

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	xiii
LIST OF TABLES	xviii
LIST OF FIGURES	xix
1 INTRODUCTION	
1.1 BACKGROUND	1.1
1.2 PROJECT AIMS	1.1
1.3 RESEARCH PRODUCTS AND TARGET GROUPS	1.1
1.4 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	1.2
1.4.1 General	1.2
1.4.2 Literature survey	1.3
1.4.3 Situation assessment	1.3
1.4.3.1 Meetings with regulators	1.3
1.4.3.2 Produce geohydrological situation assessment report	1.4
1.4.3.3 Review EMPR's of all currently operating underground gold mines	1.5
1.4.4 Develop and populate a basic GIS for the study area	1.5
1.4.5 Study area mines	1.5
1.4.6 Develop a proposed closure planning procedure for gold mines	1.5
1.4.6.1 Collect required information from study area mines	1.6
1.4.6.2 Produce draft underground closure planning procedure report	1.6
1.4.7 Technical committee	1.6
2 BACKGROUND AND LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 MINE CLOSURE WATER MANAGEMENT PLANS	2.1
2.2 MINE CLOSURE POLICY	2.1
2.2.1 South African legislation	2.2
2.2.2 Mine Closure Legislation	2.2
2.2.2.1 Legal provisions applicable to mine closure	2.2
2.2.2.2 The Constitution of South Africa Act of 1996 (Bill of Rights) ..	2.3
2.2.2.3 National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA)	2.3
2.2.2.4 Environmental Conservation Act, Act 73 of 1989	2.3
2.2.2.5 Common Law	2.4
2.2.2.6 Minerals Act, Act 50 of 1991 and regulations	2.4
2.2.2.7 Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, Act 28 of 2002	2.4
2.2.2.8 National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998	2.5
2.2.2.9 National Nuclear Regulator Act, Act 47 of 1999	2.6
2.2.3 DME mine closure regulations	2.6
2.2.4 DWAF groundwater management policy	2.7
2.2.4.1 Differentiated approach	2.7
2.2.4.2 Groundwater abstraction and dewatering	2.8
2.2.4.3 Disturbance of aquifers by mining and related activities	2.8
2.2.4.4 Damage to aquifers by waste disposal and related activities ..	2.9
2.3 MINE WATER MANAGEMENT	2.10
2.3.1 Pollution prevention	2.10

2.3.2	Water and salt balances	2.11
2.3.3	Integrated mine water management.....	2.11
2.3.4	Water pollution in gold mining	2.11
	2.3.4.1 Pyrite oxidation	2.12
	2.3.4.2 Physical impacts	2.12
2.4	INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE	2.13
3	GEOHYDROLOGICAL SITUATION ASSESSMENT	
3.1	MAJOR GOLDFIELDS IN SOUTH AFRICA	3.1
3.2	GEOLOGICAL AND GEOHYDROLOGICAL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE VARIOUS GOLDFIELDS.....	3.8
3.3	WITWATERSRAND BASIN.....	3.9
	3.3.1 Free State Goldfields	3.9
	3.3.1.1 Introduction.....	3.9
	3.3.1.2 Geological setting.....	3.9
	3.3.1.3 Geohydrological boundaries and interconnectivity between sub-basins.....	3.10
	3.3.1.4 Aquifer description.....	3.11
	3.3.1.5 Current groundwater management procedures	3.12
	3.3.1.6 Flooding of mine workings.....	3.12
	3.3.1.7 Conclusions	3.12
	3.3.2 KOSH Area	3.13
	3.3.2.1 Introduction.....	3.13
	3.3.2.2 Geological setting.....	3.13
	3.3.2.3 Geohydrological boundaries and interconnectivity between sub-basins.....	3.14
	3.3.2.4 Aquifer description.....	3.14
	3.3.2.5 Current groundwater management procedures	3.14
	3.3.2.6 Conclusions	3.17
	3.3.3 Far West Rand.....	3.17
	3.3.3.1 Introduction.....	3.17
	3.3.3.2 Geological setting.....	3.18
	3.3.3.3 Geohydrological boundaries and interconnectivity between sub-basins.....	3.19
	3.3.3.4 Aquifer description.....	3.20
	3.3.3.5 Dewatering of dolomite aquifers and flooding of mine workings.....	3.23
	3.3.3.6 Current groundwater management procedures	3.24
	3.3.3.7 Sinkholes.....	3.25
	3.3.3.8 Conclusions	3.25
	3.3.4 West Rand Basin	3.26
	3.3.4.1 Introduction.....	3.26
	3.3.4.2 Geological setting.....	3.27
	3.3.4.3 Geohydrological boundaries and interconnectivity between sub-basins.....	3.29
	3.3.4.4 Aquifer description.....	3.29
	3.3.4.5 Current groundwater management procedures	3.30
	3.3.4.6 Conclusions	3.30
	3.3.5 Central Rand Basin.....	3.31
	3.3.5.1 Introduction.....	3.31

