

REFERENCE: 16/3/3/1/F4/23/3020/21
NEAS REFERENCE: WCP/EIA/0000905/2021
DATE OF ISSUE: 14 October 2021

The Board of Directors
Saldanha Dry Bulk Terminal (Pty) Ltd.
Suite 1
Private Bag X2
VREDENBURG
7380

Attention: Mr. Hugo Tallie

E-mail: hugo@sdbt.co.za

Dear Sir

APPLICATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) ("NEMA") AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ("EIA") REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED): PROPOSED STORAGE OF ORE AND MINERALS ON PORTIONS 3 AND 4 OF FARM LANGEBERG NO. 188, VREDENBURG.

1. With reference to the above application, the competent authority hereby notifies you of its decision to **grant** Environmental Authorisation, attached herewith, together with the reasons for the decision.
2. In terms of Regulation 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), you are instructed to ensure, within 14 days of the date of the Environmental Authorisation, that all registered interested and affected parties are provided with access to and reasons for the decision, and that all registered interested and affected parties are notified of their right to appeal.
3. Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended), which prescribes the procedure to be followed in the event of appeals being lodged. This procedure is summarised in the attached Environmental Authorisation.

Yours faithfully

MR. ZAAHIR TOEFY
DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

CC: (1) Mr. Nicolaas Hanekom (Enviro-EAP (Pty) Ltd.)
(2) Ms. Nazeema Duarte (Saldanha Bay Municipality)

E-mail: nicolaas@enviro-eap.co.za
E-mail: Nazeema.Duarte@sbm.gov.za

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) ("NEMA") AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ("EIA") REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED): PROPOSED STORAGE OF ORE AND MINERALS ON PORTIONS 3 AND 4 OF FARM LANGEBERG NO. 188, VREDENBURG.

With reference to your application for the abovementioned, find below the outcome with respect to this application.

DECISION

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the NEMA and the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the competent authority herewith grants Environmental Authorisation to the applicant to undertake the list of activities specified in Section B below with respect to the preferred alternative as included in the Basic Assessment Report ("BAR") dated 30 June 2021.

The granting of this Environmental Authorisation (hereinafter referred to as the "Environmental Authorisation") is subject to compliance with the conditions set out in Section E below.

A. DETAILS OF THE HOLDER OF THIS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

Saldanha Dry Bulk Terminal (Pty) Ltd.
c/o Mr. Hugo Tallie
Suite 1
Private Bag X2
VREDENBURG
7380

Tel.: (022) 125 0065
Fax: (086) 600 5030
E-mail: hugo@sdbt.co.za

The abovementioned applicant is the holder of this Environmental Authorisation and is hereinafter referred to as "the holder".

B. LIST OF ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED

Listed Activity	Activity/Project Description
<p>Listing Notice 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended):</p> <p>Activity 27: <i>"The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for -</i> <i>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or</i> <i>(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan".</i></p>	<p>More than 1ha of indigenous vegetation will be cleared.</p>
<p>Activity 28: <i>"Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:</i> <i>(i) will occur inside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 5 hectares;</i> <i>or</i> <i>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare;</i></p> <p><i>excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional purposes".</i></p>	<p>The proposed site was zoned for and used for agricultural purposes on or after 01 April 1998 and is located outside the urban area.</p>
<p>Activity 34: <i>"The expansion of existing facilities or infrastructure for any process or activity where such expansion will result in the need for a permit or licence or an amended permit or licence in terms of national or provincial legislation governing the release of emissions, effluent or pollution, excluding -</i> <i>(i) where the facility, infrastructure, process or activity is included in the list of waste management activities published in terms of section 19 of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) in which case the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 applies;</i> <i>(ii) the expansion of existing facilities or infrastructure for the treatment of effluent, wastewater, polluted water or sewage where the capacity will be increased by less than 15 000 cubic metres per day; or</i> <i>(iii) the expansion is directly related to aquaculture facilities or infrastructure where the wastewater discharge capacity will be increased by 50 cubic meters or less per day".</i></p>	<p>More than 100 000 tons of ore will be stored on site, which results in the need for an Air Emissions License in terms of the NEM: Air Quality Act, 2004.</p>

The abovementioned list is hereinafter referred to as "the listed activities".

The holder is herein authorised to undertake the following related to the listed activities:

The proposed development entails the storage of 300 000 tons of ore and minerals on Portions 3 and 4 of Farm Langeberg No. 188, Vredenburg, respectively, with a combined storage of 600 000 tons.

Portion 3 currently accommodates an existing ore stockpile of 100 000 tons on a footprint of 9800m² as well as within a storage warehouse with a footprint of 2250m² (70m x 30m x 11m). It is proposed to increase the storage of ore on Portion 3 to 300 000 tons.

It is also proposed to store 300 000 tons of ore on Portion 4. The product, ore and heavy mineral sands, will be stored outside and covered with tarpaulin, while other minerals will be stored in the warehouse.

