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**THE NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 36 OF 1998) SECTION 27
REPORT IN SUPPORT OF THE CONSOLIDATION AND AMENDMENT OF
THE WATER USE LICENSE (WUL) AND ITS ADDENDUM GRANTED TO
SOUTH DEEP JV: SOUTH DEEP GOLD MINE, AS WELL AS
INCORPORATING NEW ACTIVITIES PROPOSED TO BE CONDUCTED FOR
FUTURE PROOFING THE MINE**

**DWS REFERENCE NUMBER: 08/C22J/GCEFIJA/8705
MANYABE CONSULTANCY (PTY) LTD PROJECT CODE: 202330**

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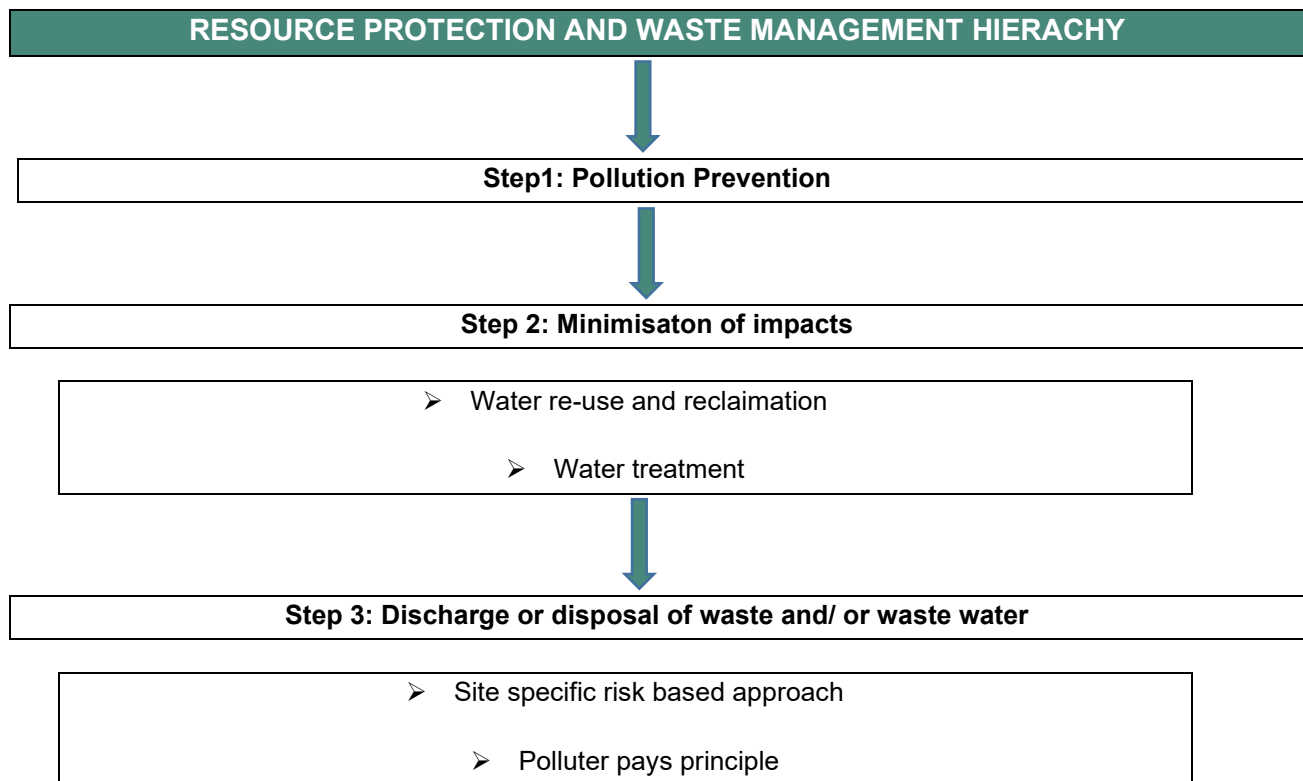
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SECTION 1: SECTION 27 OF THE NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 36 OF 1998)

In order to comply with legal requirements, South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine will adhere at all times to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) hierarchy of water management and decision-making as described below. South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine will also ensure that legal routes are followed to obtain licenses and authorisations regarding the proposed project (i.e. correct applications within applicable timeframes).



Pollution prevention consideration: Deterioration of water quality must be prevented wherever possible and minimised where complete prevention is not possible.

