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## GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM

No. R. 658

13 June 2008

The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism hereby publishes the second amendment draft to the National Environmental Management Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2006, which provides for the further regulation of environmental impact assessments, environmental authorizations and incidental matters. More details are set out in the attached Schedules.

Written comments and inputs are invited from interested parties and the general public, which must be submitted to:

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**THE CLOSING DATE FOR COMMENTS IS 12 JULY 2008. COMMENTS RECEIVED AFTER THE CLOSING DATE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

**No. R. 659****13 June 2008**

**AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS IN TERMS OF CHAPTER 5 OF THE  
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998**

The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism hereby publishes, in terms of section 24(5) read with section 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), the second amendment draft to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations published in Government Notice No. R. 385 of 21 April 2006, which provides for the investigation, assessment and communication of the potential impact of identified activities.

**DRAFT AMENDMENT REGULATIONS**

To amend the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations published in Government Notice No. R. 385 of 21 April 2006 in terms of section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, so as to provide for certain textual alterations, the insertion of new definitions and substitution of others, amendments to certain aspects of the assessment process and to provide for incidental matters.

BE IT ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, as follows:-

## **General Explanatory Note**

“**[ ]**” Words in bold type in square brackets indicate omissions from existing enactments.

“   ” Words underlined with a solid line indicate insertions in existing enactments.

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## CHAPTER 1 INTERPRETATION AND PURPOSE OF THESE REGULATIONS

### Interpretation

1. (1) In these Regulations any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act has that meaning, and unless the context requires otherwise –

**“activity”** means an activity identified –

- (a) in Government Notice No. R. 386 and No. R. 387 of 2006 as a listed activity; or
- (b) in any other notice published by the Minister or MEC in terms of section 24D of the Act as a listed activity or specified activity;

**“alternatives”**, in relation to a proposed activity, means different means of meeting the general purpose and requirements of the activity, which may include alternatives to –

- (a) the property on which or location where it is proposed to undertake the activity;
- (b) the type of activity to be undertaken;
- (c) the design or layout of the activity;
- (d) the technology to be used in the activity; and
- (e) the operational aspects of the activity;

**“applicant”** means a person who has submitted or intends to submit an application;

**“application”** means an application for –

- (a) an environmental authorisation in terms of Chapter 3 of these Regulations;
- (b) an amendment to an environmental authorisation in terms of Chapter 4 of these Regulations or
- (c) an exemption from a provision of these Regulations in terms of Chapter 5 of these Regulations;

**“basic assessment”** means a process contemplated in regulation 22;

**“basic assessment report”** means a report contemplated in regulation 23;

**“cumulative impact”**, in relation to an activity, means the impact of an activity that in itself may not be significant but may become significant when added to the existing and potential impacts eventuating from similar or diverse activities or undertakings in the area;

**“EAP”** means an environmental assessment practitioner as defined in section 1 of the Act;

**“environmental impact assessment”**, in relation to an application to which scoping must be applied, means the process of collecting, organising, analysing, interpreting and communicating information that is relevant to the consideration of that application;

**“environmental impact assessment report”** means a report contemplated in regulation 32;

**“environmental management p[lan]rogramme”** means an environmental management p[lan]rogramme in relation to identified or specified activities envisaged in Chapter 5 of the Act and described in regulation 34;

**“guidelines”** means any national guidelines and provincial guidelines issued in terms of Chapter 8 of these Regulations;

**“independent”**, in relation to an EAP or a person compiling a specialist report or undertaking a specialised process or appointed as a member of an appeal panel, means –

- (a) that such EAP or person has no business, financial, personal or other interest in the activity, application or appeal in respect of which that EAP or person is appointed in terms of these

Regulations other than fair remuneration for work performed in connection with that activity, application or appeal; or

(b) that there are no circumstances that may compromise the objectivity of that EAP or person in performing such work;

***“interested and affected party”*** means an interested and affected party contemplated in section 24(4)(d) of the Act, and which in terms of that section includes –

(a) any person, group of persons or organisation interested in or affected by an activity; and

(b) any organ of state that may have jurisdiction over any aspect of the activity;

***“linear activity”*** means an activity that is undertaken across several properties and which affects the environment or any aspect of the environment along the course of the activity in different ways, and includes a road, railway line, power line, pipeline or canal;

**“mining area”** has the meaning assigned to it in section 1 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002;

***“ocean-based activity”*** means an activity in the territorial waters of the Republic;

**“petroleum”** means any liquid, solid hydrocarbon or combustible gas as defined in section 1 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002;

**‘production area’** has the meaning assigned to it in section 1 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002;

**‘production operation’** has the meaning assigned to it in section 1 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002;

**'production right'** has the meaning assigned to it in section 1 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002;

**"plan of study for environmental impact assessment"** means a document contemplated in regulation 29(1)(i) which forms part of a scoping report and sets out how an environmental impact assessment must be conducted;

**"public participation process"** means a process in which potential interested and affected parties are given an opportunity to comment on, or raise issues relevant to, specific matters;

**"Regional Mining Development and Environmental Committee"** has the meaning assigned to it in section 1 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002

**"registered interested and affected party"**, in relation to an application, means an interested and affected party whose name is recorded in the register opened for that application in terms of regulation 57;

**"scoping"** means a process contemplated in regulation 28(e);

**"scoping report"** means a report contemplated in regulation 29;

**"significant impact"** means an impact that by its magnitude, duration, intensity or probability of occurrence may have a notable effect on one or more aspects of the environment;

**"site"** when used in terms of these Regulations means the area directly affected by the total development footprint of the listed or specified activity;

**"specialised process"** means a process to obtain information which –

- (a) is not readily available without undertaking the process; and
  - (b) is necessary for informing an assessment or evaluation of the impacts of an activity,
- and includes risk assessment and cost benefit analysis;

**“the Act”** means the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998).

(2) When a period of days must in terms of these Regulations be reckoned from or after a particular day, that period must be reckoned as from the start of the day following that particular day to the end of the last day of the period, but if the last day of the period falls on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday, that period must be extended to the end of the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday.

#### **Purpose of these Regulations**

2. (1) The purpose of these Regulations is to regulate procedures and criteria as contemplated in Chapter 5 of the Act for the submission, processing, consideration and decision of applications for environmental authorisation of activities and for matters pertaining thereto.

(2) For any action contemplated in terms of these regulations, for which a timeframe is prescribed, the period of 15 December to 2 January must be excluded in the reckoning of days.

(3) Where a prescribed timeframe is affected by one or more public holidays, the timeframe must be extended by the number of public holiday days falling within that timeframe.”

(4) Where an objection on an application has been referred to the Regional Mining Development and Environmental Committee, in terms of regulation 6(5), the applicable timeframe is deemed to be extended by 45 days.

