

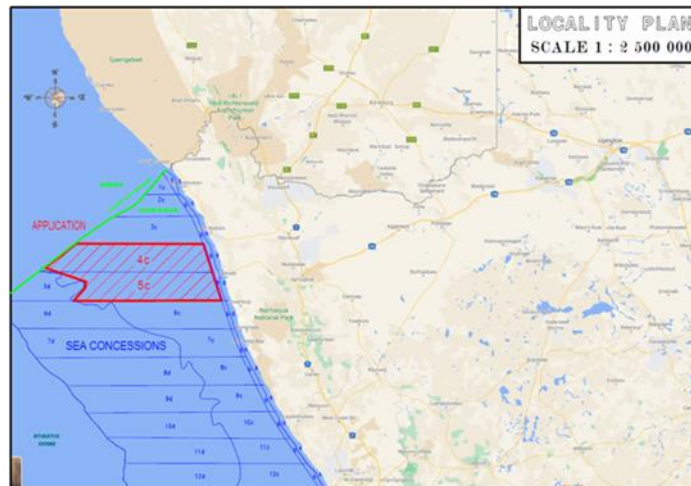
# Stakeholder Engagement Report for the Proposed Diamond Prospecting Right in Offshore Concession Areas 4C and 5C Off the West Coast, South Africa

Report Prepared for

**Samara Mining (Pty) Ltd**

**DMR Reference Number: NCS 30/5/1/1/2/1 (12853) PR**

Report Number: 576461/PPP



Report Prepared by

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August 2021

# **Stakeholder Engagement Report for the Proposed Diamond Prospecting Right in Offshore Concession Areas 4C and 5C Off the West Coast, South Africa**

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**August 2021**

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## Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in this Report have been based on the information supplied to SRK Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd (SRK) by Samara Mining (Pty) Ltd (Samara). The opinions in this Report are provided in response to a specific request from Samara to do so. SRK has exercised all due care in reviewing the supplied information. Whilst SRK has compared key supplied data with expected values, the accuracy of the results and conclusions from the review are entirely reliant on the accuracy and completeness of the supplied data. SRK does not accept responsibility for any errors or omissions in the supplied information and does not accept any consequential liability arising from commercial decisions or actions resulting from them. Opinions presented in this report apply to the site conditions and features as they existed at the time of SRK's investigations, and those reasonably foreseeable. These opinions do not necessarily apply to conditions and features that may arise after the date of this Report, about which SRK had no prior knowledge nor had the opportunity to evaluate.

## List of Abbreviations

Term/Abbreviation	Description
BA	Basic Assessment
BAR	Basic Assessment Report
CRR	Comments and Responses Report
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DEADP	Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
DMR	Department of Mineral Resources
DPWR	Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
GNR	Government Notice Regulation
I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties
Manyeleti	Manyeleti Consulting SA (Pty) Ltd
MPRDA	Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act No. 22 of 2008)
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998)
PPP	Public Participation Process
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
SRK Consulting	SRK Consulting South Africa (Pty) Ltd
SADSTIA	South African Deep Sea Trawling Industry Association
SAPFIA	South African Pelagi Fishing Industry
WESSA	Wildlife & Environment Society of South Africa

# 1 Introduction and Background

Samara Mining (Pty) Ltd ("Samara") intends to undertake an exploration programme in Inshore Block 4C and 5C (the Block) located approximately 10 km offshore of the West Coast of South Africa. The application is for a Prospecting Right for bulk sampling for diamonds which will be undertaken in two phase as follows:

- Phase 1 (Geophysical Surveying): Geophysical surveys to identify geological features where exploration sampling will be undertaken. The survey equipment will be deployed from a moving vessel.
- Phase 2 (Exploration Sampling): Where geological features of interest (showing potential for diamond prospecting) have been identified in Phase 1, follow up surveys and sampling will be undertaken. Sampling will entail the extraction of diamonds from the seabed using fit-for purpose vessels, equipped with a crawler that will dredge materials from the seabed. The diamonds will be sorted from the dredged material in a mechanical treatment plant on board the vessel.

Samara has appointed NDI Geological Consulting Services (Pty) Ltd as the Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), to undertake the application for Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA), the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, and the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act 28 of 2002 (MPRDA) while SRK Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd (SRK) has been sub-contracted to provide specialist input and to undertake the Public Participation Process.(PPP).