Conservation consideration: Losses of water and consumptive use of water must be minimised.

Water quality consideration: Water users must be provided with water of a quality good enough so that it does not cause significant user problems.

Sustainability considerations: The project plan must be sustainable over the entire project life cycle as well as over different hydrological cycles.

As per Section 27(1) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA), in issuing a general authorisation or licence, a responsible authority must take into account all relevant factors, including –

- Existing lawful water uses;
- The need to redress the results of past racial and gender discrimination;
- Efficient and beneficial use of water in the public interest;
- The socio-economic impact - (i) of the water use or uses if authorised; or (ii) of the failure to authorise the water use or uses;
- Any catchment management strategy applicable to the relevant water resource;
- The likely effect of the water use to be authorised on the water resource and on other water users;
- The class and the resource quality objectives of the water resource;
- Investments already made and to be made by the water user in respect of the water use in question;

- The strategic importance of the water use to be authorised;
- The quality of water in the water resource which may be required for the Reserve and for meeting international obligations; and
- The probable duration of any undertaking for which a water use is to be authorised.

1-1 EXISTING LAWFUL WATER USES

In terms of Section 32 of the NWA, an existing lawful water use is defined as follows: “*water use which has taken place at any time during a period of two years immediately before the date of commencement of the Act (01 October 1996 to 30 September 1998) and which was authorised by or under any law which was in force immediately before the date of commencement of this Act, or which has been declared an existing lawful water use in terms of Section 33 of the Act*”.

As per legislation, when an amendment to the Water Use Licence (WUL) is granted, the previously granted licence is usually superseded by the new WUL. The previously approved water uses are then added to the new application to ensure all water uses are approved under one licence.

South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine was originally granted a WUL in terms of Chapter 4 of the NWA on 21 November 2011 (**License number: 03/C22J/ACFGIJ/1369**). From 2016 to 2017, South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine identified some errors on the issued WUL i.e. quantities which were contrary to what was applied for. Other additions included the scavenger boreholes mainly established to control the pollution plume around the Tailings Storage Facilities (TSFs) and Return Water Dams (RWDs), for the removal and containment of contamination from the TSFs by abstracting contaminated water from the aquifers. The WUL was issued on 19 November 2018 (**License number: 08/C22J/GCEFIJA/8705**), which superseded the 2011 WUL. The WUL also had errors. An addendum to the issued WUL was issued on 29 July 2021.

The WUL authorises the following water uses, under Section 21 of the act:

- (a) Taking of water from a water resource.
- (c) Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse.
- (e) Engaging in a controlled activity.
- (f) Discharging waste or water containing waste into a water resource through a pipe, canal, canal, sewer or other conduit.
- (g) Discharging waste or water containing waste into a water resource.
- (i) Altering the bed, banks course or characteristics of a watercourse.
- (j) Removing, discharging or disposing of water found underground if it is necessary for the efficient continuation of an activity or for the safety of people.

Table 1 provides all the existing water uses that were incorporated into the WUL issued on 19 November 2018 and the addendum to the issued WUL issued on 29 July 2021.

