



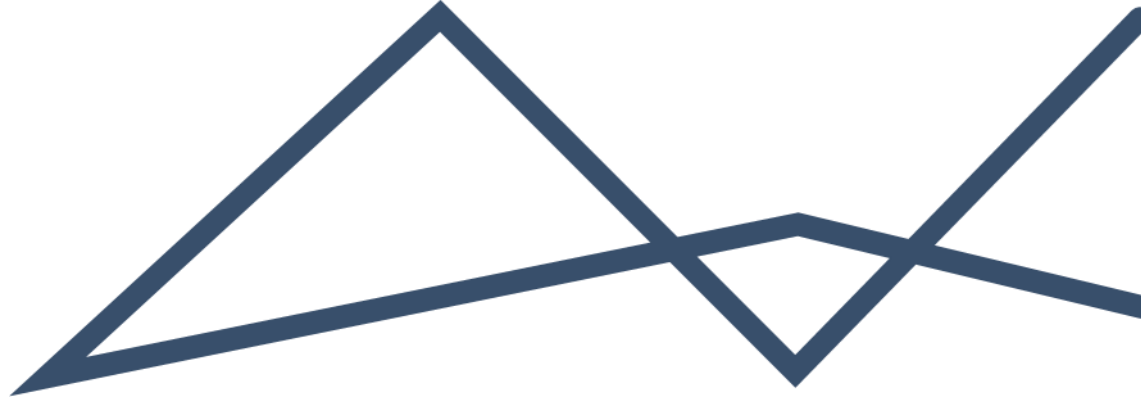
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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT

HARMONY NOOITGEDACHT TAILINGS STORAGE FACILITY AND
ASSOCIATED PIPELINES PROJECT








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Table of Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Objectives of the Public Participation	1
3	Legal Compliance	3
4	Identification Of Interested And Affected Parties (I&APs).....	3
4.1	List of Organs Of State Identified And Notified.....	3
4.2	List of Other Key I&APs Identified and Notified	4
5	Notification of Interested and Affected Parties	4
5.1	Initial Notification of Key I&APs	5
5.1.1	Notification Letters: Faxes, Emails, Registered mail And SMSs	5
5.1.2	Site Notice Placement.....	5
5.1.3	Newspaper and Gazette Notice.....	5
5.2	Notification of Registered Interested and Affected Parties of D Scoping Report (SR) Availability	6
5.2.1	Scoping Report Availability	6
5.2.2	SCOPING REPORT PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTIFICATION.....	6
5.3	Summary of Public Participation Opportunities.....	7
6	Record of Issues Raised.....	8
7	Conclusions	9

List of Tables

Table 1: Opportunities Provided for Public Participation	7
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Appendices

APPENDIX C1: INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES DATABASE

APPENDIX C2: PROOF OF INITIAL CALL TO REGISTER NOTIFICATION

APPENDIX C3 : SITE NOTICE PLACEMENT PROOF

APPENDIX C4: NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT AND GAZETTE NOTICE

APPENDIX C5: SCOPING REPORT AND PUBLIC MEETING NOTIFICATION

Appendix C6: SCOPING REPORT AVAILABILITY NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT

APPENDIX C7: PUBLIC MEETING DOCUMENT

APPENDIX C8: TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCE

APPENDIX C9: CORRESPONDENCE DOCUMENT



ABBREVIATION LIST:

DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation (formerly DWA/DHSWS)
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
I&AP	Interested and Affected Party
LOM	Life of Mine
NERSA	National Energy Regulators of South Africa
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
PPP	Public Participation Process
PPR	Public Participation Report
SACAA	South African Civil Aviation Agency
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
SANBI	South African Biodiversity Institute
SANParks	South African National Parks
SANRAL	South African National Roads Agency
SR	Scoping Report
TSF	Tailings Storage Facility
WUL	Water Use License
NWA	National Water Act



1 INTRODUCTION

Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited (hereafter referred to as the applicant) has appointed Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS) as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the necessary environmental authorisation and associated consultation processes. EIMS will compile and submit the required documentation in support of applications for:

- Integrated Environmental Authorisation (EA) and Waste Management License (WML) in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act – NEMA (Act 107 of 1998) as well as the National Environmental Management: Waste Act – NEMWA (Act 59 of 2008; and
- Water Use Licence (WUL) for various water uses in accordance with the National Water Act – NWA (Act 36 of 1998).

