



ECC-84-201-NTS-04-C

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES ON ML134

CONSTRUCTION OF A 1KM LONG, 66 KV POWERLINE THROUGH AN OFF TAKE AND ASSOCIATED
INFRASTRUCTURE FROM THE EXISTING NAMPOWER SUBSTATION

PREPARED FOR

AFRITIN MINING NAMIBIA ON BEHALF OF NAMPOWER



MARCH 2019

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

CONSTRUCTION OF A 1KM LONG 66KV POWERLINE, THROUGH AN OFF-TAKE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE FROM THE EXISTING NAMPOWER SUBSTATION ON ML134, ERONGO REGION, NAMIBIA

1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Non-Technical Summary (NTS) is to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) a background to the proposed project and to invite I&APs to register as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. The project involves the construction of a 1KM long, 66 KV powerline through an off-take and associated infrastructure from the existing Nampower substation on ML134. Through registering, all I&APs will be kept informed throughout the EIA process, and a platform for participation will be provided to submit comments/recommendations pertaining to the project.

This NTS includes the following information:

- What is the proposed project and where is the project located.
- Why the project is deemed necessary, what benefits or adverse impacts are anticipated
- What alternatives to the project have been considered and assessed.
- How the EIA process works
- The public participation process and how to become involved, and
- Next steps and the way forward.

2 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT

2.1 BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC) has been engaged by the proponent (Afritin Mining Namibia) on behalf of Nampower proponent to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) in terms of the Environmental Management Act No.7 2007 and its Regulations. An environmental clearance application will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET).

2.2 LOCATION

The Uis Tin Mine project is located in the Erongo Region, approximately 333km from Windhoek. The proposed powerline is located within the boundary of ML134 as indicated in figure 1 and 2 below.

2.3 WHAT IS PROPOSED

Uis Tin Mine is owned by the AfriTin Mining (Pty) Ltd that was established in 2017, and has a portfolio of tin assets in Namibia and South Africa. The Uis Tin Mine currently has no constant power supply to its trial processing plant, therefore necessitating network strengthening, which involves the establishment of a powerline, metering station and associated infrastructure. This is to ensure continual power supply to the trial processing plant.

2.4 CONSTRUCTION PHASE

The proposed construction phase will include low-impact and non-intrusive activities. The following are envisaged during the proposed project:

- Staging area development
- Limited vegetation clearing
- Connection to the existing substation
- Installation of prefabricated standard substation components
- Minor ground preparation (trenches and levelling) of the site, for the installation of wooden poles
- Construction of bunds and oil holding area (for an emergency holding area for transformer oil in the event of a spill)
- Concrete casting; and
- Redirecting the existing lines to enter; and leave the new metering station.

2.5 OPERATIONAL PHASE

During normal operation, power transmission lines and associated infrastructure require very little intervention. Inspections will be frequently conducted by the site manager preferably on foot due to the small area of the powerline and its associated infrastructure.

The powerline and associated infrastructure will be maintained by Nampower to ensure the longevity of the infrastructure and secure current and potential future use.

2.6 DECOMMISSIONING PHASE

Should the proposed powerline and associated infrastructure no longer be required, the powerline and associated infrastructure would be decommissioned and removed. Alternatively, and with the agreement of stakeholders, the powerline and associated infrastructure could remain for beneficial use.

2.7 WHY IS THE PROJECT NEEDED

The proposed project is needed to supply constant power to Uis trail processing plant. In addition to this, providing an employment opportunity to the local populace through the construction and continuous maintenance of the structures.