Table 1: Existing Water Uses that were Incorporated into the WUL 2018

Description/ Purpose	Properties	Volume (m ³ / annum)	Co-ordinates
Water Use activities for Section 21(a)			
Water is abstracted from Salvage BH [A] (A3) to reduce the pollution plume and is disposed to twin shaft PCD.	Portion 39, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	154 030	26°25'3.06"S 27°39'50.48"E
Old RWD seepage interception BH (A4) to reduce the pollution plume. The water is disposed (recycled back) to the RWD.	Portion 44, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	154 030	26°25'18.03"S 27°40'55.73"E
Abstraction of water from Scavenger BH (A5-1) [to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in Doornpoort RWD] below old TSF to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in old RWD.	Portion 41, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	94 900	26°24'45.12"S 27°40'45.85"E
Abstraction of water from Scavenger BH (A5-2) [borehole to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in RWD] below old TSF to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in RWD.	Portion 20, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	94 900	26°25'0.49"S 27°40'38.06"E
Abstraction of water from Scavenger BH (A5-3) [to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in RWD] below old TSF to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in RWD.	Portion 3, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	94 900	26°25'12.66"S 27°40'51.32"E
Abstraction of water from Scavenger BH (A5-4) [to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in RWD] below old TSF to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in RWD.	Portion 3, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	94 900	26°25'21.87"S 27°40'25.25"E
Abstraction of water from Scavenger BH (A5-5) to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in RWD.	Portion 21, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	94 900	26°25'7.25"S 27°40'6.35"E
Abstraction of water from Scavenger BH (A5-6) to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in RWD.	Portion 21, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	94 900	26°25'7.25"S 27°40'0.35"E
Abstraction of water from Scavenger BH (A6-1) below the Doornpoort TSF to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in RWD.	[Portion 20, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ] Doornpoort 347 IQ	94 900	26°27'49.99"S 27°38'18.73"E
Abstraction of water from Scavenger BH (A6-2) below the old TSF to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in RWD.	[Portion 20, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ] Doornpoort 347 IQ	94 900	26°27'42.49"S 27°38'18.08"E
Abstraction of water from South Shaft borehole for mining purpose	Portion 30 and 65, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	273 756	26°24'14.10"S 27°41'7.40"E
Abstraction of water from Leeuspruit for mining purpose	Portion 30 and 65, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	729 996	26°24'36.00"S 27°41'22.95"E
BH1	Farm Doornpoort 347 IQ	94 900 (2.0L/s)	-26.467033°; 27.636497°
SD31	Farm Doornpoort 347 IQ	94 900 (0.25L/s)	-26.471389°; 27.649738°
SD32	Farm Doornpoort 347 IQ	94 900 (0.6L/s)	-26.471790°; 27.654380°
SD38	Farm Doornpoort 347 IQ	94 900 (1L/s)	-26.468937°; 27.645781°
SD40	Farm Doornpoort 347 IQ	94 900 (1.2L/s)	-26.469808°; 27.639373°
SD43	Farm Doornpoort 347 IQ	94 900 (1.55L/s)	-26.465064°; 27.640661°
Water Use activities for Section 21(c) and (i)			
Haul Road crossing Leeuspruit River and flow meter - entrance to South Shaft. The road is an existing road with a new meter installation.	Portion 44, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	L=55m H=1.0m W=57m	26°24'37.3"S 27°41'64.1"E
Road crossing Leeuspruit River subsidiary (road and pipelines) at Doornpoort site-existing road.	Portion 12, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	L=12m H=2.0m W=100m	26°27'49.27"S 27°38'4.21"E
Road crossing Leeuspruit River diversion-existing road passing over the river diversion.	Portion 20, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	L=15m H=2.0m W=35m	26°25'14.17"S 27°41'0.53"E
South shaft stormwater separation system which run through a wetland.	Portion 20, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ		Start 26°24'30.83"S

Description/ Purpose	Properties	Volume (m ³ / annum)	Co-ordinates
			27°41'7.53"E End 26°25'0.26"S 27°40'53.30"E
Water Use activities for Section 21(e)			
Irrigation of old TSF with water from RWD 1 and 2 for maintenance of grassed areas.	Farm Modderfontein Portions 3, 20, 21, 40 and 41 of farm Modderfontein	730 000	26°24'52.80"S 27°40'36.14"E
Irrigation of new TSF with water from RWD 3 and 4 for maintenance of grassed areas.	Farm Modderfontein	730 000	26°25'5.08"S 27°40'13.09"E
Irrigation of Doornpoort TSF with water from RWDs for maintenance of grassed areas.	Portion 1,44,45,51,52 and 53 of the farm Doornpoort 347 IQ.	730 000	26°27'53.34"S 27°38'48.78"E
Irrigation of shaft areas with water from Twin shaft PCD.	Farm Modderfontein	365 000	26°24'23.5"S 27°41'18.6"E
Irrigation of all TSF with final effluent from Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW).	Farm Modderfontein and farm Doornpoort 347 IQ.	912 500	26°24'23.5"S 27°41'18.6"E 26°24'52.80"S 27°40'36.14"E 26°25'5.08"S 27°40'13.09"E 26°27'53.34"S 27°38'48.78"E
Water Use activities for Section 21(f)			
Discharge of excess underground water.	Portion 44, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	1 095 000	26°24'35.59"S 27°41'21.81"E
Water Use activities for Section 21(g)			
Disposing of gold slurry at south shaft.	Portion 3,20,21,40 and 41 of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	1 200 000	26°25'0.02"S 27°40'12.16"E
Disposing waste water from the Doornpoort TSF into the RWD.	Portion 20, 50, 51 Doornpoort 345 IQ	1 000 000	26°28'0.05"S 27°39'14.18"E
Twin shaft retention pond.	Portion 3,20,21,40 and 41 of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	62 000	26°25'22.62"S 27°39'56.92"E
Cascade Ponds.	Portion 3,20,21,40 and 41 of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	3 000	26°25'10.27"S 27°40'33.85"E
New RWD.	Portion 3,20,21,40 and 41 of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	52 487	26°25'12.50"S 27°40'49.12"E
Gold Plant Pollution Control Dam (PCD).	Portion 3,20,21,40 and 41 of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	2 X 3 500	26°25'15.88"S 27°39'32.57"E
Settlers A&B.	Portion 3,20,21,40 and 41 of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	2 X 650	26°25'8.30"S 27°39'50.97"E
Mine Water Tanks.	Portion 3,20,21,40 and 41 of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	2 X 2 200	26°24'20.74"S 27°41'15.72"E 26°25'10.27"S 27°40'33.85"E
Old RWD.	Portion 3, 20, 21, 40 and 41 of the farm Modderfontein 345IQ,	150 000	26°25'13.92"S 27°40'52.27"E
Water Use activities for Section 21(j)			
Removal of water found underground for the efficient continuation of mine or safety of the people.	Portion 3, 20, 21,40 and 41 of the farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	1 824 996	