The applicant owns and operates a number of Gold Mines and plants in the Welkom region in the Free State and currently deposits tailings onto the Free State South 2 Tailings Storage Facility (TSF), St. Helena 4 TSF, St. Helena 123 TSF, Dam 23 TSF, Brand D TSF and Target 1&2 TSF. The current planned Life of Mine (LOM) of the Free State operations exceed the available deposition capacity of these TSFs and the applicant is therefore proposing to construct the proposed Nooitgedacht TSF to cater for this additional capacity. The TSF will cover an area of approximately 8.95 km². The proposed TSF will be located on Farm portions Mijannie 66 Ptn 0/RE, Goedgedacht 53 Ptn 0, Nooitgedacht 50 Ptn 0, Jacobsdal 37 Ptn 0 and Rheedersdam 31 Ptn 0.

In addition, three new pipelines are required to be constructed:

- Two 10km long slurry lines from Harmony One Plant to the St Helena Booster Pump Station;
- One 16km long slurry line from Brand A TSF to the St Helena Booster Pump Station; and
- One 17km slurry line from the St Helena Booster Pump Station to FSN 1 TSF.

The pipelines will be flanged steel pipelines of over 0,36m in diameter and installed above-ground on pre-cast concrete plinths and a 3.5m wide access road, adjacent to the pipelines, will be cleared/graded to provide access for construction, maintenance, and inspections.

The proposed pipelines traverse the following farm portions: Vlakplaats 125 Ptn 3, 4 and 5; Mijannie RE/66 Ptn 0; Toronto RE/115 Ptn 7 and 0; Rietpan 17 Ptn 0; Rietkuil 28 Ptn 0; Rheeders Dam 31 Ptn 0; Farm 41 Ptn 20; Ouders Gift 48 Ptn 0; Nooitgedacht 50 Ptn 0; Goedgedacht 53 Ptn 0; Theronia 71 Ptn 1 and 7; Jacobsrust 118 Ptn 0; St Helena 42 Ptn 2 and 3, Farm 80 Ptn 0, Stuurmanship 92 Ptn 1, 7 and 0, Saaiplaas 690 Ptn 1, 11, 15 and 0; Klippan 14 Ptn 1, 2 and 15, Marmageli 20 Ptn 0 and 157 Ptn 0.

In addition, a new low pressure water facility is required to be constructed at farm Klippan 14 portion 2 which will cover an area of up to 2 ha. Return water will be fed to this facility where the water will then be taken to the plants and the active reclamation sites.

2 OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

South Africa, being one of the countries with the most progressive constitutions, enshrined the public's right to be involved in decisions that may affect them in its Constitution. Section 57(1) of the new Constitution that provides: *"The National Assembly may (b) make rules and orders concerning its business, with due regard to representative and participatory democracy, accountability, transparency and public involvement"*. This provision, along with several others gave rise to many new trends in South African legislation. In environmental legislation, the idea of public participation (or stakeholder engagement) features strongly and especially the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, NEMA) and the recent regulations passed under the auspices of this Act makes very strict provisions for public participation in environmental decision-making.

Public participation can be defined as...*"a process leading to a joint effort by stakeholders, technical specialists, the authorities and the proponent who work together to produce better decisions than if they had acted*



*independently*¹. From this definition, it can be seen that the input of the public is regarded as very important indeed.

The Public Participation Process (PPP) is designed to provide sufficient and accessible information to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in an objective manner to assist them to:

- During the Scoping and EIA Process:
 - Contribute relevant local information and knowledge to the environmental assessment; Verify that their comments have been recorded;
 - Comment on the findings of the environmental assessments; and
 - Provide relevant local information and knowledge to the environmental assessment.

The PPP is a requirement of several pieces of South African Legislation and aims to ensure that all relevant I&APs are consulted, involved and their opinions are taken into account and a record included in the reports submitted to Authorities. The process ensures that all stakeholders are provided this opportunity as part of a transparent process which allows for a robust and comprehensive environmental study. The PPP for the necessary authorisation required for the project needs to be managed sensitively and according to best practises in order to ensure and promote:

- Compliance with international best practice options;
- Compliance with national legislation;
- Establishment and management of relationships with key stakeholder groups; and
- Encouragement of involvement and participation in the environmental study and authorisation/approval process.

