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MINING WITHIN 100 METRES

Extracted from DMR Western Cape Newsletter

During inspections at various mining operations in the Western Cape, it is apparent that the regulations pertaining to mining within 100 meters of structures to be protected are not being complied with. Below is an explanation from the regulations. Managers are therefore encouraged to apply for exemption in advance to avoid unnecessary stoppages and the resulting disruption in mining operations.

Regulation 17.7(1) reads “no mining operations are carried out within a horizontal distance of 100 (one hundred) meters from reserve land, buildings, roads, railways, dams, waste dumps or any other structure whatsoever including structures beyond the mining boundaries, or any surface, which it may be necessary to protect in order to prevent any significant risk, unless a lesser distance has been determined safe by risk assessment and all restrictions and conditions determined in terms of the risk assessment are complied with”.

Regulation 17(9) read with Regulation 17(10) requires that permission is required for mining within 100 meters as contemplated in Regulation 17.7(a) from the Principal Inspector. The application for exemption must contain three copies of the following:

- Plans to scale of the area where exemption is required
- A risk assessment done by a suitably qualified Geotechnical Engineer, and
- Permission from the owner/operator of the structure or structures that will be impacted upon within the 100m horizontal distance.

Please contact John Murray for any queries in this regard:

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