## CHAPTER 2 COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

### Identification of competent authorities

3. (1) All applications in terms of these Regulations must be decided by a competent authority.

(2) The competent authority who must consider and decide an application in respect of a specific activity must be determined with reference to Government Notice No. R. 386 and No. R. 387 of 2006, including any further notices that may be issued in terms of section 24D of the Act.

(3) Any dispute or disagreement in respect of who the competent authority should be in relation to any specific application must be resolved by the Minister and the MEC of the relevant province or by the Minister and **[delegated]** designated organ of state, as the case may be.

### Where to submit applications

4. (1) If the Minister is the competent authority in respect of a specific application, the application must be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

(2) If an MEC is the competent authority in respect of a particular application, the application must be submitted to the provincial department responsible for environmental affairs in that province.

(3) If the Minister or MEC has in terms of section 42 of the Act delegated any powers or duties of a competent authority in relation to an activity to which an application relates to an organ of state, the application must be submitted[ to that delegated organ of state.

(4) If the Minister of Minerals and Energy is the competent authority

in respect of a specific application, the application must be submitted to the relevant regional office of the Department of Minerals and Energy.

**Assistance by competent authorities to applicants**

5 (1) A competent authority may, on its own initiative, or on request by an applicant or an EAP managing an application, and subject to the payment of any reasonable charges, if applicable, –

(a) give the applicant or EAP access to any guidelines, departmental policies and decision-making instruments and information on practices that have been developed or to any other information in the possession of the competent authority that is relevant to the application; **[or]**

(b) advise the applicant or EAP, either in writing or by way of discussions,

of the nature and extent of any of the processes that must be followed in order to comply with the Act and these Regulations; or[.]

(c) on written request, furnish the applicant or EAP with a written record of

any agreement reached between the competent authority and the applicant or

EAP as a result of a discussion as contemplated in subregulation 1(b).

(2) The competent authority and the applicant or EAP, must on written request by a registered interested or affected party, provide access to the record of any agreement as contemplated in subregulation 1(c), to such a registered interested or affected party.

**Consultation between competent authorities and other organs of state having jurisdiction**

6. (1) Where an application in respect of any activity requiring environmental authorisation in terms of these Regulations must also be made in terms of other legislation and that other legislation requires that information must be submitted or processes must be carried out that are



substantially similar to information or processes required in terms of these Regulations, the Minister or MEC, in giving effect to Chapter 3 of the Constitution and **[section 24(4)(g)]** sections 24(4)(a)(i), 24K and 24L of the Act, must take steps to enter into a written agreement with the authority responsible for administering the legislation in respect of the co-ordination of the requirements of the legislation and these Regulations to avoid duplication in the submission of such information or the carrying out of such processes.

(2) If the Minister, the Minister of Minerals and Energy, an MEC or identified competent authority considers an application for an environmental authorisation, the Minister, Minister of Minerals and Energy, MEC or competent authority must take into account all relevant factors including any comments received from a State department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment.

(3) The Minister, the Minister of Minerals and Energy, an MEC or identified competent authority must consult with every State department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment when he or she considers an application for an environmental authorisation.

(4) A State department consulted in terms of subsection (3) must submit comment within 40 days from the date on which the Minister, Minister of Minerals and Energy, MEC or identified competent authority requests such State department in writing to submit comment.

(5) Where comments submitted in terms of subregulation (4) constitute an objection as contemplated in section 24O(4) of the Act, the Minister of Minerals and Energy must refer such objection to the Regional Mining Development and Environmental Committee.

(6) The Regional Mining Development and Environmental Committee must, within 45 days after the date of receiving such an objection, consider

the objection and must make written recommendations to the Minister of Minerals and Energy.

**Competent authorities' right of access to information**

7. (1) A competent authority is entitled to all information that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing any decision with regard to an application.

(2) Unless that information is protected by law, an applicant or EAP or other person in possession of that information must, on request by the competent authority, disclose that information to the competent authority, whether or not such information is favourable to the applicant.

**Criteria to be taken into account by competent authorities when considering applications**

8. When considering an application the competent authority must –
- (a) comply with the Act, these Regulations and all other applicable legislation; and
  - (b) take into account all relevant factors, including –
    - (i) any pollution, environmental impacts and environmental degradation likely to be caused if the application is approved or refused;
    - (ii) any implications for climate change;
    - (iii) the impact on the environment of the activity which is the subject of the application, whether alone or together with existing operations or activities;
    - ~~[(iii)]~~ (iv) measures that may [could] be taken –
      - (aa) to protect the environment from harm as a result of the activity which is the subject of the application; and
      - (bb) to prevent, control, abate or mitigate any pollution, environmental impacts or environmental degradation;
    - (iv) the ability of the applicant to implement mitigation measures and to comply with any conditions subject to which the application may be granted;

- (vi) where appropriate, any feasible and reasonable alternatives to the activity which is the subject of the application and any feasible and reasonable modifications or changes to the activity that may minimise harm to the environment;
- (vii) any information and maps compiled in terms of section 24 (3) of the Act, including any environmental management frameworks compiled in terms of Part 1 of Chapter 8 of these Regulations, to the extent that such information and maps and frameworks are relevant to the application;
- (viii) the information contained in the application form, reports, comments, representations and other documents submitted in terms of these Regulations to the competent authority in connection with the application;
- ~~[(viii)]~~ (ix) any comments received from organs of state that have jurisdiction over any aspect of the activity which is the subject of the application; **[and]**
- ~~[(i)]~~(x) any guidelines, departmental policies and decision making instruments that have been developed or any other information in the possession of the competent authority, that are relevant to the application; and
- (xi) any matters referred to in sections 24(4)(a) and (b) of the Act.

#### **Timeframes for competent authorities**

9. (1) A competent authority must strive to meet timeframes applicable to competent authorities in terms of these Regulations.

(2) If the competent authority is an organ of state acting under delegated powers and duties in terms of section 42 or 42A of the Act and that organ of state is unable to meet any timeframe set by a provision of these Regulations, the delegated organ of state must notify the Minister or MEC and the applicant.

**Notification of(n) [D]decision on applications by competent authorities**

10. (1) After a competent authority has reached a decision on an application, the competent authority must, in writing and within 10 days –
- (a) notify the applicant of the decision **[and of the period within which the applicant must comply with subregulation (2)]**;
  - (b) give reasons for the decision to the applicant; and
  - (c) draw the attention of the applicant to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of Chapter 7 of these Regulations, if such appeal is available in the circumstances of the decision.

