



Ref No: FS 30/5/1/3/2/10232MP

Applicant:
Twin Youth Initiative Trading CC
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Reitz
9810
Cell: 079 540 5340

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

6 June 2018

To whom it may concern

RE: NOTICE OF APPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF SECTION 27 OF THE MINERALS AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2002 (ACT NO 28 OF 2002) AND THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998 NEMA) AS WELL AS THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED APRIL 2017)

Twin Youth Initiative Trading CC (the "Applicant") applied for a sand mining permit from 4.9 ha of the Remaining Extent of the farm Jammerbergsdrift 540, Magisterial District Wepener, Free State Province.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The proposed mining area on a portion of the Remaining Extent of the farm Jammerbergsdrift 540 is situated approximately 7 km north-west of Wepener town, directly adjacent to the bridge (on the R26 primary road) crossing over the Caledon River. The area earmarked for the proposed mining extends over a section of the river intensively mined for sand over the years. The GPS coordinates of the proposed mining area is as follows:

- A 29°43'24,46"S; 26°57'50.66"E
- B 29°43'20.91"S; 26°57'59.49"E
- C 29°43'18.71"S; 26°58'05.46"E
- D 29°43'18.02"S; 26°58'09.61"E
- E 29°43'17.42"S; 26°58'14.29"E
- F 29°43'17.21"S; 26°58'17.90"E
- G 29°43'19.16"S; 26°58'18.03"E
- H 29°43'19.75"S; 26°58'12.88"E
- I 29°43'20.23"S; 26°58'08.11"E
- J 29°43'20.94"S; 26°58'06.20"E
- K 29°43'23.91"S; 26°57'57.65"E
- L 29°43'26.38"S; 26°57'51.76"E

the goal isn't to live forever, it is to protect a planet that will

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LEGAL COMPLIANCE

The Applicant submitted an application for a mining permit in terms of Section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No 28 of 2002) to the Department of Mineral Resources on 2 October 2017 and the project was assigned FS 30/5/1/3/2/10232 MP as reference number.

The proposed project triggers the following listed activities in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended 2017) and therefore requires a basic assessment process to obtain environmental authorisation:

- GNR 327 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2017 Activity 19:
The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic meters into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic meters from a watercourse.
- GNR 327 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2017 Activity 21:
Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a mining permit in terms of section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No 28 of 2002), including a) associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks, directly related to the extraction of a mineral resource; or b) the primary processing of a mineral resources including winning, extraction, classifying, concentrating, crushing, screening or washing.
- GNR 327 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2017 Activity 22:
The decommissioning of any activity requiring i) a closure certificate in terms of section 43 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No 28 of 2002); or ii) a prospecting right, mining right, mining permit, production right or exploration right, where the throughput of the activity has reduced by 90% or more over a period of 5 years excluding where the competent authority has in writing agreed that such reduction in throughput does not constitute closure.
- GNR 327 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2017 Activity 26:
Residential, retail, recreational, tourism, commercial or institutional developments of 1 000 square meters or more, on land previously used for mining or heavy industrial purposes.

The proposed mining area is situated within the Caledon River and requires Water Use Authorisation in terms of Section 39 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) for at least the water uses as defined in section 21 (a), (c) and (i).

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project will entail the winning of sand from a section of the Caledon River that has been intensively mined for sand over the years. The applicant will either recover the sand by means of earthmoving machinery that will load it onto trucks that will haul it to the stockpile area (within the 4.9 ha mining area) from where it will be sold and transported to the clients; or alternatively pump the sand by means of a sand pump into two settling ponds (within the 4.9 ha mining area) from where the water will gravitate back into the river and the sand will be loaded onto trucks to be transported to clients. All mining related activities will be contained within the approved mining permit boundaries, and from previous experience it is known that the river will annually replenish the sand resource during periods of high flow (approximately October – March). No mining will take place during these high flow periods, and all machinery and equipment will be removed from the riverbed as the applicant will make use of temporary infrastructure during the operational phase. The sand to be removed from the mining area will be sold to the building and construction industry. The Applicant intends to win sand from the area for at least three years with a possibility of a two-year extension. Workers will daily be transported to and from the site.

