

ZUTARI

EIA Case Study: Coal Mine in Mpumalanga

Workshop: Mastering the EIA Process – A Hands-On Simulation

Presentation: Jane Mahaba

05 August 2025



ENGINEERING
IMPACT

CONTENTS



Project Overview

Key Environmental & Social Issues

Challenges Encountered

Practical Strategies & Solutions

Key Lessons Learned

PROJECT OVERVIEW



- Project Name: Victor Khanye Colliery
- Location: Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga
- Type of Development: Opencast Coal Mining
- Authorisation Process Followed: Scoping & EIA Process, Mining Right Application.
- Timeline & Status: 14 Months, Authorisation Granted.



KEY ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL ISSUES



Main Impacts included the following:

- Impact on wetland and river system (potential for contamination)
- Blasting and Vibrations
- Loss of Biodiversity
- Dewatering (this would affect the surrounding landowners)(cumulative)

Social Issues included the following

The mine was located in an area surrounded by agricultural activities, and farmers and their workers were the most affected by the proposed mine.

The mine was already operating under a mining permit, and there were legacy issues between the mine and adjacent landowners.

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED



Client Challenges

- Due to the timing of the mining permit coming to an end, the client had very strict deadlines for submission of the final Environmental Impact Report.
- Unrealistic expectation of turnaround time (client interference).
- Challenge obtaining technical information timeously.
- Outdated information (challenged to obtain updated information).
- Layout changes influenced by specialist findings (affecting the direction, quantity, and timing of mining).

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED



Legislative and other challenges

- Assumption that if (Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002)MPRDA requirements are met, so are the NEMA requirements.
- Delayed comments from the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE).
- Directives from the Social and Labour Plan ((Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002(MPRDA) Requirements)) caused a delay in finalising EIR.
- Objection from the adjacent landowners.