As part of the WUL Amendment application, South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine has been granted an addendum to the WUL 2018 as follows:

Amendment of the Licensee

1. The licence is hereby amended a) by substitution of condition 1 of the following:

“South Deep [Gold Mine] Joint Venture: South Deep Gold Mine”**Amendment of properties and ownership on which the water use will be exercised**

2. Properties and ownership on which the water use will be exercised is hereby amended a) by the substitution in properties for Table 1 of the following Table:

Table 1: Properties where water uses will be exercised

Properties	Water uses	Owner
Portion 3,20,21,30,41,44,39 and 65 of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	Section 21(a)	South Deep Gold Mine
Portion 3 and 52 of the farm Modderfontein 345 IQ, Portion 3,12,20,41,44 and 61 of the farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	Section 21(c) and (i)	South Deep Gold Mine
Portion 12, 20,21 of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	Section 21(e)	South Deep Gold Mine
Portion 44 of the farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	Section 21(f)	South Deep Gold Mine
Portion 1,7,20,43,45,46,50,51,52,53 of the farm Doornpoort 347 IQ. Portion 44 of the farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	Section 21(g)	South Deep Gold Mine
Portion 30 of the farm Modderfontein 345IQ	Section 21(j)	South Deep Gold Mine

Amendment of the description of the activities

3. Description of the activities is hereby amended a) by substitution for the description of the activities of the following description of the activities:

"This license authorises South Deep Gold mine for the following water uses in terms of section 40 for section 21(a),(c),(e),(f),(g),(i) and (j) of the NWA for taking water from the South Shaft boreholes and Leeuspruit river, installation of flow meter at the river, river diversion, pipeline crossing the stream, discharging of waste water into the river, irrigation of TSF with treated effluent, disposing of waste water into containment facilities and removing of water found underground for continuation of mining and safety of the people. The mine falls within the Vaal River Water Management Area (WMA), quaternary catchments C22J".

Amendment of condition I of Appendix II

4. Condition 1 of the licence is hereby amended a) by substitution in condition 1 for Table 2 of the following Table:

Table 2: Water use activities for Section 21(a)

Purpose/ Description	Property	Volume	Co-ordinates
1. Water is abstracted from Salvage BH [A] (A3) to reduce the pollution plume and is disposed to twin shaft PCD.	Portion 39, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	154 030 m ³ /a	26°25'3.06"S 27°39'50.48"E
Old RWD seepage interception BH (A4) to reduce the pollution plume. The water is disposed (recycled back) to the RWD.	Portion 44, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	154 030 m ³ /a	26°25'18.03"S 27°40'55.73"E
2. Abstraction of water from Scavenger BH (A5-1) [to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in Old RWD] below old TSF to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in RWD.	Portion 41, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	94 900 m ³ /a	26°24'45.12"S 27°40'45.85"E
3. Abstraction of water from Scavenger BH (A5-2) [borehole to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in RWD] below old TSF to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in RWD.	Portion 20, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	94 900 m ³ /a	26°25'0.49"S 27°40'51.32"E
4. Abstraction of water from Scavenger BH (A5-3) [to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in RWD] below old TSF to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in RWD.	Portion 3, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	94 900 m ³ /a	26°25'12.66"S 27°40'38.06"E
5. Abstraction of water from Scavenger BH(A5-4) [to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in RWD] below old TSF to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in RWD.	Portion 3, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	94 900 m ³ /a	[26°25'7.25"S] 26°25'30.70"S 27°40'25.25"E