As such, the purpose of the PPP and stakeholder engagement process is to:

- Introduce the proposed project and process for the authorisation project;
- Explain the environmental authorisation;
- Determine and record issues, concerns, suggestions, and objections to the project;
- Provide opportunity for input and gathering of local knowledge;
- Establish and formalise lines of communication between the I&APs and the project team;
- Identify all significant issues for the project; and
- Identify possible mitigation measures or environmental management plans to minimise and/or prevent negative environmental impacts and maximise and/or promote positive environmental impacts associated with the project.

This Public Participation Report (PPR) lists all verbal and written issues raised by I&APs during the call-to-register period from 21 June 2024 to date. An initial phase of public participation took place from June to September 2024 and a public meeting was held with I&APs, insights from that meeting are contained in this PPR. A breakdown of the PPP is given within the remaining sections of this PPR.

¹ Greyling, T. (1999) Towards Managing Environmental Disputes: Appropriate Public Participation. Prepared for Conference on Environmental Dispute Resolution 10-11 June 1998, Fourways, Gauteng, Manyaka Greyling Meiring (Pty) Ltd, South Africa



3 LEGAL COMPLIANCE

The PPP must comply with all environmental legislation that requires public participation as part of an application for authorisation or approval; namely, the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998).

Adherence to the requirements of the above-mentioned Act will allow for an Integrated PPP to be conducted, and in so doing, satisfy the requirements for public participation referenced in the Act. The details of the Integrated PPP are provided below.

4 IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (I&APS)

An initial I&AP database has been compiled from historic projects in the area and Windeed searches to obtain the contact details of the surrounding landowners. The I&APs referred to in the PPR include:

- Pre-identified and registered landowners and surrounding landowners;
- Pre-identified and registered key stakeholders;
- Regulatory authorities;
- Specialist interest groups; and
- All I&APs who responded to the initial notifications and requested to be registered.

Efforts to pre-identify key I&APs involved various avenues such as consultation with the proponent and known landowners within the study area, review of related previously conducted studies, and identification of key interest groups and authorities within the vicinity of the study area and municipality. Refer to **APPENDIX C1** for the Key Stakeholder/I&AP Database.

4.1 LIST OF ORGANS OF STATE IDENTIFIED AND NOTIFIED

The following key I&APs, but not limited to, were notified of the proposed project and invited to participate in the public participation process:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Eskom Soc Ltd | • Free State Department of Water and Sanitation |
| • Free State Department of Agriculture & Rural Development | • Free State Development Corporation |
| • Free State Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs | • Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Authority |
| • Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs | • Lejweleputswa District Municipality |
| • Free State Department of Health | • Matjhabeng Local Municipality |
| • Free State Department of Mineral Resources and Energy | • Masilonyana Local Municipality |
| • Free State Department of Police, Roads and Transport | • National Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development |
| • Free State Department of Public Works and Infrastructure | • National Department Of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment |
| | • National Department of Transport |
| | • National Department of Water and Sanitation |



- National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)
- National Government of the Republic of South Africa
- National House of Traditional Leaders
- Sedibeng Water
- South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)
- South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)
- South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
- South African National Roads Agency Ltd (SANRAL)
- South African National Parks (SANParks)
- Thusanong District Hospital
- Transnet Ltd SOC

4.2 LIST OF OTHER KEY I&APS IDENTIFIED AND NOTIFIED

- A & R Firearms and training
- Armgold/Harmony Freegold Joint Venture co Pty Ltd
- African Conservation Trust
- AfriForum
- Birdlife South Africa
- Botanical Society
- Die Melkkan
- Center for Environmental Rights
- Council for Geoscience
- Directly Affected and Adjacent Landowners
- Earth Life Africa
- Endangered Wildlife Trust
- Environamics
- Federation for a Sustainable Environment
- Fidelity Security Services - Welkom
- Freegold Harmony Pty Ltd/Harmony Gold Mining Co Ltd
- Goldfields Equestrian Centre
- Griffons Rugby Union
- GroundWork SA
- Phakisa Freeway
- Transnet Properties
- Ward councillors
- Welkom Airport FAWM
- Welkom Cemetery
- Welkom Paintball
- Western Holdings Primary School
- Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa
- Working for Climate

5 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

This section provides details on the notifications that were distributed as part of the consultation process to date.



5.1 INITIAL NOTIFICATION OF KEY I&APS

Notification during this initial consultation was given in the manner described below.

