

STILBAAI SAND EN KLIP (PTY) LTD

MINE CLOSURE/REHABILITATION PLAN

for

SAND AND GRAVEL MINING PERMIT

on

FARM DOORNFONTEIN RE/4/814, MALMESBURY

WESTERN CAPE

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1. INTRODUCTION

There is growing demand throughout the world to confront the issue of mine closure and to create successful mine closure systems as already, according to IIED (2002), the *pollution legacy* makes the sustainability of mining activities difficult to achieve. Ideally, appropriate planning for closure of mining operations should be performed during the feasibility, design and permitting phases of a mine, and be improved during the operational life of the mine (Mudder & Harvey, 1999). This

approach has become the standard and is a required practice today. According to Robertson & Shaw (2005), there has been a global trend since the 80's towards '*Designing for Closure*', with environmental protection and closure measures being designed into existing mine operations, and being mandatory for opening new mines.

The lack of a complete or revised mine closure plan can result in severe environmental and economic consequences. Inadequate closure activities, water management, and waste rock disposal plans have prompted unexpected and, in some instances, unwarranted secondary Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) (Mudder & Harvey, 1999). Therefore through prior and progressive planning and implementation of measures, the costs and impacts on the environment can be minimized.

Legislation governing mining within South Africa has been in existence for many years and periodically undergoes review and amendment. The last major change was the enactment of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (No. 28 of 2002) ("MPRDA"). This law has national scope for the operation, prospecting and the governance of all minerals rights and has furthermore set the requirement of a closure plan to form part of a mine's EMPR (Section 43 (3)(d)).

Enviro-EAP has been appointed to draft the closure plan. The MPRDA, Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Regulations 56 to 62, outline the entire process of this mine closure. To ensure that the mine right/permit holder has complied with all of these requirements and prepared:

- A closure plan (Regulation 62) (this plan);
- An environmental risk report (Regulation 60); and

Annual performance reports as well as a final performance assessment report (Regulation 55(9)) will be submitted to DMR on completion of the mine operation and all the right/permit requirements.

2. A DESCRIPTION OF THE CLOSURE OBJECTIVES, PROPOSED REHABILITATION MANAGEMENT MEASURES TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVE AND HOW THESE RELATE TO THE MINE OPERATION AND ITS ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SETTING

Main closure/rehabilitation objective is to rehabilitate the proposed 5Ha mining activities area to its previous status quo of successful agricultural cropping land.

This will be achieved by implementing the following progressive rehabilitation measures:

- During mining, the outflow of run-off water from the mining excavation must be controlled to prevent any down-slope erosion. This must be done by way of the construction of temporary banks and ditches that will safely disperse run-off water. These should be in place above the mining area, to minimise run-off into the excavation and at any points where overflow out of the excavation might occur.
- The upper 50 cm of soil, even if it contains gravel, must first be stripped and stockpiled before mining.
- Topsoil is a valuable and essential resource for rehabilitation, and it should therefore be managed carefully to conserve and maintain it throughout the stockpiling and rehabilitation processes.
- Topsoil stripping, stockpiling and re-spreading must be done in a systematic way. The mining plan should be such that topsoil is stockpiled for the minimum possible time by rehabilitating different mining blocks progressively as the mining process continues.

- Topsoil stockpiles should be protected against losses by water and wind erosion. Stockpiles should be positioned so as not to be vulnerable to erosion by wind and water. The establishment of plants on the stockpiles will help to prevent erosion. Stockpiles should be no more than 2 metres high.
- To ensure that soil drainage is sufficiently maintained, it is important that the mining excavation, including along its bottom edge, remains free draining after rehabilitation and does not form a depression.
- After mining, any steep slopes, along the edges of the mining excavation or within it, must be reduced to a minimum and profiled to blend with the surrounding topography.
- The stockpiled topsoil must then be evenly spread across the entire mining area. The depth should be monitored during spreading to ensure that coverage is adequate and even. A slope must be maintained so that ponding of water does not occur on the surface.
- A cover crop must be planted and established immediately after spreading of topsoil, to stabilise the soil and protect it from erosion. The cover crop should be fertilized for optimum growth, and any soil chemical deficiencies should be corrected, based on a chemical analysis of the re-spread soil. It is important that rehabilitation is taken up to the point of cover crop stabilisation. Rehabilitation cannot be considered to be complete until the first cover crop is well established.
- The rehabilitated area must be monitored for erosion, and appropriately stabilised if any erosion occurs.
- On-going alien vegetation control must keep the area free of alien vegetation after mining.
- All waste, structures, stockpiles, fuel and water tanks, machinery, equipment, signs, demarcations and vehicles forming part of the mining activities must be removed from the site and these impacted areas must also be rehabilitated.
- Should any additional topsoil be required for rehabilitation purposes, it must be from neighbouring properties or alternatively sterilized accordingly. This is to ensure that any imported topsoil is free from soil pathogens, to prevent introduction of new pathogens to the region.