PRACTICAL STRATEGIES & SOLUTIONS

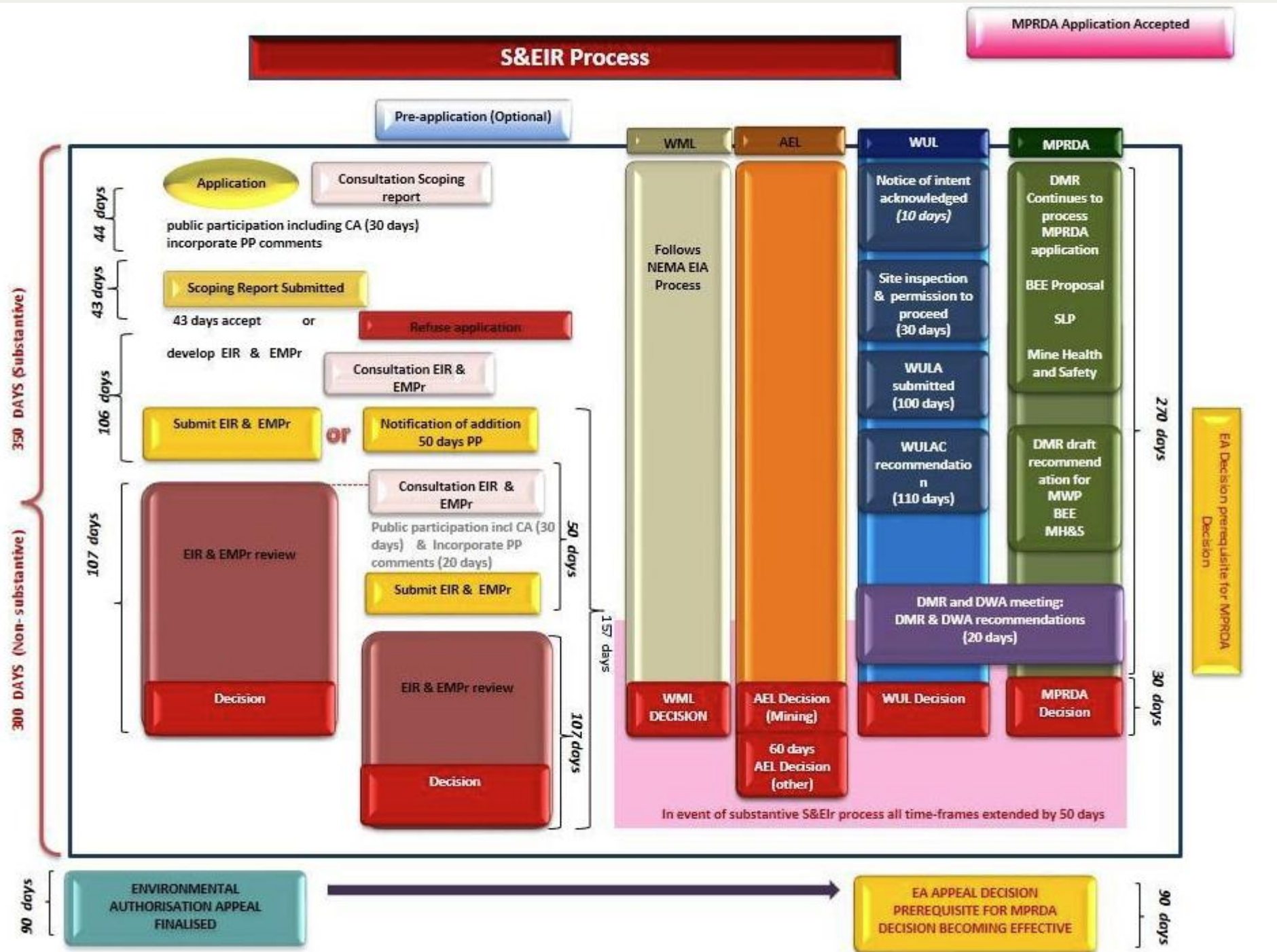


- Involve specialists in the process early on, especially when dealing with sensitive environments.
- Engage the mine planning team (who might typically not be the project managers) to develop a realistic plan that will respect buffers and stay out of sensitive areas as far as possible.

Engagement methods that worked well:

- Direct consultation with those affected, especially where there are historical issues.
- Involving all stakeholders in the process (e.g. Conservation & Tourism, local economic development, local communities (farm dwellers/workers), leadership structures).



