



63 Wessel Road, Rivonia, 2128 PO Box 2597, Rivonia, 2128 South Africa
Tel: +27 (0) 11 803 5726 Fax: +27 (0) 11 803 5745 Web: www.gcs-sa.biz

APPLICATION FOR A WATER USE LICENCE FOR STEFANUTTI STOCKS (PTY) LTD Ref No. WU41439

GCS Ref. No: 23-0766

PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with information regarding the Stefanutti Stocks (Pty) Ltd (Stefanutti Stocks). Water Use Licence Application (WULA).

The aim of this document is thus to:

- Provide I&APs with background information about the WULA;
- Explain the application process followed; and
- Indicate how an I&AP can become involved in the process, receive information, raise issues, and make comments.

LOCATION

The Umbila Emoyeni Borrow Pit Project is located on Portion 9 of the Farm Sukkelaar 421 IS about 15 km from Bethal in the Mpumalanga Province. The site is located in the Lekwa Local Municipality within the Gert Sibande District Municipality (Figure 2).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Project entails the establishment of a borrow pit and associated infrastructure to supply construction materials required for the development of the approved Umbila Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility (WEF). The borrow pit is in close proximity to the WEF site which will optimise the transportation of materials and minimise environmental impact. The primary objective of the WEF is to generate renewable energy through the installation of wind turbines, thereby contributing to the reduction of dependency

on the national electricity grid and supporting the transition to sustainable energy sources. The borrow pit will provide essential aggregate materials needed for the construction of key infrastructure components, including access roads, wind turbine foundations, and other supporting facilities necessary for the successful implementation of the WEF.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

A WULA is being submitted by Stefanutti Stocks. to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA), and the Regulations Regarding the Procedural Requirements for Water Use Licence Applications and Appeals, 2017 (Government Notice R267 of 24 March 2017) (WULA Regulations). The application is required for the following water use as defined in Section 21 of the NWA:

Section 21(c): Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse and Section 21(i): Altering the bed, banks, courses or characteristics of a watercourse.

Applicability: The borrow pit might need to be dewatered should there be water seeping into the pit and is located within 500 m of a wetland, this activity qualifies as a regulated water use and must be formally authorised through a WULA process in accordance with the NWA and supporting regulations.

DELEGATED LEAD AUTHORITIES

The DWS is the delegated authority responsible for the administration and implementation of the NWA.

THE WATER USE LICENCE PROCESS

GCS Environment South Africa (Pty) Ltd (GCS) has been appointed as the independent environmental consultant to manage the WULA process on behalf of Stefanutti Stocks.

A WULA is a legal requirement under the NWA to ensure the sustainable use and protection of South Africa’s water resources. The process plays a critical role in:

- Promoting environmental stewardship;
- Preventing the degradation and pollution of water resources;
- Ensuring compliance with national legislation;
- Minimising the risk of legal penalties; and
- Enhancing transparency through stakeholder engagement.

The following key steps form part of the WULA process (Figure 2):

- **Pre-application engagement with DWS:** The applicant must meet with the DWS to confirm the need for a WUL, understand site-specific requirements, and obtain guidance on the application scope.
- **Appointment of an independent environmental consultant:** An independent environmental consultant is then appointed to manage the process, compile the WUL report, and coordinate public participation.
- **Identification of Applicable Section 21 Water Uses:** The independent environmental consultant and applicant identify which of the 11 water uses in Section 21 apply.
- **Compilation of Technical and Specialist Studies:** Relevant specialist studies are undertaken to assess the implications of the proposed water use.
- **Public Participation Process (PPP):**
 - A Draft WUL Report is made available for a minimum 60-day public comment period. A Comment and Response Report (CRR) is compiled to document and respond to stakeholder concerns.

You are hereby invited to review the Draft WUL Report and submit comments during the public comment period, which will run from 18 August 2025 to 18 October 2025 at the following locations:

- Bethal Public Library, Danie Nortje Street, Bethal, 2310, +27 (0)17 624 3029
- GCS website: <https://www.gcs-sa.biz/public-documents/>

Written comments and substantiated issues must be submitted to GCS by 18 October 2025. Early submissions are encouraged to allow the GCS sufficient time to address concerns comprehensively.

- **Final Submission to DWS:** The Final WUL Report, including technical documents, maps, and the CRR, is submitted to DWS for review and decision-making.
- **DWS Review and Decision:** DWS assesses the application against criteria such as water availability, environmental impact, alignment with the National Water Resource Strategy, and socio-economic benefits. A decision is typically made within 300 days (or longer for complex cases).
- **Notification and Appeal:** All registered I&APs are notified of the outcome. An appeal can be lodged within 30 days of the decision, in terms of the National Appeal Regulations, 2025.



