



the dme

Department:
Minerals and Energy
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DME 6

Private Bag X59, Pretoria, 0001, Tel: (012) 317 8000, Fax: (012) 322 3416
Mineralia Centre, 234 Visagie Street, Pretoria

Enquiries: Michael Oberholzer Tel: 012 317 8409 E-mail:

michael.oberholzer@dme.gov.za

Attention: The Civil Society Organization

Postnet suite 87

Private Bag x 033

Rivonia

2128

Fax: 011 608 1131

THE GOVERNMENT TASK TEAM (GTT) ON MINE CLOSURE AND WATER MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE STATEMENT PRESENTED BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS ON THE ISSUE OF ACID MINE DRAINAGE IN THE UNDERGROUND MINING BASINS.

The statement presented by Ms Mariette Liefferink on behalf of Civil Society Organisations on the 03rd December 2009 to the GTT, has reference. The GTT acknowledges the receipt of the statement and also recognises and understands the urgency of the issue.

The Government Task Team (GTT) appreciates the scale of the problem of the surface and underground water quality in Gauteng (Witwatersrand area). As a result, the Government Departments represented on the GTT have made strides in finding solutions and management measures to the problem of AMD.

In an attempt to strategically resolve the cumulative and integrated impacts of mine water in the Wits Basins, the Department of Mineral Resources initiated

research under the umbrella of the Witwatersrand Water Ingress Project, and the Council for Geoscience was contracted to undertake this research on behalf of the Department. The focus of the research is the existing and potential problems related to mine water management and acid mine drainage in the Witwatersrand. Remedial actions and strategies have been proposed. Of great importance, is the research which leads to the development and implementation of the regional mine closure strategy aimed to address mine water challenges in the medium to long term. These studies will amongst others indicate remedial measures. Remedial measures to prevent ingress and manage decant, have been identified and implementation of some of the measures has started, with the construction of a canal to prevent ingress into the Central Basin at Florida Lake, as well as the establishment of monitoring systems; geochemical modelling as well as further research aimed at final strategic solutions.

The GTT has scrutinised the condition of every basin and have identified the status, current activities, available infrastructure and key challenges. Hence the GTT is in the process of developing an action plans to deal with AMD issues in the relevant basins. In parallel to these, other relevant departments are dealing with the related challenges

The GTT believes that in order to tackle the problem, a coordinated approach is required, amongst all stakeholders. We therefore have welcomed your inputs in this regard.

Yours Sincerely


Michael Oberholzer

Chairman: Government Task Team on Mine Closure and Water Management

Tel: 012 317 8409

Email: Michael.oberholzer@dme.gov.za

Date: 2010/02/02