The stakeholder engagement process, as part of the EA process, is conducted in terms of NEMA which provides clear guidelines for stakeholder engagement during an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Chapter 1 of the NEMA outlines the principles of environmental management, several pertaining to public consultation (e.g. Chapter 1, subsections (2), (3), (4) (f), (g), (h), (k), (q) and (r). Chapter 6, Regulations 39 – 44 of the amended EIA Regulations (Government Notice Regulation (GNR) 982), promulgated on 8 December 2014, specify the minimum requirements for stakeholder engagement in an EIA process conducted under the NEMA. In 2017, The Minister of Environmental Affairs published, in terms of Section 24J of the NEMA, Public Participation Guidelines which guide the PPP in order to give effect to Section (2)(4)(f), (o) and 24 (1A)(C) of the NEMA.

## 2 Project Team

The core project team for the proposed project is given in Table 2-1.

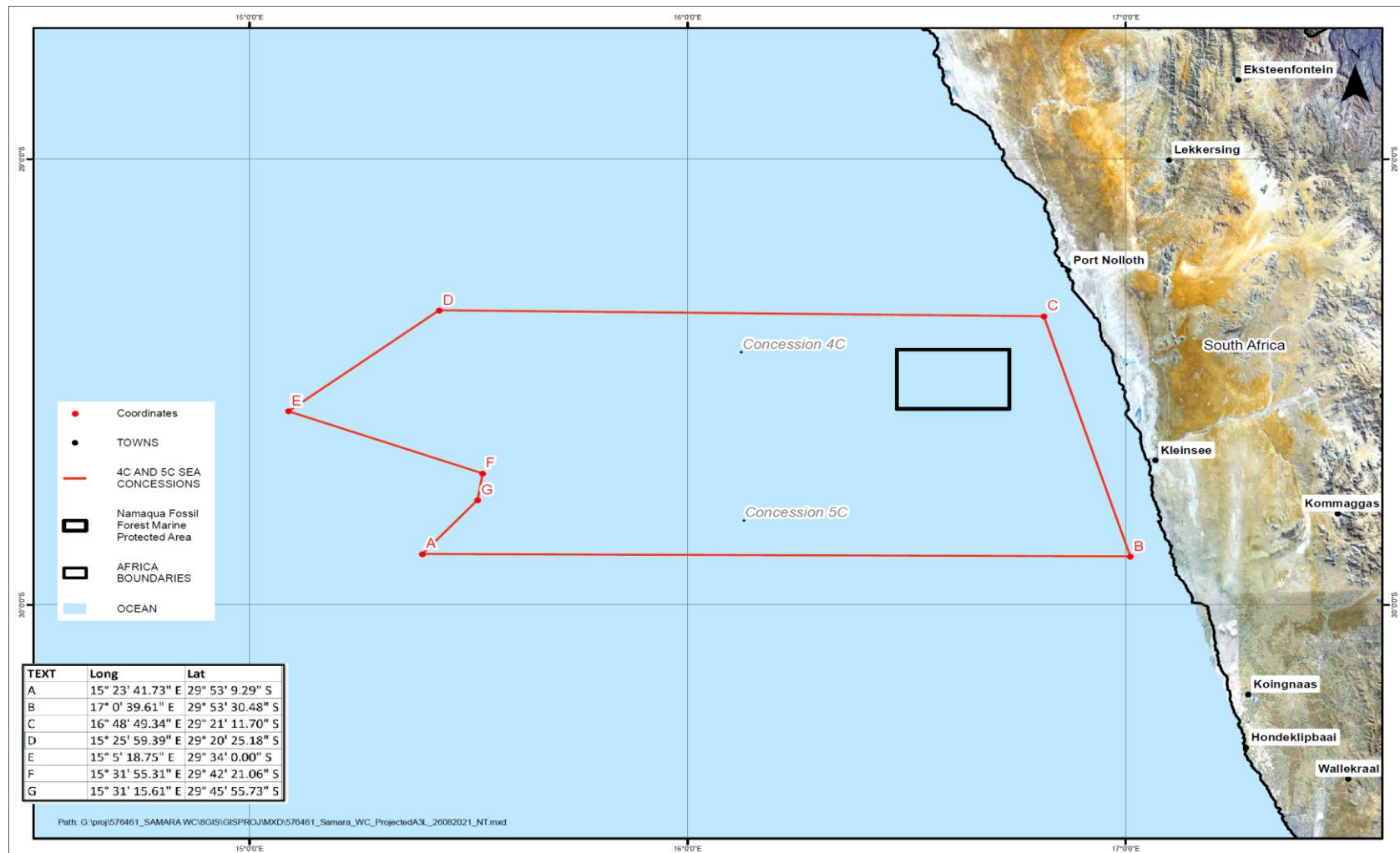
**Table 2-1: Details of the Project Team**

