



DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION (DWS) - PRE-APPLICATION MEETING MINUTES
202330 SOUTH DEEP JV CONSOLIDATION OF WATER USE LICENSE (WULS) (WU31462)
Venue: Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting, convened on Friday, 09 May 2025 from 09:00 to 10:30 am

	Name	Organisation	Email address
Attendees present:	Mpho Manyabe (MM)	Manyabe Consultancy (MC)	mpho@manyabeconsultancy.com
	Romeo Mpofu (RM)	MC	romeo@manyabeconsultancy.com
	Fanny Mabasa (FM)	MC	fanny@manyabeconsultancy.com
	Thiara Ratshibvumo (TR)	South Deep JV	Thiara.Ratshibvumo@goldfields.com
	Letta Koki (LK)	South Deep JV	Lettah.Koki@goldfields.com
	Francois van der Walt (FVDW)	South Deep JV	Francois.vanderWalt@goldfields.com
	Fanie Botha (FB)	Water Hunters (WH)	Fanie@waterhunters.co.za
	Stephen Botha (SB)	WH	stephan.botha@noa8.co.za
	Sibongiseni Ndwandwe (SN)	Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)	NdwandweS@dws.gov.za
	Arinao Ramudzuli (AR)	DWS	RamudzuliA@dws.gov.za
	Vhutshilo Magwala (VM)	DWS	MagwalaV@dws.gov.za
Apologies:	Stephen Joseph (SJ)	South Deep JV	Stephen.Joseph@goldfields.com
Objectives of the meeting:	• Provide project background /feedback on the water uses identified and motivation for the proposed Water Use License Application (WULA) thereof. • Seek clarity in terms of the way forward – confirmation of the water uses. • Discuss the specialist studies undertaken.		
AGENDA ITEMS			ACTION
1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION			MM
MM welcomed all attendees to the meeting. All the attendees introduced themselves.			
2. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING			MM
The objectives of the meeting are as detailed above.			
3. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION			ALL
VM indicated that, although the site visit has already been conducted, it is important to note that the officials who will be assessing the application have not been to site, and therefore, he enquired as to whether provision can be made for an additional site visit to ensure that all the officials are aligned with the objectives of the application. He indicated that failure to conduct the site inspection may delay the assessment outcome. VM further emphasised that collecting certain information on-site would expedite the process subsequent to Phase 1 submission.			
MM indicated that such provision will be made, and that the DWS officials must indicate the date on which they would conduct the site visit.			
VM mentioned that regarding the drying beds, it is indicated that South Deep JV is unsure if the drying beds will be used. He enquired as to whether they are dormant or operational. He further indicated that if the drying beds are to be decommissioned, a decommissioning plan would need to be presented.			

LK responded by stating that, according to the original design of the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), the drying beds were included as part of the design. However, she is not certain what led to their removal. She further clarified that since the upgrade of the STP, the beds have not been used. LK emphasised that the purpose of the application is to make provision for the possible future use of the drying beds should the need arise.

MM also reiterated that there is a very minimal amount of sludge currently being generated which is being used to fertilize the old Tailings Storage Facilities (TSFs) as part of their rehabilitation. She added that the old TSFs are currently being remined, and the ultimate goal is to have the areas flattened. She further indicated that, eventually, there will not be a need for using the dried sludge as fertilizer. The reinstatement of the drying beds as a water use will ensure that there is available area for storage of the dried sludge.

VM enquired about the reservoirs' storage capacities, if they are more than 50 000 cubic metres combined. He asked whether the presented capacity refers to a single reservoir or all reservoirs combined.

MM responded by stating that the capacity refers to three reservoirs and one which stores water from the Rand Water Board. She mentioned that she has advised the mine to indicate all their storage reservoirs and provide a capacity that accurately reflects the current on-site conditions.

VM indicated that if each reservoir stores more than 50 000 cubic metres with a height of over five (5) metres, such dams will trigger the Dam Safety Regulations. He requested that a breakdown of all reservoirs' volumes be provided. He further enquired about the planned rehabilitation of the old Return Water Dam (RWD), whether engineering considerations have been considered or if the RWD will be restored back to its original state, by rehabilitating it without any provision of a liner.