(2) The applicant must, in writing, within 10 days of being notified in terms of subregulation (1)(a) **[a period determined by the competent authority]** –

- (a) notify all registered interested and affected parties of –
  - (i) the outcome of the application; and
  - (ii) the reasons for the decision; and
- (b) draw their attention to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of Chapter 7 of these Regulations, if such appeal is available in the circumstances of the decision.

**Registry of applications and record of decisions**

11. A competent authority must keep –
- (a) a register of all applications received by the competent authority in terms of these Regulations; and
  - (b) records of all decisions in respect of environmental authorisations.

**Liability of competent authorities as to costs of applications**

12. A competent authority is not liable for any costs incurred by an applicant in complying with these Regulations.

## CHAPTER 3 APPLICATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS

### *Part 1: General matters*

#### **Applications**

13. (1) An application for environmental authorisation of an activity must be made to the competent authority referred to in regulation 3.

(2) An application must –

- (a) be made on an official application form published by or obtainable from the relevant competent authority; and
- (b) when submitted in terms of regulation 24(b) or 27(b) be accompanied by –
  - (i) the written **[consent] notice** referred to in regulation 16(1) **[or proof that regulation 16(3) has been complied with]**, if the applicant is not the owner of the land on which the activity is to be undertaken; and
  - (ii) the prescribed application fee, if any.

(3) An application for an environmental authorisation may

- (a) be submitted simultaneously with an application for any right or permit in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002;
- (b) where section 24L of the Act applies, be submitted in the manner stipulated by that section.

#### **Checking of applications for compliance with formal requirements**

14. (1) On receipt of an application, the competent authority to which the application is submitted must check whether the application –

- (a) is properly completed and that it contains the information required in the application form;
- (b) is accompanied by any reports, other documents and fees required in terms of these Regulations; and
- (c) has taken into account any guideline applicable to the submission of applications.

(2) The competent authority must, within 14 days of receipt of the application, and in writing –

- (a) acknowledge receipt of the application, if the application is in order;
- or
- (b) reject the application, if it is not in order.

(3) The EAP managing an application that has been rejected in terms of subregulation (2) may correct that application and resubmit it to the competent authority.

(4) Subregulations (1) and (2) apply afresh to a corrected application submitted to the competent authority in terms of subregulation (3).

(5) In terms of section 24O of the Act and where basic assessment must be applied, the competent authority must refer a basic assessment report to any State department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment with a request for comments within 40 days.

#### **Combination of applications**

15. (1) If an applicant intends undertaking two or more activities as part of the same development, a single application on one application form must be submitted in respect of all those activities.

(2) If an applicant intends undertaking more than one activity of the same type at different locations within the area of jurisdiction of the competent authority [in the same province], different applications in respect of the different locations must be submitted, but the competent authority may, at the written request of the applicant, grant permission for the submission of a single application in respect of all those activities,

whether or not the application is submitted on one or more application forms.

(3) If the competent authority grants permission in terms of subregulation (2), the application must be dealt with as a consolidated process in respect of all the activities covered by the application, but the potential environmental impacts of each activity must be considered in terms of the location where the activity is to be undertaken.

#### **Activities on land owned by person other than applicant**

16. (1) If the applicant is not the owner, manager or person in control of the land on which the activity is to be undertaken, the applicant must, before applying for an environmental authorisation in respect of that activity, **[obtain the written consent of the landowner to undertake the proposed activity on that land]** where reasonably possible, give written notice of the proposed activity to the owner, manager or person in control of the land on which the activity is to be undertaken, and inform such person that he may participate in the public participation process as contemplated in regulation 56.

(2) Subregulation (1) does not apply to applications for a prospecting right or renewal thereof, mining right or renewal thereof, reconnaissance permit, exploration right or renewal thereof and production right or renewal thereof, in which case the notice contemplated in subregulation (1) must be served on acceptance of the above applications by the Minister of Minerals and Energy and such notice must inform such person that he may make any submissions to the competent authority in this regard within the timeframe prescribed in such notice.

(3) The format of a [A] written notice [consent] contemplated in subregulation (1) or (2) [must be in a form agreed to or determined] may be prescribed by the competent authority and such written notice must be submitted to the competent authority as proof that sub regulation (1) or (2) has been complied with, as the case may be.

**[(3) Subregulation (1) does not apply in respect of a linear activity, provided the applicant has given notice of the proposed activity to the owners of the land on which the activity is to be undertaken as soon as the proposed route or alternative routes have been identified.]**

#### **Appointment of EAPs to manage applications**

**17. (1)** Before applying for environmental authorisation of an activity, an applicant must appoint an EAP at own cost to manage the application.

**(2)** The applicant must –

- (a)** take all reasonable steps to verify whether the EAP to be appointed complies with regulation 18(a) and (b); and
- (b)** provide the EAP with access to all information at the disposal of the applicant regarding the application, whether or not such information is favourable to the applicant.

#### **General requirements for EAPs**

**18.** An EAP appointed in terms of regulation 17(1) must –

- (a)** be independent;
- (b)** have expertise in conducting environmental impact assessments, including knowledge of the Act, these Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- (c)** perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;
- (d)** comply with the Act, these Regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- (e)** take into account, to the extent possible, the matters listed in regulation 8(b) when preparing the application and any report relating to the application; and



- (f) disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in the possession of the EAP that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing –
- (i) any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority in terms of these Regulations; or
  - (ii) the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by the EAP in terms of these Regulations for submission to the competent authority.

### **Disqualification of EAPs**

**19.** (1) If the competent authority at any stage of considering an application has reason to believe that the EAP managing an application may not be independent in respect of the application, the competent authority must –

- (a) notify the EAP of the reasons for the belief; and
- (b) afford the EAP an opportunity to make representations to the competent authority regarding his or her independence, in writing.

(2) If, after considering the matter, the competent authority is unconvinced of the independence of the EAP, the competent authority must in writing, inform the EAP and the applicant accordingly and may –

- (a) refuse to accept any further reports or input from the EAP in respect of the application in question;
- (b) request the applicant to commission, at own cost, an external review by an independent person of any reports prepared or processes conducted by the EAP in connection with the application;
- (c) request the applicant to appoint, at own cost, another EAP –
  - (i) to redo any specific aspects of the work done by the previous EAP in connection with the application; and
  - (ii) to complete any unfinished work in connection with the application; or
- (d) request the applicant to take such action as the competent authority requires to remedy the effects of the lack of independence of the EAP on the application.

(3) If the application has reached a stage where a register of interested and affected parties has been opened in terms of regulation 57, the applicant must inform all registered interested and affected parties of any decisions taken by the competent authority in terms of subregulation (2).