Purpose/ Description	Property	Volume	Co-ordinates
Abstraction of water from Scavenger BH(A5-5) to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in RWD	Portion 21, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	94 900 m³/a	26°25'7.25"S 27°40'6.35"E
Abstraction of water from Scavenger BH(A5-6) to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in RWD	Portion 21, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	94 900 m³/a	26°25'7.25"S 27°40'0.35"E
6. Abstraction of water from scavenger BH (A6-1) below the Doornpoort TSF to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in RWD.	[Portion 20, of farm Modderfontein 345] Doornpoort 347 IQ	94 900 m³/a	26°27'49.99"S 27°38'18.73"E
7. Abstraction of water from Scavenger BH (A6-2) below the old TSF to reduce the pollution plume and disposal in RWD.	[Portion 20, of farm Modderfontein 345] Doornpoort 347 IQ	94 900 m³/a	26°27'42.49"S 27°38'18.08"E
Abstraction of water from South Shaft borehole for mining purpose	Portion 30 and 65 of the farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	273 756 m³/a	26°24'14.10"S 27°41'7.40"E
Abstraction of water from Leeuspruit for mining purpose	Portion 30 and 65 of the farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	729 996 m³/a	26°24'36.00"S 27°41'22.95"E
BH1	Farm Doornpoort 347 IQ	94 900 (2.0L/s)	-26.467033° 27.636497°
SD31	Farm Doornpoort 347 IQ	94 900 (0.25L/s)	-26.471389°; 27.649738°
SD32	Farm Doornpoort 347 IQ	94 900 (0.6L/s)	-26.471790° 27.654380°
SD38	Farm Doornpoort 347 IQ	94 900 (1L/s)	-26.468937° 27.645781°
SD40	Farm Doornpoort 347 IQ	94 900 (1.2L/s)	-26.469808° 27.639373°
SD43	Farm Doornpoort 347 IQ	94 900 (1.55L/s)	-26.465064° 27.640661°

Amendment of condition 3 of Appendix III

5. Condition 3.1.2 of the licence is hereby amended by substitution of condition 3.1.2 for the following condition:

"3.1.2 The Licensee must ensure that clean storm water is discharged (**into bio retention ponds**) outside of the riparian area".

Amendment of condition 1 of Appendix V

Condition 1.1 of the licence is hereby amended by the substitution in condition 1.1 for Table 7 of the following Table:

Table 7: Water use activity

Description of the activity	Volume (m³/a)	Property	Co-ordinates
Discharge of excess underground water.	1 095 000	Portion 44, of farm Modderfontein 345 IQ	[26°25'35.6"S] 26°24'35.59"S 27°41'.21.81"E

Amendment of condition 3 of Appendix VI

6. Condition 3.1 of the licence is hereby amended a) by substitution of condition 3.1 of the following condition:

"3.1 The Licensee must monitor on a **[monthly]** quarterly basis the water resources at surface water monitoring points and groundwater monitoring points to determine the impact of the facilities and other activities on the water quality by taking samples at the monitoring points as indicated in Tables 10 and 11".

Amendment of condition 1 of Appendix VIII

7. Condition 1 of the license is hereby amended a) by substitution of condition 1 of the following condition:

“1 The Licensee is authorised to remove a maximum volume not exceeding **[seven hundred and twenty-nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-six cubic metres per annum (729 993m³/a)]** one million eight hundred and twenty four thousand nine hundred and ninety six cubic meters per annum (1 824 996 m³/a) of water found underground from portion 3, 20, 21, 40 and 451 of the farm Modderfontein 345 IQ for the efficient continuation of mine or safety of the people.”

1-2 THE NEED TO REDRESS THE RESULTS OF PAST RACIAL AND GENDER DISCRIMINATION

As a leading South African company, South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine embraces the challenge to transform the composition of the company's workforce and management to reflect the demographics of the country. South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine supports the intent and principles underlying the Employment Equity Act, 1998 (Act No. 59 of 1998) (EEA) and the mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA).

