


REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2018

Date	Activity
3 December 2018	<p><u>Pure Source Mine</u></p> <p>Written comments on THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT OF PURE SOURCE MINE (FS 30/5/1/2/2/10048 MR) (FS 30/5/1/2/3/2/1/10048 EM)</p> <p><u>SAIL Minerals and SAIL Group</u></p> <p>Engagement with SAIL Minerals and SAIL Group re unlawful chrome and platinum mining within the Steelpoort/Burgersfort area and Preparation of Memorandum of Understanding</p> <p><u>Tudor Shaft Informal Settlement</u></p> <p>As a consequence of the FSE’s litigation, activism, lobbying and whistleblowing for more than a decade, the DMR has issued a s28 remediation notice to Thumadui (Pty) Ltd in respect of the aforementioned area.</p> <p>The notice requires that detailed plans are to be provided within 60 days of:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the remediation steps that are to be taken; - its envisaged impact on the environment; - the manner in which these negative impacts are to be addressed; - timeframes envisaged for all activities; and - detailed plans of the envisaged activities to ensure that no future pollution occurs. <p>DRD Gold has been approached by Thumadui to assist with the processing of material and the disposal of tailings. As a consequence there are engagements between DRD Gold and the FSE.</p>
4 December 2018	<p><u>Wonderfonteinspruit Catchment Management Forum</u></p> <p>Participation in the Wonderfonteinspruit Catchment Management Forum meeting: oral and written comments</p>
5 December 2018	<p><u>Atha-Africa Ventures (Pty) Ltd</u></p> <p>In December 2016, the Endangered Wildlife Trust and the Federation for a Sustainable Environment appealed against the grant of a water use licence to Atha-Africa Ventures (Pty) Ltd (Atha) for its proposed Yzermyn underground coal mine in the Mabola Protected Environment.</p>

	<p>In terms of the National Water Act, 1998, an appeal against a water use licence suspends that water use licence. The rationale for the suspension is that if water use commences under an inappropriate licence, that will cause unacceptable damage to the environment, and specifically water resources, which may be irreparable.</p> <p>The Mabola Protected Environment is part of a strategic water source area and a national freshwater ecosystem priority area. It is also a threatened Grassland Biome in South Africa, namely the Wakkerstroom Wet Grasslands Area. Atha's proposed mine will dry up the wetlands and will likely generate acid mine drainage.</p> <p>In 2017, at Atha's request, Minister of Water and Sanitation uplifted the automatic suspension of Atha's water use licence, enabling it to commence the licenced activities. Accordingly, acting for the Endangered Wildlife Trust and the Federation for a Sustainable Environment, the Centre for Environmental Rights (CER) wrote to the Water Tribunal asking it to expedite the hearing of our clients' appeal.</p> <p>The FSE attended the Water Tribunal hearing on the 5th of December 2018 where arguments by the legal teams on behalf of the FSE and EWT and Atha were heard.</p>
7 December 2018	<p><u>Magaliesburg Catchment Management Forum</u></p> <p>Participation in the Magaliesburg Catchment Management Forum.</p> <p><u>Protea Mine</u></p> <p>The FSE submitted oral and written comments during the Forum meeting and oral and written on complaints regarding the mining activities conducted by Protea Mines (Pty) Ltd. in respect of Portion 8 and 9 of the Farm Zuikerboschfontein 151 IQ and Portion 10 of the Farm Steenkoppie 153 IQ in the magisterial District of Krugersdorp on the 30th of October, 2018, the 4th of November 2018 and the 7th of December, 2018.</p> <p>The FSE's complaints resulted in an investigation by the DMR on the 20th of November 2018 to confirm the allegations.</p> <p>The DMR found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are new areas/slots that have been opened where the outcrop has been removed. • The said areas are on a greenfield area outside the mine's fence and it is on a downward slope towards a non-perennial stream. • The overburden and topsoil was dumped adjacent to the sites.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were remains of an unignited blasting device of which a picture was taken to enquire with the Mine what it was. • In the light of the above, the right holder was found to have commenced with a listed activity by conducting opencast mining without an Environmental Authorisation granted by the DMR. • The mine does not have proper infrastructure to contain processed water from the plant and this could have devastating effects on the soil and water resources. More so as it has been alleged the Mine is using cyanide. (Reference: Correspondence by the DMR to the FSE, dated the 8th of January, 2019.) <p>Subsequent to the investigation, the mining right holder was on the 10th of December 2018 instructed by the DMR to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cease conducting mining activities through opencast mining method as the mining right has been granted for underground mining only; • Not to conduct any mining activities underground until the Principal Inspector of Mines gives permission for such activities after having confirmed compliance with the aspects of health and safety in terms of the Mine Health and Safety Act 1996 (29 of 1996); • Compile and submit a rehabilitation [plan] with timeframes and cost detailing how the mine will conduct rehabilitation of the areas that have been mined through opencast method without an Environmental Authorisation; and • Prepare a presentation of a clear account for all the previous and current activities at the mine since the new owners' [operations].
12 December 2018	<p><u>Blyvoor Gold Mining Project</u></p> <p>Blyvoor Gold Mining Project- Public Participation Meeting.</p> <p>The FSE participated in the meeting and submitted public and written comments. Please see attached.</p>  <p>FSE COMMENTS - EIA AND EMPR BLYV</p> <p><u>Lancaster Mining Company (Pty) Ltd – Directive</u></p> <p>Pursuant to the FSE's request to the Department of Water and Sanitation for an investigation into Lancaster Mine's operations without a water use license authorisation and the issue raised at the Wonderfonteinspruit Catchment Management Forum (WFS CMF) on the 28 November 2017, the Department of Water and Sanitation's Wonderfonteinspruit, the Department of Water and Sanitation determine that it "would take action on the illegal</p>

