

For immediate release

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SIX MONTHS' MONITORING SHOWS ALL WATER FROM KROPZ ELANDSFONTEIN MINE DEWATERING BEING WELL ACCEPTED DOWNSTREAM; RESULTS SHARED WITH 11-MEMBER WATER MONITORING COMMITTEE

25 October 2017: Ground water monitoring results over a six month-period from April to September 2017 have shown that all water being pumped by the borehole system designed to de-water the mining area of Kropz's Elandsfontein phosphate mine near Saldanha Bay is being well accepted downstream of the mining area, where flow continues towards the Langebaan Lagoon.

The results were presented at the first meeting of the Elandsfontein Water Monitoring Committee (WMC), made up of 11 different organisations, at the Elandsfontein mine site on Friday, 6 October 2017.

The results, presented by Mr Julian Conrad of Geoss Groundwater Consultants, who performs the monthly monitoring, also showed that:

- The artificial recharge of the aquifer is successful.
- To date, the dewatering and recharge has no negative impact on either the Elandsfontein aquifer or the Langebaan Lagoon.
- The actual results observed during ground water monitoring are in line with the predictions of the numerical groundwater model, developed during the Water Use License (WUL) permitting process.

Data included ground water levels and electrical conductivities (a measure of the dissolved salts or salinity in the water).

The function of the WMC, establishment of which is a condition of the Elandsfontein WUL, is to:

- oversee the implementation of the Elandsfontein water monitoring programme;
- assess the effectiveness of the applied monitoring to protect the water resource; and
- to make recommendations to improve the monitoring.

The WMC is made up of 11 different member organisations:

- the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS);
- the Saldanha Bay Municipality (SBM)
- West Coast District Municipality (WCDM);
- West Coast Environmental Protection Association (WCEPA);
- Saldanha Bay Water Quality Forum Trust (SBWQFT);
- Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEAD&P);
- Cape Nature;
- SANParks;
- the Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve;
- Hopefield Landbouvereniging;
- Kropz Elandsfontein; and their groundwater specialists.

All member organisations of the WMC accepted the findings and conclusions of Mr Conrad's presentation except WCEPA, which stated that longer monitoring is required before such conclusions can be drawn.

Detailed geochemical sampling is scheduled for later in October 2017, and results will be presented at the WMC's next meeting, scheduled for six months' time.

During the WMC inaugural meeting, the value of monitoring was clearly demonstrated and the need for wider-spread regional groundwater monitoring was raised. This will benefit all groundwater users within the wider region and assist with future decision-making and management of our valuable groundwater resources.

While such monitoring would fall beyond requirements of the Kropz Elandsfontein WUL, Kropz is willing to combine its monitoring data with regional data provided by, amongst others, DWS, SBM, WCDM and the CSIR.

Attribution: attribution of the content of this media release, if required, should be to the Chairman of the Elandsfontein Water Monitoring Committee, Mr Wessel Rabbets.

Queries to: info@ewmc.co.za