**Determination of assessment process applicable to application**

20. (1) When appointed in terms of regulation 17(1), an EAP must in accordance with regulation 21 determine whether basic assessment or scoping must be applied to the application, taking into account –

- (a) any guidelines applicable to the activity which is the subject of the application; and
- (b) any advice given by the competent authority in terms of regulation 5 (b).

(2) An application must be managed in accordance with –

- (a) Part 2 of this Chapter if basic assessment must be applied to the application; or
- (b) Part 3 of this Chapter if scoping must be applied to the application.

**Criteria for determining whether basic assessment or scoping is to be applied to applications**

21. (1) Basic assessment must be applied to an application if the authorisation applied for is in respect of an activity listed in –

- (a) Government Notice No. R. 386 of 2006; or
- (b) a notice issued by the Minister or an MEC in terms of section 24D of

the Act identifying further activities for which environmental authorisation is required and stipulating that the procedure described

in Part 2 of this Chapter must be applied to applications for environmental authorisation in respect of those activities.

- (2) Scoping must be applied to an application if –
- (a) the authorisation applied for is in respect of an activity listed in –
- (i) Government Notice No. R. 387 of 2006;
- (ii) a notice issued by the Minister or an MEC in terms of section 24 D of the Act identifying further activities for which environmental authorisation is required and stipulating that the procedure described in Part 3 of this Chapter must be applied to applications for environmental authorisation in respect of those activities;
- (b) permission has been granted in terms of subregulation (3) for scoping instead of basic assessment to be applied to the application; or
- (c) the application is for two or more activities as part of the same development and scoping must in terms of paragraph (a) or (b) be applied in respect of any of the activities.

(3) If an applicant intends undertaking an activity to which basic assessment must be applied in terms of subregulation (1) and the applicant, on the advice of the EAP managing the application, is for any reason of the view that it is unlikely that the competent authority will be able to reach a decision on the basis of information provided in a basic assessment report, the applicant may apply, in writing, to the competent authority for permission to apply scoping instead of basic assessment to the application.

### ***Part 2: Applications subject to basic assessment***

#### **Steps to be taken before submission of application**

22. (1) If basic assessment must be applied to an application, the applicant or EAP managing the application must before submitting the application to the competent authority and before conducting the public participation contemplated in 22(2)(a), give notice in writing, of his or her intent to submit the proposed application, to-
- (i) the competent authority; and

(ii) any organ of state which has jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity.

(2) If basic assessment must be applied to an application, the EAP managing the application, must

(a) conduct at least a public participation process as set out in regulation 56;

(b) **[give notice, in writing, of the proposed application to –**

**(i) the competent authority; and**

**(ii) any organ of state which has jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; ]**

(b)[(c)] open and maintain a register of all interested and affected parties in respect of the application in accordance with regulation 57;

(c) [(d)] consider all objections and representations received from interested

and affected parties following the public participation process conducted in terms of subregulation 2(a) [paragraph (a)], and subject the proposed application to basic assessment by assessing –

(i) the potential impacts of the activity on the environment and the potential impacts of the environment on the activity;

(ii) whether and to what extent those impacts can be mitigated; and

(iii) whether there are any significant issues and impacts that require further investigation;

[(e)](d) prepare a basic assessment report in accordance with **regulation 23; and**

(f) (e)give all registered interested and affected parties an opportunity to comment on the basic assessment report in accordance with regulation 58.

(3) The format of a written notice as contemplated in sub regulation (1) may be prescribed by the competent authority and such written notice must be submitted to the competent authority as proof that sub regulation (1) has been complied with.

**Content of basic assessment reports**

**23. (1)** The EAP managing an application to which this Part applies must prepare a basic assessment report **[in a format published by, or obtainable from, the competent authority]**.

(2) A basic assessment report must contain all the information that is necessary for the competent authority to consider the application and to reach a decision contemplated in regulation 26, and must include –

- (a) details of –
  - (i) the EAP who prepared the report; and
  - (ii) the expertise of the EAP to carry out basic assessment procedures;
- (b) a description of the proposed activity;
- (c) a description of the property on which the activity is to be undertaken and the location of the activity on the property, or if it is –
  - (i) a linear activity, a description of the route of the activity; or
  - (ii) an ocean-based activity, the coordinates within which the activity is to be undertaken;
- (d) a description of the environment that may be affected by the proposed activity and the manner in which the geographical, physical, biological,
  - social, economic and cultural aspects of the environment may be affected by the proposed activity;
- (e) an identification of all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the basic assessment report;
- (f) details of the public participation process conducted in terms of regulation 22(a) in connection with the application, including –
  - (i) the steps that were taken to notify potentially interested and affected parties of the proposed application;
  - (ii) proof that notice boards, advertisements and notices notifying potentially interested and affected parties of the proposed application have been displayed, placed or given;

- (iii) a list of all persons, organisations and organs of state that were registered in terms of regulation 57 as interested and affected parties in relation to the application; and
- (iv) a summary of the issues raised by interested and affected parties, the date of receipt of and the response of the EAP to those issues;
- (g) a description of the need and desirability of the proposed activity and any identified alternatives to the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity;
- (h) a description and assessment of the significance of any environmental impacts, including cumulative impacts, that may occur as a result of the undertaking of the activity or identified alternatives or as a result of any construction, erection or decommissioning associated with the undertaking of the activity;
- (i) any environmental management and mitigation measures proposed by the EAP;
- (j) any inputs made by specialists to the extent that may be necessary;
- (k) a draft environmental management programme containing the aspects contemplated in regulation 34(a)-(g); [and]
- [(k)]** (l) any specific information required by the competent authority; and
- (m) any other matters required in terms of sections 24(4)(a) and (b) of the Act.

23(2A) For purposes of this regulation, section 24(4)(b) of this Act is deemed to be applicable.

(3) In addition, a basic assessment report must take into account –

- (a) any relevant guidelines; and

(b) any [practices] departmental policies, environmental management instruments and other decision making instruments that have been developed or adopted by the competent authority in respect of the kind of activity which is the subject of the application.

(5) The EAP managing the application must provide the competent authority with a detailed, written motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives, as contemplated in subregulation 23(2)(g), exists.

#### **Submission of application to competent authority**

24. After having complied with regulation 22, the EAP managing the application may –

- (a) complete the application form for environmental authorisation of the relevant activity; and
- (b) submit, to the competent authority, with the prescribed fee, if any, at least five copies of the completed application form [to the competent authority], and of [together with] –
  - (i) the basic assessment report;
  - (ii) **[copies of]** any representations, objections and comments received in connection with the application or the basic assessment report;
  - (iii) **[copies of]** the minutes of any meetings held by the EAP with interested and affected parties and other role players which record the views of the participants;
  - (iv) any responses by the EAP to those representations, objections, comments and views;
  - (v) a declaration of interest by the EAP on a form provided by the competent authority; and
  - (vi) any documents referred to in regulation 13(2)(b).