The following specific objectives have been set to ensure reasonable progress towards transformation:

- Apply affirmative action measures to progressively remove any barriers to employment equity;
- Improve the representivity of designated groups through the implementation of annual numerical targets;
- Improve the percentage of the workforce classified as Historically Disadvantaged South Africans (HDSAs) and women through targeted recruitment;
- Improve the disability profile through targeted recruitment and workplace accommodation;
- Develop and implement appropriate training and development measures and programmes for people from designated groups demonstrating the potential to meet the capability requirements for specified roles;
- Improving the number of females through internal learnerships and skills programmes;
- Identify eligible candidates for appointment from available pools of suitably qualified designated groups;
- Develop and review strategies for the retention of people from designated groups; and
- Set up and review monitoring, measurement and communication procedures.

The Company, through its commitment to Employment Equity, will therefore continually strive towards:

- Eliminating unfair discrimination;
- Promoting a broadly representative workforce;
- Redressing imbalances caused by past practices of unfair discrimination;
- Ensuring fair and equal opportunities for all;
- Managing diversity for the long-term benefit of the organisation and its employees;
- Valuing the contribution made by all employees; and
- Ensuring compliance with the EEA and the MPRDA.

To determine the degree of underrepresentation of people from designated groups in decision-making positions, South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine conducted a workplace profile analysis comparing its diversity profile against the economically active population of the region in which it operates.

Figure 1 represents the current employment equity staff profile in decision-making positions according to gender and race.

Figure 1: Demographic Profile in Decision-making Positions as of September 2025

Occupational Level	Male				Female				Foreign National		Total
	A	C	I	W	A	C	I	W	M	F	
Top Management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Senior Management	4	2	0	8	0	0	1	1	1	1	18
Professionally Qualified	43	6	5	38	22	1	2	19	2	0	138
Skilled Technical	769	9	6	177	243	5	4	28	89	3	1 333
People with Disabilities (PWD)	25	0	0	2	27	0	0	0	0	0	75

South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine is committed to the progress of women in the mining industry as well as increasing HDSA participation in management. The Mine offers women an equal opportunity to participate in all of its operations, and at all levels of responsibility.

The tables below (Table 2, Table 3 and Table 4) reflect the status of Women in Mining at South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine as of December 2023:

Table 2: Information Pertaining to Women in Mining as of September 2025

Women in Mining	As at Sept-25:
Total Mine Strength	2 621
Women at the mine	733 (28.0%)
Total no. of employees in core mining occupations	2 183
Women in core mining occupations	504 (68.8%)

Table 3: Women in Mining: Core versus Support Roles as of Sep 2025

Women in Mining	Female					HDSA (RSA) %	Foreign National %
	A	C	I	W	Foreign Nationals		
Women in core roles	455	4	3	19	23	65.6%	3.1%
Women in support roles	179	7	5	30	8	30.2%	1.1%

Table 4: Women in Mining per Core Discipline as of September 2025

Grade	Total mine	Total in core	Total Women in Core Roles							% Women in Core
			Mining	Engineering	Metallurgy	Technical	HEE	Safety	Total	
E-Band	18	14				1			1	33.33%
D-Band	139	87	2	5		11		3	21	46.67%
C-Band	1 294	1 156	40	88	14	41	9	8	200	74.63%
B-Band	540	428	72	34	5	1		2	114	64.04%
A-Band	585	498	40	103	8	5	11	1	168	75.68%
NG	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Total	2 621	2 183	154	230	27	59	20	14	504	68.76%

1-3 EFFICIENT AND BENEFICIAL USE OF WATER IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

The mine is aimed at the efficient use of water for the good of the local community and the country from a social, economic and environmental perspective. South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine complies with National Water Resource Strategy (NWRS) philosophy and requirements with respect to water conservation and demand management, measures to balance supply and demand, resource and source directed measures, and the protection of the Reserve. This will be achieved through:

- The reuse of water from the RWD;
- Appropriate design measures to minimise groundwater ingress;
- Ensuring separation of clean and dirty water systems; and
- Compliance with GN704 requirements.

Reclamation of water for re-use at the mine; treatment of water to acceptable standards for potable and process water at the mine; distribution to the Rand Water distribution system; and discharge to a water resource for the human and ecological Reserve requirements lead to efficient and beneficial use of water in public interest.