Figure 1: Key steps form part of the WULA process

REGISTERING AS AN INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY

By registering as an I&AP, you will be included in the Project stakeholder database and receive further information in future for comment. Your comments will ensure that all relevant issues are incorporated and addressed.

Please complete and submit the enclosed registration / comment sheet or contact GCS if you wish to comment or register on the Project. I&APs who wish to participate by contributing comments, or who would like to obtain more information, should please contact:

GCS Environment South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Attention: Marandela Muzhambi
 Tel: +27 (0)11 803 5726, Fax: +27 (0)11 803 5232
 E-mail: ppp@gcs-sa.biz / MarandelaM@gcs-sa.biz
 Postal Address: PO Box 2597, Rivonia, Johannesburg, 2128

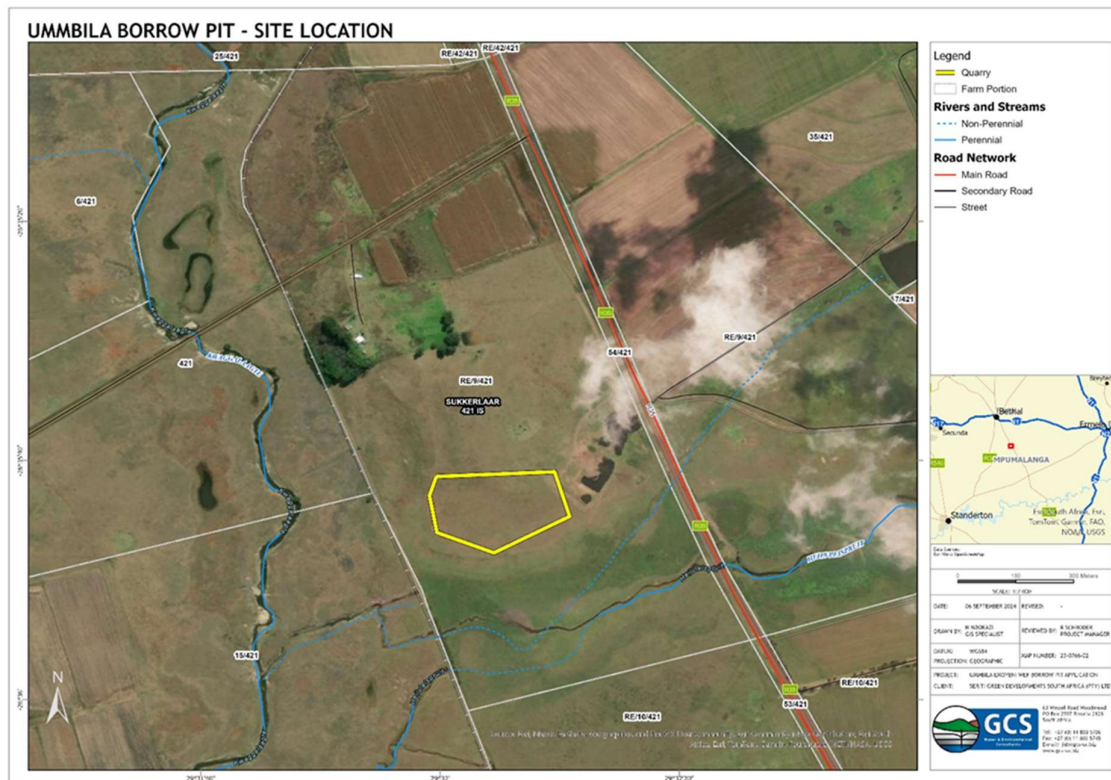


Figure 2: Locality of Umbila Emoyeni Borrow Pit



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REGISTRATION AND COMMENT FORM

Registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) will be informed of ongoing developments via their preferred means of communication (SMS, e-mail, post or fax). Please register as an I&AP and provide comments by sending this form, or other written correspondence, to the contact details provided below:

GCS Environment South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Attention: Marandela Muzhambi
 Tel: +27 (0)11 803 5726, Fax: +27 (0)11 803 5232
 E-mail: ppp@gcs-sa.biz / MarandelaM@gcs-sa.biz
 Postal Address: PO Box 2597, Rivonia, Johannesburg, 2128

| | | |
|---|--------|-----|
| Please formally register me as an Interested and Affected Party | Yes | No |
| I would like to receive my notifications by | E-mail | SMS |

Please indicate which sector you represent and also provide a name

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Government Department | |
| Municipality | |
| Community | |
| Non-Government Organisation | |
| Business | |

If you are a landowner or land occupier, please indicate which farm(s) and portion(s) you reside on

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Landowner | |
| Land occupier | |

Please fill in your contact details below for the Project database

| | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|--|
| Title, Full Name | | | |
| Designation | | | |
| Cell phone | Fax | Tel | |
| E-mail | | | |