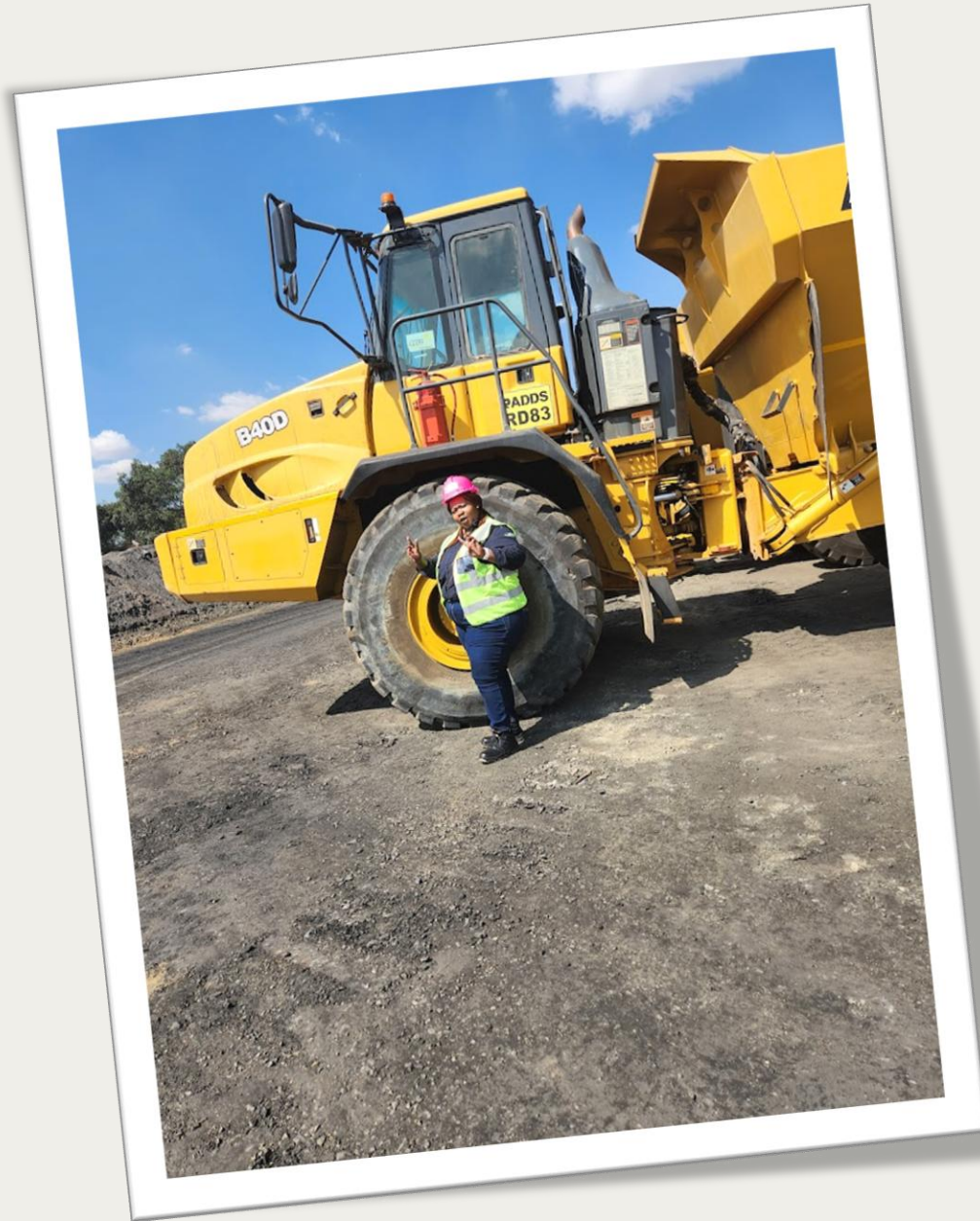
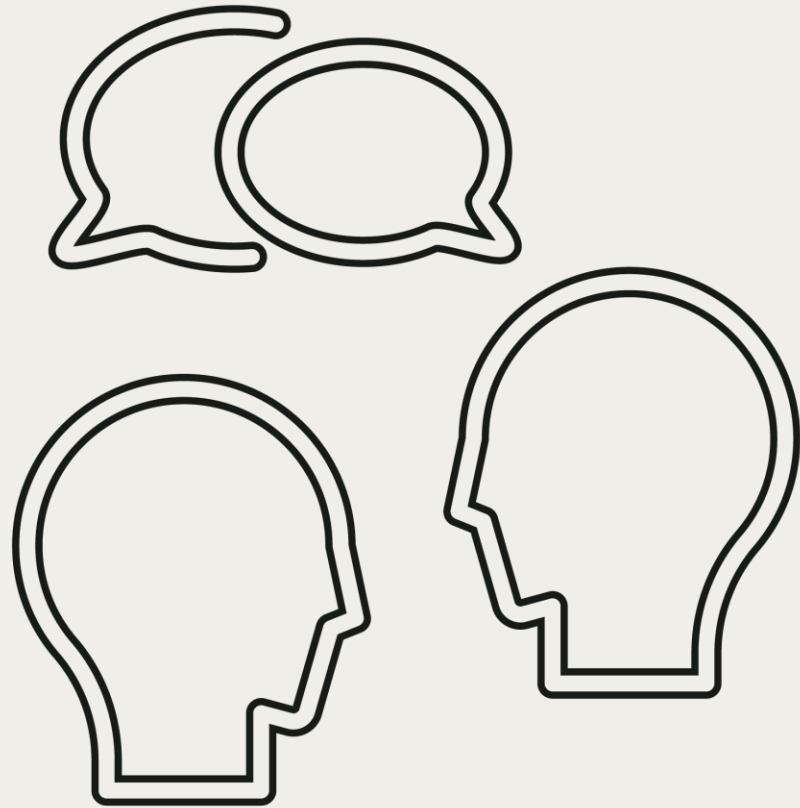


LESSONS LEARNED



- The most important thing is constant and open communication with all parties involved.
- Need to be with the client regarding the potential for the mine plan to completely change.
- Make the specialist team sit with the actual mine planning team (to minimise misinformation and endless back and forth).
- Important to communicate the legal requirements and timelines clearly and continuously at every milestone in the process. NB MPRDA vs NEMA.
- Stress the importance of meaningful consultation with Interested and Affected Parties and establishing trust in the communities where the mine will operate (Transparency and action).

DISCUSSION/Q&A



*Human beings, their ideas, innovations,
dreams, and connections, are the capital of the
future. Because where great minds go today,
great things will follow tomorrow.*

HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM

ZUTARI

zutari.com

