

Ayesha Motala

From: Ayesha Motala
Sent: 24 February 2015 04:02 PM
To: 'GumaF@dwa.gov.za'; 'MatisoM@dwa.gov.za'; 'Centralp@dwa.gov.za'
Cc: 'Mdakanep@dwa.gov.za'
Subject: Atha-Africa Ventures (Pty) Ltd - Application for Water Use Licence for Yzermyin Mine in Mabola Protected Environment

Importance: High

Dear Mr Guma, Ms Matiso and Ms Diedricks,

The Centre for Environmental Rights (CER) is a non-profit organisation and law clinic established in 2009. Our vision is a South Africa where every person's Constitutional right to an environment that is not harmful to health or well-being, and to have the environment protected for future generations, is fully realised. Our mission is to advance the realisation of environmental rights as guaranteed in the South African Constitution by providing support and legal representation to civil society organisations and communities who wish to protect their environmental rights, and by engaging in legal research, advocacy and litigation to achieve strategic change.

Thus, we supported the declaration of the Mabola Protected Environment (MPE) under the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (NEMPAA) by the Mpumalanga MEC during 2014. However, media reports have indicated that Atha-Africa Ventures (Pty) Ltd has been granted a mining right by the Mpumalanga Regional Manager for the Department of Mineral Resources, which falls within the MPE and is near Wakkerstroom. It also appears that Atha-Africa Ventures intends to pursue exercising that right regardless of Section 48 of NEMPAA.

We therefore urgently require the following information please:-

1. A copy of any application by Atha-Africa Ventures (Pty) Ltd to the Department of Water and Sanitation for a water use licence for the Yzermyin mine; and
2. A copy of the approved water use licence, if one has been approved.

Kindly note that as this is a matter of urgency, if a response is provided as soon as reasonably possible, it would be of great assistance.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Ayesha Motala
Candidate Attorney
Centre for Environmental Rights NPC
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