#### **Consideration of applications**

25. (1) On submission of the basic assessment report, the competent authority must refer the application to every State department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment with a

request for written comments.

(2) (3) A competent authority must within 30 days of acknowledging receipt of an application in terms of regulation 14(2)(a), consider the application and the basic assessment report.

~~[(2)]~~ (3) If the competent authority is unable to decide the application on the basic assessment report alone, the competent authority must request the EAP managing the application –

- (a) to submit such additional information as the competent authority may require;
- (b) to submit a report on any specialist study or specialised process as the competent authority may require in relation to any aspect of the proposed activity;
- (c) to suggest, consider or comment on feasible and reasonable alternatives; or
- (d) to subject the application to scoping and environmental impact assessment.

~~[(3)]~~ (4) The competent authority may reject the basic assessment report if [–

- ~~(a)]~~ it does not comply with regulation 22 or 23 in a material respect[; or
- ~~(b)]~~ **it is based on an insufficient public participation process].**

(5) (a) A basic assessment report that has been rejected in terms of subregulation (3), may be amended and resubmitted by the EAP to the competent authority.

(b) Comments that are made by interested and affected parties in respect of an amended basic assessment report must be attached to the report, but the EAP need not make further changes to the report in response to such comments.



(6) On receipt of any information, reports, suggestions or comments requested in terms of subregulation (2)(a), (b) or (c) or any amended basic assessment report submitted in terms of subregulation (4), as the case may be, the competent authority must reconsider the application.

(7) If the competent authority requests in terms of subregulation (2) (d) that the application be subjected to scoping, the application must be proceeded with in accordance with regulations **30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35** and **36**.

### **Decision on applications**

**26.** (1) A competent authority must within 30 days of acknowledging receipt of an application in terms of regulation **14** or, if regulation **25(2)(a)**, (b) or (c) has been applied or if the basic assessment report has been rejected in terms of regulation **25(3)**, within 30 days of receipt of the required information, reports, suggestions or comments or the amended basic assessment report, in writing –

- (a) grant authorisation in respect of all or part of the activity applied for;
- or
- (b) refuse authorisation in respect of all or part of the activity.

(2) To the extent that authorisation is granted for an alternative, such alternative must for the purposes of subregulation (1) be regarded as having been applied for.

(3) On having reached a decision, the competent authority must comply with regulation **10(1)**.

### ***Part 3: Applications subject to scoping and environmental impact assessment***

#### **Submission of application to competent authority**

**27.** If scoping must be applied to an application, the EAP managing the application must –

- (a) complete the application form for environmental authorisation of the relevant activity; and
- (b) submit the completed application form to the competent authority, together with –
  - (i) a declaration of interest by the EAP on a form provided by the competent authority; and
  - (ii) the prescribed application fee, if any, and any documents referred to in regulation 13(2)(b).

#### **Steps to be taken after submission of application**

28. (1) After having submitted an application, the EAP managing the application must –

- (a) conduct at least the public participation process set out in regulation 56;
- (b) give notice, in writing, of the proposed application to any organ of state which has jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity;
- (c) open and maintain a register of all interested and affected parties in respect of the application in accordance with regulation 57;
- (d) consider all objections and representations received from interested and affected parties following the public participation process;
- (e) subject the application to scoping by identifying –
  - (i) issues that will be relevant for consideration of the application;
  - (ii) the potential environmental impacts of the proposed activity; and
  - (iii) alternatives to the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable;
- (f) prepare a scoping report in accordance with regulation 29; **[and]**
- (g) give all registered interested and affected parties an opportunity to comment on the scoping report in accordance with regulation 58;
- (h) where applicable, submit the scoping report within the timeframes stipulated by the competent authority; and
- (i) submit at least 5 copies of the scoping report contemplated in (f) simultaneously to the competent authority.

(2) The competent authority must refer the scoping report contemplated in (1)(f) to every State department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment with a request for comments.

### **Content of scoping reports**

**29.** (1) A scoping report must contain all the information that is necessary for a proper understanding of the nature of issues identified during scoping, and must include –

- (a) details of –
  - (i) the EAP who prepared the report; and
  - (ii) the expertise of the EAP to carry out scoping procedures;
- (b) a description of the proposed activity and of any feasible and reasonable alternatives that have been identified;
- (c) a description of the property on which the activity is to be undertaken and the location of the activity on the property, or if it is –
  - (i) a linear activity, a description of the route of the activity; or
  - (ii) an ocean-based activity, the coordinates where the activity is to be undertaken;
- (d) a description of the environment that may be affected by the activity and the manner in which the physical, biological, social, economic and cultural aspects of the environment may be affected by the proposed activity;
- (e) an identification of all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the scoping report;
- (f) a description of environmental issues and potential impacts, including cumulative impacts, that have been identified;
- (g) information on the methodology that will be adopted in assessing the potential impacts that have been identified, including any specialist studies or specialised processes that will be undertaken;
- (h) details of the public participation process conducted in terms of regulation 28(a), including –
  - (i) the steps that were taken to notify potentially interested and affected parties of the application;

- (ii) proof that notice boards, advertisements and notices notifying potentially interested and affected parties of the application have been displayed, placed or given;
  - (iii) a list of all persons or organisations that were identified and registered in terms of regulation 57 as interested and affected parties in relation to the application; and
  - (iv) a summary of the issues raised by interested and affected parties, the date of receipt of and the response of the EAP to those issues;
- (i) scoping the need and desirability of the proposed activity and identified potential alternatives to the proposed activity, including advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives may have on the environment and the community that may be affected by the activity; and

[(i)] (j) a plan of study for environmental impact assessment which sets out the proposed approach to the environmental impact assessment of the application, which must include –

- (i) a description of the tasks that will be undertaken as part of the environmental impact assessment process, including any specialist reports or specialised processes, and the manner in which such tasks will be undertaken;
- (ii) an indication of the stages at which the competent authority will be consulted;
- (iii) a description of the proposed method of assessing the environmental issues and alternatives, including the option of not proceeding with the activity; and
- (iv) particulars of the public participation process that will be conducted during the environmental impact assessment process; **[and]**

[(j)] (k) any specific information required by the competent authority; and

(l) any other matters required in terms of sections 24(4)(a) and (b) of the Act.

(2) In addition, a scoping report must take into account any guidelines applicable to the kind of activity which is the subject of the application.

(3) The EAP managing the application must provide the competent authority with a detailed, written motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives, as contemplated in subregulation 29(1)(b), exists.

(4) For purposes of this regulation, section 24(4)(b) of this Act is deemed to be applicable.