3.3.5.2	<i>Geological setting</i>	3.31
3.3.5.3	<i>Geohydrological boundaries and interconnectivity between sub-basins</i>	3.33
3.3.5.4	<i>Aquifer description</i>	3.34
3.3.5.5	<i>Current groundwater management procedures</i>	3.35
3.3.5.6	<i>Conclusions</i>	3.37
3.3.6	East Rand Basin	3.37
3.3.6.1	<i>Introduction</i>	3.37
3.3.6.2	<i>Geological setting</i>	3.38
3.3.6.3	<i>Geohydrological boundaries and interconnectivity between sub-basins</i>	3.38
3.3.6.4	<i>Aquifer description</i>	3.39
3.3.6.5	<i>Current groundwater management procedures</i>	3.40
3.3.6.6	<i>Surface water – groundwater interaction</i>	3.41
3.3.6.7	<i>Conclusions</i>	3.41
3.3.7	Evander goldfield	3.41
3.3.7.1	<i>Introduction</i>	3.41
3.3.7.2	<i>Geological setting</i>	3.42
3.3.7.3	<i>Geohydrological boundaries and interconnectivity between sub-basins</i>	3.42
3.3.7.4	<i>Aquifer description</i>	3.43
3.3.7.5	<i>Current groundwater management procedures</i>	3.43
3.3.7.6	<i>Conclusions</i>	3.43
3.4	NON-WITWATERSRAND BASIN	3.44
3.5	SUMMARY	3.44

4 STATUS OF GOLD MINE CLOSURE PLANNING – REVIEW OF EMPs

4.1	FREE STATE PROVINCE	4.1
4.1.1	<i>Mine infrastructure</i>	4.1
4.1.2	<i>Flooding of mine workings</i>	4.2
4.1.3	<i>Groundwater monitoring</i>	4.2
4.2	NORTH WEST PROVINCE	4.4
4.2.1	KOSH area	4.5
4.2.1.1	<i>Mine infrastructure</i>	4.5
4.2.1.2	<i>Flooding of mine workings</i>	4.5
4.2.1.3	<i>Groundwater monitoring</i>	4.5
4.2.2	Far West Rand	4.6
4.2.2.1	<i>Mine infrastructure</i>	4.6
4.2.2.2	<i>Dewatering of dolomite aquifers and flooding of mine workings</i>	4.7
4.2.2.3	<i>Groundwater monitoring</i>	4.8
4.3	GAUTENG PROVINCE	4.8
4.3.1	<i>Mine infrastructure</i>	4.9
4.3.2	<i>Flooding of mine workings</i>	4.10
4.3.3	<i>Groundwater monitoring</i>	4.11
4.4	MPUMALANGA PROVINCE	4.11
4.4.1	Evander goldfield	4.12
4.4.1.1	<i>Mine infrastructure</i>	4.12
4.4.1.2	<i>Flooding of mine workings</i>	4.13

	4.4.1.3	Groundwater monitoring.....	4.13
4.4.2		Barberton and Pilgrims Rest goldfields.....	4.13
	4.4.2.1	Mine infrastructure.....	4.13
	4.4.2.2	Flooding of mine workings.....	4.13
	4.4.2.3	Groundwater monitoring.....	4.14
4.5		SUMMARY	4.14
5		GOLD MINE CLOSURE PROCEDURES	
5.1		GENERAL BACKGROUND.....	5.1
5.2		MINE LIFE CYCLE CONSIDERATIONS	5.2
5.3		RISK-BASED MINE CLOSURE PLANNING	5.5
	5.3.1	Objectives of risk-based closure planning.....	5.5
	5.3.2	Principles relating to risk-based closure planning.....	5.5
5.4		METHODOLOGY FOR IDENTIFICATION OF GENERAL CLOSURE ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS AND LIABILITIES	5.6
	5.4.1	The ERA process for mine closure.....	5.6
	5.4.2	Modification of the ERA methodology for screening-level assessments	5.12
	5.4.3	Example of environmental risk assessment methodology.....	5.13
5.5		METHODOLOGY FOR IDENTIFICATION OF WATER-RELATED CLOSURE RISKS AND LIABILITIES.....	5.15
	5.5.1	Preparation of a regional mine closure strategy	5.16
	5.5.2	Update the existing or prepare a new conceptual mine closure plan	5.21
	5.5.3	Prepare a detailed and final mine closure plan.....	5.23
6		CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	6.1
7.		REFERENCES	7.1
APPENDIX A:		LISTS OF OPERATING AND DEFUNCT GOLD MINES	
	A1	LIST OF OPERATING GOLD MINES	A.2
	A2	LIST OF DEFUNCT GOLD MINES.....	A.4
APPENDIX B:		RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GEOHYDROLOGY AND SURFACE HYDROLOGY	
	B1	RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GEOHYDROLOGICAL GOLD MINING UNITS AND QUARTERNARY SURFACE CATCHMENTS.....	B.2

