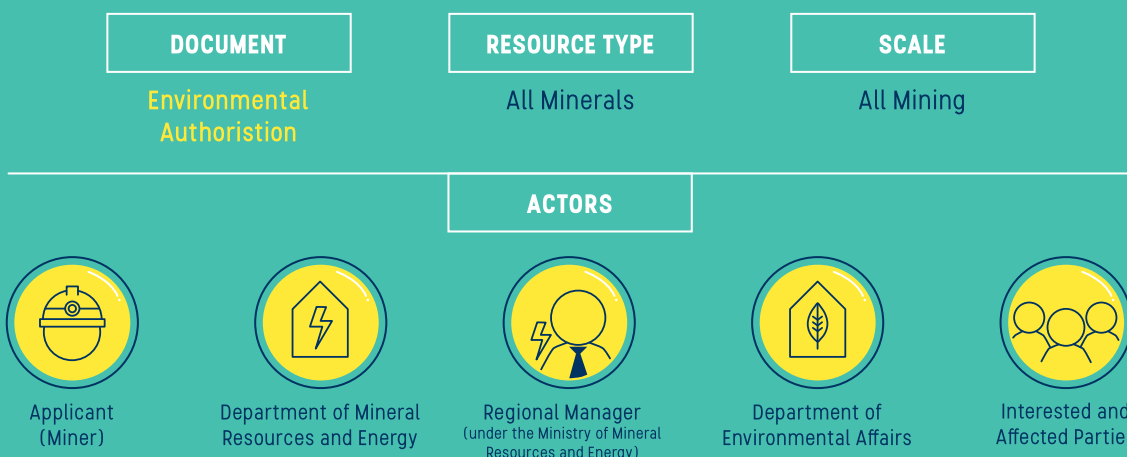


ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS MAP

SOUTH AFRICA



No individual or company may prospect or mine – or conduct any operations related to mining minerals or petroleum resources – unless they first receive environmental authorisation. To obtain this, they must conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment.

The EIA is an assessment of possible and expected impacts that a proposed development could have on the environment. This includes a public consultation process. The National Environment Management Act sets out environmental management principles

that should guide environmental decision-making throughout the mining life cycle.

When applying for an environmental authorisation, the applicant must submit the EIA in conjunction with a basic assessment report, a scoping and environmental impact assessment report, specialist reports (such as reports by geohydrologists, wetland specialists, biodiversity specialists and heritage specialists), draft environmental management programmes, closure plans and financial provision.

An applicant applies for an environmental authorisation via the Regional Manager (an officer under the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy) of the region in which they wish to mine or explore. The authorisation is granted ultimately by the Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy.

People have a right to appeal the environmental authorisation, which would suspend the operation of the authorisation until the appeal is finalised. The appeal process is governed by the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries.

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

STEPS

ACTORS

1 LODGE APPLICATION

When a miner or prospector submits an application for a mining or exploration permit, they must simultaneously submit an application for environmental authorisation. They submit both electronically via the online portal (SAMRAD) and pay the non-refundable application fee.



1.1 Upon acceptance of the online application, the Regional Manager instructs the Applicant to submit relevant environmental reports.



2 NOTIFICATION & CONSULTATION

The Regional Manager issues a Section 10 Notice of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, which requires the applicant to notify interested and affected parties of the proposed application and to receive any comments from them.



2.1
30 DAYS The applicant is required to notify in writing and consult with the landowner, lawful occupier and any other affected parties, and submit the result of the said consultation to the Regional Manager within 30 days from the date of the Section 10 Notice.



ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

SOUTH AFRICA

3 ASSESSMENT

Different processes are then followed depending on whether it is a prospecting right or a mining right/permit. Prospecting rights require a basic assessment report. Mining permits or rights require the more thorough scoping and environmental impact assessment report. These are dealt with separately and in turn below.

4 BASIC ASSESSMENT FOR PROSPECTING RIGHTS

4.1 The applicant must submit an Environmental Management Plan, and a Basic Assessment Report.

4.2 A meeting is held with interested and affected parties to comment on the draft Environmental Management Plan and Basic Assessment Report.

4.3 The draft reports are submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy for consideration.

4.4 The Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy either accepts or rejects the request for environmental authorisation.

4.5 APPEAL
Applicants or interested and affected parties that disagree with the Minister's decision can appeal to the Department of Environmental Affairs.



5 SCOPING ASSESSMENT FOR MINING RIGHTS

5.1 A Draft Scoping Report is made available to all registered and interested and affected parties and a meeting is held for comments to be made.

5.2 The Draft Scoping Report, together with comments made by interested and affected parties, is submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy for consideration.

5.3 The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy either accepts or rejects the Draft Scoping Report and the interested and affected parties are notified thereof.

5.4 Upon acceptance, the applicant is instructed to submit an Environmental Management Plan and an Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

5.5 A meeting is held with interested and affected parties to comment on the draft Environmental Management Plan and the Basic Assessment Report.

5.6 The draft reports are submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy for consideration.

5.7 The Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy either accepts or rejects the request for environmental authorisation.

5.8 APPEAL
Applicants or interested and affected parties that disagree with the Minister's decision can appeal to the Department of Environmental Affairs.



6 ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION GRANTED