### **Submission of scoping reports to competent authority**

**30.** The EAP managing an application must submit the scoping report compiled in terms of regulation 28(f) to the competent authority, together with –

- (a) copies of any representations, objections and comments received in connection with the application or the scoping report from interested and affected parties;
- (b) copies of the minutes of any meetings held by the EAP with interested and affected parties and other role players which record the views of the participants; and
- (c) any responses by the EAP to those representations, objections, comments and views.

### **Consideration of scoping reports**

**31.** (1) The competent authority must, within 30 days of receipt of a scoping report, consider the report, and in writing –

- (a) accept the report and the plan of study for environmental impact assessment contained in the report and advise the EAP to proceed with the tasks contemplated in the plan of study for environmental impact assessment;
- (b) request the EAP to make such amendments to the report or the

plan of study for environmental impact assessment as the competent authority may require;

- (c) reject the scoping report or the plan of study for environmental impact assessment if it –
- (i) does not contain material information required in terms of these Regulations; or
  - (ii) has not taken into account guidelines applicable in respect of scoping reports and plans of study for environmental impact assessment.

(2) In addition to complying with subregulation (1), the competent authority may advise the EAP of any matter that may prejudice the success of the application.

(3) A scoping report or plan of study for environmental impact assessment that has been rejected by the competent authority in terms of subregulation (1)~~[(d)]~~ (c) may be amended and resubmitted by the EAP.

(4) On receipt of the amended scoping report or plan of study for environmental impact assessment, the competent authority must reconsider the scoping report or plan of study for environmental impact assessment in accordance with subregulation (1).

### **Environmental impact assessment reports**

**32.** (1) If a competent authority accepts a scoping report and advises the EAP in terms of regulation 31(1)(a) to proceed with the tasks contemplated in the plan of study for environmental impact assessment, the EAP must proceed with those tasks, including the public participation process for environmental impact assessment referred to in regulation 29(1)(i)(iv) and prepare an environmental impact assessment report in respect of the proposed activity.

(2) An environmental impact assessment report must contain all information that is necessary for the competent authority to consider the

application and to reach a decision contemplated in regulation 36, and must include –

- (a) details of –
  - (i) the EAP who compiled the report; and
  - (ii) the expertise of the EAP to carry out an environmental impact assessment;
- (b) a detailed description of the proposed activity;
- (c) a description of the property on which the activity is to be undertaken and the location of the activity on the property, or if it is –
  - (i) a linear activity, a description of the route of the activity; or
  - (ii) an ocean-based activity, the coordinates where the activity is to be undertaken;
- (d) a description of the environment that may be affected by the activity and the manner in which the physical, biological, social, economic and cultural aspects of the environment may be affected by the proposed activity;
- (e) details of the public participation process conducted in terms of subregulation (1), including –
  - (i) steps undertaken in accordance with the plan of study;
  - (ii) a list of persons, organisations and organs of state that were registered as interested and affected parties;
  - (iii) a summary of comments received from, and a summary of issues raised by registered interested and affected parties, the date of receipt of these comments and the response of the EAP to those comments; and
  - (iv) copies of any representations, objections and comments received from registered interested and affected parties;
- (f) a description of the need and desirability of the proposed activity and identified potential alternatives to the proposed activity, including advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives may have on the environment and the community that may be affected by the activity;
- (g) an indication of the methodology used in determining the significance of potential environmental impacts;

- (h) a description and comparative assessment of all alternatives identified during the environmental impact assessment process;
- (i) a summary of the findings and recommendations of any specialist report or report on a specialised process;
- (j) a description of all environmental issues that were identified during the environmental impact assessment process, an assessment of the significance of each issue and an indication of the extent to which the issue could be addressed by the adoption of mitigation measures;
- (k) an assessment of each identified potentially significant impact, including –
  - (i) cumulative impacts;
  - (ii) the nature of the impact;
  - (iii) the extent and duration of the impact;
  - (iv) the probability of the impact occurring;
  - (v) the degree to which the impact can be reversed;
  - (vi) the degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources; and
  - (vii) the degree to which the impact can be mitigated;
- (l) a description of any assumptions, uncertainties and gaps in knowledge;
- (m) a[n] reasoned opinion as to whether the activity should or should not be authorised, and if the opinion is that it should be authorised, any conditions that should be made in respect of that authorisation;
- (n) an environmental impact statement which contains –
  - (i) a summary of the key findings of the environmental impact assessment; and
  - (ii) a comparative assessment of the positive and negative implications of the proposed activity and identified alternatives;
- (o) a draft environmental management programme [lan] containing the aspects contemplated in regulation 34(a)-(j);
- (p) copies of any specialist reports and reports on specialised processes complying with regulation 33; **[and]**
- (q) any specific information that may be required by the competent



authority; and

(r) any other matters required in terms of sections 24(4)(a) and (b) of the Act.

(3) The EAP managing the application must provide the competent authority with a detailed, written motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives, as contemplated in subregulations 32(2)(f),(h) and (n), exists.

(4) For purposes of this regulation, section 24(4)(b) of this Act is deemed to be applicable.

### **Specialist reports and reports on specialised processes**

**33.** (1) An applicant or the EAP managing an application may appoint a person who is independent to carry out a specialist study or specialised process.

(2) A specialist report or a report on a specialised process prepared in terms of these Regulations must contain –

(a) details of –

(i) the person who prepared the report; and

(ii) the expertise of that person to carry out the specialist study or specialised process;

(b) a declaration that the person is independent in a form as may be specified by the competent authority;

(c) an indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the report was prepared;

(d) a description of the methodology adopted in preparing the report or carrying out the specialised process;

(e) a description of any assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge;

(f) a description of the findings and potential implications of such findings on the impact of the proposed activity, including identified alternatives, on the environment;

- (g) recommendations in respect of any mitigation measures that should be considered by the applicant and the competent authority;
- (h) a description of any consultation process that was undertaken during the course of carrying out the study;
- (i) a summary and copies of any comments that were received during any consultation process; and
- (j) any other information requested by the competent authority.