MM responded by stating that a Prefeasibility Study was conducted in 2014 for the proposed wetland rehabilitation. The study provided various engineering solutions and strategies to be considered. For example, it recommended the use of floating islands and other infrastructure to enhance the wetland's functionality. The study also recommended further assessments, such as water balance studies, and called for more detailed designs of all infrastructure that will support the wetland's rehabilitation. Regarding the RWD, it was noted that it was not lined, so the goal is to rehabilitate the area to allow for the original watercourse flow path to be reinstated. She further added that, for the "new" RWD that is being upgraded, a liner is being installed.

TR concurred with MM, and added that there are options to consider, and such interventions will be incorporated into the engineering aspects planned for the area.

VM further enquired as to whether there have been any recorded impacts observed during monitoring as a result of the water stored in the RWD. He noted that such information is important as it relates to the need for the mine to provide with engineering solutions to mitigate environmental pollution. He sought clarification on how monitoring is conducted in that section and what findings, if any, have been observed.

TR responded by stating that there had been an inflow of water and sedimentation from the Sibanye Ezulwini Plant upstream, which has impacted the stream in that area. The impact has been observed and documented in a report. She further added that, as construction is currently underway, and waste material has been removed out of the dams, there was exceedance of some of the elements in the area. However, it is anticipated that once construction is completed, and the stream is reinstated, conditions will improve. TR also mentioned that, although the area has been disturbed during the construction process, some improvement has already been observed following the recent rainy season, which helped dilute the elevated elements.

MM enquired about the need for Section 21(g) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) NWA, for the existing Sewage Transfer Station (STS). She explained that the STS functions primarily as a holding facility, where sewage is stored temporarily, depending on the reporting schedule from the main STP. The STP reports to the STS when sewage can be transferred for treatment. Given the operational setup, she was uncertain whether it meets the criteria for Section 21(g) and requested guidance on whether an exemption might be granted.

VM responded by stating that, by virtue of it being a containment system/ facility, it will have to comply with Section 21(g) of the NWA.

MM indicated that the Doornpoort TSF was not lined as it was constructed prior to 2013. She noted that scavenger boreholes have been installed to abstract water; however, out of the eighteen (18) existing scavenger boreholes, only seven (7) are currently listed in the Water Use Licence (WUL). Therefore, the remaining eleven (11), along with the proposed new boreholes, will be included in the application.

VM indicated that he believes the reference to 2013 may not be entirely accurate. He noted that there were minimum requirements guidelines in place prior to 2013. He expressed interest in knowing the exact year the TSF was built, as there were already standards at the time, that provided guidance regarding lining requirements.

LK responded by stating that the approval for the Doornpoort TSF was granted around 2009–2010, and the earthworks began shortly thereafter, around 2010–2011.

MM confirmed that the designs for the TSF considered the Minimum Requirements for Waste Disposal by Landfill (1996).

VM requested that as-built drawings be made available to confirm compliance. He expressed satisfaction that the mine followed the guidelines.

AR enquired whether the treated water to be discharged into the stream will be released through a pipeline or outlets located within the regulated area, and if such are included as part of the Section 21(c) and (i) water uses to be applied for.

MM responded by stating that there are two options proposed for discharge of treated water. One would be to discharge with the use of a pipeline into the wetland that is planned to be rehabilitated, and another option is to have a pipeline that would run from the Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant to the existing discharge point. She added that the discharge points will be added in the application, also indicating that the STP is within 500 metres radius, and has also been included in the Section 21(c) and (i) water uses.

AR further enquired about the specialists' studies which have been conducted to date to support the application.

MM responded by stating that the Hydrological and Wetland Assessments have been undertaken which focused on the STP's reinstatement of Section 21(f) of the NWA, and the Doornpoort scavenger boreholes and its discharge point. The studies also focused on the construction of an RO plant which is now being disregarded due to the fact that the mine commissioned another RO plant at the South Shaft area for the treatment of water for discharge into the wetland area. In addition, there is a Pre-feasibility Report which specifically focused on the rehabilitation of the wetland. She indicated that the focus of those studies needs to be refined to address all the activities the mine intends to undertake, including existing operations. The reports should align with the application requirements and comprehensively consider all potential impacts on water resources.