The site must be monitored regularly (at least 6 monthly and after heavy rains) for at least two years after rehabilitation and all signs of erosion immediately rectified and alien vegetation removed to prevent potential siltation, erosion and alien encroachment.

Mine management must be held accountable for well managed and effective implementation of all the recommended rehabilitation steps above. The specific, measurable rehabilitation outcomes against which the effectiveness of completed rehabilitation must be measured are:

- that the topography and surface has been sufficiently smoothed without steep excavation edges to allow for cultivation;
- that topsoil has been spread on the surface;
- that there is a potential rooting depth of at least 50 cm of soil that is suitable for root growth above any existing depth limitation, across the entire mining area;
- that there are no non free-draining depressions across the surface and that the depth of mining has not created an effective sub-surface dam, that is lower than the low point for drainage out of the mining area, and therefore, that no ponding of water occurs on the surface of the mined area;
- 5. that there is no visible erosion across the area, or down-slope of it as a result of mining, and that no part of the area has been left unacceptably vulnerable to erosion;
- that a successful cover crop has been established across the entire area.
- that there is no invasive alien vegetation within the mining area.

When no evidence of erosion and alien vegetation encroachment are visible and successful establishment of the cover crop is observed the rehabilitated areas can be considered as successfully rehabilitated. If successful rehabilitation of the site is not achieved the appointed Environmental Control Officer must provide recommendations on additional rehabilitation methods to be implemented.

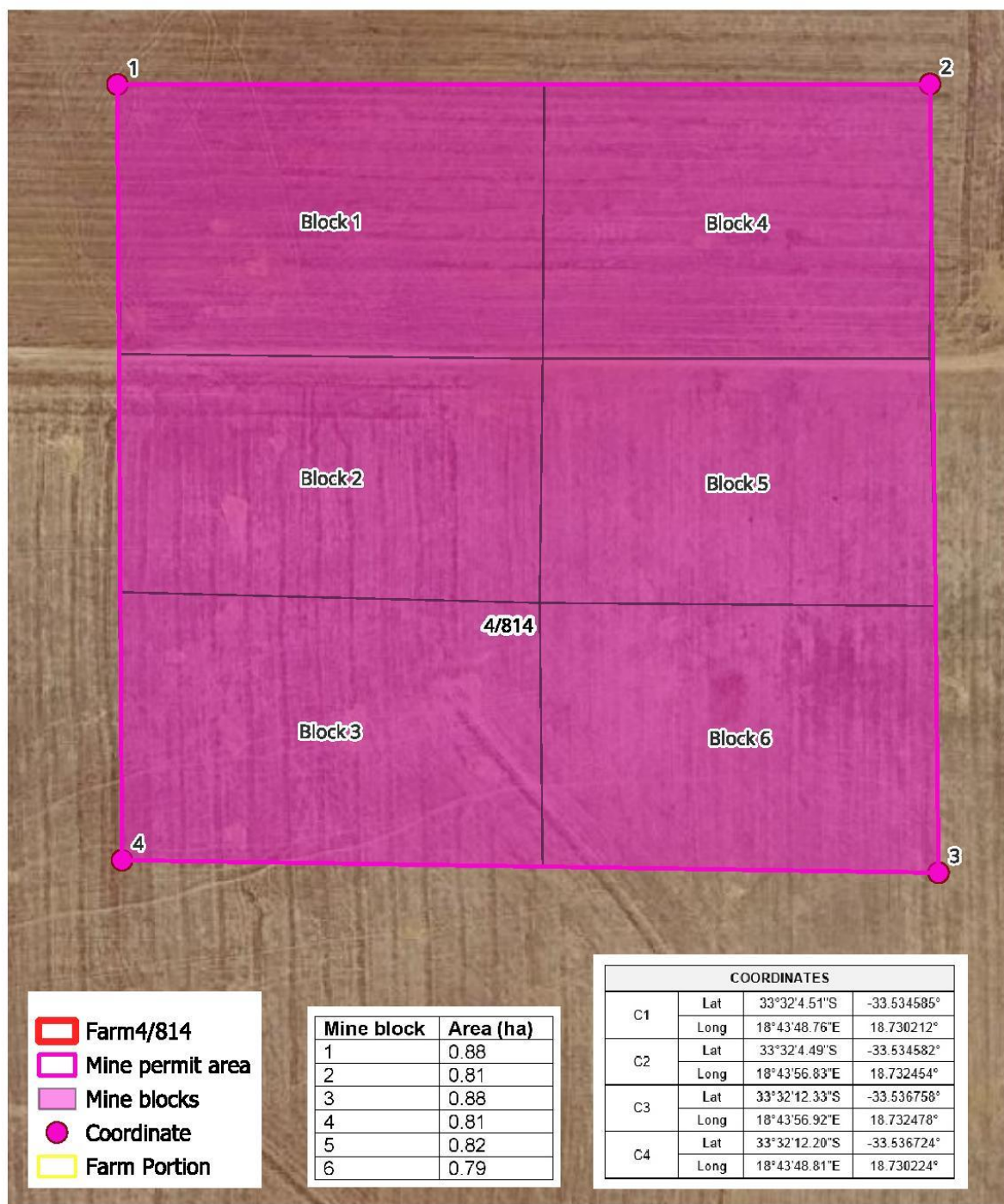
The mine permit holder must commit to post-closure maintenance during rehabilitation of the site until the time of receipt of a closure certificate for all or parts of the impacted mining areas.