Approximately 4.81ha of indigenous vegetation will be cleared for the construction of infrastructure and the hardening of surfaces for the storage of manganese ore, iron ore, lead, copper and zinc concentrate, heavy mineral sands (e.g., garnet and ilmenite), coal, phosphate, agricultural lime and other ores on Portions 3 (4.5107ha) and 4 (4.5022ha) of Farm Langeberg No. 188, Vredenburg.

Approximately 400 000 tons of ore and material will be stored outside and 200 000 tons of ore and material will be stored inside buildings. The storage of the ore and material requires an Atmospheric Emissions License.

The proposed development will consist of:

Storage (open or warehouse or container yard):

- Storage area 1: 7872.129m²; and
- Storage area 2: 39494.858m².

Remaining yard area (hard surface): 35 300m²:

- Existing bulk storage: 2100m²

Access to the proposed development will be from two new accesses along the DR1111, approximately 1050m southwest and 530m northeast of the DR1111/DR1146 intersection. An entrance gate, weighbridge, offices and two storm water ponds of 10m wide and 50m in length (1000m²) will also be constructed.

C. LOCATION AND SITE DESCRIPTION

The listed activities will be undertaken on Portion 3 and 4 of Farm Langeberg No. 188, Vredenburg.

Portions 3 and 4 fall within the proposed Industrial Development Corridor in terms of the Saldanha Bay Spatial Development Framework ("SDF") and is situated to the east of the Orex Rail Sidings and north of Exxaro (Namakwa Sands).

Portions 3 and 4 are situated approximately 8km southeast of the town of Vredenburg. The nearest residential area is Ongegund, which is about 5km northwest of the site. There are a few homesteads scattered along the R45 north of the site.

The SG 21-digit codes are:
Portion 3: C04600000000018800003
Portion 4: C04600000000018800004

Co-ordinates:
Latitude: 32° 56' 49.58" S
Longitude: 18° 03' 58.47" E

Refer to Annexure 1: Locality Plan and Annexure 2: Site Plan.

hereinafter referred to as "the site".

D. DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER ("EAP")

Enviro-EAP (Pty) Ltd.
c/o Mr. Nicolaas Hanekom
P.O. Box 205
AGULHAS
7287

Cell: 076 963 6450
E-mail: nicolaas@enviro-eap.co.za

E. CONDITIONS OF AUTHORISATION

Scope of authorisation

1. The holder is authorised to undertake the listed activities specified in Section B above in accordance with and restricted to the preferred alternative, described in the BAR dated 30 June 2021 on the site as described in Section C above.
2. Authorisation of the activities is subject to compliance with the conditions set out in this Environmental Authorisation. The holder must ensure compliance with the conditions by any person acting on his/her behalf, including an agent, sub-contractor, employee or any person rendering a service to the holder.
3. The holder must commence with, and conclude, the listed activities within the stipulated validity period which this Environmental Authorisation is granted for, or this Environmental Authorisation shall lapse and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be submitted to the competent authority.

This Environmental Authorisation is granted for–

- (a) A period of five (**5**) years, from the date of issue, during which period the holder must commence with the authorised listed activities; and
 - (b) A period of ten (**10**) years, from the date the holder commenced with an authorised listed activity, during which period the authorised listed activities for the construction phase, must be concluded.
4. The activities that have been authorised may only be carried out at the site described in Section C above in terms of the approved EMPr.

5. Any changes to, or deviations from the scope of the description set out in Section B and Condition 2 above must be accepted or approved, in writing, by the competent authority before such changes or deviations may be implemented. In assessing whether to grant such acceptance/approval or not, the competent authority may request such information to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations, and it may be necessary for the holder to apply for further authorisation in terms of the applicable legislation.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

6. The holder of the authorisation must in writing, within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this decision –
 - 6.1 notify all registered interested and affected parties ("I&APs") of –
 - 6.1.1 the outcome of the application;
 - 6.1.2 the reasons for the decision;
 - 6.1.3 the date of the decision; and
 - 6.1.4 the date of issue of the decision;
 - 6.2 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended);
 - 6.3 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the manner in which they may access the decision; and
 - 6.4 provide the registered I&APs with:
 - 6.4.1 the name of the holder (entity) of this Environmental Authorisation,
 - 6.4.2 name of the responsible person for this Environmental Authorisation,
 - 6.4.3 postal address of the holder,
 - 6.4.4 telephonic and fax details of the holder,
 - 6.4.5 e-mail address, if any;
 - 6.4.6 the contact details (postal and/or physical address, contact number, facsimile and e-mail address) of the decision-maker and all registered I&APs in the event that an appeal is lodged in terms of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

Commencement

7. The listed activities, including site preparation, must not commence within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the applicant notified the registered I&APs of this decision.
8. In the event that an appeal is lodged with the Appeal Administrator, the effect of this Environmental Authorisation is suspended until such time as the appeal is decided. In the instance where an appeal is lodged the holder may not commence with the activity, including site preparation, until such time as the appeal has been finalised and the holder is authorised to do so.

