an EA to be granted by the DMRE:

- MC is submitting a hardcopy EA Application Form (obtainable from the DMRE website).
- MC will within ninety (90) days of submission and subsequent receipt of the application by the DMRE, submit a Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). The reports would have been subjected to a public participation process for at least thirty (30) days and will reflect the incorporation of comments received, including any comments from the DMRE.
- After having complied with an Appendix 1 of the EIA 2014 Regulations, as amended, MC will within the timeframes stipulated by the EIA Regulations 2014 as amended submit the required copies of the Final BAR, EMPr and supportive Documents to the DMRE.
- DMRE must within 107 days of receipt of the Final BAR and EMPr, in writing, grant or refuse an EA in respect of all or part of the activity applied for.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

PPP is the cornerstone of the EIA process. The principles of the NEMA govern most aspects of EIAs, including PPP. These include the ongoing provision of sufficient information (in a transparent manner) to I&APs.

During the PPP process, input from the applicant, technical experts, government authorities and the general public will be gathered to result in a better understanding of the project for all involved, and more informed decision-making throughout the process. I&APs will be given an opportunity to comment on the findings of the BAR during the specified commenting periods. I&APs are hereby invited to comment on environmental, social and economic issues relating to the proposed project. To receive further communications regarding this project, please register by sending the completed and signed registration sheet at the back of this document to the details as specified above.

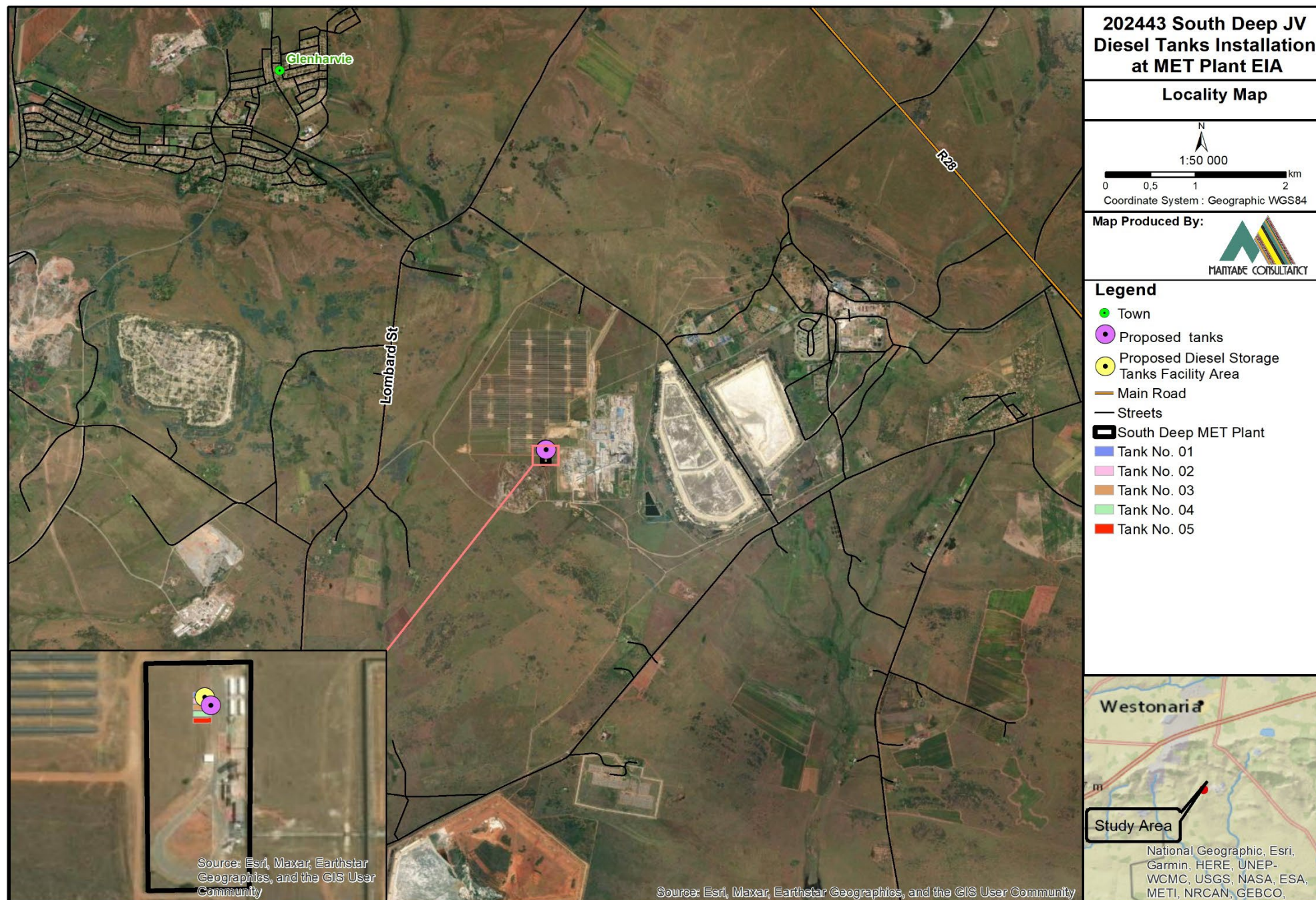


Figure 1: South Deep JV Diesel Tanks Installation Locality Map