Seeing that operational and rehabilitation activities will be implemented concurrently the total Proposed Rehabilitation Financial Provision for the Mining Permit has been calculated at = R 130 000.00

Take note: The above mentioned proposed rehabilitation cost is only an estimate, in terms of section 1 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) a holder *“in relation to a prospecting right, mining right, mining permit, retention permit, exploration right, production right, reconnaissance permit or technical co-operation permit, means the person to whom such right or permit has been granted or such person’s successor in title.”* Therefore the holder of the mining permit will remain financially responsible for implementing rehabilitation measures until the set rehabilitation objectives have been met no matter the final costs.

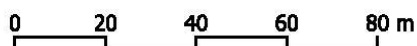
3. A PLAN CONTEMPLATED SHOWING THE LAND OR AREA UNDER CLOSURE





MINE LAYOUT PLAN

Farm 4/814, Malmesbury RD



15/06/2026

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Maps 1.1 and 1.2: Proposed 5ha mining permit area phases and access road on Farm Doornfontein RE/4/814, Malmesbury, WC.

4. A SUMMARY OF THE REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS FOR CLOSURE NEGOTIATED AND DOCUMENTED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME OR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

It is important to note that regulatory criteria are likely to change over time, and criteria selected for the purposes of closure planning during early operations, may not be applicable at the time of closure.

The following legislation and policies are applicable to mining operations and final closure procedures:

- **Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act No.108 of 1996, Section 24)**

‘The environment must be protected for present and future generations through reasonable legislation and other measures that will prevent pollution and environmental degradation, promote conservation and will ensure ecologically sustainable development and sustainable use of natural resources while striving for justifiable economic and social development.’

- **National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998): Section 19**

Section 9 of the Regulations on use of water for mining activities focuses on the temporary or permanent closure of mines or related activities. Section 9 (1) states *‘any person in control of a mine or activity must at either temporary or permanent cessation of operations ensure that all pollution control measures have been designed, modified, constructed and maintained so as to comply with these regulations’* and Section 9(2) states that the same mine *‘....must ensure that the instream and riparian habitat of any water resource, which may have been affected or altered by a mine or activity, is remedied so as to comply with these regulations’*.

- **National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)**

Outlines the duty of care to prevent pollution. The polluter is liable for any rehabilitation costs and any damages caused by pollution as stated within the Act.

- **Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996 (Act No. 29 of 1996)**

Section 2 (2) states that *‘the owner of a mine that is not being worked, but in respect of which a closure certificate in terms of the MPRDA has not been issued, must take reasonable steps to continuously prevent injuries, ill-health, loss of life or damage of any kind from occurring at or because of the mine’*. Section 9 stipulates that a Code of Practice (CoP) is required for MRD. Provisions for rehabilitation and closure are made within these CoPs.