Written notice to the competent authority

9. A minimum of 7 (seven) calendar days' notice, in writing, must be given to the competent authority before commencement of construction activities. Commencement for the purpose of this condition includes site preparation.
 - 9.1 The notice must make clear reference to the site details and EIA Reference number given above.
 - 9.2 The notice must also include proof of compliance with the following conditions described herein:
Conditions: 6, 7, 14 and 22.

Management of activity

10. The draft Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr") dated June 2021 (as compiled by Enviro-EAP (Pty) Ltd.) and submitted as part of the application for Environmental Authorisation is hereby approved and must be implemented.
11. An application for amendment to the EMPr must be submitted to the competent authority in terms of Chapter 5 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) if any amendments are to be made to the outcomes of the EMPr, and these may only be implemented once the amended EMPr has been authorised by the competent authority.
12. The EMPr must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of implementation.
13. A copy of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr must be kept at the site where the listed activities will be undertaken. Access to the site referred to in Section C above must be granted and, the Environmental Authorisation and EMPr must be produced to any authorised official representing the competent authority who requests to see it for the purposes of assessing and/or monitoring compliance with the conditions contained herein. The Environmental Authorisation and EMPr must also be made available for inspection by any employee or agent of the applicant who works or undertakes work at the site.

Monitoring

14. The holder must appoint a suitably experienced Environment Control Officer ("ECO"), for the duration of the construction phase to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr and the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation.

The ECO must–

- 14.1 be appointed prior to commencement of any construction activities commencing;
- 14.2 ensure compliance with the EMPr and the conditions contained herein;
- 14.3 keep record of all activities on site; problems identified; transgressions noted, and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO;
- 14.4 remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed;
- 14.5 provide the competent authority with copies of the ECO reports within 30 days of the project being finalised; and
- 14.6 conduct monthly site inspections during the construction phase.

Environmental audit reports

15. The holder must, for the period during which the Environmental Authorisation and EMPr remain valid -
 - 15.1 ensure that the compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr is audited;
 - 15.2 submit an environmental audit report three months after commencement of the construction phase to the relevant competent authority;
 - 15.3 submit an environmental audit report six months after completion of the construction phase to the relevant competent authority; and
 - 15.4 submit an environmental audit report every five (5) years while the Environmental Authorisation remains valid.
16. The environmental audit reports must be prepared by an independent person and must address the objectives and contain all the information set out in Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

In addition to the above, the environmental audit report, must -

- 16.1 provide verifiable findings, in a structured and systematic manner, on–
 - (a) the level of compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr and whether this is sufficient or not; and
 - (b) the extent to which the avoidance, management and mitigation measures provided for in the EMPr achieve the objectives and outcomes of the EMPr and highlight whether this is sufficient or not;
 - 16.2 identify and assess any new impacts and risks as a result of undertaking the activity;
 - 16.3 evaluate the effectiveness of the EMPr;
 - 16.4 identify shortcomings in the EMPr;
 - 16.5 identify the need for any changes to the avoidance, management and mitigation measures provided for in the EMPr;
 - 16.6 indicate the date on which the construction work was commenced with and completed or in the case where the development is incomplete, the progress of the development and rehabilitation;
 - 16.7 include a photographic record of the site applicable to the audit; and
 - 16.8 be informed by the ECO reports.
17. The holder must, within 7 days of the submission of the environmental audit report to the competent authority, notify all potential and registered I&APs of the submission and make the report available to anyone on request and, where the holder has such a facility, be placed on a publicly accessible website.

Specific conditions

18. Surface or ground water must not be polluted due to any actions on the site. The applicable requirements with respect to relevant legislation pertaining to water must be met.
19. An integrated waste management approach, which is based on waste minimisation and incorporates reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal, where appropriate, must be employed. Any solid waste must be disposed of at a waste disposal facility licensed in terms of the applicable legislation.

20. Should any heritage remains be exposed during excavations or any actions on the site, these must immediately be reported to the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Western Cape, Heritage Western Cape (in accordance with the applicable legislation). Heritage remains uncovered or disturbed during earthworks must not be further disturbed until the necessary approval has been obtained from Heritage Western Cape. Heritage remains include archaeological remains (including fossil bones and fossil shells); coins; indigenous and/or colonial ceramics; any articles of value or antiquity; marine shell heaps; stone artifacts and bone remains; structures and other built features; rock art and rock engravings; shipwrecks; and graves or unmarked human burials.

A qualified archaeologist must be contracted where necessary (at the expense of the applicant and in consultation with the relevant authority) to remove any human remains in accordance with the requirements of the relevant authority.