AR requested that the following documents be made available:

- ✓ A clear Master Layout Plan, especially for Section 21(c) and (i) water uses, which clearly indicates all identified activities, including boreholes, pipelines, pump stations, RO plants and also all the STP infrastructures and associated discharge points.
- ✓ Storm Water Management Plan, which is specific to discharge pipelines, outlets, and energy dissipators that are related to the infrastructure proposed, which will ensure that there is minimal hydrological alteration of the watercourse and also prevention of degradation to the watercourse.
- ✓ Method Statements which will detail plans and excavation methods for construction near or within the watercourses.
- ✓ A Method Statement for temporary diversions, if applicable.
- ✓ A Rehabilitation Plan.
- ✓ Hydropedology Study Report.
- ✓ Updated Hydrological and Wetland Assessments Reports.

VM enquired about Section 21(j), if it is being applied for.

MM concurred and indicated that it is for abstraction of underground water to make the underground workings safe for people, and for the continuation of the underground mining.

VM stated that he would only be able to make available the technical requirements, subsequent to having conducted a site inspection.

MM asked about the way forward, noting that Phase 1 had already been opened. She explained that the current project description on Electronic Water Use Licence Application and Authorisation System (EWULAAS) was based on the original scope, which has since changed significantly due to the consolidation of all water uses. She enquired whether MC should proceed with submitting the administrative documents and anticipate a request for a site visit thereafter.

SN responded by stating that MM can proceed with submitting the administrative documents with the project description as is.

4. WAY FORWARD/ ACTION ITEMS

- MC to submit Phase 1 administrative documents on EWULAAS.
- The Draft WULA Technical Report will be made available for review and comment for a period of 60 calendar days (excluding public holidays).
- Subsequent to the 60-days review period, Phase 3 documentation will be submitted.

5. CLOSURE

MM

- Meeting was adjourned at 10:30.



Ms. Mpho Manyabe

Managing Director: Manyabe Consultancy (Pty) Ltd



Mr Fanny Mabasa (Compiler)

Environmental Consultant: Manyabe Consultancy (Pty) Ltd

 MANYABE CONSULTANCY	DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION - PRE-APPLICATION MEETING MINUTES SOUTH DEEP JV WATER USE LICENSE APPLICATION (WULA) (WU31462) Venue: Microsoft (MS) Teams Virtual Meeting convened on <u>Friday, 18 August 2023 @10:00</u>		
	Name	Organisation	Email address
Attendees present:	Mpho Manyabe (MM) Bonginkosi Hlongwane (BH) Letta Koki (LK) Temaswati Dlamini (TD) Thabang Legari (TL) Simon Masingi (SM) Portia Nkosimane Chiwane (PNC) Sibongiseni Ndwandwe (SN)	Manyabe Consultancy (MC) MC South Deep JV South Deep JV South Deep JV South Deep JV Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) DWS	mpho@manyabeconsultancy.com bonginkosi@manyabeconsultancy.com Lettah.Koki@goldfields.com Temaswati.Dlamini@goldfields.com Thabang.Legari@goldfields.com Simon.Masingi@goldfields.com ChawaneP@dws.gov.za NdwandweS@dws.gov.za
Apologies:	Kuse Lumka (KL) Sidogi Mulalo (SMu) Fanny Mabasa (FM) Mpho Mutobvu (MMu)	DWS DWS MC South Deep JV	Kusel@dws.gov.za SidogiM@dws.gov.za fanny@manyabeconsultancy.com Mpho.Mutobvu@goldfields.com
Objectives of the meeting:	• Provide project background of the water uses and motivation of the proposed WULA thereof. • Seek clarity in terms of the way forward confirmation of the WULA. • Need for PPP.		
AGENDA ITEMS			ACTION
1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION			MM
MM welcomed all attendees to the meeting. All the attendees introduced themselves.			
2. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING			MM
The objectives of the meeting are as detailed above.			
3. DISCUSSION			ALL
MM presented the project. SN enquired about what is meant by “scavenger” boreholes. MM responded as follows: Scavenger boreholes are mainly established for the purposes of controlling the pollution plume around the Tailings Storage Facilities (TSFs) and Return Water Dam (RWD), by removing and containing contamination from the TSFs. Contaminated water is abstracted from the aquifers to be discharged into the RWD. PNC enquired about the following: • Location of the scavenger boreholes and how many they are. • Monitoring boreholes. MM responded by stating that scavenger boreholes are strategically located adjacent to the TSF and RWD. She depicted their locality on the map. She indicated that South Deep JV is conducting regular water quality monitoring and the reports are being submitted to the DWS at the determined frequency.			