	<p>water uses occurring at Lancaster Mine.” A site visit had been conducted at Lancaster Mine and enforcement had found that the mine was not authorised in terms of section 21 of the National Water Act (“NWA”). The Department of Water and Sanitation have therefore taken administrative action and will follow the associated processes required by law.</p> <p>On the 12th of December 2018 the FSE was informed by the Acting Director: Regulation of the DWS, Mr L.L. Nqelenga that the DWS found during a follow-up inspection that the Notice of Intention to issue a Directive was not complied with by the Mine. As part of the enforcement process a Directive was issued instructing the Mine to cease all water use activities.</p>
<p>14 December 2018</p>	<p><u>El Pais</u></p> <p>Interview with Alba Munoz, of El Pais – most important newspaper in Spanish language on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Are you aware of scientific studies or researches that proves or give evidence of the danger that toxic mine dumps are dangerous for the population? - Do you agree with the affirmation that Johannesburg is one of the most radioactive cities in the world? - Do you think that if large-scale studies about mine dump areas were taken in South Africa, the results will show us a dangerous environment for thousands of people? - Why do you think a large scale research is not going on? - Have you received any kind of pressure or threaten because of your activism and investigations? - Is the background problem that the SA government doesn't have funds to do the maintenance of the mines, close them and relocate people?
<p>20 December 2018</p>	<p><u>Mintails Group/National Nuclear Regulator</u></p> <p>Site visit with the National Nuclear Regulator of Mintails' operations and in particular the removal of potential radioactive pipes and dispersal of potential radioactive material within the Upper Wonderfonteinspruit and the Tweelopiespruit.</p>



20 December 2018

Mintails Group

The LRC on behalf of the FSE requested the DMR to:

We urgently seek that the Department issue directives to the liquidators (in terms of section 28 read with section 2(4)(p)) to start remedial action and contain the toxic sludge that is currently polluting and degrading the environment.

We also request urgently that a copy of the mining right for mining right 132, 133 and 206 to be provide to our client the Federation for a Sustainable Environment.



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Subsequent requests were sent to the DWS and the NNR on the 27th of December, 2018 by the LRC on behalf of the FSE.

21 December – 31
December 2018

Mintails Group

Preparation of a summary of Mintails' Operations and alleged delinquency of its Directors



SUMMARY
MINTAILS -REVISED.1

And,

Engagement with Niel Pretorius, CEO of DRD Gold and Michael Quinert of West Wits Mining regarding the above matter.

Australian Institute of Geomechanics

Finalisation of paper and key note address, titled “Selected extracts from South Africa’s environmental legislation, challenges with the management of gold tailings within the Witwatersrand gold fields and case studies” for the Institute’s International Conference in May, 2019

The abstract reads:

“For most of its history, the mining industry in South Africa has not been subjected to comprehensive environmental regulation. In recent years, however, this has changed significantly, and the industry is now required to comply with a complex web of mining and environmental policy and legislation.

Despite these regulatory advances, we still grapple with legacy issues, namely how to manage decades of environmental degradation, mining waste and long-term residual and latent impacts and how to equitably and fairly apportion duties, responsibilities and liabilities for the remediation of mining waste.

An analysis of the Witwatersrand gold fields and the management of its uraniferous waste provides an excellent example of the complexity of these issues and lessons learnt.

Keywords: acid mine drainage, waste, uranium, radioactivity, dump reclamation, environmental legislation, closure”