21. The holder of the Environmental Authorisation must, at all times, ensure that the activities comply with the Noise Regulations in terms of the relevant legislation.
22. A walkthrough of the site must be conducted before commencement of construction to identify any animals that may need to be moved.
23. The site development phase Dust Management Plan dated 08 November 2020 and operational phase Dust Management Plan dated 09 November 2020, as compiled by DustWatch cc must be implemented and adhered to.
24. Manganese, zinc and other ore material transported by road, must be suitably covered to prevent the spread of windblown dust.
25. The storage of ore and minerals may not exceed 300 000 tons on Portion 3 and Portion 4, respectively.
26. The requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act No. 85 of 1993), must be adhered to.

General matters

1. Notwithstanding this Environmental Authorisation, the holder must comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable when undertaking the listed activities.
2. If the holder does not commence with the listed activities within the period referred to in Condition 3, this Environmental Authorisation shall lapse for the activities, and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be submitted to the competent authority. If the holder wishes to extend the validity period of the Environmental Authorisation, an application for amendment in this regard must be made to the competent authority prior to the expiry date of the Environmental Authorisation.
3. The holder must submit an application for amendment of the Environmental Authorisation to the competent authority where any detail with respect to the Environmental Authorisation must be amended, added, substituted, corrected, removed or updated. If a new holder is proposed, an application for amendment in terms of Part 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) must be submitted.

Please note that an amendment is not required if there is a change in the contact details of the holder. In this case, the competent authority must only be notified of such changes.

4. The manner and frequency for updating the EMPr is as follows:
Amendments to the EMPr, other than those mentioned above, must be done in accordance with Regulations 35 to 37 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) or any relevant legislation that may be applicable at the time.
5. Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation or EMPr may render the holder liable to criminal prosecution.

F. APPEALS

Appeals must comply with the provisions contained in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

1. An appellant (if the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date notification of the decision was sent to the holder by the competent authority -
 - 1.1 Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended) to the Appeal Administrator;
and
 - 1.2 Submit a copy of the appeal to any registered I&APs, any Organ of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker *i.e.*, the competent authority that issued the decision.
2. An appellant (if NOT the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the holder of the decision sent notification of the decision to the registered I&APs -
 - 2.1 Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended) to the Appeal Administrator;
and
 - 2.2 Submit a copy of the appeal to the holder of the decision, any registered I&AP, any Organ of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker *i.e.*, the competent authority that issued the decision.
3. The holder of the decision (if not the appellant), the decision-maker that issued the decision, the registered I&AP and the Organ of State must submit their responding statements, if any, to the appeal authority and the appellant within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date of receipt of the appeal submission.
4. The appeal and the responding statement must be submitted to the address listed below:

By post: Attention: Mr. Marius Venter
 Western Cape Ministry of Local Government, Environmental
 Affairs and Development Planning
 Private Bag X9186
 CAPE TOWN
 8000

By facsimile: (021) 483 4174; or

By hand: Attention: Mr. Marius Venter (Tel: 021 483 3721)
Room 809
8th Floor Utilitas Building, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8001

Note: For purposes of electronic database management, you are also requested to submit electronic copies (Microsoft Word format) of the appeal, responding statement and any supporting documents to the Appeal Authority to the address listed above and/ or via e-mail to DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za.

5. A prescribed appeal form as well as assistance regarding the appeal processes is obtainable from Appeal Authority at: Tel. (021) 483 3721, E-mail DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za or URL <http://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp>.

G. DISCLAIMER

The Western Cape Government, the Local Authority, committees or any other public authority or organisation appointed in terms of the conditions of this environmental authorisation shall not be responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder, developer or his/her successor in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction is temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance with the conditions as set out herein or any other subsequent document or legal action emanating from this decision.

Your interest in the future of our environment is appreciated.