LK added that there are currently eighteen (18) scavenger boreholes which are being monitored.

PNC asked for clarity on the water being pumped from the scavenger boreholes to the treated at the Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant.

LK indicated that the mine retains water from the RWD. Prior to the water which would have been abstracted from the scavenger boreholes into the RWD, the water will be treated at the proposed RO Plant prior to being discharged into the stream.

PNC enquired about the incident which occurred at the RWD during the previous rainfall event which resulted in water overflowing from the RWD. She asked if there was enough capacity to retain water.

LK responded by stating the RWD capacity is at approximately 1 000 000m³. However, during heavy rainfall event, the RWD's capacity was exceeded, and hence water from the RWD was discharged into the stream.

With respect to the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), SN enquired if Section 21 (f) was applied for, for the discharge of treated water into the Leeuspruit.

MM responded by stating that, in 2018, South Deep JV applied for Section 21 (e), for use of treated water for irrigation, and therefore, the water use is still applicable. She added that, the only water use, which was authorised in the 2011 Water Use License (WUL) and was removed from the original WUL is the Section 21 (f), which is being applied for, for reinstatement.

LK added that South Deep Mine JV would like to retain both Section 21 (e) and (f).

SN enquired as to whether the only discharge would be from the treated water.

LK indicated that the mine is only discharging underground water into the watercourse, to ensure the mine's safety. With respect to the STP, the WULA is being lodged in order to discharge treated sewage water from the STP into the Leeuspruit. On the other hand, with respect to the scavenger boreholes, treated water will be discharged into the Loopspruit.

PNC asked if the WULA that is being lodged is for Section 21 (f) for discharge of treated water from the STP, and for discharge of abstracted water from the scavenger boreholes, into the RWD, treated at the RO Plant, and discharged into the Loopspruit.

LK concurred.

MM provided with the progress on the WULA as follows:

- A clarification meeting was convened with Mr. Khathutshelo Mudau of DWS, on 05 July 2023.
- A pre-application enquiry was submitted to the DWS on 17 July 2023.
- A request for a pre-application meeting was received by MC on 11 August 2023.
- A site visit is scheduled for 31 August 2023.

MM mentioned that the number of officials that will be visiting the mine needs to be confirmed.

PNC stated that the number will still need to be confirmed, as availability by the DWS specialists would still need to be confirmed. She enquired about the name of the STP. She asked where the wastewater will be discharging into, and if the wastewater pipe is not crossing any watercourse and if it is within a regulated area.

LK responded by stating that, it is referred to as South Deep STP. She added that the wastewater pipe does not cross any watercourses.

PNC asked about how water from the scavenger boreholes subsequent to being treated at the RO Plant will be discharged into the watercourse. If a pipe will be constructed to not cross any watercourses.

LK stated that the proposed pipeline will not cross any watercourses, which will be confirmed on 31 August 2023, during the planned site visit.

PNC requested for a wetland delineation study to be undertaken in order for the DWS to determine if Section (c) and (i) water uses would not be triggered by the proposed activities i.e. activities at the STP, proposed pipelines, discharge points etc.

MM indicated that there is a wetland report that was compiled in 2015.

PNC indicated that the DWS specialists will be requested to confirm if the report is still valid or if it would need to be updated.