Details	Name			
	Ndi Mofokeng	Dr Laetitia Coetser	Andrew Caddick	Vusi Masango
Role/ Responsibility	EAP	Project Partner and Reviewer Project Manager	Environmental Scientist and Project Coordinator and	Stakeholder Engagement
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### 3 Project Location

The project is located in Offshore Concession Areas 4C and 5C (Figure 2), which are offshore areas located approximately 10 km seaward of the West Coast of South Africa. The total Prospecting Right area is approximately 912 206 hectares. The eastern boarder of the application area is approximately 14.5 km from both Port Nolloth and from Kleinsee, respectively. The western concession boundary of the Prospecting Right area is located between approximately 140 to 180 km offshore.



**Figure 3-1: Locality Map**



## 4 Approach to Stakeholder Engagement

The PPP also herein referred to as the Stakeholder Engagement Process forms an important part of the EA application process. SRK undertook the Stakeholder Engagement Process based on the latest Public Participation Guideline published in terms of the NEMA (2017). Cognisance were taken of these guidelines through the following:

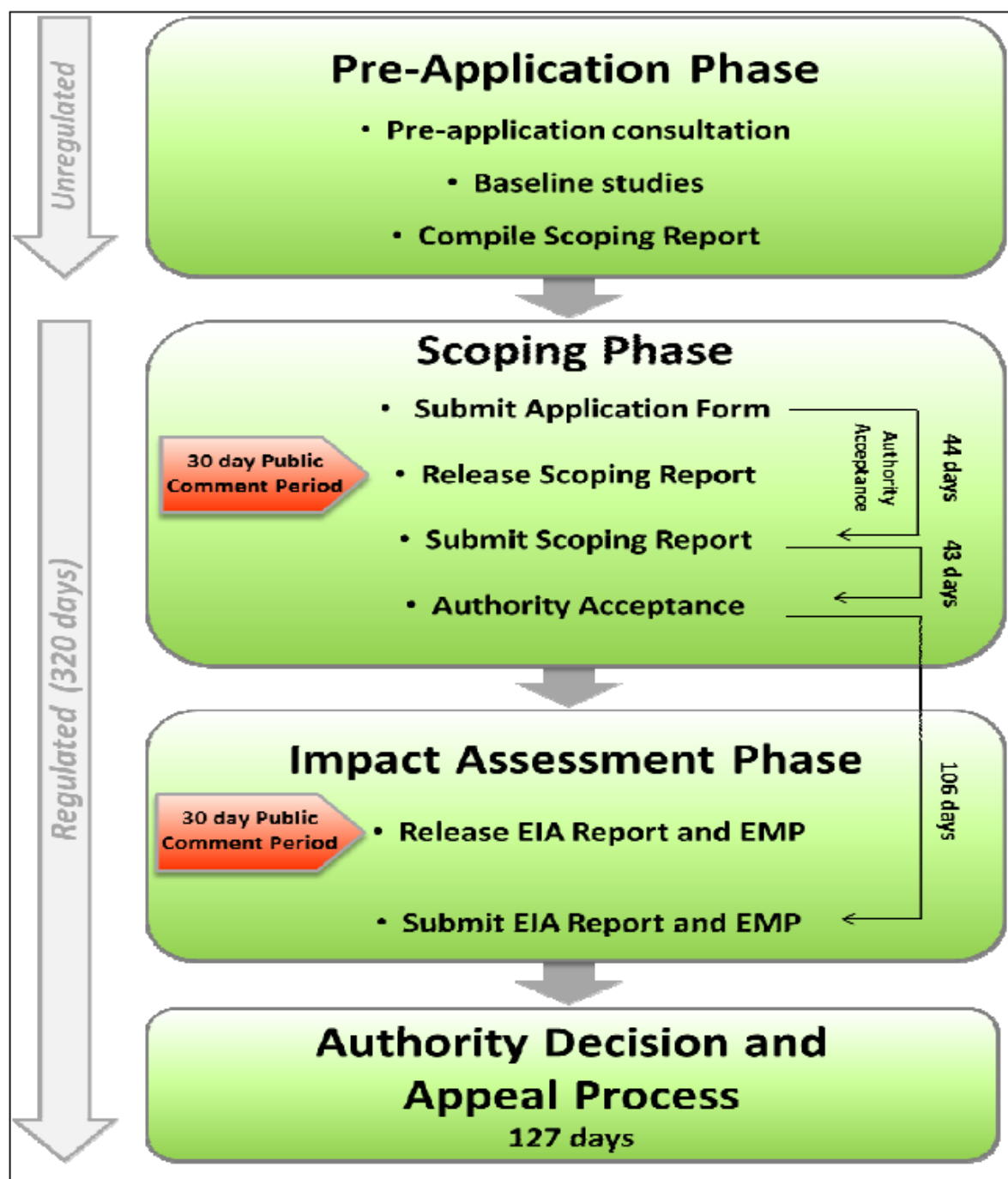
- Role players, including potential and registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), EAPs, state departments, organs of state, and the CA were provided with an opportunity to obtain clear, accurate and understandable information about the environmental impacts of the proposed activity and the implications associated with proceeding with the proposed project. SRK compiled a list all role players (please refer to Annexure A) focussing on landowners/land occupiers of the affected properties and of the properties immediately adjacent to the affected properties.
- Providing the role-players for which contact information was available, and other registered and potential I&APs with the opportunity to voice their concerns and questions regarding the proposed project during the project announcement phase and the impact assessment phase of the project (please refer to Annexure B, Annexure C, Annexure D, Annexure E and Annexure F for supporting information). Registered I&APs will be notified of the outcome of the EA, once received from the DMR;
- Incorporating the needs, preferences and values of role-plays and I&APs voiced into the proposed project's environmental authorisation process;
