



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Nuclear Regulator shuts down Mine Waste Solutions operations due to non-compliance with conditions of Nuclear Authorisation

“During a recent routine inspection of Mine Waste Solutions, the NNR observed spillages and leakages of tailings materials along the pipeline and also on the properties of livestock farmers. The NNR also observed that the stockpiles of tailing material from the spillages were not cleaned up and various traces of leakages along the pipeline were noted.

The NNR regards this as a serious non-compliance to conditions of its nuclear authorization and has thus issued a directive to the holder of the certificate of registration (Mine Waste Solutions) to cease the deposition of the slimes material on any existing tailings storage facilities including the new tailings storage facility and to ensure that all the pipelines are properly maintained. Furthermore the report for such a maintenance programme must be submitted to the NNR for review and approval”; stated the NNR Chief Executive Officer, Adv. Boyce Mkhize.

The non-compliance was also related to failure by Mine Waste Solutions to notify the NNR timeously and failure to respond to previous correspondence from the NNR. “Meetings and deliberations between Mine Waste Solutions and the NNR are currently ongoing. The NNR will continue to follow up and monitor the situation closely,” concluded the NNR’s Chief Executive Officer, Adv. Boyce Mkhize.

Yours sincerely

Adv. Boyce Mkhize

CEO: NNR

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About the National Nuclear Regulator

The National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) is a public entity which is established and governed in terms of Section 3 of the National Nuclear Regulator Act, (Act No 47 of 1999) to provide for the protection of persons, property and the environment against nuclear damage through the establishment of safety standards and regulatory practices.

It is responsible for granting nuclear authorisations and exercising regulatory control related to safety over the siting, design, construction, operation, manufacture of component parts, and the decontamination, decommissioning and closure of nuclear installations; and vessels propelled by nuclear power or having radioactive material on board which is capable of causing nuclear damage.

The facilities and actions regulated by the NNR are diverse and includes the operation of nuclear power reactors, research reactors, nuclear technology applications, radioactive waste management, mining and processing of radioactive ores, users of small quantities of radioactive material, transport of radioactive materials, vessels propelled by nuclear power or having radioactive material on board and to any other actions capable of causing nuclear damage to which the National Nuclear Regulator Act applies.

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