MM sought clarity with regards to the need for Public Participation Process (PPP).

PNC indicated that, PPP will be required given that the discharge from the scavenger boreholes into the watercourse is a new water use.

MM enquired about Phase 1, when it could be opened, given that undertaking a site visit constitutes a Phase 2 activity.

PNC indicated that Phase 1 can be opened on 18 August 2023.

MM mentioned that MC would submit Phase 1 documents prior to the site visit planned on 31 August 2023.

SN requested for MM to send the slides presentation and the issued WUL with its amendments.

PNC requested that that the pipeline design for the discharge be made available.

4. CLOSURE

LK and MM

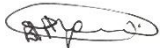
LK thanked the DWS for the opportunity provided to present the project.

MM closed the meeting at 11:00.



Ms. Mpho Manyabe

Managing Director: Manyabe Consultancy (Pty) Ltd



Mr Bonginkosi Hlongwane (Compiler)

Environmental Manager: Manyabe Consultancy (Pty) Ltd



202330 SOUTH DEEP JV CONSOLIDATION OF WATER USE LICENCES (WULS) SITE MEETING

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION (DWS) (WU31462) - PHASE 2 SITE VISIT

Meeting convened on 10 February 2026 at Doornpoort offices @ 11:00 am – 13:00 pm

	Name	Organisation	Email address
Attendees Present:	Mpho Manyabe (MM) Thihanedzwi Ratshibvumo (TR) Mulalo Sidogi (MS) Sibongiseni Ndwandwe (SN) Vhutshilo Magwala (VM) Hanro Pearson (HP) Pierie Fourie (PF) Dr. Fannie Botha (FB) Stephen Joseph (SJ)	Manyabe Consultancy (Pty) Ltd (MC) South Deep Joint Venture (South Deep JV) Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) DWS DWS Environmental Assurance (Pty) Ltd (Envass) Envass Water Hunters CC (WH) WH	mpho@manyabeconsultancy.com thiara.ratshibvumo@goldfields.com SidogiM@dws.gov.za NdwandweS@dws.gov.za MagwalaV@dws.gov.za hanro@envass.co.za pierie@envass.co.za fanie@waterhuters.co.za stephan@waterhunters.co.za
Apologies:	Section 21 c and i & Geo-Specialists DWS officials.		
Objectives of the Meeting:	To afford DWS officials an opportunity to ground truth activities/ areas being applied for, following the Water Uses Audit Findings presentation made on 09 May 2025		
AGENDA ITEMS			ACTION
1. WELCOME			TR and MM
TR welcomed all attendees to the meeting. MM outlined the objectives of the meeting.			
2. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING			MM
The meeting's objectives are as detailed above.			
3. DISCUSSION			ALL
MM presented the project, mentioning that the present application seeks to consolidate all authorisations into a single WUL, reinstate Section 21 water uses which were since removed, regularise unauthorised existing water uses by including newly proposed infrastructure, where applicable. She further mentioned that the original appointment of the Environmnetal Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by South Deep JV was for Doornpoort scavenger boreholes mainly established to control the pollution plume around the Doornpoort Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) and the associated Return Water Dam (RWD); and the reinstatement of Section 21 (f) for the discharge of treated wastewater from the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). VM enquired about the Section 21 (f), as to when it was removed from the 2018 WUL, as it appears to still have been authorised. MM responded by stating that the Section 21 (f) in the 2018 WUL which supersedes the 2011 WUL is for the discharge of excess underground water at the same discharge point of that which was authorised for the discharge of treated waste water from the STP. She further explained that in 2018, the mine identified the need to use water from the STP for irrigation; and for that reason, a request was made for the DWS to remove the authorised discharge of the treated sewage from the WUL. Then it happened that in 2022, the mine received surplus water due to rainfall, which compelled the mine to revisit the mine's water balance, as the mine is water positive during heavy rainfalls. Water from the STP was discharged into the stream. For that reason, there is a need for the reinstatement of Section 21 (f) for the discharge of treated wastewater from the STP. The discharge point into the stream will remain as it was previously. VM enquired about the 2018 WUL validity period. MM indicated the original 2011 WUL was valid for 29 years; and the 2018 amended WUL is valid for the remaining 22 years, from its issuance. VM indicated that the standard licence validity is typically 20 years, with 5 years for review; and he undertook to verify internally.			