**Content of draft environmental management programmes[ans]**

**34.** A draft environmental management programme [lan] must include

- 
- (a) details of –
  - (i) the person who prepared the environmental management programme [lan]; and
  - (ii) the expertise of that person to prepare an environmental management programme [lan];
- (b) information on any proposed management or mitigation measures that will be taken to address the environmental impacts that have been identified in a report contemplated by these Regulations, including environmental impacts or objectives in respect of –
  - (i) planning and design;
  - (ii) pre-construction and construction activities;
  - (iii) operation or undertaking of the activity;
  - (iv) rehabilitation of the environment; and
  - (v) closure, where relevant.
- (c) a detailed description of the aspects of the activity that are covered by the draft environmental management programme [lan];
- (d) an identification of the persons who will be responsible for the implementation of the measures contemplated in paragraph (b);
- [(e) where appropriate, time periods within which the measures contemplated in the draft environmental management plan must be implemented; and]**

- [(f)]** (e) proposed mechanisms for monitoring compliance with the environmental management programme [lan] and reporting thereon;
- (f) as far as is reasonably practicable, measures to rehabilitate the environment affected by the undertaking of any listed activity or specified activity to its natural or predetermined state or to a land use which conforms to the generally accepted principle of sustainable development;
- (g) a description of the manner in which it intends to—
- (i) modify, remedy, control or stop any action, activity or process which causes pollution or environmental degradation;
  - (ii) remedy the cause of pollution or degradation and migration of pollutants;
  - (iii) comply with any prescribed environmental management standards or practices;
  - (iv) comply with any applicable provisions of the Act regarding closure, where applicable;
  - (v) comply with any provisions of the Act regarding financial provisions for rehabilitation, where applicable;
- (h) time periods within which the measures contemplated in the environmental management programme must be implemented;
- (i) measures regulating responsibilities for any environmental damage, pollution, pumping and treatment of extraneous water or ecological degradation as a result of prospecting or mining operations or related mining activities which may occur inside and outside the boundaries of the prospecting area or mining area in question; and
- (j) an environmental awareness plan describing the manner in which—
- (i) the applicant intends to inform his or her employees of any environmental risk which may result from their work; and
  - (ii) risks must be dealt with in order to avoid pollution or the degradation of the environment.

**Consideration of environmental impact assessment reports**

**35.** (1)(a) Where applicable, the EAP must submit the environmental impact assessment report within the timeframes stipulated by the competent authority.

(b) On completion of the environmental impact assessment report, the EAP must submit at least 5 copies of the environmental impact assessment report to the competent authority.

(c) On receipt of the documents contemplated in (1)(a), the competent authority must refer such documents to every State department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment with a request for comments.

~~[(1)](2)~~ The competent authority must, within 60 days of receipt of an environmental impact assessment report, in writing –

- (a) accept the report;
- (b) notify the applicant that the report has been referred for specialist review in terms of section 24I of the Act ;
- (c) request the applicant to make such amendments to the report as the competent authority may require for acceptance of the environmental impact assessment report; or
- (d) reject the report if it does not comply with regulation 32(2) in a material respect.

~~[(2)] (3)~~ (a) An environmental impact assessment report that is rejected in terms of subregulation (1)(d) may be amended and resubmitted by the EAP.

(b) On receipt of the amended report, the competent authority must reconsider the report in accordance with subregulation (1).

**Decision on applications**

**36.** (1) A competent authority must within 45 days of acceptance of an environmental impact assessment report in terms of regulation 35 or, if the report was referred for specialist review in terms of section 24I of the

Act, within 45 days of receipt of the findings of the specialist reviewer, in writing –

- (a) grant authorisation in respect of all or part of the activity applied for;
- or
- (b) refuse authorisation in respect of all or part of the activity.

(2) To the extent that authorisation is granted for an alternative, such alternative must for the purposes of subregulation (1) be regarded as having been applied for.

(3) On having reached a decision, the competent authority must comply with regulation 10(1).

(4) The Minister of Minerals and Energy may only grant authorization if section 24P(1) of the Act has been complied with.

#### ***Part 4: Environmental authorisations***

##### **Issue of environmental authorisations**

37. (1) If the competent authority decides to grant authorisation, the competent authority must issue an environmental authorisation complying with regulation 38 to and in the name of the applicant.

(2) If in the case of an application referred to in regulation 15, the competent authority decides to grant authorisation in respect of more than one activity, the competent authority may issue a single environmental authorisation covering all the activities for which authorisation was granted.

(3) A competent authority may issue an integrated environmental authorisation as contemplated in section 24L of the Act.

##### **Contents of environmental authorisations**

38. (1) An environmental authorisation must specify –

- (a) the name, address and telephone number of the person to whom the authorisation is issued;
  - (b) a description of the activity that is authorised;
  - (c) a description of the property on which the activity is to be undertaken and the location of the activity on the property, or if it is –
    - (i) a linear activity, a description of the route of the activity; or
    - (ii) an ocean-based activity, the coordinates within which the activity is to be undertaken; and
  - (d) the conditions subject to which the activity may be undertaken, including conditions determining –
    - (i) the period for which the environmental authorisation is valid, if granted for a specific period;
    - (ii) requirements for the management, monitoring and reporting of the impacts of the activity on the environment throughout the life cycle of the activity and as contained in the approved environmental management programme; and
    - (iii) the transfer of rights and obligations when there is a change of ownership in the property on which the activity is to take place.
- (2) An environmental authorisation may –
- (a) provide that the authorised activity may not commence before specified conditions are complied with;
  - (b) require the holder of the authorisation to furnish the competent authority with reports prepared by the holder of the authorisation or a person who is independent, at specified times or intervals –
    - (i) indicating the extent to which the conditions of the authorisation are or are not being complied with;
    - (ii) providing details of the nature of, and reasons for, any non-compliance with a condition of the authorisation; and
    - (iii) describing any action taken, or to be taken, to mitigate the effects of any non-compliance or to prevent any recurrence of the non-compliance;

- (c) require the holder of the authorisation to furnish the competent authority with environmental audit reports on the impacts of the authorised activity on the environment, at specified times or intervals or whenever requested by the competent authority; [and]
- (d) include any other condition that the competent authority considers necessary for the protection of the environment;
- (e) where applicable, require the holder of the authorisation to furnish the competent authority with proof of compliance with applicable requirements regarding financial provisions; and
- (f) where applicable, require the holder of the authorisation to furnish the competent authority with proof of compliance with applicable requirements regarding closure.

#### **CHAPTER 4**

#### **AMENDMENT AND WITHDRAWAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS**

##### **General**

**39.** (1) The competent authority [**referred to in regulation 3**] who issued an environmental authorisation has jurisdiction in all matters pertaining to the amendment or withdrawal of that authorisation.

(2) An environmental authorisation may be amended –

- (a) on application by the holder of the authorisation in accordance with Part 1 of this Chapter; or
- (b) on the initiative of the competent authority in accordance with Part 2 of this Chapter.

(3) An environmental authorisation may be amended by –

- (a) attaching an additional condition or requirement;
- (b) substituting a condition or requirement;
- (c) removing a condition or requirement;
- (d) changing a condition or requirement;

- (e) updating or changing any detail on the authorisation; or
- (f) correcting a technical or editorial error.

(4) An environmental authorisation may be withdrawn by the competent authority in accordance with Part 3 of this Chapter.