- Providing opportunities to clear up misunderstandings about technical issues, resolving disputes and reconciling conflicting interests associated with the proposed project (Annexure D);
- Encouraging transparency and accountability in decision-making during the PPP;
- Contributing towards maintaining a healthy and vibrant democracy; and
- Giving effect to the requirement for procedural fairness of administrative action as contained in the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000 (Act No. 3 of 2000).

The primarily aim is to afford I&APs the opportunity to understand the project, prioritises the involvement of parties who potentially have an interest in the proposed project, or may be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed development. The process sought to lead to a joint effort by stakeholders, technical specialists, the authorities and the proponent/developer through working together to produce better decisions than if they had acted independently.

The Stakeholder Engagement Process was conducted in three phases:

- Phase 1 – Project Announcement Phase;
- Phase 2 – Impact Assessment Phase; and
- Phase 3 – Decision Making Phase.

**Figure 4-1** provides an illustration of the Stakeholder Engagement process followed as part of the S&EIR Process.



**Figure 4-1: Stakeholder Engagement process followed as part of the S&EIR Process.**

## 5 Stakeholder Database and Identification of Stakeholders

The NEMA Regulations (GNR R982) distinguishes between potential I&APs and registered I&APs. I&APs, as stated in Section 24(4)(d) of the NEMA include:

- a. any person, group of persons or organisation interested in or affected by an activity; and
- b. any organ of state that may have jurisdiction over any aspect of the activity.

In terms of the Regulations “registered I&APs” means:

An I&APs whose name is recorded in the register opened for that application. For that purpose, an EAP managing an application must open and maintain a register which contains the names, contact details and addresses of:

- a. All persons who have submitted written comments or attended meetings with the applicant or EAP;
- b. All persons who have requested the applicant or EAP managing the application, in writing, for their names to be placed on the register; and
- c. All organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the activity to which the application relates.