LIST OF TABLES

2.1	Classes that will be differentiated for groundwater quality management.....	2.8
3.1	List of gold mines operating in each goldfield area grouped according to province and district (may change as ownership changes).....	3.3
3.2	Goldfields and their general surface lithology (DWAF, 2002).....	3.4
3.3	Goldfields and their general rock type description and groundwater yields (DWAF, 2002)	3.6
3.4	Pumping rates from underground for the Free State gold mines	3.12
3.5	Pumping from Far West Rand mines	3.24
3.6	Abstraction rates for the Far West Rand (Fleischer, 1981).....	3.24
3.7	Water volumes stored in the different compartments of the Far West Rand	3.24
3.8	Number of sinkholes and volume of backfill in the Far West Rand.....	3.25
3.9	Estimated salt balance for Upper Klip River tributaries	3.34
3.10	Central Rand basin – groundwater balance.....	3.35
3.11	Pumping rates to dewater East Rand mines	3.39
3.12	East Rand basin – groundwater balance.....	3.40
3.13	Geohydrological assessment data summary for closure planning of underground gold mines	3.44
3.14	Geohydrological units (regions) for South African gold mines.....	3.45
4.1	Free State province gold mines	4.1
4.2	Status of closure planning (in EMPRs) to reduce groundwater impact from surface contaminant sources – Free State province	4.2
4.3	North West province gold mines.....	4.4
4.4	Status of closure planning to reduce groundwater impact from surface contaminant sources – KOSH area	4.6
4.5	Status of closure planning to reduce groundwater impact from surface contaminant sources – Far West Rand	4.7
4.6	Gauteng province gold mines	4.9
4.7	Status of closure planning to reduce groundwater impact from surface contaminant sources – East Rand, Central Rand and West Rand basins	4.10
4.8	Mpumalanga province gold mines.....	4.11
4.9	Status of closure planning to reduce groundwater impact from surface contaminant sources – Evander goldfield	4.12
4.10	Status of closure planning to reduce groundwater impact from surface contaminant sources – Barberton and Pilgrims Rest goldfields.....	4.14
5.1	Regions for regional mine closure strategies	5.18

LIST OF FIGURES

1.1	Task outcome flow diagram	1.4
3.1	Goldfields and gold mines locality plan.....	3.2
3.2	Water management areas for the gold mines	3.2
3.3	Map showing surface lithology for the major goldfields	3.5
3.4	Map indicating groundwater yield in l/s	3.7
3.5	Map indicating rock types in relation to the goldfields of South Africa.....	3.7
3.6	The Witwatersrand basin (Conradie, 1996)	3.8
3.7	Operating mines in the Free State area	3.9
3.8	Mine lease boundaries and groundwater compartments of mines in the Free State area	3.10
3.9	Gold mines in the KOSH area.....	3.13
3.10	Cross section through KOSH region (Darcy, 2002)	3.15
3.11	Gold mines and goldfields in the Rand area	3.18
3.12	Pre and post mining groundwater levels along the Far West Rand	3.20
3.13	Mine boundaries, compartments and sub-basins in the Far West Rand	3.21
3.14	Interconnection between the mines of the western section of the Far West Rand area	3.23
3.15	Mines in the West Rand basin.....	3.26
3.16	Geological setting of the West Rand basin	3.29
3.17	Geological cross-section through the West Rand Basin	3.30
3.18	Mines in the Central Rand basin	3.31
3.19	Geological setting of the Central Rand basin.....	3.32
3.20	Cross-section through the Central Rand basin	3.33
3.21	Ingress point where water disappears into the ground at the point where the Klipspruit crosses the Bird Reef (Krige, 2001).....	3.36
3.22	Mines in the East Rand basin	3.37
3.23	Geological setting of the East Rand basin.....	3.38
3.24	Evander gold mines	3.42
5.1	Closure activities over the mine life cycle	5.3
5.2	Progression in closure plan detail over mine life cycle.....	5.5
5.3	Flow diagram of the mine closure risk assessment process	5.7
5.4	Flowchart to identify type of closure plan required	5.16
5.5	Flowchart to develop a regional mine closure strategy.....	5.17
5.6	Flowchart to develop a conceptual mine closure plan	5.22
5.7	Flowchart to develop a detailed and final mine closure plan.....	5.23