Yours faithfully

MR. ZAAHIR TOEFY
DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

DATE OF DECISION: 14 OCTOBER 2021

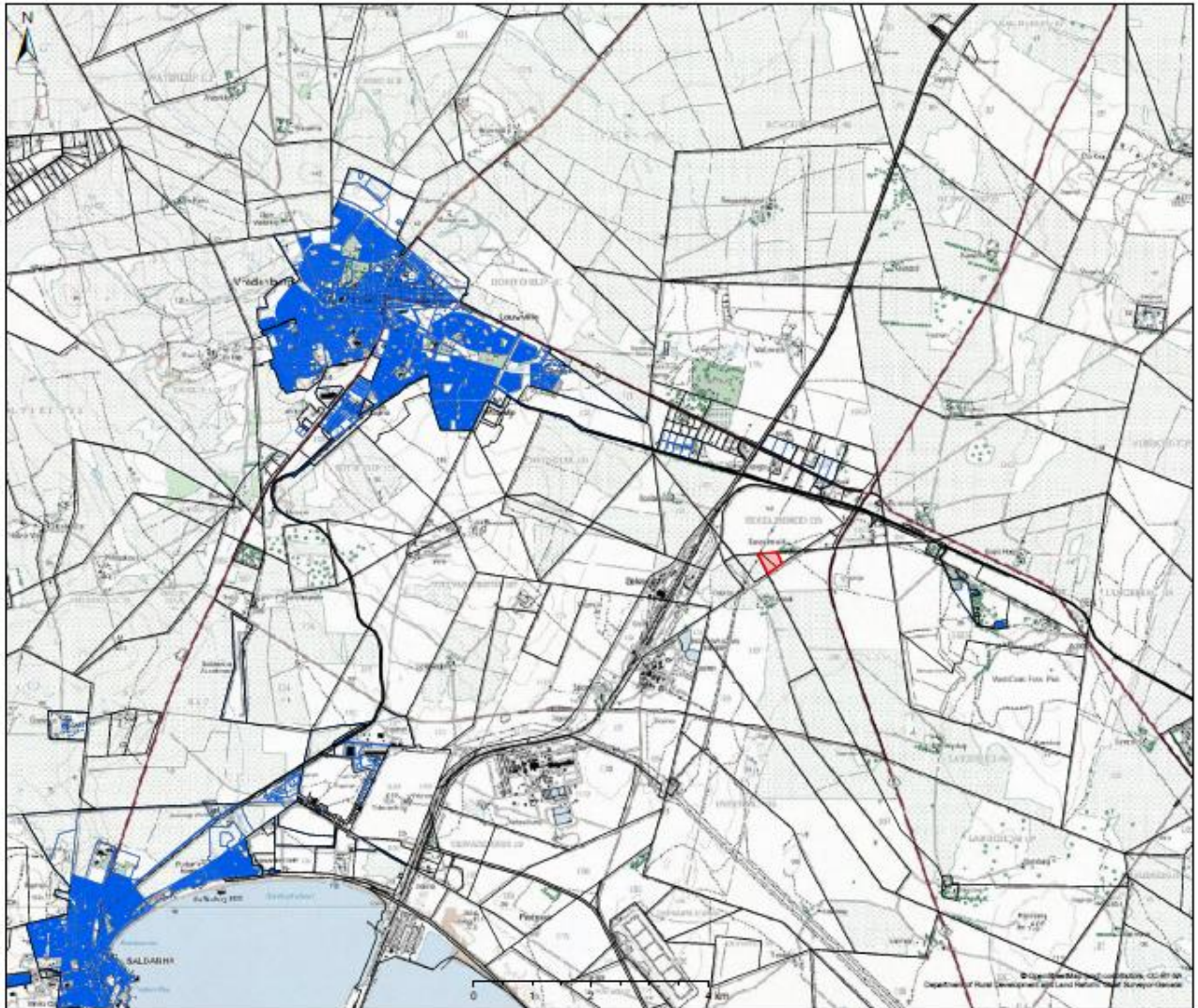
CC: (1) Mr. Nicolaas Hanekom (Enviro EAP (Pty) Ltd.)
(2) Ms. Nazeema Duarte (Saldanha Bay Municipality)

E-mail: nicolaas@enviro-eap.co.za
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FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:

EIA REFERENCE NUMBER: 16/3/3/1/F4/23/3020/21
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ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY PLAN



ANNEXURE 2: SITE PLAN



PORTION 3&4 OF THE FARM 188 LANGEBERG AREA CALCULATIONS:

The proposed land uses and extent (approximate values) of the development are summarised as follows:

STORAGE (OPEN OR WAREHOUSE OR CONTAINER YARD)

- STORAGE AREA "1" :7872.129m²
- STORAGE AREA "2" :39494.858m²

REMAINING YARD AREA (HARD SURFACE): 35300.00m²

EXISTING BULK STORAGE :2100.00m²

SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR SILDANIA DRY BULK ON PORTION 3&4 FARM 188, VREDEBURG	
SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN	
PROJECT NUMBER	354118/0200 2
DATE	3 MAY 2021
DRAWN BY	M. CARLSON
SCALE	1:1000

ANNEXURE 3: REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In reaching its decision, the competent authority, *inter alia*, considered the following:

- a) The information contained in the application form dated 06 May 2021, as received by the competent authority via electronic mail correspondence on 10 May 2021; the BAR dated 30 June 2021; and the EMPr submitted together with the BAR;
- b) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the NEMA;
- c) The comments received from I&APs and the responses provided thereon, as included in the BAR dated 30 June 2021;
- d) No site visits were conducted. The competent authority had sufficient information before it to make an informed decision without conducting a site visit.

All information presented to the competent authority was taken into account in the consideration of the application for environmental authorisation. A summary of the issues which, according to the competent authority, were the most significant reasons for the decision is set out below.

