

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR A MINING PERMIT APPLICATION ON A PORTION OF REMAINDER OF PORTION 5 OF THE FARM APPELDOORN 38 IT NEAR CAROLINA WITHIN THE CHIEF ALBERT LUTHULI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND THE GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

Fluxosolve (Pty) Ltd has applied for a Mining Permit for Coal ('Project') on Portion of Remainder of Portion 5 of the Farm Appeldoorn 38 IT near Carolina, within the Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality within the Gert Sibande District Municipality in the Mpumalanga Province. In terms of section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002) (MPRDA), a mining permit may only be issued where the mineral in question can be mined optimally within a period of two (2) years and the proposed mining permit area (MPA) does not exceed five (5) hectares in extent. The project site, a Portion of Remainder of Portion 5 of the Farm Appeldoorn 38 IT is located 13km east of the town of Carolina and south of the R38 provincial road which links Carolina to eManzana (Badplaas). The Project is a Listed Activity and requires Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations published under the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) as amended, herein referred to

as NEMA. The purpose of this Background Information Document is to provide you as an Interested and Affected Party with:

- Key and relevant information about the Project and the requisite EIA process to be followed by the Applicant, Fluxosolve (Pty) Ltd;
- A summary of the specialist studies that will be undertaken to assess the environmental impact of the Project; and
- Details on how you as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) can become involved in the EIA process, receive information or raise issues that may concern / interest you.

2. LOCALITY

The MPA is situated on Portion of Remainder of Portion 5 of the Farm Appeldoorn 38 IT, which is located 13km east of the town of Carolina. A locality map of the MPA is included in Figure 1 below and key details of the MPA are provided below in Table 1.