MM reiterated on the RO Plant that was originally planned to be constructed at the Doornpoort TSF, that it will no longer be established as the mine decided not to add the discharge of treated water from the scavenger boreholes into the stream as a water use. The mine has constructed RO2 for the treatment of water at the South Shaft.

MS asked if the plan was to establish a discharge point at the Doornpoort TSF from the then proposed RO plant, to which MM concurred with, and indicated that the plan was to formalise the existing discharge point. TR added that the plan by the mine is to reroute the network to the existing RO plant.

VM stated that, with respect to the design, it would have been a flaw if it was going to be a continuous discharge directly from the Doornpoort RWDs. He further indicated that, the location of the discharge point appears to be an overflow from the RWDs, and that would not have been a standard practice. FB concurred with VM, indicating that the current ROs are upstream, and the watercourses have a great chance to intercept the discharge. He added that, when designing dams, there must be discharge points during emergency situations. VM further indicated that it would not be a discharge point under the ambit of 21 (f), but for emergency purposes, which would be within the confines of GN704. MM clarified that it is an existing discharge point for emergency situations, as there is a spillway, which would convey water to the discharge point. The discharge point was going to be formalised to also cater for the discharges from the RO Plant.

FB gave the brief description of the mine's reticulation as follows:

- The new RWD was commissioned in 2025.
- The Doornpoort RWDs pump back to the new RWD. The establishment of the new RWD makes it unnecessary to have the RO plant at the Doornpoort RWD area. When there is surplus water in the Doornpoort RWDs, water is pumped into the existing RO plant for treatment at South Shaft.

The then identified discharge point of treated water from the then proposed RO plant would not have fallen under the ambit of Section 21 (f), but instead, it would have been a direct pollution. MM provided with clarity by stating that the water from the STP would have first been treated at the RO plant which was planned to be constructed.

With regards to progress, MM indicated that Phase 1 on Electronic Water Use Licence Application and Authorisation System (E-WULAAS) had been completed, and that Phase 3 submission will be made subsequent to having subjected the Integrated Water and Waste Management Plan (IWWMP) on public review for 60 days. She further added that specialist reports are currently under review, and their findings will be incorporated into the IWWMP.

With respect to the recommendations which were previously made by the DWS, VM mentioned that he would add on to the list subsequent to the site visit. He added that he will consolidate all recommendations thereafter, both from Engineers and Section (c) and (i) specialists. The site inspection will assist in verifying infrastructure and compliance alignment prior to final submission.

MS enquired about the new water uses that are being applied for, which MM presented as follows:

Section 21 (a): Taking water from a water resource.
Section 21 (b): Storing water.
Section 21 (c): Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse.
Section 21 (e): Engaging in a controlled activity identified as such in section 37(1) or declared under section 28(1) of the NWA.
Section 21 (f): Discharging waste or water containing waste into a water resource.
Section 21 (g): Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource.
Section 21 (i): Altering the bed, banks, courses or characteristics of a watercourse.
Section 21 (j): Removing, discharging or disposing of water found underground if it is necessary of the efficient continuation of an activity or for the safety of the people.

On Section 21 (a) water uses, the following was discussed:

- MM mentioned that there are new boreholes that will be added to the ones that have already been approved.
- SN recommended that all existing and unauthorised water uses must clearly be categorised in the water use table e.g. existing authorised, existing unauthorised and newly proposed water uses. He undertook to send the water use table which will be included in the consolidated WUL. He added that the naming of boreholes must be shortened to allow the system to capture the

correct codes/ names of boreholes. MM indicated that an exercise was done to consistently name boreholes, explaining further what acronyms/ prefixes stand for as the emphasis by SN was on consistency in naming infrastructure across forms, technical reports, and appendices.