- **Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002)**

Section 43 places an obligation on the holder of mining related rights to apply to DMR for a closure certificate within 180 days of a prescribed event. The application must contain a risk assessment. Section 44 states that when a prospecting right, mining right, retention permit or mining permit lapses, is cancelled or is abandoned or when any prospecting or mining operation comes to an end, no buildings, structures and other objects are to be demolished or

removed in terms of any other law (e.g. National Heritage Resource Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999)) or which have been identified in writing by the Minister.

- **National Environmental Management Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act 39 of 2004)**

Section 33 states that if mining operations are likely to cease within a period of five years, the owner of that mine must promptly notify the Minister in writing-

- (a) of the likely cessation of those mining operations; and
- (b) of any plans that are in place or in contemplation for-
 - (i) the rehabilitation of the area where the mining operations were
 - (ii) the prevention of pollution of the atmosphere by dust after those conducted after mining operations have stopped; and operations have stopped.

- **Conservation of Agriculture Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983)**

In terms of the amendments to the regulations under this Act, landowners are legally responsible for the control of alien species and to handle storm water to prevent erosion on their properties and to protect agricultural resources.

- **Broad-Based Socio-Economic Empowerment Charter for The South African Mining Industry**

Section 4.1. Through the Mines Qualifications Authority (MQA), shall undertake to provide skills training opportunities to miners during their employment in order to improve their income earning capacity after mine closure.

The possible risk factors that could be considered in the risk report are the rehabilitation of the mining area and impacts on agricultural land. Therefore close attention will be paid to these factors during the operational life of the project. The Company is aware that the holder of the mining permit or right is liable for any and all environmental damage or degradation emanating from the mining operation until a closure certificate is issued in terms of Section 43 of the MPRDA.

The principles for mine closure in accordance with the applicable legislative requirements for mine closure, the holder of a mine permit/right must ensure that:

- the closure of a mining operation incorporates a process which must start at the commencement of the operation and continue throughout the life of the operation
- risks pertaining to environmental impacts must be quantified and managed pro-actively, which includes the gathering of relevant information throughout the life of a mining operation
- the safety and health requirements in terms of the Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996 (Act No. 29 of 1996) are complied with
- residual and possible latent environmental impacts are identified and quantified
- the land is rehabilitated, as far as is practicable, to its natural state before mining operations commenced, which conforms with the concept of sustainable development; and
- mining operations are closed efficiently and cost effectively.

5. A SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK REPORT AND DETAILS OF IDENTIFIED RESIDUAL AND LATENT IMPACTS

The environmental risk report involves carrying out a screening level environmental risk assessment where all possible risks are identified and qualitatively ranked. During closure phases of the mine a higher level risk assessment should be implemented on those risks identified in this process.

See Basic Assessment Report and EMPr for detailed potential impact risk assessments conducted.

All significant environmental, cultural and socio-economic features applicable to the site were identified and informed the preferred activity, location and layout as proposed. The preferred mining activities, location and layout was assessed against the no go option of the site remaining as is.

Summary of Impacts Identified for the Proposed Mining Activities on Farm Doornfontein RE/4/814, Malmesbury:

See below a summary of the significance of potential environmental impacts before and after mitigation for the proposed mining activities:

Overall, all of the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts identified and assessed (as listed below) for **Alternative 1** can be reduced to a low significance impact with implementation of proposed mitigation measures, rehabilitation and monitoring:

Potential impacts identified for **Alternative 1** during the Operational Phase –

- Increased dust levels (medium negative before mitigation and low negative after mitigation)
- Potential erosion due to proposed mining activities along steep slopes (medium negative before mitigation and low negative after mitigation)
- Emission (low negative before mitigation and low negative after mitigation)
- Mining activities can result in increased sediment loads in water resources (medium negative before mitigation and low negative after mitigation)
- Impact on water resources i.e. groundwater, secondary drainage lines etc. (high negative before mitigation and low negative after mitigation)
- The trapping of all storm water within excavations on the mine area (medium negative before mitigation and low negative after mitigation)
- Effluent from toilets and litter (medium negative before mitigation and low negative after mitigation)
- Hydrocarbon spill (medium negative before mitigation and low negative after mitigation)
- Fire (medium negative before mitigation and low negative after mitigation)