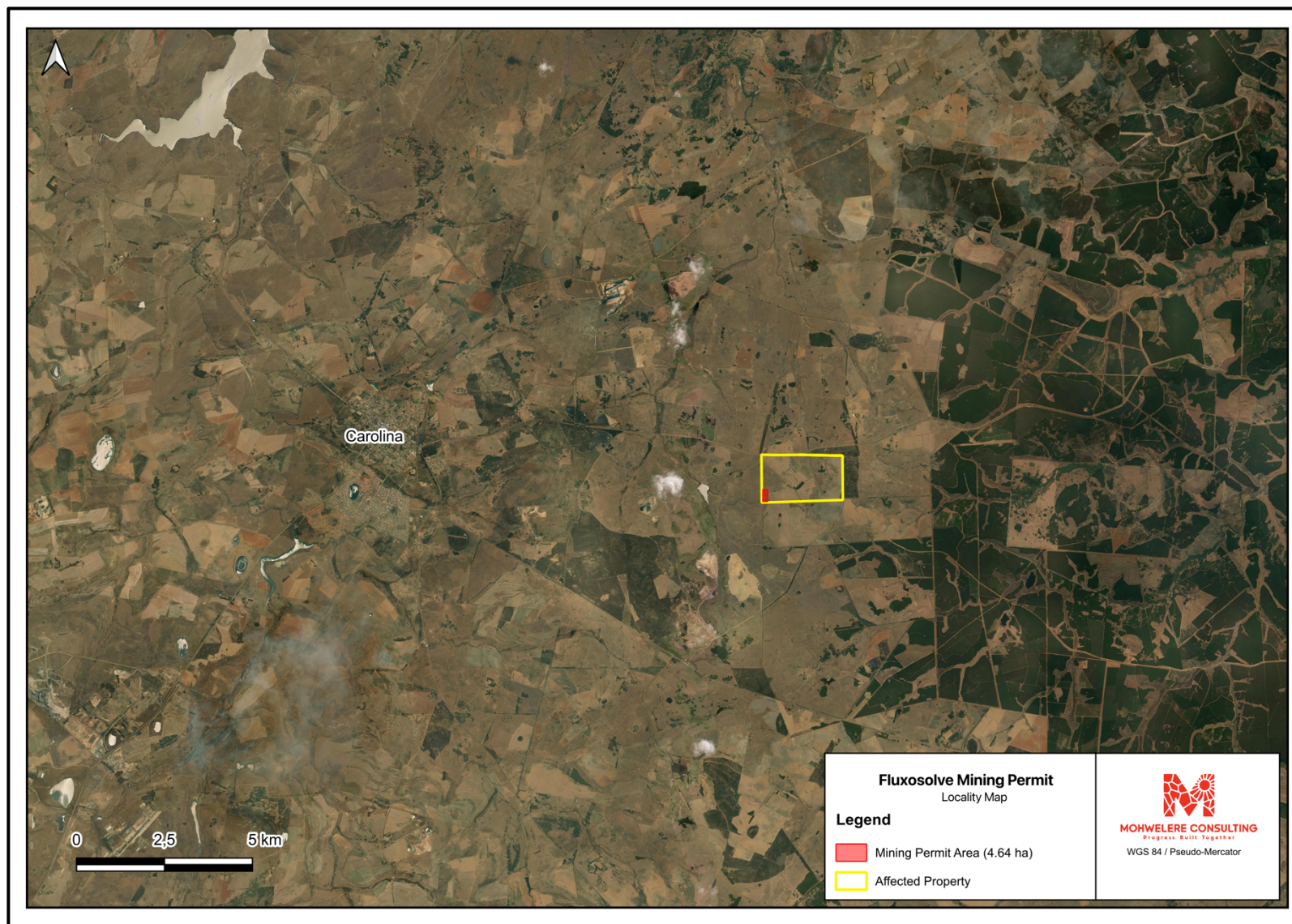


Figure 1: A locality map of the mining permit application area near Carolina, Mpumalanga Province

Table 1: Mining Permit Area Description

Province	Mpumalanga
District Municipality	Gert Sibande
Local Municipality	Chief Albert Luthuli
Nearest Town(s)	Carolina eManzana (Badplaas)
Farm Name, Number and Portion	Portion 6 of the Farm Appeldoorn, 38 IT
Extent of MPA (ha)	Up to 5 ha (within a Portion of Remainder of Portion 5 of the Farm Appeldoorn 38 IT, which is 297 ha in extent)
Centre Coordinates	26° 5'11.71"S 30°13'22.62"E

3. SURROUNDING LAND USE

Surrounding land uses within the vicinity of the MPA include existing and operational coal mining operations and commercial agriculture operations within the vicinity of Carolina. The current land use on the MPA is agriculture.

4. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Fluxosolve (Pty) Ltd proposes to undertake small-scale opencast mining of coal within the MPA. Mining activities will include the following:

- Site establishment, including the demarcation of the mining area, upgrading of access roads where required, and the establishment of temporary site facilities (site office, ablutions, parking and stockpile areas).

- Stripping and separate stockpiling of topsoil and subsoil for later use in rehabilitation.
- Removal and stockpiling of overburden using excavators, with drilling and blasting undertaken only where hard material is encountered.
- Opencast excavation and loading of the coal seam using excavators, front-end loaders and haul trucks, with run-of-mine coal transported off-site to market and / or for further processing.
- Progressive backfilling of mined-out areas with overburden as mining advances.
- Concurrent and final rehabilitation of the mining area, including reshaping, replacement of subsoil and topsoil, and revegetation, on completion of the mining activities.

Key information regarding the mining programme is included below in Table 2.

Table 2: Key information of the MP programme

Mining Duration/Term	Permit	Up to 2 years (renewable for three (3) periods not exceeding one (1) year each)
Mining Method		Opencast (truck and excavator) Drilling and blasting only where required
Estimated disturbance footprint (m²)		Up to 50 000 m ² (5 ha) in total, inclusive of the mining excavation, stockpiles and site facilities
Water Requirements (m³)		Up to 5 000m ³ per annum for the duration of the mining programme, primarily for dust suppression and domestic use
Labour Requirements		Up to 40 people on site
Road Access		Access to site will be obtained off the R38 via the gravel road that provides direct access to the project site.

5. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS

The environmental impact assessment process will identify, describe and evaluate the potential impacts associated with the proposed mining activities and will recommend mitigation measures which can be implemented to avoid, minimise or manage environmental and social impacts associated with the mining activities. Potential environmental and social impacts that will be considered include, but are not limited to, the following:

5.1. Biophysical Impacts

- Disturbance of soils and clearance of vegetation within the mining area, stockpile areas and along access routes, including the temporary loss of agricultural land.

- Potential impacts on surface water and groundwater, including the risk of contamination from hydrocarbons, coal stockpiles and potentially acid-generating material, as well as changes to runoff patterns and groundwater levels associated with the opencast excavation.
- Impacts on wetlands, watercourses and associated buffers, where present.
- Potential effects on fauna, flora and sensitive or protected habitats.
- Dust, noise and vibration generation from mining operations, blasting (where required) and vehicle movement.

5.2. Socio-economic and heritage impacts

- Effects on existing land use, particularly agricultural activities.
- Potential disturbance of heritage, cultural or archaeological resources, including graves that may be present within the MPA.
- Traffic, road safety and nuisance impacts on neighbouring properties, particularly those associated with the haulage of coal on surrounding roads.
- Potential local economic benefits, including temporary employment and procurement opportunities.

Each potential impact will be assessed in terms of its nature, extent, duration, intensity and probability, both before and after the application of mitigation measures, in the manner prescribed by the 2014 EIA Regulations as amended. Recommended

mitigation measures will be consolidated into an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

6. THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS

In addition to the mining permit application under section 27 of the MPRDA, Fluxosolve (Pty) Ltd must obtain EA under NEMA before commencing with mining activities on site. Mining permit applications follow the Basic Assessment (BA) processes as part of the application for EA. Key steps of the process are outlined below in Table 3:

Table 3: A summary of the BA activities

Step	Activity	Opportunity for I&AP involvement
1	Application lodged with the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR) and acceptance confirmed.	Notification of the application.
2	Public participation initiated — release of this BID, site notices, advertisements and landowner notification.	Register as an I&AP; raise initial issues.
3	Compilation of the draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and EMPr, including specialist input where required.	Review and comment on the draft report (typically a 30-day period).

Step	Activity	Opportunity for I&AP involvement
4	Comments incorporated; final BAR and EMPr submitted to the competent authority.	Comments and responses recorded in the report.
5	Decision by the competent authority (grant or refusal), with conditions.	Notification of the decision; right of appeal.

Indicative timeframes for each phase will be communicated to registered Interested and Affected Parties. Statutory comment periods will be clearly advertised, and all comments received will be captured in a Comments and Responses Report which will be appended to the final BA Report. Please note that, depending on the final site layout and water uses, additional authorisations, such as a water use authorisation in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998), may also be required prior to the commencement of mining activities.

7. HOW TO REGISTER AND PARTICIPATE

Interested and Affected Parties are invited to register and to submit any comments, questions or concerns regarding the Project. To ensure your input is recorded and considered, please register as an I&AP and direct all your comments and queries to:

Name & Surname	Tsepo Lepono
Email	pp@mohwelereconsulting.co.za
Mobile Number	060 416 1154
Subject	Appeldoorn (Fluxosolve) MP BAR

When registering or providing comments, please provide your full name, contact details, and an indication of your interest in or concern about the proposed activity. This helps us keep you informed and respond appropriately. You may also request that your details be kept confidential from other parties where permitted.

Who should register? Landowners and lawful occupiers of the affected land and adjacent properties; traditional authorities; local and district municipalities; relevant organs of state; community-based organisations; and any person or organisation with an interest in the proposed activities or the environment that may be affected.