

Background Information Document

PRE-APPLICATION NOTICE

Proposed Expansion to RUCO Properties Ore Storage Sheds, Industrial Warehousing and Associated Infrastructure on Erf 893, Swartkops, Gqeberha, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality Eastern Cape

September 2026

CEN Integrated Environmental Management Unit

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PURPOSE OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide stakeholders with additional information, the opportunity to register as interested and affected parties and to obtain their initial comments on the proposed expansion activities for RUCO Properties Ore Storage Sheds, Industrial Warehousing and Associated Infrastructure on Erf 893, Swartkops, Gqeberha, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, Eastern Cape.

The Applicant, **RUCO Properties (Pty) Ltd**, intends to submit an application of a **Part 2 Amendment** to the **Environmental Authorisation (EA)**. The amendment process will be undertaken in terms of Regulation 31 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended) published in terms of Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, (as amended).

The proposed amendments do not trigger any additional listed activities in terms of GNR 983, 984 and 985 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). However, the proposed amendments will result in a change in scope of the valid EA. As such, a Regulation 31 Amendment Process in terms of the EIA Regulations (GNR 982) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended is applicable. The Amendment Application will be submitted to the Eastern Cape Provincial **Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT)**.

An application for the amendment of the current Atmospheric Emissions Licence (AEL) will be submitted to the Licensing Authority, namely the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, in terms of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004) (as amended). The proposed AEL amendment is required to accommodate the increase in storage and handling of ore at the facility.

The relevant atmospheric emission listed activity is Category 5: Mineral Processing, Storage and Handling, Sub-category 5.1: Storage and Handling of Ore and Coal.

The application for amendment to the AEL will be submitted to the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality.

If you would like to participate in the public participation process, please register yourself and /or your organization as an interested and affected party. In participating in the EIA process, your consent is provided for your information to be added to the Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) Database as required by the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. Submit issues that you feel need to be addressed in the assessment by completing the response form or in a letter or by email to:

Dr Mike Cohen / Lucille Behrens / Irma van der Merwe
CEN IEM Unit; 140 Kruger Gardens, Admiralty Way, Gqeberha
steenbok@aerosat.co.za / irma@environmentcen.co.za

**All comments must be submitted within 30 days of the date of this notice,
i.e. 6 October 2026**

1 THE PROPOSED PROJECT

1.1 Introduction

CEN IEM Unit has been appointed by RUCO Properties (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Amendment Process in terms of the EIA Regulations (GNR 982) as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) for the proposed expansion activities for RUCO Properties.

The Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) issued an EA (Reference number: ECm1/C/LN1/M/02-2022) on 9 March 2022 for the proposed expansion of the existing ore storage facilities on a portion of Erf 893 in Swartkops.

The Applicant now wishes to amend the above-mentioned EA to accommodate substantive amendments to the approved development. The proposed amendments do not trigger any additional listed activities in terms of GNR 983, 984 and 985 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). However, the proposed amendments will result in a change to the scope of the valid EA. Accordingly, a Part 2 amendment process in terms of Regulation 31 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) (GNR 982) is applicable.

An application for the amendment of the current Atmospheric Emissions Licence (AEL) will be submitted to the Licensing Authority, namely the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, in terms of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004) (as amended). The proposed AEL amendment is required to accommodate the increase in storage and handling of ore at the facility.

1.2 Proposed Activity

RUCO Properties (Pty) Ltd trading as Swartkops Terminal Co. operates a manganese and iron ore terminal on a portion of Erf 893, Swartkops, Gqeberha, Eastern Cape. The Facility currently has an on-site ore storage capacity of 6.6 million tonnes per annum and proposes to construct additional storage sheds, industrial warehousing, and associated internal access roads to increase the Facility's storage capacity to 7.6 million tonnes per annum.

The proposed expansion activities relate to the ore storage sheds, industrial warehousing and associated infrastructure.

Table 1-1: Current and proposed ore storage capacity

	Current / Existing	Proposed Increase
Storage Volume / Quantity	300 000 tonnes	Additional 400 000 tonnes
Throughput / Handling Capacity	6 600 000 tonnes per annum (as per current AEL)	Additional 1 000 000 tonnes per annum
Types of Ore	Manganese and Iron	Manganese and Iron

1.3 Locality

The RUCO Properties site is located on Erf 893, in Ward 16 in Swartkops, Gqeberha, of the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality. **Refer to Figure 2: Locality Map.**

The geographic coordinates of the central point are: 33° 52' 0.86"S; 25° 35' 47.85"E.



Figure 1: Locality map of Erf 893 indicated by the red boundary.

2 Environmental Assessment Process

2.1 National Environmental Management Act and EIA Regulations

The applicant will be applying for an Amendment in terms of a Part 2 Amendment Process for the proposed expansion of ore storage sheds, industrial warehousing and associated infrastructure, on Erf 893, Swartkops, Gqeberha, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, in terms of Regulation 31 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended) published in terms of Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, as amended.

The Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) issued an Environmental Authorisation (Reference number: ECm1/C/LN1/M/02-2022) on 9 March 2022 for the proposed expansion of the existing ore storage facilities on Portion of Erf 893 in Swartkops.

The proponent now wishes to amend the above-mentioned EA to undertake substantive amendments. None of amendments trigger new listed activities in terms of GNR 983, 984 and 985 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). However, the proposed amendments will result in a change in scope of the valid EA. As such, a Regulation 31 Amendment Process in terms the EIA Regulations (GNR 982) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended is applicable. The Amendment Application will be submitted to the Eastern Cape Provincial Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT).

