



Centre for Environmental Rights

Advancing Environmental Rights in South Africa

Ms Sibongile Malie
Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
Pretoria
By email: Sibongile.Malie@dmr.gov.za

31 January 2020

Dear Ms Malie

SUBMISSIONS ON THE DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2019

1. The Centre for Environmental Rights (CER) is a non-profit organisation comprised of environmental rights activist lawyers that help communities defend their right to a healthy environment. We do this by advocating and litigating for transparency, accountability and compliance with environmental laws.
2. Thank you for the invitation to make submissions on the Draft Amendment to the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Regulations.
3. While we welcome this opportunity to comment, we note that the commenting period largely fell over the festive season when our offices were shut. This rendered it difficult for us to meaningfully and adequately engage with our clients and partners on the draft, particularly given a range of other draft legislation published for comment over this period. We submit that this is contrary to the principles of public participation and compromises the public participation process. We therefore urge the Department to, in future, be mindful of the timing and period for commenting and ensure that it does not exclude interested and affected parties from this crucial process.
4. We enclose our submissions in the form of a table containing our comments and our proposed amendments / insertions.

Yours sincerely

CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

per:

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Attorney

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