5.1.1 NOTIFICATION LETTERS: FAXES, EMAILS, REGISTERED MAIL AND SMSS

Notification letters in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho were distributed to pre-identified I&APS through faxes, emails, and registered mail between 16 to 20 June 2025. SMS notification messages (in English and Afrikaans) were also sent to all I&APS where contact details were available.

The notification documents included the following information:

- List of anticipated activities to be authorised;
- Sufficient detail of the proposed development to enable I&APS to assess/surmise what impact the development will have on them or on the use of their land;
- The purpose of the proposed project;
- Details of the application processes associated with proposed activities;
- Details of the affected properties (including a locality map);
- Details of the South African environmental legislation that must be adhered to;
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to **APPENDIX C2** for initial notification and proofs.

5.1.2 SITE NOTICE PLACEMENT

Ten (10) A1 Correx site notices (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) were placed at 10 locations along, within, and surrounding the perimeter of the proposed project study area on 18 June 2025. The on-site notices included the following information:

- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Map of the proposed project area;
- Project description;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to **APPENDIX C3** for proof of site notice and site notice distribution.

5.1.3 NEWSPAPER AND GAZETTE NOTICE

A Newspaper advertisement describing the proposed project and EIA process was placed in the Vista News Newspaper (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) with circulation in the vicinity of the study area on 12 June 2025. A Newspaper advertisement was also placed in the Free State Sun Newspaper, with circulation in the vicinity of the study area on 13 June 2025. A Gazette Notice was placed in the National Government Gazette (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) on 20 June 2025. The newspaper and Gazette notices included the following information:

- Project name;
- Applicant name;



- Project location;
- Nature of the activity;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer **APPENDIX C4** to for proof of adverts placed.

5.2 NOTIFICATION OF REGISTERED INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES OF SCOPING REPORT (SR) AVAILABILITY

This subsection provides details on the public consultation carried out during the Scoping Report Review period.

5.2.1 SCOPING REPORT AVAILABILITY

Notification letters (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) were distributed to pre-identified and registered I&APS through email, SMSs, faxes, and/or registered mail. The notification included details regarding where hard and soft copies of the report can be accessed.

Contact details were provided to I&APs if they require assistance accessing the information or require copies of the reports.

Newspaper advertisements (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) indicating the availability of the Scoping Report for public review and comment, and locations where the report can be accessed were placed in the vista newspaper with circulation in the vicinity of the study area on 11 December 2025.

Please refer to **APPENDIX C5** and **Appendix C6** for the Scoping Phase notification proof

5.2.2 SCOPING REPORT PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTIFICATION

Public meeting notifications were distributed to pre-identified and registered I&APs through email, SMS, and Faxes. The notification included details regarding when the public meeting will be held, the venue, and the time of the meeting. the notification were distributed in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho. The A date, time, and location of the Scoping Phase public meeting was held on the 14th of January 2025 between 12:00 to 14:00 at the Odendaalsrus Municipality Conference Room. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the findings of the Scoping Report with Interested and Affected Parties.

Please refer to **APPENDIX C7** for the public meeting record.

5.3 NOTIFICATION OF REGISTERED INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REPORT AVAILABILITY

5.3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT NOTIFICATION

Notification letters (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) will be distributed to pre-identified and registered I&APS through email, SMSs, faxes, and/or registered mail. The notification will include details regarding where hard and soft copies of the report can be accessed.

Contact details will be provided to I&APs if they require assistance accessing the information or require copies of the reports.

5.3.2 EIA PHASE PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting meant to discuss the findings of the EIA Report will be held with all I&APs. Notifications will be distributed to all pre-identified and registered I&APs regarding the location, date, and time of the public meeting.



5.4 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

The table below provides a summary of the opportunities provided to I&APs for participation in the public participation process to date.

