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OBJECTION AFTER SITE VISIT – 16TH MARCH 2012

Date: 16 April 2012

The Regional Manager
Department of Mineral Resources
Mpumalanga Province
Private Bag X7279
Witbank
1035
Fax 013 656 3288

RE RMDEC site inspection at the proposed mining site on 16 March 2012

**Objection in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act ,
2002 (Act 28 of 2002) (“MPRDA”) to the application for a mining right by: *WPB
COLLIERY***

on the Farm: *GROENVLEI 353 JT AND LAKENVLEI 355 JT*

District of: *Belfast*

DMA reference number: *MP30/5/1/2/2/505 MR*

Mr Tshivhandekano

Good day to you. In view of the fact that you requested Mr Johan Steenkamp and Mr WP Bower to send certain information to me for redistribution, I am now objecting to further consideration or granting of a Mining Right for WPB Colliery, as requested, on behalf of:

1. Mansfield Farming and other Farmers adjacent to the proposed mine;
2. The Farm Workers in the district;
3. The Hospitality Industry in the area and their Workers;
4. FOSAF;
5. Various Nature Conservation NGO's;
6. Others e.g. Mr Mike Brett

Kindly note that this submission does not detract from the rights of any of the aforementioned entities to object separately and in their own rights.

We wish to draw your attention to the following:

1. **Comments by our Mining Expert – Mr Mike Brett** (Document Attached)
2. **We consider the absence of DWAF at the site inspection, as a severe flaw.**

We have been in correspondence with the DWAF over the past several months on this matter. At present, we are awaiting a response and explanation following our most recent letter to them. We object strongly to their absence and contend that there was no quorum present.

3. **Insufficient Opportunity.**

We object to the fact that over two hours were spent with WPB Colliery and their representatives on the mining site, whereas interested and affected parties had less than a half an hour to point out grounds and reasons for our objections. This was partially caused by the onset of rain in the early afternoon.

4. **Objections by Farming and Hospitality Worker community.**

You will agree that it was patently clear from the large number of Workers present and demonstrating against the mine application, that there is zero local support for the mine. Many of these people stand to lose their employment if the project were to proceed, but

they have not had adequate opportunity to voice their opinions and did not have the opportunity at the site meeting *either*.

5. **Present Water Contamination from Proposed Mining Site.**

Mr Ngangezwe – a senior worker on my farm - pointed out to you, the route contaminated water from Mr Bower's property, is taking onto the farm of Mr H Strydom, from where it should flow – in terms of a servitude I hold – onto our farm. One family has already been displaced from their residence, as a result, and this water is also not fit for farming purposes. You undertook to contact Mr Ngangezwe by phone; this has not happened yet.

6. **Contamination Affecting the Elands River.**

As mentioned, this contaminated water is known to Mr Bower, but he has not done anything to remedy the matter. From the report of Mr Mike Brett, it is clear that such contamination will increase if the WPB Colliery were to proceed. In view of the fact that the Elands River is one of only two relatively clean rivers remaining in Mpumalanga, it would, with respect in my opinion, to permit the project to proceed.

7. **The Natural Heritage of our Nation.**

Any further expansion of mining activities in the sensitive Escarpment areas, would also, in our opinion, be a grave travesty of justice. The benefit for a chosen few, from coal mining for a few years, while being to the detriment of endangered species and the heritage of future generations, is not acceptable.

8. **Late Receipt of Information.**

As indicated in my letter to Mr Muzikayise Shabane on the 22nd March 2012, we only received certain relevant information from Menco, two weeks after the site meeting. This was not due, in our opinion, to any deliberate action by either side. However, in view of this late receipt of information, we reserve the right to submit further objection and comment, as we deem necessary, for your consideration.

9. **Allegation by Mr Bower**

Just before the 16th March site meeting closed, Mr Bower alleged that they had intercepted a document by certain Interested and Affected parties that they planned to “bankrupt him”. I requested a copy and subsequently wrote to him requesting it when I did not receive it. He responded saying he had decided not to supply it to us but would submit it to your office.

At the site meeting, you again said, as Regional Manager, that Government cannot afford to “sterilise mineral resources.” This may be so, but we are sure you will agree, that there is a responsibility on DMA and yourself, as Regional Manager, to protect water resources, sensitive geological areas, and the broader interests of local communities. Should you require further information from us, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With best regards

John Mansfield