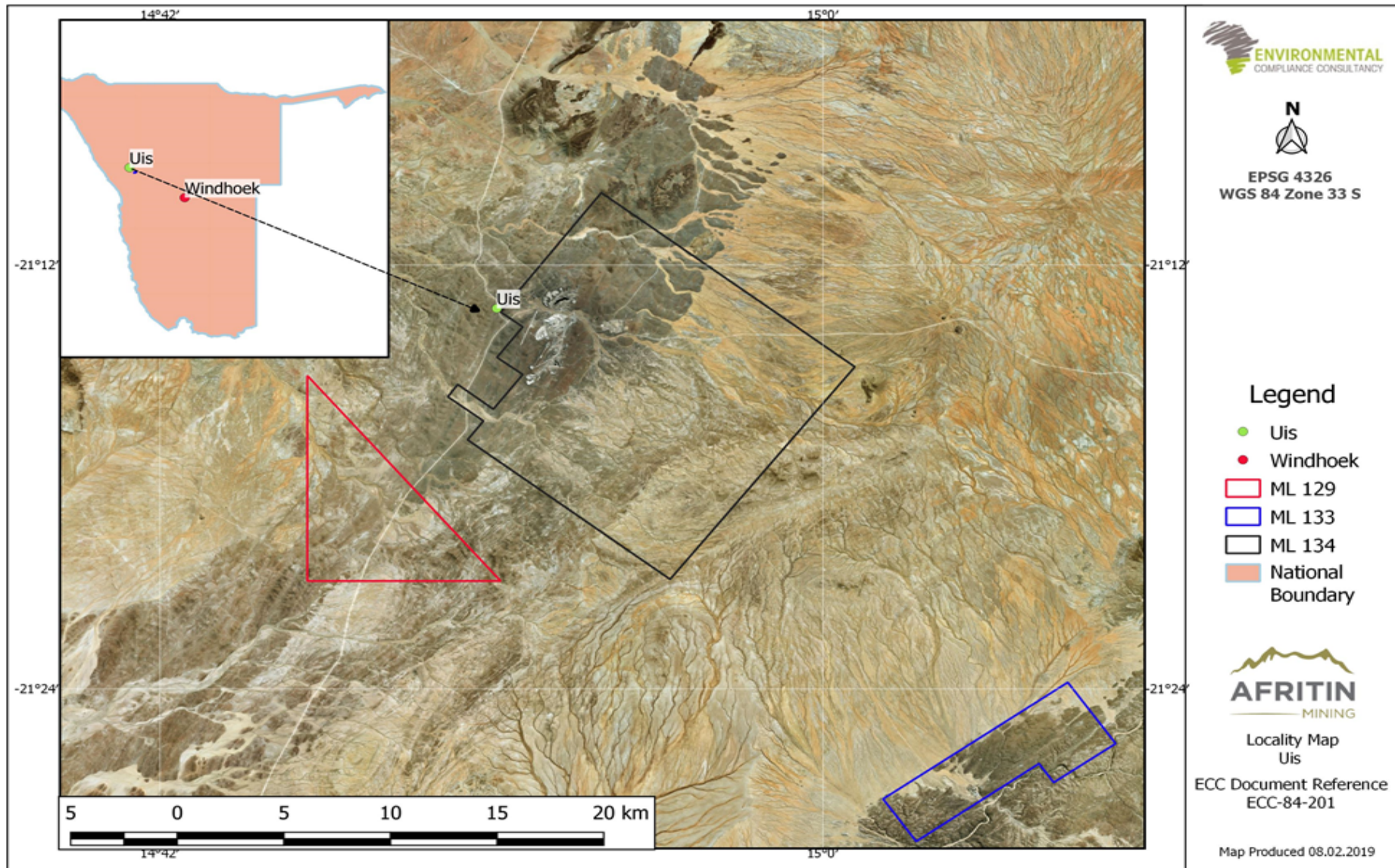


FIGURE 1 – LOCATION MAP OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

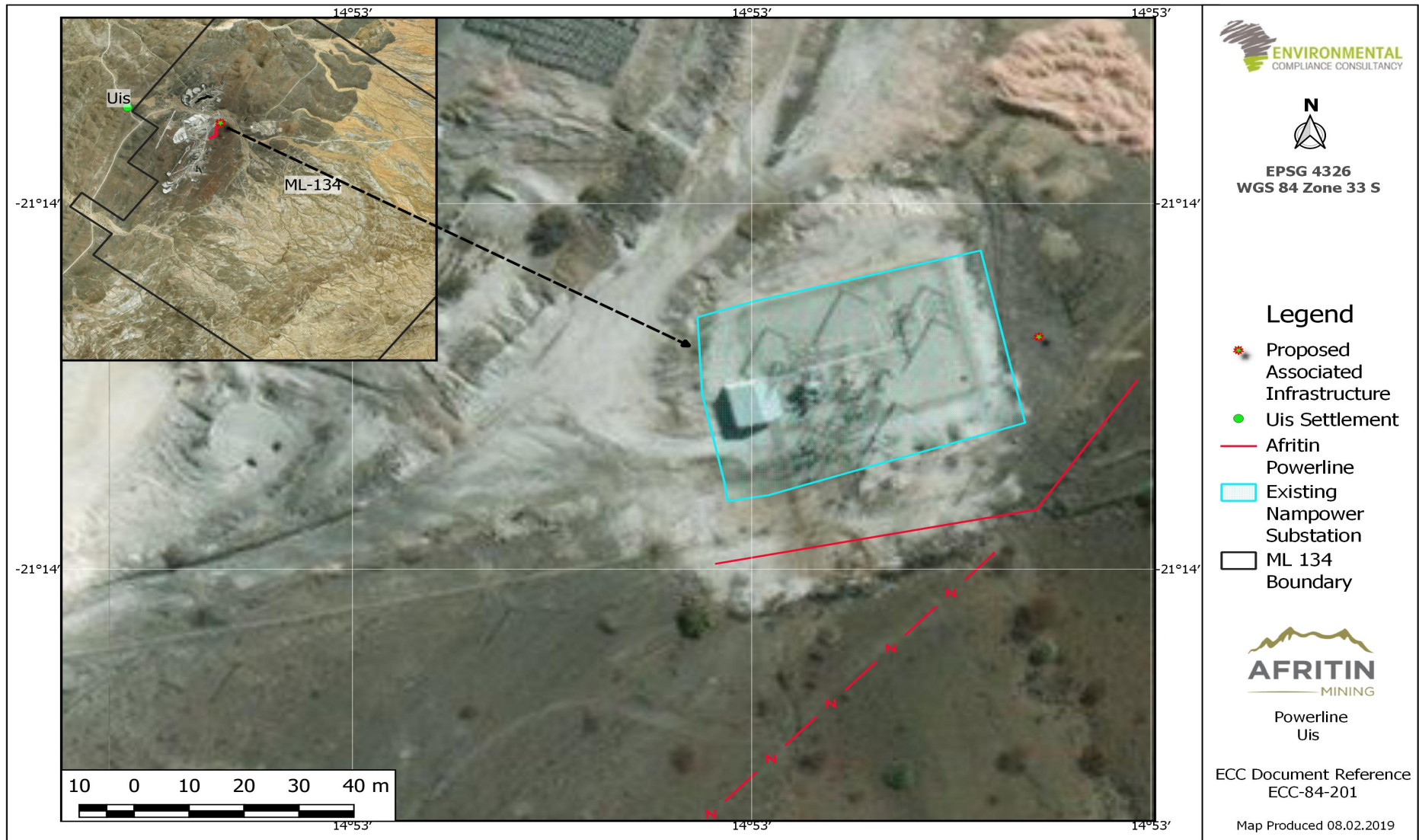


FIGURE 2 – LOCATION MAP OF THE PROPOSED POWERLINE

2.8 POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT

2.8.1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC

The potential social impacts are anticipated to be of low significance, and those that may transpire shall be confined within the ML site, these potential impacts may include the following:

- Minor risks of vehicular movement and traffic
- Generation of noise and dust
- Potential risk of light pollution from security lights at night
- Potential health risk associated with the proximity of people to powerline and associated infrastructure; and
- Risk due to potential incidents from standard operations of powerline.

2.8.2 ENVIRONMENTAL

The potential environmental impacts are anticipated to be of minor significance, and those that may occur shall be contained within the ML site, these potential impacts may include the following:

- Loss of habitat and damage to vegetation
- Moderate disturbance on avifauna the during operational phase
- Loss of unique flora and special habitats as a result of access road alternatives
- Potential leaks from chemical transformer oils, and
- Moderate risk of soil erosion.

3 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

Best practice environmental assessment methodology calls for consideration and assessment of alternatives to a proposed project.

In a project such as this, it is difficult to identify alternatives to satisfy the need of the proposed project; the activities shall be specific to the ML.

During the assessment, alternatives will take the form of a consideration of optimisation and efficiency to reduce potential effects e.g different types of technology or operations, route access and construction methods.

4 THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

This EIA, conducted by ECC, is undertaken in terms of the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 and

its regulations. The process followed in this EIA is set out in the flowchart in FIGURE 3 below.