- Introduction and spread of declared alien vegetation (medium negative before mitigation and low negative after mitigation)
- Impact on naturally occurring fauna and avifauna present in the area (low negative before mitigation and low negative after mitigation)
- Impact of proposed mining activities on indigenous vegetation (low negative before mitigation and low negative after mitigation)
- Increased and sustained job opportunities (positive impact)
- Increased traffic (low negative before mitigation and low negative after mitigation)
- Mining of agricultural land (low negative before mitigation and low negative after mitigation)
- The potential impact of the proposed development on archaeological, paleontological and heritage remains (low negative before mitigation and low negative after mitigation)
- Noise due to mining machinery, trucks and people on site (low negative before mitigation and low negative after mitigation)
- Visual impact of excavation pits (medium negative before mitigation and low negative after mitigation)

Potential impacts identified for **Alternative 1** during the Decommissioning/Rehabilitation Phase

- Soil erosion (medium negative before mitigation and low negative after mitigation)
- Introduction of alien plant species during rehabilitation (medium negative before mitigation and low negative after mitigation)
- Loss of socio-economic benefits to the mine employees and local economy when mine closes (high negative before mitigation and low negative after mitigation)

The implementation of **Layout Alternative 1 is preferred** and recommended as the best environmental option due to the following reasons:

- The site is not mapped as an CBA or ESA or watercourse and is part of cultivated agricultural land making the site of low ecological connectivity and low conservation value and less favourable for rehabilitation investments.
- Historical sand mining has taken place on the property with successful rehabilitation of the mining areas to agricultural land used for cultivation.
- The site is not within a Protected Area, nor within 5 kilometres of a Protected Area, are not within 10 kilometres of a World Heritage Site.
- No flora or fauna Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) were recorded on the site and due to previous and ongoing disturbances the site is not expected to be used by any fauna SCC as breeding habitat.
- It is proposed that the temporary mining of sand and gravel as proposed on 5ha of the property at the specific site is the best economically viable option to be

implemented for the specific site and that it can be successfully rehabilitated to its current status quo after mining completion.

No fatal flaws were identified during the assessment that will lead to unacceptable environmental degradation during the proposed mining activities should alternative 1 be authorised and implemented.

It was concluded by the EAP that the proposed development will not have a significant negative environmental impact if proposed mitigation measures are implemented and it was recommended that the Environmental Management Programme be adhered to accordingly.

All the potential negative impacts with their mitigation measures are included and described in the EMP.

6. A SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF PROGRESSIVE REHABILITATION TO BE UNDERTAKEN

There are three main categories of rehabilitation for the *after-use* of land that will be sustainable in the long term (Robinson & Shaw, 2005):

Walk-away status: there are no remaining residual constraints on the future land use after rehabilitation has been performed and no additional monitoring or maintenance requirements.

Passive care: there is minimal need for monitoring and infrequent maintenance of noncritical structures.

Active care: requires regular operations, monitoring and maintenance of the site that is not typical of normal land management practices. There may be permanent constraints on the beneficial use of the land, such as high metal concentrations.

Rehabilitation for the specific site will occur by means of passive care. However the ultimate objective would be to reach *walk-away status* after a closure certificate has been issued.

The mine operator is responsible to rehabilitate the mining area in terms of the contract entered into with the landowner. The contract entails removal of all manmade structures and equipment, with the entire area then to be rehabilitated to be used for agricultural activities such as crop planting and livestock grazing.

In order to achieve these objectives, the following control measures are prescribed and shall be complied with:

- All slopes and degraded areas should be rehabilitated prior to the onset of the rainy season to prevent surface water run-off and topsoil should be utilised as much as possible in these areas.
- Contours and slopes must be reinstated and maintained as according to the surrounding topography.
- Topsoil and overburden material must be stored separately for later use, with effective storm water runoff and erosion prevention measures to be implemented in order to

protect the material. It should be done in a manner that does not cause erosion or drain to a water course in time high perception throughout the period.

- To prevent/minimise soil erosion through the action of water and wind, control measures should be put in place such as protection berms where needed.
- Procedures should be developed to minimise surface water run-off and soil erosion.
- Monitoring and evaluation procedures should be put in place to determine if there is any improvement and to ascertain if more rehabilitation initiatives are needed or if the area should be left to spontaneously rehabilitate.
- Applicant and land owner must protect all areas susceptible to erosion by wind and excessive storm water run-off.
- The mining company will be responsible for managing and rectifying any wind or water erosion that has occurred on the property due to the mining activities until successful rehabilitation and a closure certificate has been obtained.