1. Public Participation

The Public Participation Process comprised of the following:

- A notice was placed at the boundary of the property along the gravel haul road on 17 November 2020;
- Notices were sent via email on 17 November 2020 to owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site;
- The ward councillor was notified and was provided with a digital copy of the pre-application BAR;
- An advertisement was placed in the "Weslander" newspaper on 19 November 2020 and "Die Burger" newspaper on 23 November 2020, respectively;
- Organs of state, key State Departments and registered I&APs for which only a postal address has been provided were notified via registered mail on 01 March 2021;
- A copy of the pre-application BAR was placed on the EAP's website for the duration of the commenting period;
- The pre-application BAR was made available from 01 March 2021 until 05 April 2021;
- E-mails were sent on 19 May 2021 to announce the availability of the draft BAR;
- Follow-up e-mails were sent on 15 June 2021 to remind I&APs about the due date for comment on the draft BAR;
- A copy of the draft BAR was placed on the EAPs website for the duration of the commenting period; and
- The draft BAR was made available from 19 May 2021 until 21 June 2021.

Authorities consulted

The authorities consulted included the following:

- Heritage Western Cape;
- Department of Health;
- Department of Water and Sanitation;
- Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries;
- Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works;
- Western Cape Department of Agriculture;

- Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (“DEA&DP”) Directorate: Pollution and Chemicals Management;
- DEA&DP Directorate: Waste Management;
- DEA&DP Directorate: Air Quality Management;
- CapeNature;
- West Coast District Municipality; and
- Saldanha Bay Municipality.

The competent authority is satisfied that the Public Participation Process that was followed met the minimum legal requirements. All the comments and responses that were raised were responded to and included in the BAR.

2. Alternatives

Only Portions 3 and 4 of Farm Langeberg No. 188, Vredenburg were considered for the proposed development, since they are owned by the holder and are already used for the storage of ore.

Preferred alternative – herewith authorised:

The proposed development entails the storage of 300 000 tons of ore and minerals on Portions 3 and 4 of Farm Langeberg No. 188, Vredenburg, respectively, with a combined storage of 600 000 tons.

Portion 3 currently accommodates an existing ore stockpile of 100 000 tons on a footprint of 9800m² as well as within a storage warehouse with a footprint of 2250m² (70m x 30m x 11m). It is proposed to increase the storage of ore on Portion 3 to 300 000 tons.

It is also proposed to store 300 000 tons of ore on Portion 4. The product, ore and heavy mineral sands, will be stored outside and covered with tarpaulin, while other minerals will be stored in the warehouse.

Approximately 4.81ha of indigenous vegetation will be cleared for the construction of infrastructure and the hardening of surfaces for the storage of manganese ore, iron ore, lead, copper and zinc concentrate, heavy mineral sands (e.g. garnet and ilmenite), coal, phosphate, agricultural lime and other ores on Portions 3 (4.5107ha) and 4 (4.5022ha) of Farm Langeberg No. 188, Vredenburg.

Approximately 400 000 tons of ore and material will be stored outside and 200 000 tons of ore and material will be stored inside buildings. The storage of the ore and material requires an Atmospheric Emissions License.

The proposed development will consist of:

Storage (open or warehouse or container yard):

- Storage area 1: 7872.129m²; and
- Storage area 2: 39494.858m².

Remaining yard area (hard surface): 35 300m²:

- Existing bulk storage: 2100m²

Access to the proposed development will be from two new accesses along the DR1111, approximately 1050m southwest and 530m northeast of the DR1111/DR1146 intersection. An entrance gate, weighbridge, offices and two storm water ponds of 10m wide and 50m in length (1000m²) will also be constructed.

This is the preferred alternative for the following reasons:

- Portions 3 and 4 have a generally flat gradient which is suitable for industrial development;
- The proposed development will occur on old agricultural fields, which are not productive due to poor soil composition and low fertility and yield;
- The site does not contain buildings or artifacts of heritage significance; and
- The site is already used for the storage of ore.

"No-Go" Alternative:

This alternative entails maintaining the *status quo* and as such, the existing ore stockpile and existing storage warehouse will remain on Portion 3 and less than 100 000 tons of ore will be stored on Portion 4. As such, the proposed expansion will not be initiated. This alternative was not deemed as preferred as the proposed development will augment the economic activities in Vredenburg, and the benefits to the holder and creation of jobs would not be realised. The "no-go" alternative is therefore not warranted.

3. Impacts, assessment and mitigation measures

3.1 Activity Need and Desirability

Environmental Authorisation was previously obtained and as such, approximately 3.3ha of vegetation on Portion 3 and 9000m² on Portion 4 was cleared. Ore less than 100 000 tons is already stored on each portion.

An application for consent use was submitted to the Saldanha Bay Municipality in 2014 and was approved in 2015. Portions 3 and 4 of Farm No. 188, Vredenburg are considered to be strategic locations for the bulk storage and transportation of manganese ore and other minerals and industrial activities generally associated with and complementary to the Saldanha Bay Industrial Development Zone.

The properties fall within the greater Industrial Development Corridor in terms of the Saldanha Bay SDF, 2019. The proposed development is in line with the Integrated Development Plan of the Saldanha Bay Municipality 2017-2022 and the Provincial Spatial Development Framework, 2014 objectives for the area.

The site is surrounded by industrial uses and the proposed development will benefit the planned industrial corridor in the area.