Table 1: Opportunities Provided for Public Participation

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION/PLACE	DATE
Initial Call to Register	Notification of landowners, occupiers, and other key I&APs.	Affected landowners and key I&APs were notified via email, fax, and/or post.	16-20 June 2025
	Placement of site notices.	Ten (10) A1 site notices (English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) within and around the study area (10 placement locations).	18 June 2025
	Newspaper advertisements and National Gazette Notice	Advertisement in Vista News Newspaper	12 June 2025
		Advertisement in Free State Sun Newspaper	13 June 2025
		Gazette Notices were placed in the National Government Gazette	20 June 2025
Availability of the SR for Public review reports (Scoping Report)	Notification of landowners, occupiers, and other key I&APs.	Affected landowners and key I&APs were notified via either registered mail, SMS, fax, and/or email, where contact details are available.	11 December 2025
	Report Placement (Hard Copy)	One (1) hard copy of the Scoping report was submitted to the Welkom public library where members of the public could access the report.	12 December 2025
	Report Placement (Soft Copy)	An electronic copy of the report was placed on the EIMS website. A data free service was made available to anyone who has limitations with respect to data downloads.	12 December 2025
	Public Meeting	A public meeting for the Scoping Phase was held with all members of the public invited to attend, at the Odendaalsrus Municipality Conference Room.	14 January 2025 12:00 – 14:00
Availability of the EIA for Public review reports	Notification of landowners, occupiers, and other key I&APs.	Affected landowners and key I&APs will be notified via either registered mail,	TBA



(Environmental Impact Assessment Report)		SMS, fax, and/or email, where contact details are available.	
	Report Placement (Hard Copy)	One (1) hard copy of the EIA report will be submitted to the Welkom public library where members of the public can access the report.	TBA
	Report Placement (Soft Copy)	An electronic copy of the report will be placed on the EIMS website. A data free service will be made available to anyone who has limitations with respect to data downloads.	TBA
	Public Meeting	A public meeting for the EIA Phase will be held with all members of the public invited to attend, a venue will be communicated.	TBA

6 RECORD OF ISSUES RAISED

Comments on the proposed project were solicited from pre-identified and registered I&APs and key stakeholders. To date, the following comments have been received and addressed:

- I&AP Registration
- Request for project description, shapefile, and locality map.
- South African Civil Aviation Authority:
 - Request to update the relevant contact information for future environmental impact analysis reports, meeting requests, and requests for comments.
 - No comments to the proposed project, a suggestion to lodge an additional application should there be features that have a certain height.
- Request for more information about Harmony mining operations and activities in the area.
- Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA) raised various concerns regarding Public Participation Process conducted to ensure there is meaningful engagement that accommodates all affected communities and I&APs.
- I&APs raised concerns about language barrier issues especially when it comes to reports and the technical language used in there.
- Clarification on the assessment of the cumulative impact of existing tailing storage facilities.
- Request for clarity on the contents of the TSF and if it will pose any impacts on community health in terms of air quality.
- Request for an explanation of the design, construction, and maintenance plans that will be in place during the construction and operation of the TSF.
- Request for clarity of the measure that will be applied to ensure compliance with mitigation measures.
- Request for a monitoring committee to be set up for the construction and operation of the project which must include members of the community and be provided with copies of all monitoring reports, audits, compliance notices, directives, and incident reports.



- Request for clarity of how climate change will be addressed and ensure the TSF does not flood during heavy rain seasons.
- Questions on how contamination of groundwater will be prevented, impacts of the project on informal cattle grazing.
- SANRAL requested a locality map and GPS Coordinates of the project in order to determine impact.
- Federation for a Sustainable Environment requested that arrangements be made for a virtual meeting.
- Concerns raised about a viable relocation plan for species 15.

Please refer to **APPENDIX C8** and **APPENDIX C9** for comments or issues received.

7 CONCLUSIONS

This report has been updated using comments received during the call to register period to date.



APPENDIX C1: INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES DATABASE

Please note that in an effort to protect the personal information of the Registered I&AP's the contact information of the I&APs will not be made publicly available. Should you require access to this document for the purposes of fulfilling your obligations under the NEMA EIA Regulations or other lawful right, please feel free to contact the EIMS Information officer at 011 789 7170 or popia@eims.co.za



APPENDIX C2: PROOF OF INITIAL CALL TO REGISTER NOTIFICATION

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APPENDIX C3 : SITE NOTICE PLACEMENT PROOF



APPENDIX C4: NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT AND GAZETTE NOTICE



APPENDIX C5: SCOPING REPORT AND PUBLIC MEETING NOTIFICATION

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Appendix C6: SCOPING REPORT AVAILABILITY NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT



APPENDIX C7: PUBLIC MEETING DOCUMENT

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APPENDIX C8: TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCE



APPENDIX C9: CORRESPONDENCE DOCUMENT

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