Table 2-1: The original Listed Activities of the Environmental Authorisation.

GNR983 Listing Notice 1: Activity 17	Development in: (ii) an estuary (v) if no development setback exists, within a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea or an estuary, whichever is the greater In respect of – e. infrastructure or structures with a development footprint of 50 square metres or more.
GNR983 Listing Notice 1: Activity 19A	The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from: (ii) the littoral active zone, an estuary or a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea or an estuary, whichever distance is the greater.
GNR983 Listing Notice 1: Activity 31	The decommissioning of existing facilities, structures or infrastructure for

	(ii) any expansion and related operation activity or activities listed in this Notice, Listing Notice 2 of 2014 or Listing Notice 3 of 2014.
GNR983 Listing Notice 1: Activity 34	The expansion of existing facilities or infrastructure for any process or activity where such expansion will result in the need for a permit or licence or an amended permit or licence in terms of national or provincial legislation governing the release of emissions, effluent or pollution.

2.2 National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act and Activities

An application for an amendment of the current Atmospheric Emissions Licence (AEL) will be submitted to Licensing Authority, namely the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, in order to accommodate the increase in storage and handling of ore on site in terms of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (Act No. 39 of 2004).

The relevant air quality listed activities relate to: Category 5 Mineral Processing, Storage and Handling, Sub-category 5.1: Storage and handling of ore and coal- capacity of more than 100 000 tons.

3 Identified issues / impacts

As we progress with the environmental investigations, we will identify potentially beneficial and adverse impacts. All identified issues will be subjected to an assessment to determine if they are significant and if they require additional investigation. Possible mitigation measures will also be provided to reduce the anticipated adverse impacts. Based on our preliminary investigations, together with the DFFE Screening Tool, we have identified the following specialist assessments:

- Air quality impact
- Biodiversity impact
- Waste impacts

4 Description of Tasks in Part 2 Amendment Process

- Public participation starts announcing the proposed project. Newspaper advertisements are placed and site notices are placed, and notifications are also sent to identified stakeholders. Registration of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) begins. (We are here in the process)
- An application for an Amendment to the Environmental Authorisation is submitted to the competent authority, namely the DEDEAT for this project.
- A Part 2 Amendment Report is compiled that considers inputs from stakeholders, I&APs and specialists, in terms of:
 - Potential impacts of the activity on the environment;
 - Whether the impacts can be mitigated, and if so to what extent; and,
 - Whether there are any other significant issues/impacts to be investigated.
- Once the Draft Part 2 Amendment Report is compiled, it is then submitted for a 30 day review period to potential and registered I&APs and stakeholders. This enables you to

comment on the Draft Part 2 Amendment Report and accompanying Revised Environmental Management Programme.

- Your comments are incorporated and the reports are then finalised.
- These final reports are submitted to the DEDEAT for consideration.
- The DEDEAT reviews the documents and decides whether the amendment to the EA is granted or not,
- A copy of the amended EA is made available to you to consider, along with the reasons for the decision made. If you disagree with the decision, you are provided with information on how to lodge an appeal.

5 How do You Participate

Register as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP) in order to comment on the proposed application and raise issues or concerns that you feel needs to be considered during the process.

Complete the attached registration form and submit it to the contact details as reflected. Upon submission of the registration form to CEN IEM Unit, you will be registered as an I&AP, and be included on an I&APs database which will ensure that you receive future project notifications.

Regulation 42 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended, requires a register of interested and affected parties to be opened and maintained throughout an EIA process. This register must contain the names, contact details and addresses of (a) all persons who, as a consequence of the public participation process conducted, have submitted written comments or attended meetings; (b) all persons who have requested in writing, for their names to be placed on the register.

In participating in the EIA process, your consent is provided for your personal information (names, contact details and addresses) to be added to the Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) Database as required by the EIA Regulations, 2014.

Please note the I&AP database is required to be included in any draft or final EIA reports, however CEN IEM Unit will endeavour to not make your personal information (contact details or addresses) available in reports that are provided in the public domain.

If a commenting party has any objection to his or her name, or the name of the represented company / organisation being publicly available such objection is to be highlighted as part of the comments submitted.

CEN IEM Unit will maintain the I&AP database until the end of the EIA Process, and will not wilfully or intentionally distribute this information to a 3rd party.

In certain circumstances, e.g. appeals of Environmental Authorisations, CEN IEM Unit may be required to provide the I&AP database to the Applicant on closure of the EIA Process.

Please note if you do not want to be included in the I&AP database, please advise us in order for your details to be removed. Otherwise, it is deemed that you consent for your details to be included, in terms of the Protection of Personal Information Act (No. 4 of 2013 (POPIA)).

If you intend to register as an I&AP or forward comments regarding the proposed application, please submit your completed registration form to CEN IEM Unit by 6 October 2026.

CEN IEM UNIT



Email: steenbok@aerosat.co.za / irma@environment.co.za

Registration / Comment Sheet Proposed Expansion RUCO Properties, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality

Date of Notice:

I wish to register as an Interested and / or Affected Party and request that the following issues receive attention during the assessment process

In participating in the EIA process, my consent is provided for my personal information (names, contact details and addresses) to be added to the Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) Database as required by the EIA Regulations, 2014.

If a commenting party has any objection to his or her name, or the name of the represented company / organisation being publicly available such objection is to be highlighted as part of the comments submitted.

Closing date for registration / comments: 6 October 2026

Name of Respondent	
Organisation / Company	
Address	
Fax Number	
Telephone Number	
Email	

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Please use additional sheets as necessary

Signature: _____ Date: _____