- SJ mentioned that an exercise was undertaken with the South Deep JV team, to make it easy for the entire team to identify the purpose of each borehole, on the map, in the field, and also for licensing purposes. The boreholes have been identified i.e. those which have been authorised, and the ones which still need to be authorised.
- SN added that, should there be changes to the naming of the authorised boreholes, the previous name/ code must be indicated.

On Section 21 (c) and (i) water uses, the following was discussed:

MM indicated that the solar plant holds an Environmental Authorisation (EA); however, no General Authorisation (GA) under the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA) was obtained. SN confirmed that such infrastructure must be incorporated into the consolidated WUL rather than authorised separately.

On Section 21 (e) water uses, the following was discussed:

- VM enquired about the irrigation on TSF 1 and 2 as they are currently being remined/ reclaimed, as the water use might no longer be applicable, and it might be necessary to instead apply for dust suppression, which is a Section 21 (g) water use, as supported by SN. MM was requested to clarify on whether the mine is authorised for dust suppression along the access roads, and other areas requiring dust suppression. SN advised that, when MM compiles the WULA Summary Report, the transitioning from Section 21 (e) to Section 21 (g) must be clearly motivated, which will however be deliberated on internally by the DWS officials. The volume of water used for dust suppression must be indicated. TR also mentioned the Doornpoort TSF as one of the areas being irrigated as the disposal of tailings progresses. The equipment installed allows for dual functioning i.e. dust suppression of the access roads and irrigation of the vegetation. VM and SN mentioned that the water use at the Doornpoort TSF would remain as irrigation.
- VM further requested that MM provides with the reclamation methodology being applied at TSF 1 and TSF 2, with all associated process infrastructure. The method must also take into consideration, power cuts etc. which must form part of the Emergency Plan.

On Section 21 (f) water uses, the following was discussed:

For the proposed discharge associated with the RO plant, two options have been provided. VM advised that the preferred discharge option must be finalised prior to submission.

On Section 21 (g) water uses, the following was discussed:

- TR explained that the new RWD which is being upgraded has been lined. Only the southern compartment will be rehabilitated.
- VM requested confirmation of dam safety classification; clean and dirty water separation; engineering specifications; and updated as-built drawings. Verification to occur during site inspection.
- MM mentioned that the new RWD is a containment system with no dam walls.
- MM indicated that the drying beds at the mine's STP were authorised in 2011, but the 2018 WUL has omitted such water use. VM enquired as to whether the drying beds were decommissioned. MM indicated that it could have been an error on the WUL, and therefore, the water use will be reinstated. She also added that there have been upgrades to the STP, and the beds have not been used. MM also reiterated that there is a very minimal amount of sludge currently being generated which is being used to fertilise the old TSFs (TSF 3 and TSF 4) as part of their rehabilitation. She added that the old TSFs (TSF 1 and TSF 2) are currently being remined, and the ultimate goal is to have the areas flattened. She further indicated that, eventually, there will not be a need for using the dried sludge as fertilizer. The reinstatement of the drying beds as a water use will ensure that there is available area for storage of the dried sludge when the need arises.
- VM asked if the condenser-, refrigeration-, fissure water- and mine water- dams are part of the mine processes or if they contain water for a specific period of time. TR responded by stating that the dams are part of the continuous mine processes. VM stated that such will further be deliberated on, as DWS would need to understand the mine processes in relation to the dams. SN indicated that there needs to be an understanding of how much time water is contained, and if it is dirty or clean water that is being contained. TR further indicated that there is no specific guaranteed period for containment.