Despite the site's location within the proposed Industrial Development Corridor, it is zoned as Small Holding and the use is restricted to Rural Residential. As such, the restrictive conditions must be removed, and the site be rezoned to accommodate any industrial land uses.

3.2 Biophysical impacts

A Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment Report dated May 2021 was compiled by Enviro-EAP (Pty) Ltd., to assess the ecological impacts of the proposed development.

The dominant shrub species are hondebos, a species indicative of heavy historical grazing. Some remnant thicket vegetation represented mainly by *Searsia undulata* occur in small patches. There is intense invasion by Russian Tumbleweed and *Bromus diandrus*. Other plants recorded include *Ferraria divaricate*, *Hermannia pinnata*, *Leysera gnaphalodes*, *Tetragonia decumbens*, *Tetragonia fruticose*, *Pteronia uncinata*, *Zygophyllum morgsana*, *Trachyandra divaricate*, *Mesembryanthemum guerichianum*, *Ehrharta villosa* var. *villosa*, *Isolepis* sp., *Carpobrotus edulis*, *Pelargonium* sp., *Zaluzianskya villosa*, *Atriplex semibaccata*, *Bunsvigia* sp., and *Cynodon dactylon*.

The site is not regionally important from a plant species point of view as it is not situated in a Critical Biodiversity Area, nor does any sensitive wetland areas occur on or near the site.

The site has a low ecological sensitivity as species diversity has been lost through years of cultivation and urban development. Ecological drivers such as fire and coastal-inland and connection corridors are not present due to the site's size and the surrounding land uses and infrastructure impacts. The site is also too small to implement a fire management regime to ensure that ecological processes can continue.

Parts of the site contain indigenous vegetation, but the remaining vegetation is significantly degraded. The vegetation type is classified as vulnerable and have been significantly impacted by transformation and grazing.

The proposed development is not anticipated to have any significant impacts on terrestrial biodiversity and the surrounding terrestrial biodiversity features.

3.3 Traffic impacts

A Traffic Impact Assessment Report dated June 2020 was compiled by Sturgeon Consulting (Pty) Ltd., to assess the potential traffic impacts associated with the proposed development.

Portions 3 and 4 are located to the north of Trunk Road 85/1, to the south of Trunk Road 21/2, to the west of Trunk Road 77/1, approximately 16km north of Langebaan. The Saldanha/Sishen Iron Ore railway line is located to the west.

Access to Portions 3 and 4 of Farm Langeberg 188 is currently obtained from TR85/1 via a class 4 road. This access road is located approximately 3.4km west of the TR85/1 and TR77/1 interchange. Access to Portion 3 is via the servitude roads from either TR77/1 and/or TR85/1. Access to Portion 4 is via the servitude roads from either TR77/1 and/or TR85/1.

The existing access is a three-legged intersection with stop control on the side road. An exclusive right turn lane and left turn lane into the access road is present along TR85/1. The access road has a three-lane configuration. A gate is situated along the access road, approximately 200m from the intersection on TR85/1.

The main roads in the vicinity of the site includes:

- Trunk Road 85/1;
- Trunk Road 77/1 (R27);
- Minor Road 7644;
- Minor Road 7643;
- R27 Servitude Road; and
- TR85/1 Servitude Road.

There are various road network improvements underway in the vicinity of the site. Some of the projects have been completed recently, and include:

- The realignment and construction of MR233;
- The extension of TR85/1 from the TR85/1/ TR77/1 intersection to TR21/2; and
- The construction of an interchange at the TR85/1 / TR77/1 intersection.

The improvements will allow for a more direct and balanced flow of traffic in and through the area.

The storage of Ilmenite will not attract non-motorised or public transport trips and no facilities relating to these trips are proposed.

Traffic volumes along TR85/1 in the vicinity of the site can be described as low. The trip generation associated with the use of the site is calculated as 6 trips per day, which will have an insignificant traffic impact. The trips associated with the operation of the site is estimated as a maximum of 8 trips during the AM and PM peak hours which will have an insignificant traffic impact. TR85/1 in the vicinity of the site has sufficient capacity

The Department of Transport and Public Works indicated in a letter dated 31 August 2020 that they have no objection against the proposed development.

3.4 Air quality impacts:

An Air Quality Impact Assessment Report dated January 2021 was compiled by DDA Environmental Engineers, to assess the potential air quality impacts associated with the proposed development.

According to the report there will be no point sources at the facility. The road leading to the dry bulk terminal will be paved from TR85/1 up to approximately 1.3 km from the site's gate. This 1.3km section of the access road is gravel and will be chemically treated for dust suppression purposes.

There are two ambient air quality monitoring stations in the Saldanha Bay Municipality. The one is located in Louwville, Vredenburg, and the other at the Saldanha Harbour. Monthly dust fallout monitoring has been carried out at one position along the northern boundary of the site. At this location the existing (baseline) dust fallout levels were generally below 400mg/m²/day and well within the industrial guideline of 1.200mg/m²/day. This guideline was exceeded once per year in 2018, 2019 and 2020. The monitoring report (March 2020) noted that the collected dust consists of 65% fine rounded quartzite, 20% clay, with the remainder being topsoil and isolated organic debris.