7. A DESCRIPTION OF THE METHODS TO DECOMMISSION EACH MINING COMPONENT AND THE MITIGATION OR MANAGEMENT STRATEGY PROPOSED TO AVOID, MINIMIZE AND MANAGE RESIDUAL OR LATENT IMPACTS

During the decommissioning and closure phases consideration of the following is essential (Robertson & Shaw, 2005):

- Physical stability – mine area and access road must be stable so as to eliminate any hazard to the public health and safety or material erosion to the terrestrial or aquatic receiving environment at concentrations that are harmful. Engineered structures must not deteriorate and fail.
- Surface waters and groundwater must be protected against adverse environmental impacts resulting from mining and processing activities.
- Land use - the closed mine site should be rehabilitated to pre-mining conditions or conditions that are compatible with the surrounding lands.

Refer to point 2 above for closure/rehabilitation objectives, mitigation and management measures to be implemented which will also be applicable in the case of decommissioning.

8. DETAILS OF ANY LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE EXPECTED

Ideally, a properly designed and executed rehabilitation plan will leave the rehabilitated mining areas in a condition requiring no continuing, long-term maintenance to achieve an enduring, high quality environment. The mine permit/right holder commits to post-closure maintenance during rehabilitation of the site until the time of receipt of a closure certificate for all or parts of the impacted mining areas. Long-term care will include management/rectification of erosion and clearing of weed and alien vegetation species until a closure certificate has been obtained. Thereafter, the responsibility for the ongoing maintenance and monitoring of the site will rest with the landowners.

Management and maintenance are expected to continue for at least two year after mining completion and the closure certificate is issued. Maintenance will be focused on erosion prevention and removal of weed and alien vegetation species on the mined area.

9. DETAILS OF A PROPOSED CLOSURE COST AND FINANCIAL PROVISION FOR MONITORING, MAINTENANCE AND POST CLOSURE MANAGEMENT

Description of areas/activities to be rehabilitated	Amount (Rands)
Opencast mining areas rehabilitation (to be conducted concurrent with operational activities) including final voids and ramps – total area 5Ha (at a rate of R23 500/Ha)	117 500.00
2 Years maintenance, monitoring and aftercare (at a rate of R6 250/year)	12 500.00
TOTAL REHABILITATION COSTS ESTIMATE	ZAR 130 000.00

(The amounts as presented above were calculated by making use of the methodology in the Guideline Documents for the Evaluation of the Quantum of Closure Related Financial Provision Provided by a Mine as published by the DMR)

For more detail on calculations refer to the Financial and Technical Competence Report attached as Appendix E.

Total Proposed Rehabilitation Financial Provision for the Mining Permit = R 130 000.00

Take note: The above mentioned proposed rehabilitation cost is only an estimate, in terms of section 1 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) a holder *“in relation to a prospecting right, mining right, mining permit, retention permit, exploration right, production right, reconnaissance permit or technical co-operation permit, means the person to whom such right or permit has been granted or such person’s successor in title.”* Therefore the holder of the mining permit will remain financially responsible for implementing rehabilitation measures until the set rehabilitation objectives have been met no matter the final costs.

10. A SKETCH PLAN DRAWN ON AN APPROPRIATE SCALE DESCRIBING THE FINAL AND FUTURE LAND USE PROPOSAL AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SITE

Refer to maps 1.1 and 1.2 above.

11. A RECORD OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PERSONS CONSULTED

Registered Interested and Affected Parties and key departments will be afforded a commenting opportunity on the Draft BAR, EMP and Closure/Rehabilitation Plan. The comments will be recorded and the EAP (specialists) will respond to the comments and compiled the comments

and response report as will be available in the Final BAR where after it is submitted to DMR in the final reports for a decision. Proof of the public participation process conducted will be attached in Appendix C of the Basic Assessment Report.

12. REFERENCES

IIED (2002). *Research on Mine Closure Policy*. Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development Project. Report Number 44. International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).

Mudder, T & Harvey, K (1999). *Closure Concepts*. Mineral Resources forum. UNEP, 1999.

Robertson & Shaw (2005). *Mine Closure*. Robertson GeoConsultants Inc. www.infomine.com. Date Accessed 2005.