THE MINING ACTIVITIES WILL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Wining of sand through mechanical means;
- Stockpiling and transporting of material from site;
- Sloping and landscaping upon closure of the site.

THE MINING SITE WILL CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING:

- Sand Pump/s;
- Two settling ponds;
- Excavation Equipment;
- Earth Moving Equipment;
- Trucks and Trailers.

ACCESS ROUTE:

- The existing farm road will be used to gain access to the proposed mining area and no new roads have to be constructed.
- Haul roads, inside the approved mining area, will be extended as mining progress.
- The haul roads to be established to the site will be below the threshold of the EIA regulations of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No 107 of 1998) as amended June 2017.

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BRIEF SITE DESCRIPTION

VISUAL EXPOSURE:

- The proposed mining activity will be visible from the R26 for the duration of the operational phase.
- In an attempt to mitigate the visual impact, the applicant will ensure that good housekeeping is implemented on-site.
- Upon closure, the site will be rehabilitated, all machinery and equipment will be removed from the area, and the disturbed surface will be reinstated to return the footprint to its prior status and allow the natural flow of the river.
- The visual impacts caused as a result of the activity will be erased when the Caledon River flows and no residual effect, on the aesthetics of the area, is expected.

EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE:

- As the proposed mining area is situated within the Caledon riverbed no existing infrastructure will be affected by the mining activity.
- As mentioned previously the R26 passes the site to the west with the Jim Fouche bridge being ±140 m from the nearest mining boundary. The applicant will make use of the existing farm road to transport the material from site.

VEGETATION COVER:

- The footprint of the mining area falls within the Caledon River and will therefore require minimal to no vegetation removal.
- At the time of the inspection no red data or protected plants could be identified in the proposed footprint area of the mine.

SURFACE AND GROUND WATER:

- The riverbed of the Caledon River will be affected for the duration of the operational phase.
- The area has been previously utilised for sand mining purposes and as mentioned previously the river replenishes the sand resource during high flow periods.
- Housekeeping at the mining area will be of the utmost importance to minimise the impact on the receiving environment and downstream users, and will be audited monthly.

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SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL INTEREST

- No sites of archaeological or cultural importance were identified during the site inspection as the site falls within the Caledon riverbed and has been extensively used for sand mining purposes.

FAUNA (AQUA & TERRESTRIAL)

- Mining will only be done during low flow periods and no impact is expected on the terrestrial fauna that may be present within the immediate vicinity.
- The aquatic fauna will be contained to the parts of the river where flow continues, and the applicant will take care not to disturb these areas during the operational phase so as to allow the fauna an opportunity to move away or through the site, without being harmed.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

ABLUTION, WASTE WATER & WASTE DISPOSAL:

- Ablution facilities will consist of a chemical toilet hired from a contractor and serviced at least weekly. The toilet will be placed at a safe distance (>100 m) from the Caledon riverbank to minimize the potential impact on the watercourse.
- No effluents containing oil, grease or other industrial substances will be stored at the mining area and no servicing of vehicles or equipment will be allowed at the site.
- Spills will be cleaned up immediately to the satisfaction of the Regional Manager by removing the spillage together with the polluted soil and by disposing of it at a recognised facility.
- All general waste (non-biodegradable & biodegradable) will be stored in a container to be kept in a site vehicle that will dispose of the waste at a recognised landfill site.
- No waste will be burned or buried on site.

EROSION AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT:

- Site management will weekly monitor the mining area for signs of erosion and reinstate any areas of concern within a week from the day of identification.
- Added attention will be bestowed upon the entrance from the river bank into and out of the mining area.
- Storm water management infrastructure will be added to the mining area when deemed necessary to protect the mining equipment during high rainfall spells. As mentioned previously all machinery and equipment will be removed from the mining area during the rainy months and associated high flow periods of the river.
- At no given time will the river be blocked or diverted as a result of the mining activities.

