MINE WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE WITWATERSRAND GOLDFIELDS WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON ACID MINE DRAINAGE 13 April 2011



Terms of Reference

- · Assess what has been done
- · Reappraise the risk
- Assess available solutions and technology
- Interrogate and assess the viability and costs of critical short-term interventions
- Propose integrated lasting and sustainable medium- and long-term solutions/measures
- Explore possible partnerships with the private sector























Recommendation 1: Pumping

Water must be pumped from the three priority basins to maintain water levels at least below the relevant environmental critical levels or, by agreement with stakeholders, the lowest level of underground activity within the basin.

Western Basin	Central Basin	Eastern Basin
Required urgently to prevent ongoing decant	Urgent intervention required before the water rises to unacceptable levels	Pumping and maintenance of existing infrastructure must continue

Recommendation 2: Ingress Management

Steps must be implemented to reduce the ingress of water into the underground workings, as far as is possible. This will reduce the volumes of water which need to be pumped and treated and consequently reduce the operational costs of AMD management.

Recommendation 3: Water Treatment

The water which will be pumped will not be of a suitable quality for productive use or discharge to river systems and will therefore need to be treated. In the short-term it is proposed that water be neutralised, including metal removal. In the medium- to long-term consideration should be given to steps which will reduce the mine water contribution to the salinity of major river systems.

Western Basin	Central Basin	Eastern Basin
Neutralisation plant required urgently to supplement mines' treatment capacity	Neutralisation plant(s) will be required when pumping commences	Neutralisation to be reinstated urgently
Further studies required concerns for salinity of r	I now to address medium river systems	n- to long-term

Recommendation 4: Monitoring

Improved monitoring of mine water, groundwater, surface water, seismicity, subsidence and other impacts of mine flooding and related targeted research is required. It is recommended that a multi-institution monitoring committee be established to facilitate the implementation of the required monitoring programmes. Monitoring will show if there are significant changes in the quality of mine water which may have an impact on future management strategies.

Monitoring committee to be convened to commence with upgrading of monitoring infrastructure and programmes urgently

Recommendation 5: Other AMD Sources

The flooded mine voids are not the only sources of AMD in the Witwatersrand. Other sources, particularly mine residues need to be monitored and appropriate remedial measures implemented.

Monitoring committee to be convened to commence with upgrading of monitoring infrastructure and programmes urgently

Recommendation 6: Environmental Levy

The feasibility of implementing of an environmental levy to be paid by operating mines to cover the costs of the legacies of past mining needs to be investigated.

Implementation plan: Western Basin

Action	Time frame	Delivery period
Construct a 20MI/d emergency neutralisation plant to treat uncontrolled decant to supplement current treatment capacity.	Commence immediately	6 months
Install pumping infrastructure to lower water level in the mine void to the ECL and maintain in the long-term.	Commence immediately	2 years
Continuous monitoring of water levels, flow, quality and profiles	Commence immediately	Infrastructure installed within 1 year. Continuous monitoring.
Continuous prevention of ingress	Commence immediately	Interventions identified within 1 year
Continuous monitoring of seismic events	Commence immediately	Infrastructure installed within 1 year. Continuous monitoring until stability is confirmed.
Continuous monitoring of subsidences	Commence immediately	Infrastructure installed within 1 year. Ongoing monitoring.
Stakeholder engagement	After Ministers' meeting	Ongoing

Implementation plan: Central Basin

Action	Time frame	Delivery period
Pump and treat the water: Assess the viability of refurbishing the existing treatment plant at ERPM Determine the optimal placement of pumps Negoliate cost sharing with other stakeholders within the Basin, in particular Central Rand Gold	Commence immediately, to have all requirements in place before the water rises above the ECL or deeper tevel which will allow new mining to commence.	Before water reaches critical levels Central Rand Gold Workings - Sep 2011 Gold Reef City - Mar 2012 ECL - Jun 2012
Commence real-time monitoring (levels, quality and flows) — systems to be installed for the entire Witwatersrand Basin	Commence immediately	Infrastructure installed within 1 year. Continuous monitoring. Water level monitoring installed in two shafts
Prevention of ingress (construction of canals and other measures)	Commence immediately	3 years Florida Canal Phase 1 Completed
Continuous monitoring of seismic events and production of microzonation risk maps	Commence immediately	Some infrastructure already installed. Additional Infrastructure to be installed within 1 year. Continuous monitoring until stability is confirmed.
Commence research/studies to optimise medium- to long-term solutions for all basins, looking at:	Commence immediately	Up to 2 years, research/studies to be completed in phases. 1st phase to be completed within 6 months.
Institutional models		
Legal issues		
Communications strategies		
Engineering and cost-benefit studies		
Stakeholder engagement — media statement after ministers' meeting and public awareness	After Ministers' Meeting	Ongoing

Action	Time frame	Delivery period
Monitoring of pumping	Commence immediately	Weekly
Due diligence on the integrity of the pumping infrastructure	Commence immediately	3 months
Consider issuing a directive to ensure compliance with water license conditions	Immediate	3 months
Regular inspection of the integrity of pumps and treatment plant	Commence immediately	Weekly
Prevention of ingress (e.g. construction of canals)	Commence immediately	3 years
Continuous monitoring of seismic events	Commence immediately and continue until stability is achieved	Infrastructure installed within 1 year. Continuous monitoring until stability is confirmed.
Continuous monitoring of subsidences	Commence immediately	Infrastructure installed within 1 year. Ongoing monitoring.
Real-time monitoring (levels, quality and flows) — systems to be installed for the entire Witwatersrand Basin	Commence immediately	Infrastructure installed within 1 year. Continuous monitoring.
Stakeholder engagement — media statement after ministers' meeting and public awareness	After Ministers' Meeting	Ongoing

Recent Events

- Cabinet approved TOE Report 9 February :
- TCTA directed on 6 April to do emergency work on the Witwatersrand.
- . Appointment mainly to assist with – Installation of pumps
 - Installation of pumps
 Construction of an on-site treatment plant in each Basin with option to refurbish existing plants.
 Installation of infrastructure to convey treated water to nearby water courses.
 Operation of the pump stations and treatment works.
- · Discussions with mines to use mines' infrastructure.
- Institutional arrangement between role players challenging
- . Feasibility study by DWA for long term solutions.

Questions