1-4 THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT - (I) OF THE WATER USE OR USES IF AUTHORISED; OR (II) OF THE FAILURE TO AUTHORISE THE WATER USE OR USES

1-4.1 If Authorised

The continuation of currently operating activities at South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine ensures employment within the surrounding local communities with direct jobs at South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine. Through its operations, South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine has created 2621 permanent jobs. When contractors are included, this figure rises to 5070.

According to the Chamber of Mines of SA (now referred to as the minerals Council of South Africa), the mining sector contributed 8.8% directly and 10% indirectly to South Africa's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2009. The Sector creates about one million direct and indirect jobs. The sector accounts for approximately one third of the market capitalisation of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) and it is the major attractor for foreign investments.

The National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 promotes an economy that will create more jobs, improving infrastructure, transition to low carbon economy, an inclusive and integrated rural economy, reversing the spatial effects of apartheid, improving the quality of education, training and innovation, quality health for all, social, protection, building safer communities and reforming the public sector.

The NDP 2030 provides the context for all growth in South Africa. The NDP provides a broad strategic framework, setting out an overarching approach to confronting poverty and inequality through the promotion of development, based on the six focused and interlinked priorities. One of the key priorities is "faster and more inclusive economic growth". To transform the economy and create sustainable expansion for job creation, an average economic growth exceeding 5% per annum is required.

It is also acknowledged that environmental challenges are in conflict with some of these development initiatives. As such, it is emphasised that there is also a need to:

- Protect the natural environment.
- Enhance the resilience of people and the economy to climate change.
- Reduce carbon emissions in line with international commitments.
- Make significant strides toward becoming a zero-waste economy.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency.

Government has set development goals aimed at reducing poverty, unemployment, and inequality. The mining sector is a big contributor to the economy of South Africa as well as the region.

The infrastructure to be authorised will optimise the existing infrastructure; upscaling production and processing capacities and efficiency; reducing liabilities; safe working and operational practices; and optimising resource utilisation. The consolidation of the WUL and its addendum would result in positive significant administrative consequences and operational efficiency which would result in less costs for the mine. There would be streamlining of water management.

1-4.2 If not authorised

The continuation of currently operating activities at South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine ensures employment within the surrounding local communities with direct jobs at South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine. If the project is not authorised, the above factors would continue to impact on future mining, and the mine would eventually be closed. This means that all the current and anticipated benefits, both on a national and local scale, will not be experienced.

1-5 ANY CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY APPLICABLE TO THE RELEVANT WATER RESOURCE

South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine is a member of the Rietspruit Catchment Forum and participates in the various working sessions related to Resource Water Quality Objectives (RWQOs) setting and other related projects for the catchment. Any activities on the mine that may have an impact on the catchment, and requiring authorisation are presented at the relevant forums. The existing and proposed water uses are therefore aligned with any strategies developed for the catchment.

1-5.1 The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996

Chapter 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 outlines the Bill of Rights. The chapter addresses all constitutional rights of the citizens of South Africa and confirms the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom. Section 24 of the chapter addresses the rights of the environment. The following is stated in Section 24 of the Constitution: *“Everyone has the right – a. to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and b. To have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures to i. prevent pollution and ecological degradation; ii Promote conservation; and iii secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.”*

Based on the above statement, each person has the right to natural resources including water. The DWS is the primary custodian of the water resources in the country. This right has been legally provided for in the NWA. The main objective and role of NWA is to manage and protect South Africa's water resources in a sustainable and equitable manner. One of the key legislative management tools provided for in the Act is the water use authorisations.

1-5.2 The National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998)

The NWRS 2 (currently under review to establish the Draft NWRS Edition Three (NWRS-3), is a tool designed to assist in the implementation of the NWA to manage water resources in South Africa effectively (DWS, 2013). The third edition of the NWRS-3 aims to ensure water security and enable equitable access to water and sanitation in support of socio-economic growth and development. This Strategy is for all sectors and stakeholders who use and impact South Africa's water resources. Under review in the NWRS-3 are amendments to WMAs boundaries and reconfiguration and realignment of Catchment Management Agencies (CMAs).

1-6 THE LIKELY EFFECT OF THE WATER USES TO BE AUTHORISED ON THE WATER RESOURCE AND ON OTHER WATER USERS (QUANTITY AND QUALITY)

The authorisation of the water uses will benefit both the water resource in terms of quality and quantity in that only treated water required for the ecological and human Reserve will be returned to the water resource. Excess treated water will be used for process- and potable- water (on the mine, and in the longer term, distribution to the broader community via the Rand Water reservoir).