The construction phase will include vegetation clearance and construction of warehouses and hardening of the surfaces for the storage of ore. Depending on the daily specific construction activities, dust emissions during the construction phase may vary significantly from day to day. However, the emissions from the construction phase are expected to be localised to the site and of a temporal nature. Therefore, the air quality impacts during construction are expected to be of short duration and very localised to the work force.

Mitigation measures will be implemented to minimise the potential impacts outside the site boundaries. These general dust suppression measures include:

- Water spraying during material handling and material transfer operations, on unpaved roads and during earthmoving operations;
- Restriction of speed to below 30 km/hour for vehicles travelling on unpaved roads;
- Early paving of unpaved roads on site; and
- Early re-vegetation/paving around open/exposed areas.

Construction Phase

During the construction phase, dust and particulate matter ("PM₁₀") will be generated from land clearing, material loading and hauling on unpaved roads and wind erosion from exposed areas. The vast majority of the emissions and the resulting impact is expected to be contained within the site. Due to the temporal nature of the

construction activities, the duration of the emissions and the impact phase is considered temporary. The ambient air quality will be negatively affected, however, the severity will be low, and the impact occurrence highly probable. The sensitivity around the site is considered to be low, since it is in an agricultural/industrial area.

Operational Phase

The main air pollution emissions emanating from the receiving, storage and dispatching of the minerals are dust and PM₁₀. The main dust generating sources during the operational phase are associated with material handling (the operations of the excavators, truck loading and offloading), as well as vehicle movements on site.

The material handling emissions for the enclosed warehouses are expected to be contained within the structures and are considered negligible. There are no expected emissions of manganese, as it will only be stored within the enclosed warehouses and not at the open stockpile areas.

With the implementation of mitigation measures, the impact severity will be reduced to very low, and the overall mitigated impact rating will be reduced to low.

3.5 Groundwater impacts

A Groundwater Impact Assessment Report dated April 2021 was compiled by Groundwater Complete, to assess the potential groundwater impacts associated with the proposed development.

A total of four boreholes are located around the site and are situated to the west and east. Two of the four boreholes are used for dust control purposes at the TerraNominees facility to the south and downstream flow direction from the site. The other two boreholes were originally intended for domestic use in the past but could not be used due to high salinity.

Impacts on groundwater quality and quantity will be insignificant during the operational phase due to the following:

- The product to be stored on the site is inert and will have very little (if any) effect on the quality of groundwater;
- The natural ambient groundwater quality is poor (highly saline) and unsuitable for domestic use or livestock consumption;
- The groundwater transport and flux rate in the aquifer is very low and any groundwater contamination that may occur will be contained in the immediate vicinity of the site; and
- There are no nearby users that are dependent on groundwater.

3.6 Visual and noise impacts

Potential noise and visual impacts are anticipated during the construction phase. However, no significant potential noise and visual impacts are anticipated as these impacts will be mitigated by the implementation of the mitigation measures included in the EMPr.

The development will result in both negative and positive impacts.

Negative Impacts:

- Potential impacts on air quality;
- Potential noise, odour and visual impacts; and
- Loss of indigenous vegetation.

Positive impacts:

- Employment opportunities will be created during the construction and operational phases of the development;
- Contribution to the local economy; and
- Optimal use of land on a site earmarked for industrial use.

National Environmental Management Act Principles

The National Environmental Management Act Principles (set out in section 2 of the NEMA, which apply to the actions of all Organs of State, serve as guidelines by reference to which any Organ of State must exercise any function when taking any decision, and which must guide the interpretation, administration and implementation of any other law concerned with the protection or management of the environment), *inter alia*, provides for:

- the effects of decisions on all aspects of the environment to be taken into account;
- the consideration, assessment and evaluation of the social, economic and environmental impacts of activities (disadvantages and benefits), and for decisions to be appropriate in the light of such consideration and assessment;
- the co-ordination and harmonisation of policies, legislation and actions relating to the environment;
- the resolving of actual or potential conflicts of interest between Organs of State through conflict resolution procedures; and
- the selection of the best practicable environmental option.

In view of the above, the NEMA principles, compliance with the conditions stipulated in this Environmental Authorisation, and compliance with the EMPr, the competent authority is satisfied that the proposed listed activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management stipulated in Chapter 5 of the NEMA and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the listed activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels.

You are reminded of your general duty of care towards the environment in terms of Section 28(1) of the NEMA which states: *“Every person who causes, has caused or may cause significant pollution or degradation of the environment must take reasonable measures to prevent such pollution or degradation from occurring, continuing or recurring, or, in so far as such harm to the environment is authorised by law or cannot reasonably be avoided or stopped, to minimise and rectify such pollution or degradation of the environment.”*

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