25 August 2023

Head of Provincial Operations
Limpopo Department of Human Settlement, Water and Sanitation
Private Bag X9506
Polokwane
0700

License No: 07/A42J/CICI/64/18
File No: 27/2/2/A942/17/3
REF: GG.DWS.015.2023

Attention: Mr. P.S. Ramolobeng & Mr. MD Nethengwe

SUBMISSION OF THE AMENDED SEASONAL BIO-MONITORING PROGRAM FOR EXXARO COAL (PTY) LTD. GROOTEGELUK WATER USE LICENSE NO. 07/A42J/CICI/64/18

Exxaro Coal (Pty) Ltd: Grootegeluk (Grootegeluk) c&i Water Use License (WUL) issued on 18 October 2019 & the amendment received 16 February 2022 refers:

The aim of this letter is to submit the amended Grootegeluk Seasonal Pan Bio-Monitoring Protocol, for written approval by the Department as per the following conditions:

Appendix II condition 5.1
A comprehensive and appropriate environmental assessment and monitoring programme (Including Bio-monitoring and eco-toxicology) to determine the impact, change and deterioration and improvement of the aquatic systems associated with the activities listed under condition 1.1 and other existing activities as well as compliance t these water use licence conditions must be developed and submitted to the Provincial Head for written approval before commencement and must be implemented.
Appendix II condition 5.5
The licensee must apply in writing to the Provincial Head for alternative reporting arrangements for which written approval must be provided.

The proposed changes in the monitoring program has been made considering the WUL amendment received in February 2022, where the focus of the of the monitoring has moved to the seasonal pans that will remain in the landscape as well as the seasonal pans indicated in the offset plan.

Appendix II condition 1.7
Ecological class of the rivers and wetlands (Seasonal pans) that will remain within the catchment and the offset (PES of B) must not be lowered. Recommended Ecological Class (REC) of the wetlands must be set as class B

To ensure that this change is also reflected in the bio-monitoring, the monitoring protocol has been updated to consider the licenced seasonal pans that will no longer be lost due to mining as well as the seasonal pan that has been identified as offsets.

The 2022 monitoring will thus be the last reports that will consider the original monitoring protocol. The mine intends to move over to the new monitoring protocol, early in January / February of 2023 when the first Bio-monitoring for the year is planned.

Kindly see the amended protocol attached, for the Departments review, comment and written approval. Any guidance or recommendation from the Department will be appreciated.

Should there be any other queries or concerns, please contact Miss. F Swanepoel at 014 763 9288 / 083 662 1104, filomaine.swanepoel@exxaro.com for any further clarification.

Kind Regards,

Signed by:Risimati Chauke
Signed at:2023-08-26 12:53:53 +02:00
Reason:I approve this document

RH Chauke
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER
Exxaro Grootegeluk

26/08/23
Date