***Part 1: Amendments on application by holders of environmental authorisations***

**Applications for amendment**

40. The holder of an environmental authorisation may at any time apply to the relevant competent authority for the amendment of the authorisation.

**Submission of applications for amendment**

41. (1) An application in terms of regulation 40 must be in writing and accompanied by a motivation for such amendment.

[–

- (a) on an official application form published by or obtainable from the competent authority; and
- (b) accompanied by the prescribed application fee, if any.]

(2) The competent authority must, within 14 days of receipt of an application, acknowledge receipt of the application, in writing.

**Consideration of applications**

42. (1) On receipt of an application made in terms of regulation 40, the competent authority –

- (a) must consider whether granting the application is likely to adversely affect the environment or the rights or interests of other parties; and
- (b) may for that purpose request the applicant to furnish additional information.

(2) The competent authority must promptly decide the application



if –

- (a) the application is for a non-substantive amendment to the environmental authorisation; or
- (b) the environment or the rights or interests of other parties are not likely to be adversely affected.

(3) If the application is for a substantive amendment, or if the environment or the rights or interests of other parties are likely to be adversely affected, the competent authority must, before deciding the application, request the applicant to the extent appropriate –

- (a) if necessary, to conduct a public participation process as referred to in regulation 56 or any other public participation process that may be appropriate in the circumstances to bring the proposed amendment to the attention of potential interested and affected parties, including organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the relevant activity;
- (b) to open and maintain a register of all interested and affected parties in respect of the application in accordance with regulation 57;
- (c) to conduct such investigations and assessments as the competent authority may direct, to prepare reports on those investigations and assessments, and, if the competent authority so directs, to make use of an EAP for this purpose;
- (d) to give registered interested and affected parties an opportunity to submit comments on those reports; and
- (e) to submit to the competent authority those reports, together with any comments on those reports from registered interested and affected parties.

(4) If the environment is likely to be adversely affected in a way that would significantly impact on the environment, the competent authority must –

- (a) return the application to the applicant; and

- (b) request the applicant to submit an application in terms of Chapter 3 of these Regulations as if it is a new application for environmental authorisation.

#### **Decision on applications**

**43.** (1) On having reached a decision on whether or not to grant the application, the competent authority must comply with regulation 10(1).

(2) If an application is approved, the competent authority has the discretion to issue a new environmental authorisation or an addendum to the relevant environmental authorization [must issue an amended environmental to the applicant].

#### ***Part 2: Amendments on initiative of competent authority***

#### **Purposes for which competent authority may amend environmental authorisations**

- 44.** The relevant competent authority may on own initiative amend an environmental authorisation if it is necessary or desirable –
- (a) to prevent deterioration or further deterioration of the environment;
  - (b) to achieve prescribed environmental standards; or
  - (c) to accommodate demands brought about by impacts on socio-economic circumstances and it is in the public interest to meet those demands.

#### **Process**

- 45.** (1) If a competent authority intends amending an environmental authorisation in terms of regulation 44, the competent authority must first –
- (a) notify the holder of the environmental authorisation, in writing, of the proposed amendment;
  - (b) give the holder of the environmental authorisation an opportunity to submit representations on the proposed amendment, in writing; and
  - (c) if necessary, conduct a public participation process as referred to in regulation 56 or any other public participation process that may be appropriate in the circumstances to bring the proposed

amendment to the attention of potential interested and affected parties, including organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the relevant activity.

(2) The process referred to in subregulation (1) must afford an opportunity to –

- (a) potential interested and affected parties to submit to the competent authority written representations on the proposed amendment; and
- (b) the holder of the environmental authorisation to comment on any representations received in terms of paragraph (a) in writing.

(3) Subregulations (1)(c) and (2) need not be complied with if the proposal is to amend the environmental authorisation in a non-substantive way.

#### **Decision**

46. (1) On having reached a decision on whether or not to amend the environmental authorisation, the competent authority must notify the holder of the authorisation of that decision.

(2) If the decision is to amend the environmental authorisation, the competent authority must –

- (a) give to the holder of the authorisation the reasons for the decision;
- (b) draw the attention of the holder to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of Chapter 7 of these Regulations, if such appeal is available in the circumstances of the decision; and
- (c) issue an amended environmental authorisation or the relevant amendment(s) as an addendum to the original environmental authorisation to the holder of the authorisation.

#### **46A: Amendment of environmental management programmes**

- (1) The competent authority may, on own initiative or on application, amend an environmental management programme if it is necessary or desirable
- (a) to prevent deterioration or further deterioration of the environment;
  - (b) to achieve prescribed environmental standards;
  - (c) to accommodate demands brought about by impacts on socio-economic circumstances and it is in the public interest to meet those demands;
  - (d) to ensure compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation; or
  - (e) in order to assess the continued appropriateness and adequacy of the environmental management programme.

(2) An application contemplated in subregulation (1) must be in writing and supported by the necessary motivation.

(3) A competent authority must acknowledge receipt of an application for amendment within 14 days.

(4) (a) If a competent authority intends amending an environmental management programme in terms of regulation 46A, the competent authority must first –

- (i) notify the holder of the environmental management programme, in writing, of the proposed amendment;
- (ii) give the holder of the environmental management programme an opportunity to submit representations on the proposed amendment, in writing; and
- (iii) if necessary, conduct a public participation process as referred to in regulation 56 or any other public participation process that may be appropriate in the circumstances to bring the proposed amendment to the attention of potential interested and affected parties, including organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the relevant activity.

(b) The process referred to in subregulation (1) must afford an opportunity to –

- (i) potential interested and affected parties to submit to the competent authority written representations on the proposed amendment; and
- (ii) the holder of the environmental management programme to comment on any representations received in terms of paragraph (a) in writing.

(c) Subregulations (A4)(1)(c) and (2) need not be complied with if the proposal is to amend the environmental management programme in a non-substantive way.

(5) The competent authority must

- (a) in the case where an environmental management programme was approved through the issuing of an environmental authorisation, issue an addendum to the relevant environmental authorisation to approve the amended environmental management programme; or
- (b) in the case where an environmental management programme was approved to the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, communicate the approval of the amended environmental management programme in writing.

### ***Part 3: Withdrawal of environmental authorisations***

#### **Circumstances in which withdrawals are permissible**

47. The relevant competent authority may in accordance with this Part withdraw an environmental authorisation if –

- [(a) a condition of the authorisation has been contravened or is not being complied with;**
- (b) the authorisation was obtained through –**
  - (i) fraudulent means; or**
  - (ii) the misrepresentation or non-disclosure of material information; or]**

**[(c)] (a) the activity is permanently or indefinitely discontinued; or**