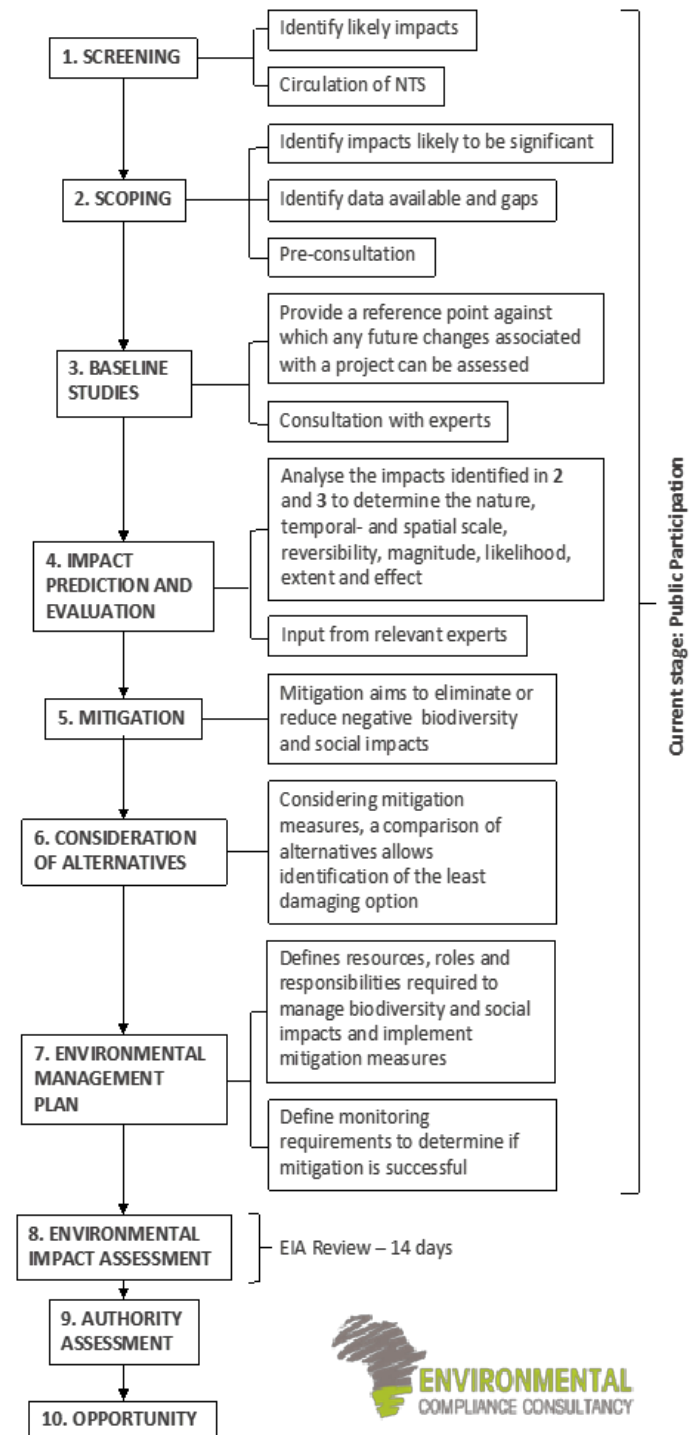


FIGURE 3 - FLOWCHART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

4.1 SCREENING

A review of the proposed project screening findings against the listed activities was conducted; the findings of which are summarised below.

ENERGY GENERATION, TRANSMISSION AND STORAGE ACTIVITIES

(1.b) The transmission and supply of electricity

- The proposed project will transmit and supply power to Uis trail processing plant

INFRASTRUCTURE

10.1 The construction of

(f) Cableways

- With this proposed project there is a potential construction of cableways for the transportation of construction materials

(g) Communication networks including towers, telecommunication and marine telecommunication lines and cables.

- With this proposed project there is a potential creation of communication networks which include towers, telecommunication lines and cables

The potential environmental and social effects are anticipated to be of minor significance, and those that may occur shall be contained on the ML site.

4.2 SCOPING

Due to the nature of the proposed project, and the implementation of the best practice mitigation measures during the construction, operational and decommissioning phase of the project, the effects on the environment and society are expected to be minimal and localised.

4.3 BASELINE STUDIES

For the proposed project, baseline information was obtained by a desk-based study and site verification processes through focusing on the environmental receptors that could be affected by the proposed project. ECC will also engage with stakeholders, I&APs and the proponents to seek input into the assessment.

4.4 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Impacts will be assessed using the ECC EIA methodology. The EIA will be conducted in terms of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 and its regulations. ECCs methodology for impact assessments was developed using IFC standards in particular Performance Standard 1 'Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts' (International Finance Corporation, 2017), (International Finance Corporation, 2012) and Namibian Draft Procedures and Guidance for EIA and

EMP (Republic of Namibia, 2008) including international and national best practice with over 25 years of combined EIA experience.

4.5 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

An EMP shall be developed for the proposed project setting out auditable management actions for Afritin Mining Namibia on behalf of Nampower to ensure careful and sustainable management measures are implemented for their activities in respect to the surrounding environment and community.

4.6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ADVERTISING

Public participation is an important part of the EIA process; it allows the public and other stakeholders to raise concerns or provide valuable local environmental knowledge that can benefit the assessment, in addition it can aid the design process. This project is currently at the scoping phase and public participation phase.

At this phase ECC will perform the following:

- Identify key stakeholders, authorities, municipalities, environmental groups and interested or affected members of the public, hereafter referred to as I&APs
- Distribute the NTS for the proposed project (this document)
- Advertise the environmental application in two national newspapers
- Place notices on-site at or near the boundary
- If required host a public meeting to encourage stakeholder participation and engagement, and provide details of issues identified by the environmental practitioner, stakeholders and I&APs
- Record all comments of I&APs and present such comments, as well as responses provided by ECC, in the comments and responses report, which will be included in the scoping report that shall be submitted with the application, and Circulate I&AP comments to the project team for consideration of project design.

Comments must be submitted via our website or in writing and can be emailed using the details in the contact us section below.

4.7 PLEASE CONTACT US

We welcome any enquiries regarding this document and its content. Please contact:

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC)

info@eccenvironmental.com

Tel: +264 816 697 608

www.eccenvironmental.com

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