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FINAL REHABILITATION

The closure objectives for the proposed mining area will include the following:

- No buildings or other infrastructure will have to be removed other than access routes and the footprint of the stockpile area. Upon closure of the site all machinery and equipment will be removed from the mining area.
- All the routes into the mining area will be repaired or rehabilitated if no longer needed by the landowner.
- Material will be selectively removed to minimize product not suitable for sale. Larger grained material, organic particles and clay that are separated from the saleable product will be used to rehabilitate the mined area upon closure of the site.
- All stockpiles and the settling ponds will be removed during the decommissioning phase and the area will be levelled.
- Photographs of the mining area, before and during the mining operation and after rehabilitation, shall be taken at selected fixed points and kept on record for the information of the Regional Manager.
- Waste material of any description, including receptacles, scrap, rubble and tyres, will be removed entirely from the mining area and disposed of at a recognized landfill facility. It will not be permitted to be buried or burned on the site.
- Weed / Alien clearing will be done in a sporadic manner during the life of the mining activities.
- Final rehabilitation shall be completed within a period specified by the Regional Manager.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

This document is to inform you about the proposed activity and to determine whether there are any concerns or objections from interested and affected parties (I&AP's) that need to be considered.

As interested and affected party you are kindly requested to complete the comments form and give any comment/concern or input with regard to the current land use of the area, the environment as well as socio-economic conditions that you feel might be affected by the proposed activity. When submitting response please provide suggestions to mitigate the anticipated impact of each identified activity.

Please contact Christine Fouche at the contact details as presented in the letterhead or at christine.f@greenmined.co.za through any means should you need more information, have concerns or comments that need to be considered or if you want to be registered as an interested and/or affected party and would like to receive a copy of the draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) on or before 9 July 2018. If we do not receive any comments from you within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be accepted that you do not have any objections/comments with regard to the project.

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Should you be interested, you are also invited to a public meeting where the proposed project will be discussed.

The meeting details are as follows:

- **Date:** 22 June 2018
- **Time:** 13:00
- **Venue:** On the farm Jammerbergsdrift, Wepener.
- **Directions to Venue:** When travelling from Bloemfontein, at the intersection of the R702 and R26, turn right and continue along the road up to the first turn-off to your left. Turn left onto the farm and continue with the road up to the warehouse standing adjacent to the Caledon River.
- **GPS Coordinates:** -29.723015°S 26.960088°E / 29°43'22.85"S 26°57'36.24"E

A register of interested and affected parties (I&AP's) will be opened and maintained containing the names, contact details and address of all persons who have submitted written comments, attended meetings or have in writing requested to be registered and all organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the activity. Please note that only registered I&AP's and stakeholders will be entitled to comment on reports and plans to be submitted to the Department provided that the party provide its name, contact details and address and discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which he/she may have in the approval or refusal of the applications.

The DBAR will be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources – FS (DMR) for review purposes. This report will also be made available to registered I&AP's and stakeholders for a 30-days review period. An electronic copy of the report can be requested from Greenmined Environmental. Upon laps of the commenting period the DBAR will be updated to reflect the comments received during the public commenting period upon which the final Basic Assessment Report & Environmental Management Programme will be submitted to DMR for its consideration as part of the authorization process in terms of the NEMA regulation. A copy of the final BAR will be made available upon request. All registered I&AP's and stakeholders will be notified in writing within 14 days of the date of the decision of the outcome of the application, including the reasons for the decision and the right of appeal.

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CONTACT DETAILS

Name/Name	
Organisation/Instansie	
Interest/Belange	
Postal Address/Pos Adres	
Tel	
Fax/Faks	
E-mail/E-pos	

COMMENTS/ OPMERKINGS

No Objection:	
Request additional information:	
Concerns:	

Signature: _____

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Are there any other organisations or individuals that you feel should be invited to comment? If so, please provide their contact details:

Contact name:
Organisation (if applicable):
Address:
Tel:
Fax
E-mail

Your feedback is valued and will be addressed appropriately.

Kind Regards



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Christine Fouche
Greenmined Environmental