



106 Inyoni Creek
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The Regional Manager,
Department of Mining Resources,
Witbank

31st August 2011

RE: Mining Right: MP 30/5/1/2/2/505 MR Farms Groenvlei 353 JT & Lakenvlei 355 JT

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of FOSAF I wish to object in the strongest terms to the granting of this mining right.

Not only was it evident from the many objections raised by the MTPA, various environmental agencies, Mr Mike Brett, landowners and other interested and affected parties present at the public participation meeting held on 29/08/2011 in Belfast that the documentation supporting this application is fatally flawed from an environmental and geohydrological standpoint.

Furthermore we support the objections raised with regard to the socio-economic aspects. We doubt very much whether any but a small number of the 43 new jobs created (only for 5 years) will be persons currently living in the Emakhazeni municipality or that a significant amount of the expenditure for the mine will be within the municipality. Compare this with the 1 000 permanent jobs created by the eco-tourism industry in the Steenkampsberg (Dullstroom – Belfast plateau) of which fly-fishing is central. The majority of these jobs which are threatened by mining are held by black women, the most vulnerable in the community.

I also wish to refer to the EMF for the Emakhazeni municipality in which it is stated that the majority of land use is zoned for conservation, tourism and agriculture with tourism being the main economic driver. Only a very small area in the North-West corner is zoned for mining.

In addition the Elandsfontein road is the main access road to a number of fly-fishing/ecotourism destination as well as farms. Like all the roads in the area it is in poor condition and this state is already exacerbated by the applicant's trucks carrying sand from his sand mine. 35 coal trucks a day will make this road impassable to most vehicles during many months of the year.

Lastly I wish to stress that FOSAF concurs fully with the opinions and objections raised with regard to this application by the MPTA, EWT, WESSA, Birdlife SA, Mpumalanga Wetland Forum, EPOG and Mr Mike Brett.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Arderne
Secretary, Northvaal Chapter of FOSAF