### 5.1 Spectrum of Stakeholders

A wide variety of I&APs were identified for the stakeholder engagement process including:

- **National Government:** Such as the DMR, DWS and DEFF;
- **Provincial Government:** DMR, DAFF: Marine Resources Management: Offshore and High Seas Fisheries, Department of Environment and Nature Conservation Northern Cape, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEADP), Department of Environmental Affairs and Nature Conservation, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE): Oceans & Coast, Department of Public Works Northern Cape, Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and Northern Cape Heritage Resources Agency.
- **Local and District Government:** Namakwa District Municipality; Nama Khoi Local Municipality and Richtersveld Local Municipality.
- **Traditional Authorities:** According to SRK’s knowledge, no Traditional Authorities are present in the project area;
- **I&APs:** Community members residing within or in close proximity to the proposed project area;
- **Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO’s):** The West Coast Rock Lobster Association (WCRLA); Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife; SA Inshore Fishing Association; SANParks; South African Deep Sea Trawling Industry Association (SADSTIA); WildoceansSA Placer Resource Management.
- **Business and Commerce/Mining and Industry/Parastatals:** LK Mining, SA Inshore Fishing Association and South African Pelagic Fishing Industry Association (SAPFIA).

## **5.2 Public Participation Process – Project Announcement Phase**

### **5.2.1 Distribution of Notification Letters**

Notification letters were sent to identified I&APs of which contact information was available on 02 August 2021 onwards, informing them of the proposed project. I&APs were requested to:

- declare their interests in the project;
- provide contact details; and
- to provide comments and/or objections to the application.

A copy of the notification letter is attached as Annexure A.

### **5.2.2 Newspaper Advertisement**

Three newspaper advertisements (Three in Afrikaans and one in English) were published in the Die Plattelander, Gemsbok and Die Burger the on 30 July 2021. A copy and proof of the newspaper advertisements can be found in Annexure B.

### **5.2.3 On-Site Notices**

Site notices (Size A2: 600 mm X 420 mm) notifying stakeholders and I&APs of the proposed project were placed in English and Afrikaans at conspicuous places in the project area on 31 July and 1 August 2021. Images as well as copy of the site notices and proof of their placement is provided in Annexure E.

## **5.3 Public Participation Process – Environmental Impact Assessment Phase/Draft Scoping Report Public Review and Comment Period)**

The Draft Scoping Report (SR) will be made available to identified stakeholders and registered I&APs for a 30 day review and commenting period as prescribed by the NEMA. The Draft SR will be made available between 28 August 2021 and 27 September 2021.

### **5.3.1 Stakeholder Database and Identification of Stakeholders**

The stakeholder database have been updated as new I&APs registered and with the identification of additional stakeholders.

### **5.3.2 Notification Letters**

Stakeholders were notified of the project and the availability of the Draft SR during Phase 2 of the PPP as follows:

- Distribution of notification letters via emails on 27 August 2021.

### **5.3.3 Commenting Authorities and Interested and Affected Departments**

Electronic Copies of the Draft SR will be made available to the commenting authorities and other interested and affected departments upon request.

## **5.4 Final Scoping Report to Department of Mineral Resources\**

The Final SR including the comments received by stakeholders and I&APs during all phases of the project and will be submitted to DMR for approval.

## 5.5 Comments and Response Report

Comments received throughout EIA process will be collated into a CRR. The CRR will be updated with comments received and responses provided during the Draft SR commenting period as part of the Final SR to be submitted to the DMR.

## 5.6 Notification of DMR Decision

Once the DMR has made a decision on the application, the registered I&APs and other stakeholders will be notified of the decision.

# 6 Conclusions and Recommendations

Contributions to the EIA process by a wide range of stakeholders and the authorities assist to add value to the findings and recommendations of the Final SR and the authority decision-making process.

The range of issues received will be reflected in the CRR, which will be included as part of the submission of the Final SR to the competent authority. The stakeholder issues informs the mitigation and management measures to be in the Final SR, and ensure that the relevant aspects and issues are considered.

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Dr Laetitia Coetser

Partner/Principal Scientist

All data used as source material plus the text, tables, figures, and attachments of this document have been reviewed and prepared in accordance with generally accepted professional engineering and environmental practices

## **Annexure**

## **Annexure A Stakeholder Database**

## **Annexure B Stakeholder Notifications**



## **Annexure C Newspaper Proof**

## **Annexure D Email Proof**

## **Annexure E Onsite Notice**