There are a number of benefits that will emanate from the water treatment scheme:

- Removal of salt from the mine service water circuit and from mine fissure water to minimise salt build-up in working areas and in discharge streams therefore sustaining river ecosystems and minimising human health impacts, should water releases be required;
- Removal of uranium from mine service and mine fissure water and in so doing reducing future pollution potential especially related to river ecosystems and human health impacts, should water releases be required;
- Production of salts (nitrate salts and lime) that can be sold as by-products and thereby extending socio-economic benefits to local communities;
- Supplying the mines current and future water needs;
- Controlling the mine service water circuit at < 750 mS/m; and
- Optimising the reuse of water within the mine water circuit by maximising water recovery.

1-7 THE CLASS AND THE RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES OF THE WATER RESOURCE

The South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine is a current operation with permissible water uses and all of the authorised process-related water uses are currently taking place.

1-8 INVESTMENTS ALREADY MADE AND TO BE MADE BY THE WATER USER IN RESPECT OF THE WATER USE IN QUESTION

South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine invests in the development of communities that are directly and indirectly affected by its operations. Projects supported by the mine contribute to sustainable socio-economic development in communities where the majority of its employees and their families live. In so doing the mine plans to also fulfil its Local Economic Development (LED) objectives, as contained in its Social and Labour Plan (SLP).

South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine undertakes community investment beyond its SLP commitments. Socio-economic development is undertaken directly by the mine and also through collaboration with the mine's community trusts – the South Deep Education Trust and the South Deep Community Trust. Gold Fields' social investment focuses on socio-economic development and shared value projects at community level. These projects create positive socio-economic impacts for host communities by targeting their priority needs including employment and skills and enterprise development. Shared value projects ensure that value created is shared by the business and the community. At South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine, these include host community procurement projects and an education and skills training programme.

The two community trusts act independently of South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine, to bring socio-economic development benefit to the mine's host and labour sending communities. Projects undertaken are in the areas of education and training, health and wellbeing and economic diversification.

The Enterprise and Supplier Development (ESD) Strategy and Implementation Plan highlighted the need to provide financial support and comprehensive value-added services to meet the ESD needs and requirements of the programme beneficiaries, and South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine's host communities in general.

South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine has, therefore, partnered with Edge Growth, which is an experienced Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Development Fund Manager to unlock the potential of host community enterprises. South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine has contributed over R60 million for the period 2021/22 towards the ESD Fund and will continue to make additional contributions on an annual basis.

The Fund is structured in such a way that there are two funds managed by Edge Growth and Profit Share Partners to accommodate both Supplier Development and Enterprise Development, respectively.

1-9 THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE WATER USE TO BE AUTHORISED

Throughout its operation, South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine has contributed enormously to the local, national and international economies. Millions of Rands have been invested in these operations and thousands of employment opportunities have been created. Water forms an integral part of the South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine 's operations and these operations cannot continue without water.

The water uses include treatment of polluted mine water. This will alleviate pollution loads to the local water resources. In addition, water treated to potable standards could be sold to the Water Board which in turn would alleviate a portion of the water being supplied from the Vaal catchment which could then be used in that catchment for supply to other areas of Gauteng.

1-10 THE QUALITY OF WATER IN THE WATER RESOURCE WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE RESERVE AND FOR MEETING INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

DWS is responsible for determining and considering the Reserve during the process of issuing a WUL. The water will be of acceptable quality and quantity to meet the Reserve requirements, which still needs to be prescribed by DWS.

1-11 THE PROBABLE DURATION OF ANY UNDERTAKING FOR WHICH A WATER USES IS TO BE AUTHORISED

Operations at South Deep JV: South Deep Gold Mine will continue for 71 years of current life of the mine (LoM) i.e. until 2096. Water uses will continue until the expiration of the issued WUL.

SECTION 2: REFERENCES

DWS, 2018. Licence No:08/C22J/GCEFIJA/8705.

DWS, 2021. An addendum to the issued WUL.

South Deep Gold Mine SLP, 2020 – 2024.

WSP Golder, 2022. Integrated Water and Waste Management Plan (IWWMP) For Gold Fields South Deep Gold Mine.