- VM further requested submission of a detailed water balance; and process flow diagram, for the purpose of determining which facilities constitute containment facilities under Section 21(g) versus infrastructure forming part of a continuous process. It was noted that containment of waste triggers Section 21(g), whereas continuous recirculation may not. MM then asked if all the dams do not require authorisation as the process is a continuous closed system.
- With respect to the cascade ponds versus cascade dams, the mine needs to make a decision on the naming of infrastructure, consistently. It was concluded that the cascade ponds will be changed to cascade dams for consistency. i.e. Cascade dams TSF 1 and 2; and cascade dams TSF 3 and 4.
- SN indicated that the Phase 1 submission will be returned for correction on 10 February 2026.
- It was concluded that the detailed water balance; and process flow diagram will first be shared with the DWS, in order to advise on the water uses to be applied for, and those which do not need to be applied for, prior to the IWWMP being put out on public review.
- Thickeners at the Metallurgical Plant might not need to be authorised.
- The Waste Rock Dump (WRD) is currently inactive but remains in place. VM enquired as to whether it still needs authorisation as it appears to have been decommissioned. TR explained that there is a long term plan to rehabilitate it, and it has been included in the mine's closure liability reports. VM enquired about the stormwater management of the WRD, where the stormwater/contaminated water drains towards. Action must be taken immediately for the establishment of a cut off trench to direct water to one of the PCDs. DWS requested that the following be submitted for the WRD:
 - ✓ A definitive Rehabilitation Plan with clear implementation timelines (near future). No alternative or optional scenarios are to be provided — a firm proposal must be submitted. Failure to define timelines may delay regulatory processing.
 - ✓ Inclusion of rehabilitation commitments within the IWUL documentation.
- VM mentioned that Doornpoort TSF must also be consolidated into the application.

4. WAY FORWARD/ ACTION ITEMS

ALL

Action	Responsible Party	Timeline
A list of recommendations to be sent to MC.	DWS	Subsequent to the site visit.
The transitioning from Section 21 (e) to Section 21 (g) on the TSF 1 and TSF 2 must be clearly motivated	MC/ South Deep	With WULA technical documentation submission.
Identification of all other dust suppression activities within the mine. The volume of water used for dust suppression must be indicated	MC/ South Deep	With WULA Phase 1 resubmission.
Reclamation methodology being applied at TSF 1 and TSF 2, with all associated process infrastructure. The method must also take into consideration, power cuts etc. which must form part of the Emergency Plan	MC/ South Deep	With WULA technical documentation submission.
The preferred discharge option must be finalised prior to submission for the proposed discharge associated with the RO plant	MC/ South Deep	With WULA Phase 1 resubmission.
Phase 1 submission will be returned for correction	DWS	10 February 2026.
Water Use Table	DWS	Subsequent to the site visit.
Confirm Section 21(f) historical removal	DWS	Subsequent to the site visit.
Submit water balance and process flow diagram	MC/ South Deep	Subsequent to the site visit.
Provide Rehabilitation Plan with timelines for the WRD	MC/ South Deep	With WULA technical documentation submission.
Verify dam safety classification	DWS	During site inspection.
Ensure naming consistency across documentation	MC/ South Deep	With WULA Phase 1 resubmission.

5. CLOSURE

ALL

Meeting was adjourned at 13:00 PM.



Mrs. Rudzani Mabaso (Compiled)

Office Administrator: Manyabe Consultancy (Pty) Ltd



Ms. Mpho Manyabe (Approved)

Project Manager: Manyabe Consultancy (Pty) Ltd

ATTENDANCE REGISTER – SITE VISIT
202330 SOUTH DEEP JV WULA
10 FEBRUARY 2026



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ATTENDANCE REGISTER – SITE VISIT
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10 FEBRUARY 2026



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		Fax		
		Cell		
		E-mail		
		Tel	Address	
		Fax		
		Cell		
		E-mail		

From: Ewulaas_Do_Not_Reply@dws.gov.za
To: mpho@manyabeconsultancy.com
Subject: Water Use Application has been submitted to the department (WU31462)
Date: Thursday, 06 November 2025 16:14:31
Attachments: [Untitled attachment 00383.dat](#)

Dear Ms Mpho Manyabe (Managing Director),

The following application has been submitted to the department :

SOUTH DEEP JV WATER USE LICENSE (WUL) APPLICATION (WU31462)

The Application was submitted to :

Name : Ms Z. Songwevu (Regional Administrator)
e-Mail : SongwevuZ@dws.gov.za
Tel : +27123921499

[Click Here to access the Application](#)

Kind Regards,

e-WULAAS on Behalf of **Department of Water and Sanitation**

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